



YOUTH NETWORK FOR POSITIVE CHANGE (YOUNETPO) 2025 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Board Chairman's Message	5
Executive Director Message	6
HIV Services In Liberia : EpiC project	7
Promoting Inclusive Transitional Justice for Diverse Women In Liberia Warm Crimes Court	
Integration of Integration of Citizens Charters for Health Facilities development Committee	9-10
Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness and Response Mechanism in Liberia; COPPER CE Project	11
YOUNETPO Institutional Capacital Strengthening	12
International Youth Day	13-4
Annexes	15-1

Executive Summary

Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO) 2025 Annual Report reflects a year of critical and strategic growth, and unwavering commitment to fostering societal change in Liberia. This report highlights the combination of innovative interventions including health system strengthening enhancing peace building through advancing women and youth participation in Liberia's transitional justices processes, increasing access to HIV/AIDs/TB care, prevention and treatment utilizing a human right based approach to address stigma and discrimination affecting Female Sex Workers (FSW)..

Through the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Project, funded by USAID/PEPFAR with FHI360 as prime, YOUNETPO linked over 1,859 individuals to HIV/AIDs care, prevention and treatment services constituting the 61.9% against annual target. This comprehensive package provided by YOUNETPO included; the daily distribution of condoms and lubricants at hot spots, conducting weekly awareness, follow up on treatment uptake for those in care, recording, tracking and reporting gender-based violence (GBV) among others.

YOUNETPO further implemented a series of strategic interventions aimed at increasing the participation of women and youth in peace-building through Liberia's transitional justice process. Support from the UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund through Conciliation Resources through the Promoting Inclusive Transitional Justice for Diverse Women in Liberia War and Economic Crimes Court project focused on empowering human right defenders, women led organizations, youth, and other marginalized groups to actively engage in Liberia's transitional justices process through the Office for the establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court. This project empowered YOUNETPO to conduct a combination of capacity-building trainings, community dialogues, and advocacy efforts. The initiative aligned with broader goals of

promoting inclusive governance, strengthening community resilience, and advancing gender equality in peace-building spaces across targeted communities.

In Continuation of the Community Engagement in Pandemic Preparedness and Response (COOPER CE) project, YOUNETPO supported the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health to develop and validate a National Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) Representation Guide, a critical tool designed to support structured, transparent, and inclusive participation of all stakeholders including but not limited to; civil society, persons living with HIV/TB, slum dwellers, other key and vulnerable populations. Collectively, these interventions contributed to improving awareness, enhancing coordination among stakeholders, and reinforcing accountability within the one health system, while positioning community actors as active partners in strengthening Liberia's preparedness and response to public health emergencies.

Additionally, YOUNETPO introduced sports as a unifying conduit to highlight the wonderful work of youth and youth-led organizations in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals in commemoration of International Youth Day.

In conclusion, this report also highlight series of efforts and targeted capacity strengthening initiatives aimed at promoting effectiveness.



Youth Delegates from Nimba at the 7th edition of AYEAL Conference



Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr,
Board Chairman

Dear Friends and Partners,

As I look back on the 2025 fiscal year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. In a world facing rapid change, Youth Network for Positive Change - YOUNETPO has remained steadfast in our commitment to empowering youth through education, skills development, volunteerism, and advocacy to promote sustainable development and productive citizenship. This year, we did not just meet our goals—we surpassed them, turning challenges into opportunities to deepen our impact.

YOUNETPO focuses on Education, Health, Climate Change and Governance has transformed lives. Key achievements this year include:

1. Expanding our reach to over 100,000 adolescence and youth through social.
2. Establishing a partnership with the office of the War and Economic Crimes Court for Liberia (OWECC-L) to promote youth participation and inclusion within the establishment of the court.
3. Successfully hosted 7th editions of the Annual Youth Education and Leadership Conference; a platform that brought over 60 youth together from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Gambia to discuss pertinent issues affecting young people and proposing solutions to policy makers and stakeholders.

None of this would have been possible without the strategic guidance of our Board and the tireless dedication of our staff. We successfully adopted new

approaches to continue serving the community in this uncertain or reduced funding for the precious work that we do. This new strategy now focus on building self-sustaining ecosystems rather than merely relying on aid. Furthermore, our team adapted quickly to new, digital, and efficient ways of working, ensuring that every donor dollar goes further in strengthening capacity at the grass-root levels.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and government stakeholders. Your trust in our vision allows us to turn passion into action. To my colleagues on the Board, thank you for your wisdom and commitment. Above all, I thank our incredible management team, field workers and volunteers, who are the backbone of our operations.

As we enter 2026, we are optimistic, yet mindful of the road ahead. We will continue to scale our proven initiatives while investing in new technologies to amplify our reach. Together, we will keep "leaving no one behind" and creating a sustainable, equitable future.

Thank you for your continued faith in YOUNETPO.

Warmly,

Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr.
Board Chairman, YOUNETPO



Amb. Leo E. Tiah, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Despite the unforeseen decline in funding we faced, this year has been defined by remarkable strides, resilience, and a steadfast dedication to our mission.

Our team, volunteers, and partners stepped up in extraordinary ways, allowing us to not just meet our goals, but to expand our impact when our community needed it most. Together, we achieved several key milestones:

Expanded Impact: We supported the Ministry of Health in developing a Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) Representation Guide for Liberia;

Organizational Growth: Increased our volunteer base by 10%, enhancing our outreach capacity.

Strategic Adaptability: launched the process leading to the development of a new five years strategic plan for YOUNETPO and supported the launched of the West Africa Young Parliamentarians Network (WAYPA); a regional network that advance youth led policy and actions within the West Africa sub-region.

These achievements are not merely numbers in a report; they represent stories of transformation—a child gaining confidence, a family securing stability, and a community growing stronger.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering belief in our vision and your continued support. To our donors, you are the backbone of this organization. To our staff and volunteers, your passion drives us forward.

Let me use this special moment to acknowledge the passionate and dedicated members of our Board of Director; you remain the source of these wonderful impacts we have achieved. Your committed support, time and guidance has made a very huge impact across national and international development.

As we look to the year ahead, we are excited to expand our reach, innovate our programs, and continue building a better future together. Thank you for standing with us.

Happy New Year!

Advancing HIV/TB Care, Prevention and Treatment through the EpiC Project FY25

In FY25, YOUNETPO continue the implementation of the USAID/PEPFAR-funded grant titled; Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Project until January 22, 2025, at which time a stop work order was received from the United State Government (USG). The EpiC project focused on linking Female Sex Works (FSWs) and their clients to HIV/TB prevention, treatment, and care services in commonwealth west health district in Montserrado County. The aim of this intervention was to reduce new HIV/TB infection and advance the UNAIDs and national 95-95-95 targets.

During the period under review, YOUNETPO linked a total of 1,859 individuals to a comprehensive HIV/TB care, prevention and treatment packages, constituting the 61.9% against annual targets. YOUNETPO utilized a human right approach to also tackle stigma and discrimination and implemented a community led approach which included; the daily distribution of condoms and lubricants at selected hot spots, conducted weekly HIV/TB awareness sessions, daily follow up on treatment uptake for those in care, record, track and report gender-based violence (GBV) among others. Of the total individuals reached, 859 were tested for HIV, with 30 testing positive. Notably, all 30 individuals who tested positive were successfully enrolled in antiretroviral therapy (ART), representing 25% of the annual target. Furthermore, YOUNETPO achieved a 90% viral load suppression rate among those on ART, underscoring the project's success in ensuring treatment adherence and effectiveness.

To enhance the quality and efficiency of service delivery, YOUNETPO conducted regular bi-monthly performance review meetings with its technical teams, including Peer Educators (PEs), Peer Navigators (PNs), and field officers. These sessions addressed implementation challenges, improved data accuracy, and identified strategies to close service delivery gaps. Field supervision

visits to selected health facilities such as the TB Annex, ELWA hospital, Clara Town Health center among others further strengthened coordination between YOUNETPO and health service providers, ensuring timely and accurate reporting of HIV/TB data.

Beyond its primary HIV interventions, the EpiC Project incorporated additional public health initiatives. YOUNETPO integrated Monkeypox awareness campaigns into its community outreach activities, leveraging existing structures to address emerging health threats.

YOUNETPO also prioritized GBV prevention and reporting, with outreach workers providing psychosocial support and referrals for clinical care to affected individuals. In 2025 alone, a total of 336 individuals were screened for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and facilitated appropriate treatment and follow-up.

Despite challenges, including logistical constraints, delayed in funding and limited data discrepancy, YOUNETPO adapted by enhancing coordination between FHI360, adhered to reporting deadlines and provided periodic training for its outreach teams and leveraging technical support from FHI360 to streamline operations. YOUNETPO introduced innovative approaches such as; localized community engagements and the usage of peer-driven interventions, ensured consistent progress toward project goals.

Through the EpiC Project, YOUNETPO did not only addressed the immediate health needs of key populations but also built sustainable systems for future interventions. YOUNETPO remains committed to scaling up its efforts, expanding access to care, and fostering partnerships to achieve comprehensive epidemic control in Liberia.



YOUNETPO interventions through the Promoting Inclusive Transitional Justice for Diverse Women in Liberia War and Economic Crimes Court- Project.

During the FY25 reporting period, the Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO) implemented a series of strategic interventions aimed at increasing the participation of women and youth in peace-building and reconciliation through Liberia's transitional justice process. Support from the UN Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund through Conciliation Resources through the Promoting Inclusive Transitional Justice for Diverse Women in Liberia War and Economic Crimes Court project focused on empowering human right defenders, women led organizations, youth, and other marginalized groups to actively engage in Liberia's transitional justices process through the Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court. This project empowered YOUNETPO to conduct a combination of capacity-building trainings, community dialogues, and advocacy efforts. The initiative aligned with broader goals of promoting inclusive governance, strengthening community resilience, and advancing gender equality in peace-building spaces across targeted communities.

Over the course of implementation, YOUNETPO conducted targeted trainings for human right defenders, law enforcement officers and policy makers on existing human right framework at national and international levels, peace-building, leadership, advocacy, and communication, with a deliberate emphasis on increasing women's participation in decision-making processes. These efforts were complemented by community-level engagements that created safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue, allowing women and youth to share their perspectives on human rights, peace and security issues. The organization also worked to strengthen local structures that support peace-building conversations by engaging community leaders, civil society actors, human right defenders and other key stakeholders. These collaborative approaches helped increased participants

understanding and knowledge on human rights mechanism, policy and frameworks, foster trust, encourage participation, and promote collective responsibility in addressing conflict and building sustainable peace. Follow-up mentorship and continued engagement ensured that participants were able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the trainings.

As a result of these interventions, there was a noticeable improvement in the confidence, knowledge, and active participation of women and youth in peace-building processes including the transitional justices' process. Participants demonstrated an increased understanding of human rights and peace-building frameworks and were better equipped to engage in advocacy and community dialogue platforms. Women, in particular, reported greater involvement in local decision-making forums, reflecting a positive shift toward more inclusive participation. The project also strengthened collaboration between civil society organizations and community stakeholders, leading to more coordinated and effective responses to local peace and security challenges. Additionally, the initiative contributed to raising awareness about the importance of inclusive transitional justice process as Liberia prepare to have a War and Economic Crimes Court. This was further highlighted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between YOUNETPO and the Office for the Establishment of the War and Economic Crimes Court.

YOUNETPO along with other CSOs and partners also advocated through the National Transitional Justices Working Group (NTJWG) for an Act to be drafted and submitted to the National Legislature for enactment which would legitimized the Office for the Establishment of Wars and Economic Crimes Court and strengthened its independence beyond the Executive Order which established the office.

To sustain the gains achieved, YOUNETPO has continued to engage participants through mentorship, networking opportunities, ongoing advocacy support and consistently participating the NTJWG activities. The organization has also strengthened its partnerships with local stakeholders and community-based structures to maintain momentum in promoting inclusive peace-building practices. Moving forward, YOUNETPO intends to scale up its interventions by expanding to additional counties, increasing the number

of beneficiaries, and integrating digital advocacy approaches to amplify community voices. These efforts will build on the progress made and contribute to long-term impact by strengthening inclusive participation, accountability, and resilience within communities across Liberia.



Figure 1 Rep of the Deputy Minister of Health, Hon. George Jacobs; Assist. Minister for Policy and Planning, MoH, Hon. Julie Wieh; House of Rep Chair on Health, LCM secretariat Head, William Walker and others in a group photo at a PPR Policy dialogue.



Dr. Jewel Tarpeh-Kollie; Montserratado County Health Officer (CHO) speaking at a one day High Level Policy Dialogue organized by YOUNETPO through the Diverse Women Project.



A Ranking member of the Liberia National Police (LNP) speaking at a human rights training organized by YOUNETPO

Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness and Response Mechanism in Liberia: COPPER CE Project in Liberia

Liberia's experience with public health emergencies has undergone a significant transformation, shifting from a history marked by fear, misinformation, and exclusion to one defined by community engagement, trust-building, and informed decision-making. During the 2014 Ebola outbreak, misinformation, mistrust, and widespread rumors contributed to the loss of approximately 2,700 lives, as communities struggled to access credible information and often relied on false narratives. A similar pattern emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, where the rapid spread of fake news once again fueled fear and confusion, undermining effective response efforts and deepening community mistrust.

With funding from the Global Fund through the Africa Coalition on Tuberculosis (ACT-Africa), YOUNETPO continue implementation of the Community Engagement in Pandemic Preparedness and Response (COOPER CE) project which is aimed at strengthening community systems and promoting inclusive participation in health governance across Liberia. Central to these interventions was the organization's commitment to building the capacity of civil society actors, youth advocates, and community representatives to meaningfully engage in pandemic preparedness and response (PPR) processes.

Building on the gains made in 2024, 2025 saw YOUNETPO supporting the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health utilizing a multi-stakeholders approach to develop a National Pandemic Preparedness and Response Representation Guide; a critical gaps that has long existed in Liberia's PPR landscape. The PPR representation guide is a tool designed to support structured, transparent, and inclusive participation of all stakeholders including; civil society, slum dwellers, survivors, and people living with HIV/TB, women groups religious groups, traditional leaders, youth among others.

Additionally, YOUNETPO held series of consultations with communities to identify PPR priorities for advocacy. The identified priorities were translated into a policy brief that was presented to policy makers including; the house committee on health, the ministry of health, CSOs, media, media etc.

A key result of the intervention has been the recognition of media as a critical partner in pandemic preparedness and response. Where misinformation once dominated both traditional and digital platforms, efforts under the COPPER CE project have supported more credible, community-informed communication and strengthened relationships between media actors and health stakeholders. This shift has played a crucial role in improving public understanding and promoting accurate health messaging, not only in Liberia but also reflecting broader progress across COPPER-supported countries facing similar challenges.

The impact of these efforts is clearly reflected in the voices of those involved. As emphasized by one stakeholder, ***"Information is very important. When you don't have information, it makes it difficult to even understand, act, or make decisions. An informed population makes good decisions, and it has helped in shaping the advocacy."*** This highlights how access to reliable information has become a cornerstone for effective community engagement and advocacy.

Furthermore, the project has significantly strengthened inclusive participation in health governance. Communities that were previously excluded are now actively engaged in shaping policies and strategies. As noted, ***"The COPPER CE project had a significant impact. If there is a future health emergency, Liberia is now in a stronger position to ensure past mistakes, where communities were left behind, won't happen again. They are in the room developing policy briefs, giving input, and shaping final PPR policies and strategies."*** This demonstrates a clear shift toward inclusive, participatory governance where community voices directly influence national health decision-making.

Overall, the COPPER CE project has contributed to transforming Liberia's pandemic preparedness landscape by promoting accurate information, strengthening trust, and ensuring that communities are central to response efforts.

This transition from fear to informed action represents a critical step toward building a more resilient and accountable health system.



YOUNETPO's Executive Director speaking during a Panel discussion at the COOPER CE Project Close-out meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.



Group photo during a consultative meeting for the Development of PPR Representation Guide.

Amplifying Youth Voices through the Annual Youth Education and Leadership Conference 2025.

Annual Youth Education and Leadership Conference (AYEAL Conference) is a flagship youth development initiative of the Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO), implemented annually since 2016. The conference provides a national platform for , youth leaders, policymakers, representatives of civil society

organization , and development partners to engage in dialogue on critical issues affecting youth development including; leadership, education, health, gender equality, climate change, and good governance in Liberia.

Since its inception, the AYEAL Conference has been convened in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties, attracting participations from across all 15 counties of Liberia, as well as participants from Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, and The Gambia. Over 500 young people have participated to date, with conference outcomes informing policies and programs implemented across several sector. Alumni of the conference continue to drive change through initiatives search as; civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and advocacy.

The 2025 AYEAL Conference was organized against the backdrop of West Africa's growing youth population, with more than 60 percent of population under the age of 35. While this demographic trend presents significant potential for development, many young youth face persistent barriers including unemployment, limited access to quality education, inadequate health services, exclusion from decision-making processes, and vulnerability to harmful traditional practices, the substance abuse crisis, and climate-related shocks. The conference highlight these challenges, present solution and position young people as agents of change and central actors in Africa's sustainable development agenda.

Organized under the theme: **“Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future,”** the 2025 conference critically examined Africa's development priorities through the lens of national, regional, and global frameworks, including the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda, the Cotonou Youth Action Agenda, the West and Central Africa Commitment of Adolescent and Young People and the Oran Youth Declaration. Special emphasis was placed on youth access to sexual and reproductive health services, ending harmful traditional practices, addressing drug and substance abuse, advancing the HIV/AIDS response toward the 95-95-95 targets, strengthening drug supply chain systems, promoting youth participation in governance, fostering technology and innovation, and addressing climate change.

The conference convened sixty (63) participants representing diverse social, economic, and geographic backgrounds, including youth with special social needs, representatives of civil society organizations, government ministries and agencies, members of parliament, youth and women's groups, faith-based organizations, unions, and private sector actors. Participants will be selected

through a competitive and gender-balanced process led by a youth steering committee. Key conference activities included an opening ceremony, thematic panel discussions, group work sessions, peer-to-peer learning workshops, youth exhibitions and marketplaces, cultural activities, a parliamentary simulation to debate and adopt youth-led resolutions, and a closing ceremony to endorse an action plan.

Participatory methodologies such as open dialogue, storytelling, and collaborative workshops utilized to ensure meaningful engagement and ownership by young people. A key highlight of the conference was the launch of the West Africa Young Parliamentarians Network; a network aim at enhancing youth political participation, leadership development, and meaningful engagement in governance. It provides a space for young parliamentarians to share experiences and strategies for addressing national and regional challenges.

Empowering Youth Action: Commemoration of International Youth Day 2025;

Sports is a unifying force for Liberia who has a long history of sports and its impact on youth. In-kind support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) successfully helped YOUNETPO organized one day Football and Kickball tournament as part of formal commemoration of International Youth Day (IYD) 2025 on August 16, 2025, under the global theme “Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond.” 2025 celebration was particularly significant as it marked the 10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a global framework aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring peace and prosperity for all. Held at the Invincible Sports Park in Sinkor, the event was designed as a dynamic one-day youth tournament and community engagement platform, bringing together youth-led organizations, development partners, and community stakeholders. Representatives from institutions such as UN Women, OHCHR, ActionAid Liberia, and UNFPA participated, reflecting strong multi-stakeholder recognition and support for youth-led development initiatives.

The event combined sports and advocacy through two main components: a youth tournament featuring football and kickball competitions, and a community engagement exhibition where youth organizations showcased their initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This innovative approach provided young people with a platform to demonstrate how sports, creativity, and innovation can be leverage as tools for advocacy, awareness, and social transformation. The tournament promoted teamwork, leadership, and unity among participants, while the exhibition created opportunities for youth-led organizations to share their work directly linked to the SDGs, exchange knowledge, and engage directly with donors and partners.



The Newly inducted leadership of the West Africa Young Parliamentarians Network pose for a photo with Hon. Ethel Davis, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs at the 7th edition of the AYEAL Conference.

Beyond its celebratory nature, the commemoration served as a strategic platform to amplify youth voices within Liberia’s development discourse. The opening session featured inspiring remarks from development partners, government representatives, and youth leaders including OHCHR, Action aid Liberia, UNFPA, Un Women and the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) among others, all emphasizing the critical role of young people—particularly young women in advancing the SDGs and shaping national development priorities. The tournament was officially launched by Madam Elizabeth Gbah Johnson, Country Director of Actionaid Liberia, whose remarks underscored

the importance of youth leadership, inclusion, and active participation in governance and development processes. The interactive design of the program fostered dialogue, encouraged collaboration, and strengthened partnerships among stakeholders committed to youth empowerment.

The sports tournament emerged as a key highlight of the day, blending competition with advocacy and engagement. Four youth-led organizations actively participated, including YOUNETPO, which fielded two teams in both football and kickball, the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), Youth Aid Liberia (YAL), and Girls Health Alliance (GHA). In the football category, Youth Aid Liberia emerged victorious after a competitive series of matches, while YOUNETPO secured the championship title in the kickball category. The event concluded with an award ceremony recognizing winning teams and outstanding players for their performance, teamwork, and sportsmanship. This segment celebrated not only athletic excellence but also the spirit of collaboration, unity, and youth leadership.

The commemoration also highlighted the importance of inclusivity in national development, emphasizing the need to ensure meaningful participation of adolescent girls, young women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. Through this platform, YOUNETPO reinforced its commitment to empowering young people across key sectors, including health, education, sexual and reproductive health, governance, and climate change advocacy. The participation of diverse youth organizations further demonstrated how local youth actions are contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and fostering collective progress toward sustainable development.

The event recorded strong participation, bringing together 93 individuals, including 39 females and 54 males, representing youth-led organizations, development partners, and community stakeholders. It provided a valuable platform for

networking, collaboration, and showcasing youth-driven innovations, while also demonstrating the effectiveness of creative approaches such as sports in promoting advocacy and engagement. The overall success of the event reflected YOUNETPO's ability to convene diverse stakeholders and create impactful spaces for youth leadership and participation.

To ensure a conducive and engaging environment, YOUNETPO made adequate logistical arrangements, including structured seating, team coordination, and provision of refreshments for participants and guests. Lunch, water, and soft drinks were provided, creating a relaxed atmosphere that encouraged interaction and relationship-building among participants. The hospitality extended during the event was widely appreciated and contributed to the overall positive experience of attendees.

The commemoration concluded on a high note, with participants expressing appreciation to YOUNETPO and UNFPA for organizing a meaningful and impactful event. Many reaffirmed their commitment to advancing youth-led initiatives and contributing to community development. The International Youth Day 2025 celebration not only showcased the energy, creativity, and leadership of young people in Liberia but also demonstrated the critical role of youth as drivers of sustainable development and social transformation.



Elizabeth Johnson; Country Director-Action aid Liberia taking the official kick off during the one day tournament

**GC7 Re-prioritization Process;
YOUNETPO Holds TB Specific
Consultations with CS and Communities**

In 2025, the Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO) received a grant modification from the African Coalition on TB to implement targeted tuberculosis (TB) consultations aimed at strengthening community and civil society engagement in Liberia’s Global Fund Cycle 7 (GC7) reprioritization process. This initiative was grounded in the recognition that meaningful inclusion of TB-affected populations and frontline civil society organizations is critical to ensuring that national funding priorities reflect real community needs. In alignment with this objective, YOUNETPO designed and facilitated a series of TB-specific consultations that created a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and consensus-building among key stakeholders, particularly those from high TB burden settings.

The consultations were conducted using a hybrid approach, combining both in-person and virtual participation to maximize inclusivity and representation. Participants were drawn primarily from high TB burden counties, including Bong County and Nimba County, where the burden of tuberculosis remains significant. This approach ensured that even individuals in remote or underserved areas had the opportunity to contribute to the discussions. A total of 35 participants took part in the consultations, comprising 15 females and 20 males, reflecting a deliberate effort to promote gender balance and inclusivity. The participants included TB care receivers, community health volunteers, and representatives of TB-focused civil society organizations, all of whom brought valuable lived experiences and programmatic insights to the process.

During the consultations, participants engaged in structured discussions to identify key challenges affecting TB service delivery and to propose

actionable priorities for consideration in the GC7 reprioritization. These discussions highlighted critical issues such as delays in sputum transportation, inadequate incentives for community health volunteers, and the importance of maintaining nutritional support for TB patients to enhance treatment adherence. The participatory nature of the consultations ensured that the priorities identified were evidence-based, community-driven, and responsive to the realities on the ground. Furthermore, the process strengthened collaboration and trust between community actors and national stakeholders, reinforcing the role of civil society as an essential partner in the national TB response.

The priorities identified through these consultations were subsequently elevated to the national level through a high-level stakeholder engagement convened by the Liberia Coordinating Mechanism. This platform brought together key decision-makers, including government representatives, development partners, and civil society actors, to deliberate on the reprioritization of the Global Fund grant. YOUNETPO played a critical advocacy role during this engagement by presenting the community-informed priorities and ensuring that the voices of TB-affected populations were adequately represented. As a result of these efforts, the identified priorities were successfully incorporated into the national grant document, demonstrating the effectiveness of inclusive consultation processes in shaping policy and funding decisions.

Overall, this intervention underscores YOUNETPO’s commitment to promoting community-led approaches and inclusive governance in health programming. By facilitating structured engagement between communities and national decision-making platforms, the organization not only amplified marginalized voices but also contributed to more responsive and equitable TB programming in Liberia. The success of this process highlights the importance of sustained investment in community systems strengthening and reinforces the value of participatory approaches in achieving impactful and sustainable health outcomes.

YOUNETPO Commemorates Day of the African Child:

In commemoration of the Day of the African Child (DAC), the Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO), through the Liberian Youth Voices for Accelerating ICPD initiative and in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Liberia, organized a one-day multi-stakeholder engagement aimed at promoting dialogue and reflection on issues affecting children and young people in Liberia.

The event was held under the global theme, “Planning and Budgeting for Children's Rights: Progress since 2010,” which emphasizes the importance of sustained investment, accountability, and policy commitment toward improving the well-being of children across Africa. The commemoration brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government representatives, development partners, civil society organizations, youth leaders, and community actors, all united in their commitment to advancing the rights and welfare of children.

A major highlight of the event was the high-level panel discussion on the topic: “Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Its Impact on Health, Human Rights, and Youth.” The session provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the harmful effects of FGM, particularly on the physical and mental health of girls and young women. Panelists examined the practice as not only a public health concern but also a violation of human rights, emphasizing its long-term consequences on dignity, bodily autonomy, and gender equality.

The discussion further explored the social and cultural drivers of FGM, including entrenched traditional norms and misinformation, while also highlighting the urgent need for community-based interventions, policy enforcement, and youth engagement. Participants stressed the importance of empowering young people with accurate information and creating safe spaces for dialogue to challenge harmful practices and advocate for change.

The event also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the broader significance of the Day of the African Child, which was instituted in 1991 by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in memory of the June 16, 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa. This historic event symbolizes the courage of African children in demanding their rights, particularly access to quality education, and continues to serve as a reminder of the need for sustained advocacy and action.

Throughout the commemoration, participants emphasized the importance of strengthening policy implementation, increasing budgetary allocation for children’s programs, and ensuring inclusive participation of young people in decision-making processes. The event reinforced the role of youth as critical agents of change in advancing child rights and promoting social justice.

In conclusion, the Day of the African Child commemoration served as a powerful platform for dialogue, awareness, and collective commitment to addressing the challenges faced by children in Liberia and across Africa. The discussions and recommendations generated from the event are expected to contribute to ongoing advocacy efforts aimed at eliminating harmful practices such as FGM and promoting a safer, healthier, and more inclusive environment for all children.



Scene from the High level panel discussion during the commemoration of the 2025 International Day of the African Child.



Hon. Laura Golakeh; Deputy Minister for Gender and Social Protection making keynote remarks at the event commemorating the International Day of the African Child.

COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND GENDER ASSESSMENT (CRG) - PRE ENGAGEMENTS

The Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO) received formal approval from the African Coalition on TB (ACT) to commence the implementation of activities for a Community, Rights, and Gender (CRG) assessment targeting TB-affected communities in Liberia. This milestone represented not just an administrative go-ahead, but a critical step in strengthening Liberia's TB response through community driven evidence. The CRG assessment was designed to ensure that the priorities, lived experiences, and voices of TB-affected populations particularly those residing in underserved and high-burden areas would be meaningfully captured and integrated into national TB strategies, policy dialogues, and future Global Fund programming. Following this approval, YOUNETPO initiated high-level engagement with the Liberia Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) to present its proposed approach and implementation roadmap. These discussions focused on how the organization intended to engage TB communities in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba counties. These counties were selected for their epidemiological significance, population diversity, and strategic role in the TB response. This consultative process was instrumental in fostering transparency, building mutual trust, and aligning expectations between YOUNETPO, the CCM, and other relevant stakeholders ahead of the assessment's roll-out.

YOUNETPO also contracted a national consultant with expertise in health systems research and rights-based approaches to design a tailored data collection tool for the Liberian context. The questionnaire was crafted to guide both quantitative and qualitative data collection, enabling a comprehensive understanding of barriers to TB service access, experiences of stigma and discrimination, and opportunities for community-led monitoring.

To ensure that the assessment design reflected community realities and priorities, YOUNETPO

organized three county-level community engagement meetings in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba counties on January 8, 10, and 16, 2025, respectively. These meetings served as an early entry point to raise awareness about the CRG assessment and to secure community ownership of the process.

These sessions provided safe and inclusive spaces for TB-affected individuals, survivors, community leaders, and other key stakeholders to voice their concerns, share personal testimonies, and collectively outline priority areas for the assessment.

Discussions during these engagements covered a wide range of critical issues, including the persistent stigma and discrimination faced by TB patients, gaps in diagnostic services particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas, the need for inclusive and rights-based service delivery models, and the importance of integrating human rights, gender equality, and equity into TB programming. By actively listening to community perspectives, YOUNETPO reinforced its leadership role in facilitating inclusive dialogue, championing stigma reduction, and advocating for rights-based health interventions.

However, despite these early investments and momentum, YOUNETPO was instructed by ACT-Africa to stop further implementation of the CRG assessment. ACT stated that the activities were halted because it align with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the Global fund reprioritization process as the reason for halting continuation even after YOUNETPO had incurred expenses in preparation and engagement efforts.

As part of the preparatory phase for the Community, Rights, and Gender (CRG) assessment, YOUNETPO organized a series of county-level community engagement meetings in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba on January 8, 10, and 16, 2025, respectively. These three counties were purposefully selected due to their high TB burden, diverse populations, and the unique challenges they face in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease. The meetings brought together TB-affected individuals, survivors, local health stakeholders, and civil society representatives to create a shared space for dialogue and collaboration.

The primary aim of these engagements was to introduce the CRG assessment and explain its relevance to Liberia's TB response while also gathering early input from the very people the assessment seeks to serve. YOUNETPO facilitators adopted an inclusive and participatory approach, ensuring that the sessions were interactive, respectful, and conducive to open dialogue. Participants were encouraged to share their lived experiences with TB, discuss the barriers they face, and voice their expectations for a more rights-based and community-driven health response.

Across the counties, common concerns emerged. Many TB survivors spoke candidly about the social stigma and discrimination they had experienced, explaining how such attitudes often discouraged people from seeking timely diagnosis or continuing treatment. Others described the physical and financial challenges of accessing diagnostic services, especially in rural communities where health facilities are either too far away or lack the necessary equipment to confirm TB cases.

Several participants highlighted that a lack of community awareness about TB symptoms, modes of transmission, and treatment options continues to fuel misconceptions and late presentation at health facilities. There was also a strong sense among attendees that TB survivors and other key populations remain underrepresented in decision-making spaces, resulting in policies and programs that do not fully reflect the realities on the ground.

In each meeting, participants stressed the importance of integrating human rights principles into TB programming. They called for a TB response that addresses not only the medical aspects of the disease but also the social and structural barriers that perpetuate inequities in care. Many expressed interest in improving community-led monitoring so that services could be better tracked, evaluated, and improved through local oversight.

Despite the challenges shared, the atmosphere in all three counties was one of hope and optimism. Participants expressed deep appreciation for being consulted early in the process and for having the opportunity to influence the design of the CRG assessment. This early engagement fostered a sense of trust and ownership, strengthening YOUNETPO's relationship with the communities and reaffirming their willingness to contribute meaningfully to a rights-based, people-centered TB response. The rich insights gathered from these sessions now form a critical foundation for the assessment's next steps, ensuring it remains firmly rooted in the voices and priorities of those mostly affected.

One key lesson emerging from the preparatory phase of the CRG assessment is the value of early and meaningful community engagement. Bringing TB-affected individuals, survivors, and local stakeholders into the process from the very beginning helped to build trust, encourage open dialogue, and generate a sense of ownership over the assessment. The willingness of participants to share personal experiences and identify systemic challenges demonstrated that communities are not only ready to contribute but also eager to shape interventions that directly impact their lives. This reinforces the importance of making early consultations a standard practice in any rights-based health initiative.

Another important lesson is the need for clear and inclusive communication strategies when introducing technical processes such as the CRG assessment. By creating safe, inclusive, and participatory spaces, YOUNETPO ensured that discussions were accessible to people of different backgrounds, including those with limited literacy. This approach helped clarify the purpose of the assessment, dispel misconceptions, and encourage candid contributions. It also highlighted that complex health interventions can only be effective if the intended beneficiaries fully understand their relevance and feel empowered to take part in shaping them.

Finally, the process underscored the persistent structural and social barriers that TB-affected communities face in Liberia. Stigma, discrimination, limited access to diagnostics, and exclusion from decision-making remain deeply entrenched issues that cannot be addressed solely through service delivery improvements. Addressing these challenges

will require deliberate integration of human rights principles into TB programming, stronger community-led monitoring mechanisms, and continuous advocacy to ensure representation of TB survivors and key populations at all levels of policy and program development. These lessons will be critical in guiding not only the next phases of the CRG assessment but also broader efforts to create a more equitable, people-centered TB response in Liberia.

In conclusion, the preparatory phase of the CRG assessment has laid a solid foundation for advancing a rights-based, community-driven TB response in Liberia. The early engagements in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba counties not only surfaced critical insights into the lived realities of TB-affected communities but also strengthened trust and collaboration between YOUNETPO, local stakeholders, and the populations most impacted by the disease. While the process was interrupted before full implementation, the lessons learned during this phase demonstrate the transformative potential of inclusive engagement, participatory planning, and the integration of human rights principles into public health programming. These insights provide a clear roadmap for resuming and scaling the assessment when conditions allow, ensuring that the voices of TB-affected communities remain central to national TB strategies and future Global Fund investment.



YOUNETPO Executive Director; Amb. Leo E. Tiah in a session at the WPS @25 event in Nairobi, Kenya.

Promoting Legislative Transparency and accountability through the Legislative monitoring coalition of Liberia (LEMCOL).

Through the Legislative monitoring coalition of Liberia, YOUNETPO and other coalition monitored released a report focused on sharing findings from monitoring activities covering November 4-December 11, 2025. The report highlighted three indicators including” Inclusion, transparency and Participation linked to the three cardinal function of the legislature: Oversight, Representation and lawmaking. The findings reveal both strengths and weakness in legislative performance linked to the three indicators. Key highlights of the findings included: Reading of daily journals occurred in every session and the second reading and debating of motions was observed in majority of the sessions monitored. However, the monitoring uncovered gaps that warrant immediate attention including gender disparities in legislative participation, timeliness, transparency mechanism and effective communication within the citizenry it serves. **LEMCOL is co-funded by the European Union and the embassies of Ireland and Sweden under the Liberia Electoral Support Project Plus (LESP+) which is managed by UNDP and jointly implemented by the Netherlands Institute of Multi-Party Democracy (NIMD) and UN Women.**

Enhancing Organizational Efficiency: Institutional Strengthening and Staff Capacity Building

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening health systems, institutional capacity and advancing youth leadership in health advocacy, YOUNETPO actively engaged in key regional capacity-building and policy dialogue platforms in 2025. YOUNETPO’s Executive Director (ED); Amb Leo E. Tiah and Programs and Projects Manager (PM); William Kei represented the organization at the **“Breaking Down Barriers to Health Services in West Africa”** training held in Nigeria from June 16–20, 2025. This initiative, supported by the Global Fund and implemented by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, was specifically designed to equip youth leaders and civil society actors with practical skills to address barriers to HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria services across the region. Through this intensive training, our ED and PM enhanced their technical competencies in strategic media engagement

for health reporting, development of impactful and audience-centered social media content, effective interview techniques, and public speaking for advocacy. These skills have strengthened the organization's ability to communicate complex health issues in accessible ways, counter misinformation, and amplify community voices—particularly those of young people and marginalized populations—within national and regional health discourse.

Building on this capacity, YOUNETPO also participated in a high-level **Advocacy Meeting on Cross-Country Community Engagement in Health, TB, Malaria, and Primary Health Care (PHC) Governance**, a Global Fund-supported initiative implemented by the African Coalition on Tuberculosis (ACT-Africa). This strategic regional dialogue convened National TB Program Managers, Ministries of Health officials, national public health institutions, and civil society organizations from across Africa to foster collaboration and shared learning. The platform enabled participants to exchange country-level experiences and innovative approaches emerging from the COPPER CE and Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE SI) programs, with a strong focus on strengthening community systems and improving accountability in health service delivery. The engagement further deepened dialogue between TB-affected communities and government stakeholders, promoting mutual understanding and more inclusive decision-making processes.

Importantly, the meeting served as a space to document lessons learned and translate them into actionable advocacy priorities, particularly in the areas of TB response, pandemic preparedness, and primary health care governance. Participants collaboratively developed forward-looking strategies to enhance community engagement, including exploring sustainable financing models and reinforcing community-led accountability mechanisms. These discussions were strategically aligned with preparations for the Global Fund Grant Cycle 8, ensuring that community

perspectives are effectively integrated into future funding and programming priorities.

Participation in both the training and advocacy meeting has significantly strengthened YOUNETPO's institutional capacity, broadened its regional networks, and enhanced its ability to contribute to evidence-based advocacy and policy influence. The knowledge and skills gained are being applied to strengthen ongoing program implementation in Liberia, particularly in areas related to digital advocacy, community engagement, and monitoring of health services. Overall, these engagements have positioned YOUNETPO as a more effective and connected youth-led organization, capable of driving inclusive health governance and contributing meaningfully to regional and global efforts to eliminate barriers to HIV, TB, and malaria services.

Furthermore, key YOUNETPO staff also participated in other important capacity building trainings including; Afro-Arab Youth Forum (Uganda), Gonet Academy, WCA commitment accountability framework validation, organizational capacity building training for CSOs, Safeguarding for staff and program beneficiaries training, organization management and understanding the ICPD agenda workshop among others. Meanwhile, YOUNETPO also made strides to support other youth led and youth focused organizations by sharing knowledge and providing targeted technical trainings. Notably, YOUNETPO supported Boys for Positive Change; a youth and youth focused community based organization based in Brewerville, Montserrado County.

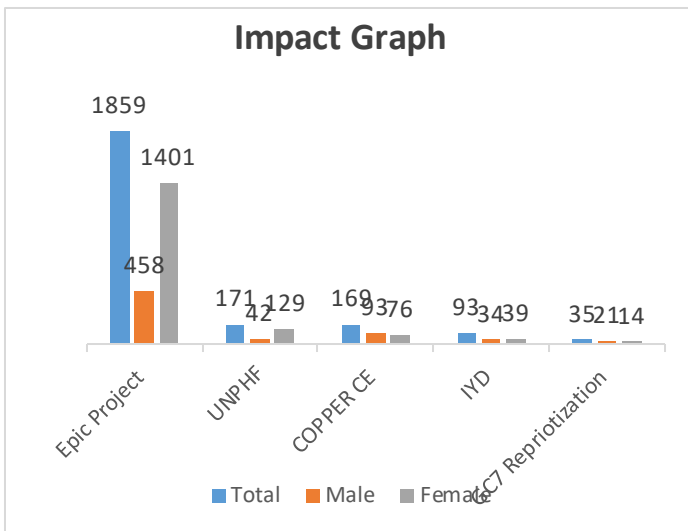


A Family Photo at the Regional meeting organized in Accra, Ghana through the COOPER CE project.



Dennis Saylay staff of the Ministry of Health (Left) Hon. Sona Traore Sesay; Assistant Minister for Students Personnel Service, Ministry of Education (Center) and Amb. Leo E. Tiah; YOUNETPO's Executive Director (Right) at the WCA meeting in Lome, Togo.

Impact Graph



successfully reached a wide audience, suggesting effective use of platforms, consistent posting, and relevance of topics such as HIV, TB, Malaria, and Pandemic and community advocacy.

Audience Conversion (Messaging Engagement)

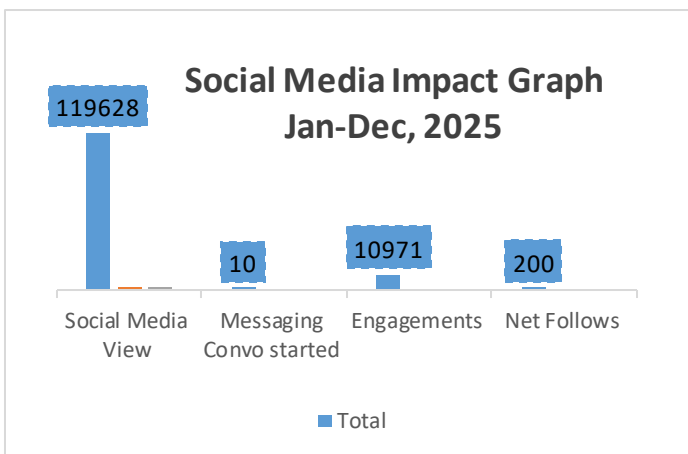
Despite the high number of views, only 10 messaging conversations were initiated. This indicates a significant gap between visibility and direct audience interaction.

Moderate Engagement Levels

The platform recorded 10,971 engagements (likes, comments, shares, clicks), which shows that a portion of the audience is interacting with the content. However, when compared to total views, this reflects a moderate engagement rate.

Limited Audience Growth

With only 200 net new followers gained during the year, the data shows slight audience growth.



Social Media Impact Interpretation (Jan-Dec 2025)

The social media performance data for YOUNETPO in 2025 reflects strong visibility and audience reach, but comparatively low audience interaction and conversion rates, indicating an opportunity to strengthen engagement strategies.

High Reach and Visibility

YOUNETPO recorded a total of 119,628 social media views over the 12-month period. This demonstrates that the organization's content

Testimonies

Samuel, a 22-year-old youth from Nimba County, participated in the 7th Annual Youth Education and Leadership (AYEAL) Conference, where he gained practical knowledge on leadership, education pathways, and youth advocacy. Inspired by the sessions and peer discussions, he became more confident in expressing his ideas and understanding his role in community development. After the conference, Samuel mobilized other young people in his community to promote education and discourage early marriage, while also enrolling in a vocational training program. His experience highlights how the AYEAL Conference empowers young people to take positive action and become agents of change in their communities.

Through the COPPER CE Project, in a pandemic preparedness and response training in Bong County A community leader, Mr. Johnson, highlighted the impact: "The training has transformed our community's approach to health crises. We now have an idea on how to plan, prepared and respond effectively to health emergencies. He further said **"This initiative not only enhanced local capacity but also fostered collaboration between health facilities and the community"**.

Ester, living with HIV, joined YOUNETPO's peer support program after attending KYS event. Initially, she struggled with denial and irregular ART adherence due to fear of stigmatization. After participating in the program's and peer-led discussions, she began adhere to treatment ad dedicate portion of her time to encouraging others.

After six month in care she shared: "YOUNETPO's program changed my outlook on life. The education I received helped me understand the importance of consistent treatment and how I could inspire others facing similar challenges. **"Now, I'm helping others overcome their fears and adhere to their medication. Watching people regain hope has been the greatest reward."**

She has since reached over 5 individuals living with HIV, guiding them toward better health outcomes.





YOUNETPO Executive Director; Amb. Leo E. Tiah (Left) in a post with U.S. Ambassador to Liberia; Mark Tuner at St. Bridig's Day commemoration

Photos



Partners

