

Youth Network for Positive Change-YOUNETPO

ANNUAL Report - 2024



Executive Summary

Executive Summery -----	3
Board Chairman’s Message -----	4
Executive Director’s Message -----	5
EpiC Project -----	6
Improving Reproductive Health ---	7-8
Health Financing, Transparency and Accountability -----	8-10
Pandemic Preparedness and Response - -----	11
Institutional Capacity Strengthening and Efficiency -----	12
Youth Power Liberia -----	13
Increase Youth Representation in Governance -----	14
Gallery -----	15
Partners -----	16

Executive Summary

The Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Annual Report of Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO) reflects a year of trans-formative impact, strategic growth, and unwavering commitment to fostering societal change in Liberia. Through a combination of innovative projects, capacity-building initiatives, and targeted advocacy campaigns, YOUNETPO has significantly contributed to addressing public health challenges, advancing governance, and empowering communities.

A notable highlight of FY24 was the successful implementation of the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Project, funded by USAID/PEPFAR. YOUNETPO provided HIV prevention, treatment, and care services to over 3,859 individuals, surpassing annual targets and achieving a 92% viral load suppression rate. Complementing this effort was the Integration of Citizens' Charters for Health Facility Development Committees (HFDCs) under the USAID Civil Society Activity, which strengthened health governance by equipping HFDCs in Bong and Montserrado counties with the tools to enhance accountability and service delivery.

Advocacy efforts played a pivotal role in driving systemic change. Through the Public Mobilization and Awareness Campaign on Safe Abortion, YOUNETPO engaged diverse stakeholders in dialogue to promote reproductive health rights and support legislative reforms. Similarly, the organization's advocacy for last-mile drug distribution led to a \$4.4 million increase in Liberia's health budget, ensuring essential medicines reach underserved communities.

The Communities Engagement in Pandemic Preparedness and Response (COPPER CE) Project further underscored YOUNETPO's commitment to public health security. By training 87 stakeholders and conducting evidence-based

advocacy, the project integrated community voices into national pandemic preparedness frameworks and strengthened Liberia's resilience to health emergencies.

YOUNETPO also invested in institutional strengthening, with staff participating in capacity-building workshops on gender advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and social accountability.

Additionally a collaboration with the Oxford Development Consultancy (ODC) resulted in a standardized communication plan and a governance-focused research proposal. These initiatives enhanced operational efficiency and prepared the organization for future challenges.

Despite logistical constraints and funding gaps to fund planned activities, YOUNETPO remained resilient, leveraging partnerships, innovation, and community engagement to achieve its objectives. As the organization looks ahead, it is composed to expand its impact, foster inclusivity, and advocate for policies that prioritize equity, health, and development in Liberia.



Dr. Jewel Tarpeh-Kollie; Montserrado County Health Officer (CHO) speaking during the launch of the COOPER CE Project held at Royal Grand Hotel.



Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama Sr, Board Chairman

When I became a member of the Board of Directors here at YOUNETPO, we all made a commitment to advance our mission, vision and work that we do in the community to improve the lives of young people. The impact that we made in the community in 2024 was only possible because of our donors and the partnerships that we have developed and strengthened over the years.

Despite the many challenges and obstacles we made significant progress in advocating for sexual reproductive health and rights, strategically focus our initiatives towards holistically tackling stigma and discrimination affecting Female Sex Workers (FSW) to improve access to TB/HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support, as well as negative cultural practices.

"Our partnerships have helped to strengthen community voices and we believe that when there is unity, teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

There is more work to be done in our communities and we must remain resilient and

strive to create the changes that hope to see. I know that YOUNETPO is ready to meet that need and address the structural inequities that exist, because of the hard work of our staff as well as the commitment of our donors, community and government partners.

The work ahead involves reimagining our resources to ensure that there is an increase in access to reproductive health services, advocate for policies that address structural and systematic barriers to accessing reproductive health services for among young people.

YOUNETPO recognize that true impact within the health sector is only achievable when it is well sustained that is why the organization has also focus its interventions towards strengthening the capacity of Health Facility Development Committees (HFDCs) across two of Liberia's most populated counties; Montserrado, Bong counties.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their passion and dedication to strengthening YOUNETPO every day and at every level. And on behalf of the board of directors I want to thank YOUNETPO's staff and leadership for their outstanding work in building a healthier, more prosperous and empowered Liberia.

Congratulations!

Executive Director's Message



Amb. Leo E. Tiah, Executive Director

Dear Partners and Friends,

As I reflect on the tremendous progress that we have made since our founding in 2014, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement for our organization's future. Since stepping into this role, I have had the privilege of witnessing our profound impact on our communities most especially the youth.

One of the key highlight from last year was our routine visitation to 20 clinics, health centers and hospitals and across 7 health districts in Montserrat and Bong counties to monitor donated medicine and health products (Malaria, TB, HIV & RH) at public health facilities in a drive to reduce stock out, improve accountability and transparency at public health facilities and our collective advocacy which influence the increment within the national budget for health care by 4.4 Million in 2024.

What keeps the YOUNETPO staff and me striving every day to do better are comments like this from a program beneficiary, **"Just coming out of high school and getting such work experience is a whole lot to me. Other organizations will require you need to have at least 5 years' job experience. But with Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO), you don't need to.**

They will give you the rightful skills and experience that you don't have and prepare you to compete in the job market."

2024 was a year of remarkable achievements for YOUNETPO, which have not gone unnoticed. YOUNETPO reached over 25,000 adolescent girls in Montserrat and surrounding counties with accurate information on teenage pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence (GBV).

Our Board of Directors, senior management team, staff and volunteers have continued to grow and improve, ensuring that we are well-equipped to meet the needs of those we serve.

As we look ahead, I am filled with anticipation for the growth and opportunities that await us. Thank you to everyone who has supported YOUNETPO this year. Your generosity, dedication, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

With gratitude,

Amb. Leo E. Tiah
Executive Director

Advancing Access to TB/HIV/AIDs, Care, Treatment and Prevention through the EpiC Project FY24

In FY24, YOUNETPO continue the implementation of the USAID/PEPFAR-funded grant titled; Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) Project. The project focused on HIV prevention, treatment, and care services in Liberia, particularly within the West of the Commonwealth Health District of Montserrado County. This initiative targeted key populations (KPs) such as female sex workers and their clients contributing significantly to the reduction in new HIV infection in Liberia health and advancing the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets.

YOUNETPO reached a total of 3,859 individuals with HIV prevention and treatment packages, exceeding the annual target by 125%. The organization provided comprehensive services that included the distribution of condoms and lubricants, conducting awareness and partner with identified health facilities and the link clients for HIV testing and treatment, and recording and reporting gender-based violence (GBV), raising awareness on available prevention and response services. Of the individuals reached, 2,341 were tested for HIV, with 156 testing positive. Notably, all 156 individuals who tested positive were successfully enrolled in antiretroviral therapy (ART), representing 134% of the annual target. Furthermore, YOUNETPO achieved a 92% 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 facilities such as the TB Annex health center further strengthened coordination between YOUNETPO and health service providers, ensuring timely and accurate reporting of HIV data.

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

YOUNETPO also prioritized GBV prevention, with outreach workers providing psychosocial support and referrals for clinical care to affected individuals. In FY24, YOUNETPO screened 1,996 individuals for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and facilitated appropriate treatment and follow-up.

YOUNETPO introduced innovative approaches such as; localized community engagements and the use 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 in 2025.



Know your status community testing event

Improving Reproductive Health and Rights through Public Mobilization and Awareness Campaigns.

Context: In Liberia, persistent challenges in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), particularly for adolescents and youth, contribute to high maternal mortality and unmet need for family planning. Restrictive legal frameworks and sociocultural barriers often limit access to essential services and information, disproportionately affecting young people.

Activity Overview: During FY24, the Youth Network for Positive Change (YOUNETPO), with catalytic support from the Informal Working Group on Reproductive Rights and Health and the Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI), implemented a comprehensive community mobilization and rights-based advocacy campaign in Bong County. This initiative, aligned with UNFPA's mandate to achieve universal access to SRHR and the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), focused on generating public support for the critical Revised Public Health Bill before the Liberian Senate. The campaign centered on amplifying community voices, particularly adolescents and youth, fostering inclusive dialogue, and building capacity for sustained advocacy.

Integrated Adolescent SRHR

Framework: "Youth SRHR Champions for Change"

A core innovation of this initiative was the explicit integration of an adolescent SRHR framework. Recognizing adolescents as rights-holders and essential agents of change, the campaign embedded dedicated components:

Youth Peer Educator (YPE) Training:

Adolescents (15-19 years) were recruited and trained as YPEs on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), rights-based SRHR information (including safe abortion care within the revised law's provisions), and advocacy techniques.

Adolescent-Friendly Dialogue

Platforms: Separate, safe-space discussion sessions ("Youth Corners") were held alongside town halls, facilitated by YPEs, allowing adolescents to discuss SRHR concerns, bodily autonomy, consent, and the bill's impact on their lives without stigma.

School and Community Outreach: YPEs conducted targeted outreach in schools and youth clubs using participatory methods, distributing age-appropriate SRHR materials developed with adolescent input, focusing on prevention of unintended pregnancy and gender-based violence (GBV).

Key Strategies and Interventions:

1. Strategic Information

Dissemination & Rights Awareness:

- Radio talk shows provided a vital platform to disseminate evidence-based SRHR information, including the public health rationale for safe abortion care under the revised law, reaching diverse audiences.
- Dedicated "fact-sharing sessions" clarified the societal and health impacts of unsafe abortion and the life-saving potential of the revised legislation.
- Messaging consistently framed access to SRHR services, including safe abortion where legal, as fundamental human rights essential for gender equality and health equity.

2. Inclusive Multi-Stakeholder

Dialogue & Community

Empowerment:

- Town hall meetings convened community members, women's groups, traditional and religious leaders, policymakers, and crucially, youth leaders and adolescents.
- Dialogues focused on dismantling harmful gender norms and misconceptions surrounding reproductive rights, fostering community-level consensus on the necessity of legislative reform for improved health outcomes.
- These spaces empowered communities, especially women and youth, to articulate their SRHR needs and demand accountability.

3. Capacity Building for Rights Claiming:

- Training sessions equipped participants, including YPEs and adult community advocates, with skills in rights-based advocacy, policy analysis, and effective communication.
- This transformed participants into informed change agents capable of engaging policymakers and sustaining advocacy efforts beyond the campaign, fostering local ownership of SRHR issues.

Impact and Outcomes:

- **Enhanced SRHR Knowledge & Rights Awareness:** Significant progress was made in improving public understanding of the Revised Public Health Bill and its critical role in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity. Over 25,000 residents in Salala and Suakoko, including a substantial proportion of adolescents reached through YPEs and youth-specific activities, gained crucial knowledge on the implications of unsafe abortion and their SRHR entitlements.
- **Strengthened Youth Agency:** The "Youth SRHR Champions" framework successfully engaged adolescents as active participants and leaders. YPEs demonstrated increased confidence and skills in discussing SRHR and advocating for their rights and health.
- **Robust Community & Multi-Sectoral Partnerships:** Collaboration with local CSOs, community leaders, healthcare providers, and youth networks was instrumental in amplifying reach, ensuring cultural relevance, and building a foundation for sustained advocacy and future SRHR programming. This reinforced the power of collective action in advancing reproductive rights.
- **Momentum for Legislative Change:** The campaign generated demonstrable grassroots support and public discourse, applying constructive pressure on policymakers and contributing vital community perspectives to the legislative process concerning the Revised Public Health Bill.



YOUNETPO conducts a facts sharing session on the Revised Public Health Bill in Bong County

Promoting Transparency and Accountability within the Health System: Integration of Citizens' Charters for Health Facility Development Committees - USAID/DAI



YOUNETPO Programs and Projects Manager – William Kei review records during a monitoring visit at Clara Town Clinic.

YOUNETPO implemented the Integration of Citizens' Charters for Health Facility Development Committees (HFDCs) project as part of the USAID-funded Liberia Civil Society Activity project (CSA). This initiative aimed to address systemic challenges in Liberia's health sector, such as frequent stock out of essential medicine, limited transparency, poor resource management, and limited community engagement and participation in decision making at health facilities. By harnessing the role of HFDCs, the project sought to strengthen health governance and improve service delivery across Bong and Montserrado counties.

The project employed a multi-faceted approach to achieve its objectives. YOUNETPO organized community engagement sessions, radio talk shows, and advocacy workshops to raise awareness about the importance of Health Facility Development Committees (HFDCs) in health governance at the local level. A total of 20 HFDC members were

trained with the skills needed to monitor health products and services at public clinics, health centers and hospitals, gained a much deeper insight and importance of their roles and responsibilities in promoting accountability and transparency within the health system, strengthen their capacity to advocate for improved resource allocation for the health facilities, and ensure adherence to national health

policies.

A particular emphasis was placed on supply chain management, enabling HFDCs to track and report on the distribution of malaria drugs and other medical commodities. Quarterly monitoring visits were conducted to assess health facility performance, identify gaps, and provide mentorship to HFDCs.

A huge component of the project significantly focus on monitoring the availability and distribution of donated medicine (HIV/TB/RH/Malaria) intended to be free of charge to enhance access at all public health facilities (last mile distribution). YOUNETPO teams conducted several field visits to a total of 20 public health facilities in Todee, Careysburg, Salala, Suakoko, Central Monrovia, Bushord and Commonwealth health districts, utilizing comprehensive approaches to assess the commodity received, actual stock on hand and distribution practices of medical products and commodities. These assessments revealed critical insights, including reasons behind frequent malaria drug stock out, record- keeping discrepancies, and challenges with storage facilities at monitored health facilities. For instance, several facilities reported prolonged delays in receiving drugs, inadequate storage conditions, and inconsistencies in data documentation. Some facilities, such as Kingsville Clinic and Careysburg Health Center, experienced disruptions in drug supply, which underscored the need for enhanced logistical coordination.

To address these challenges, YOUNETPO facilitated targeted interventions including training of HFDC members to use the Ministry of Health standardized tools for documenting and reporting drug inventory. Additionally, the project worked with county health teams and other stakeholders to advocate for improve supply chain transparency and accountability.

This collaboration resulted in several positive outcomes, including timely quarterly distribution of malaria drug supplies in certain health facilities and improved storage conditions in clinics such as Goba Town and Zannah Town.

The project's broader impact was evident in the strengthened partnerships between HFDCs, local authorities, and health workers. By integrating citizens' charters into the operational frameworks of health facilities, the project fostered accountability and inclusivity in health governance. HFDCs in Bong County demonstrated notable progress, with some committees successfully mobilizing community resources to address health facility needs. For instance, HFDCs at Felitoni Clinic and Zeansu Clinic led initiatives to improve infrastructure and enhance service delivery.

Despite challenges such as logistical constraints, limited resources, and varying levels of HFDC engagement, the project achieved significant successes. It enhanced health facility performance, improved community trust in the health system, and highlighted the importance of grassroots involvement in health governance. The integration of citizens' charters proved to be a transformative tool, empowering communities to take ownership of their health systems and advocate for sustainable change.

Looking ahead, YOUNETPO remains committed to building on these achievements. The organization plans to expand its monitoring and advocacy efforts, strengthen the capacity of HFDCs, and deepen collaborations with government and development partners. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and community engagement, the Integration of Citizens' Charters for HFDCs project sets a precedent for addressing Liberia's health sector challenges and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare.



YOUNETPO participate in an advocacy meeting with the Senate Committee on Health.

Increase Health Financing: Integration of Citizens' Charters for Health Facility Development Committees

Adequate health financing is essential for building an efficient, reliable, and robust public health sector. That is why in FY24, YOUNETPO, in collaboration with members of the CSOs Health Coalition through the USAID funded CSA project, spearheaded an advocacy campaign to address the critical issue of inadequate funding for last-mile drug distribution in Liberia. Recognizing the importance of ensuring that essential medicines reach the most remote and underserved communities, the coalition engaged key stakeholders to secure dedicated funding within the 2024 national budget for health.

The advocacy efforts involved a series of high-level meetings with influential stakeholders, including the Minister of Health, the Ministry of Finance Development Planning, and key legislative leaders such as Hon. Julie Fotoma-Wiah, Chairperson of the House Health Committee, and Hon. Dabah M. Varpilah, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health. During these engagements, the coalition emphasized the pressing need for targeted budgetary allocations to address systemic challenges in Liberia's drug supply chain, particularly the final stages of distribution to remote health facilities (last mile).

The coalition presented evidence highlighting the adverse effects of inadequate last-mile drug distribution, including stock-outs of essential medicines, increased morbidity and mortality, and reduced trust in the health system. By advocating for a sustainable financing mechanism, the coalition underscored the potential for improving health outcomes and reducing health inequities across Liberia. Our advocacy was supported by data from community-level monitoring and stakeholder consultations, demonstrating the critical gaps in drug availability and the barriers faced by health facilities in rural areas.

These advocacy efforts culminated in a significant victory: the Legislature approved a \$4.4 million increase in the national health budget for 2024.

This budgetary increase includes a dedicated allocation for last-mile drug distribution, ensuring that essential medicines can reach even the most remote communities. This milestone marks a significant step toward strengthening Liberia's health system and addressing longstanding challenges in drug supply chain management.

The success of this initiative reflects the power of collaborative advocacy. By uniting CSOs, policymakers, and other stakeholders, YOUNETPO and its partners were able to drive meaningful change and lay the groundwork for a more equitable health financing framework. The increased health budget not only addresses immediate needs but also establishes a precedent for future investments in health system strengthening.

YOUNETPO remains committed to monitoring the implementation of the allocated funds, ensuring accountability, and supporting capacity-building initiatives to optimize last-mile drug distribution. This advocacy campaign demonstrates the transformative potential of strategic partnerships and evidence-based policymaking in achieving sustainable improvements in public health. Through continued collaboration, YOUNETPO aims to build on this success, ensuring that Liberia's health sector is equipped to meet the needs of all its citizens, particularly those in marginalized and underserved communities.



Hon. Mark Jarbateh, Assistant Minister for Urban Affairs at the Ministry of Internal Affairs speaking during a policy dialogue organized by YOUNETPO.



Montserrado County Development Officer speaking during a Policy Dialogue organized by YOUNETPO.



YOUNETPO Team conduct public awareness on Radio Gbarnga

Enhancing Civil Society and Communities voices in Pandemic Preparedness and Response Mechanism in Liberia: COPPER CE Project in Liberia

The Communities in Pandemic Preparedness and Response through Community Engagement (COPPER CE) Project, implemented by YOUNETPO and funded by the Global Fund through ACT Africa, represents a cornerstone in advancing Liberia's capacity to address health emergencies. Over the reporting period, the project achieved significant milestones across its core pillars: amplifying community voices, strengthening stakeholder coordination, and integrating human rights and gender equality into pandemic preparedness frameworks.

A critical aspect of the COPPER CE Project was the empowerment of communities and civil society organizations (CSOs) to actively participate in national Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) platforms. YOUNETPO successfully trained 87 stakeholders, including government representatives, CSOs, county health teams, and marginalized groups such as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and survivor networks, on core PPR concepts. These training sessions' emphasized leadership, advocacy, and communication skills, enabling participants to engage meaningfully in national health governance structures. Through quarterly coalition meetings chaired by the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and Co-chair by YOUNETPO, community priorities were incorporated into advocacy roadmaps and policy briefs, ensuring a participatory approach to health security planning.

Evidence-based advocacy played a pivotal role in the project's success. YOUNETPO conducted comprehensive desk reviews of critical health security documents, including the Joint External Evaluation (JEE), National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and Mpox Incident Action Plan (IAP). These reviews identified gaps in community

representation, gender integration, and risk communication practices, laying the groundwork for targeted advocacy. The findings informed the development of advocacy agendas and guided coalition members in aligning priorities with national health security goals. These efforts culminated in greater representation of CSOs in technical working groups (TWGs), ensuring that grassroots perspectives were embedded in decision-making processes.

Despite its successes, the project faced challenges, including limited representation of CSOs in national platforms, bureaucratic delays, and funding constraints. However, these obstacles underscored the importance of sustained advocacy, early stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning. Lessons learned included the need for robust partnerships, structured training programs with follow-up mechanisms, and consistent advocacy for dedicated national funding for pandemic preparedness.

YOUNETPO is dedicated to advocating for community participation in PPR governance, scaling up risk communication initiatives, and advocating for gender-sensitive and human rights-focused strategies. By fostering multi-sectorial collaboration through the COPPER CE Project, YOUNETPO look forward to continue implementation of the COOPER CE project in 2025.



Key Stakeholders in a picture during the launched of the Cooper CE Project held at Royal Hotel.

Enhancing Organizational Efficiency: Institutional Strengthening and Staff Capacity Building

YOUNETPO continued to prioritize institutional strengthening and staff capacity building to enhance program implementation and service delivery at all levels. Members of the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning (MERL) and Program and Projects departments participated in several high-impact training sessions facilitated by partners such as Accountability Lab Liberia, Planning, Evaluation, Research Training Consultancy (PERT) Inc., and HOWE TRAINERS & ASSOCIATES Inc.

These included a two-day training on internal monitoring and social accountability, a two-day CSA Health Coalition partners' lesson-learned conference, a three-day monitoring and evaluation training, a three-day gender and social inclusion workshop, and the 2024 West Africa Adolescent Girls Summit.

These programs equipped staff members, including Samuka Kabah, Lisa T. Zayzay, and Ciatta Gogbeh, with advanced technical and advocacy skills, which have been applied to improve organizational efficiency and programmatic outcomes. Additionally, YOUNETPO collaborated with the Oxford Development Consultancy (ODC) in a five-week pro-bono consultancy that produced a standardized communication plan and a research-based proposal on "Rule of Law and Governance in Liberia: Ending the Culture of Impunity." This initiative strengthened the organization's operational structure and strategic communication approach.

The organization also sponsored two staff members to enroll at the GONET Professional Development Academy, enabling them to pursue certificate in QuickBooks and Procurement and Contract Management to enhance internal processes. Capacity-building efforts extended to training in information technology, gender advocacy, social research, media and communication, and resource mobilization, further broadening the team's competencies.

Through a networking exchange with Project Change, YOUNETPO deepened its knowledge of peer organizational practices, fostering innovation and experience sharing. These comprehensive efforts have collectively positioned YOUNETPO as a more effective and adaptive organization, equipped to deliver transformative change and contribute to Liberia's development.



Our MERL Department Staffs participate in a capacity building training organized by the CSA project.

Youth Power Liberia

YOUNETPO partnered with the Themis Magazine address challenges faced by aspiring young Liberians pursuing career in journalism. The Youth Power Project was cut across the spectrum on leadership, governance, and journalism skills. These sessions covered topics such as news writing, photography, video production, and ethical reporting practices, tailored specifically to the Liberian context.

At the end of the project, participants' knowledge was enhanced on youth involvement in journalism and media production and provided them with the skills and platform to share their perspectives on key issues affecting Liberia. Youth participation in political processes were enhanced through the project, this equipped them with the knowledge and tools to engage in informed decision-making, advocacy and civic action.



Participants at a Youth Power Workshop held in Montserrado County.

The project promoted media literacy and critical thinking among Liberian youth, which enabled them to navigate and critically evaluate information in the digital age.

To ensure the projects objectives are achieved YOUNETPO conducted capacity building workshops to increase the knowledge of aspiring journalists on various journalism tools. The sessions covered topics such as news writing, photography, video production, and ethical reporting practices.



Participants at a Youth Power workshop held in Bong County.

Mentors were recruited with diverse media specialties, including news broadcasting, news writing, photography, videography, storytelling, editing, and multimedia production. Additionally, YOUNETPO apportioned the trained beneficiaries into two groups. Each of which a mentor was assigned.

YOUNETPO ensured that those mentors stayed actively involved with their mentees, offering guidance and support. The support involved on-site mentorship experiences for the mentees at the mentor's radio station for one week providing participations with first and experience.



A Youth Power Liberia workshop held in Montserrado County.

Advocating for increase Youth Representation in Governance - International Youth Day.

In celebration of International Youth Day (IYD) 2024, YOUNETPO spearheaded a campaign to advocate for the appointment of a Youth Advisor to President Joseph N. Boakai, aiming to amplify the voices of Liberia's youth, who represent about 74% of the country's population. This initiative, which resulted in a peaceful march on August 12, 2024, sought to advance advocacy for youth representation in decision-making processes at all level with specific emphasis on the appointment of a youth advisor to the President of Liberia and designated youth focal person at all government ministries and agencies.

The campaign mobilized 200 young individuals, youth-led organizations, community leaders, media representatives emphasizing the importance of youth-inclusive governance. Key activities included engaging partner organizations, developing promotional materials, and organizing planning meetings to secure permits and finalize a petition statement. The peaceful march which started at the famous William V.S. Tubman High School ended at the Executive Mansion, demonstrating unity and resolve as participants led by YOUNETPO delivered a formal petition to the Government of Liberia calling for increase youth representation at the highest level.

The petition was received on behalf of the President of Liberia by Hon. Sylvester M. Grigsby – Minister of State for Presidential Affairs. In respond to the petition, H.E. President Joseph N. Boakai established for the first time, the National Youth Advisory Council of Liberia. This initiative highlighted YOUNETPO's commitment to fostering youth empowerment and laid a solid foundation for continued advocacy to ensure that the voices of young Liberians are reflected in national policy and governance.

This involved radio appearances and town hall meetings which ensured that citizens, particularly youth, grasped government processes and key functions. Additionally, YOUNETPO used those activities to promote media literacy, critical thinking, and awareness on how to identify misinformation and fake news.



YOUNETPO's Executive Director – Amb. Leo E. Tiah Presents a Petition to the President of Liberia through the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs - Hon. Sylvester M. Grigsby on International Youth Day – August 12, 2024.

2024 Gallery



Partners

