2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census

Thematic Report on

Disability

June 2024

UNFPA

THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

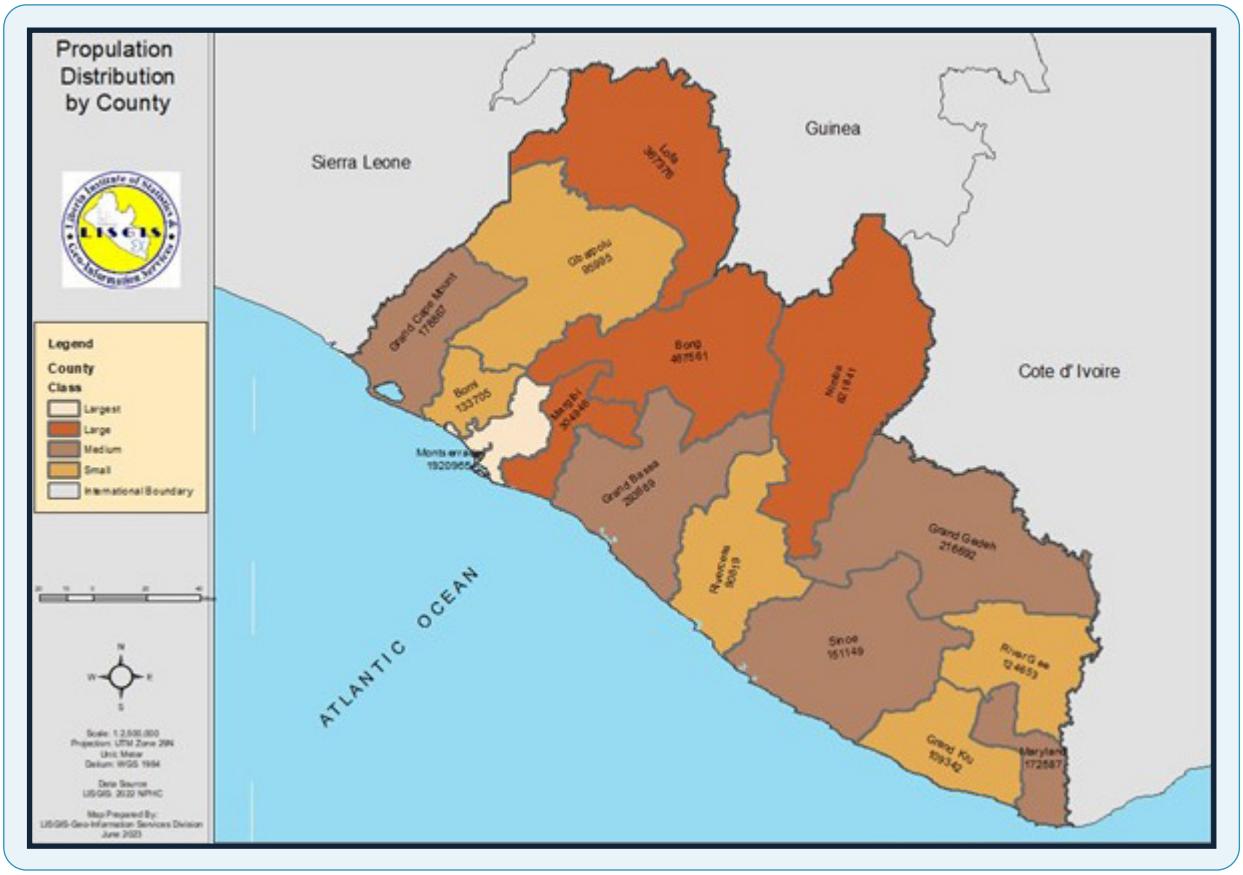
Government of Ireland International Development Programme

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Sweden
Sverige

UNITED NATIONS
LIBERIA

Administrative map of Liberia



Foreword

The 2022 National Population and Housing Census is the fifth and first digital census with the full deployment of ICT techniques and followed the UN Recommended Principles for the 2020 round of censuses. The basis for the conduct of the census is Article 39 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia. On October 10, 2022, the Government of Liberia initiated "an Act Authorizing the Executive Branch of Government to conduct the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census".

Hence, following the successful implementation of the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census, the Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) produced 14 thematic reports. These reports summarized the country's demographic, social, and economic sectors. The publication of the thematic reports is consistent with the United Nations (UN) International Standards of releasing National Census results and thematic reports.

The 14 thematic reports form a primary source of socio-economic and demographic data at various levels and provide relevant information to foster national development, good governance, and resource distribution. The results presented in this thematic report will form a solid basis for the successes and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as support the implementation of the development of the Africa Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want; Transforming Our World and other national and international programs.

I am pleased that the thematic reports helped to guide our national development plan. I would like to appreciate the support received from development partners and individuals during the entire process of writing the thematic report.

On behalf of the Census Commission and Board of Directors of LISGIS, I thank the Government of Liberia and our development partners for providing the required resources for conducting the census. Thanks also go to the national and international experts who worked very hard to complete these thematic reports.

Special appreciation for the success of the census goes to Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., former Chairman of the Census Commission, the Census Commission, the Steering Committee, the Census Secretariat, other national and international experts, census staff, and all respondents who provided the required information as well as all stakeholders for their commitment, motivation, and support to the National Population and Housing Census process.

I look forward to the continued support and guidance of development partners to engender sustainable development in our country.

Hon. Dehpue Y. Zuo
Deputy Minister for Economic Management
& Chairman of the Board
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Preface

The Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) conducted the fifth and first fully digital census in November 2022. The 2022 National Population and Housing Census data was collected using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology. Data were collected using tablets and later transmitted to LISGIS's server electronically.

The 14 thematic areas identified provide a comprehensive understanding of the population. These thematic areas are a) Population Distribution and Size b) Children, Adolescents, and Youth c) People with disabilities and older people d) Migration and Urbanization e) Labor force and Employment, f) Education, and Literacy g) Agricultural Population, h) Non-monetary poverty i) Housing conditions and facilities j) Mortality, k) Fertility, l) Marriages/Nuptiality, m) Gender Dimensions, and n) Population Projections. I would also like to thank the national and international experts for preparing the thematic reports.

Though the Government contributed immense resources to the 2022 National Census exercise, the requirements were enormous and beyond the capacity of the Government and LISGIS. It is with pleasure that we recognize and appreciate the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Swedish Government, the World Bank, the United States Aid for International Development (USAID), the Irish Government, the Government of Ghana, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners whose timely and continuous interventions gave stimulus to the execution of the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census including the preparation of the reports.

Special gratitude goes to the general public for their cooperation and support. We are indebted to personnel and the management of LISGIS, national and international experts, supervisors, and enumerators for successfully conducting the 2022 National Population and Housing Census.

Richard F. Ngafuan
Director General
LISGIS

Contents

List of tables

Acronyms

ASFR	Age-Specific Fertility Rate
ABR	Adolescent Birth Rate
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CIP	Costed Implementation Plan
CEB	Children Ever Born
DTT	Demographic Transition Theory
FP	Family Planning
GOL	Government of Liberia
GRR	Gross Reproduction Rate
mCPR	Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
MAC	Mean Age at Childbearing
LPHC	Liberia Population and Housing Census
LFR	Late Fertility Rate
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
NRR	Net Reproduction Rate
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age
WWD	Women with Disabilities

Executive summary

In 2022, Liberia conducted its first digital Population and Housing Census (PHC). The main aim of the census was to gather national level data on demographic, social and economic indicators in the country. These data are essential for national and county level policy planning and development and also, for research.

The Report on disability is vital because it provides data on the situation of persons with disability in Liberia. This national level data is needed for national and county level planning and it would contribute to eliminating or reducing disability-related data gap in Liberia. The report is also useful because it will support and track activities and progress of disability-related SDGs, the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework Guidance and the goals and objectives of the Agriculture Roads Rule of law Education Sanitation/Health and Tourism Agenda (ARREST), the Africa We Want; and Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the aim of building more inclusive communities.

The report will provide data on key socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of persons with disabilities in Liberia that will be useful for policy and decision-makers, researchers and other key stakeholders in Liberia. The report will also address human security issues by bridging the data gap concerning access to education, labour force participation, and access to essential services which are all aimed at building inclusive communities and making the necessary accommodations for persons with disabilities. As such the Government of Liberia, various ministries and departments, local and international agencies, funding and development partners, civil society organizations, private sector and researchers, and all other stakeholders will have data on persons with disabilities to support their programming activities.

The census gathered data on persons 5 years and older with regard to the difficulty they experienced in performing specific activities. This was done using the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) questions on functional disability, which allows for comparability internationally. These activities are seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication. A person is said to have a disability or functional difficulty if he/she has some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or cannot perform an activity at all (severe disability/difficulty) in at least one of the six domains highlighted above. Detailed demographic characteristics and differences in access to resources for persons living with disabilities and those not are presented. As such key difference in access to socioeconomic characteristics are shown. Also, household living conditions of heads with disabilities are also presented. Finally, the report provides recommendations for future policy formulation and development planning.

In Liberia, 534,316 live with a functional disability. Of this, 8.7 per cent of the population 5 years and above have some difficulty in performing activities and 2.7 per cent of the population have a lot of disability/ cannot perform the activities at all in at least one domain. Also, 8.4 per cent of males and 9.0 per cent of females have some disability while 2.8 per cent of females and 2.5 per cent of males live with a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all.

With increasing age, the proportion reporting a disability also increases. Relatively, a higher proportion of people in rural areas live with disability compared to their urban counterparts. While 13.9 per cent of the population of Grand Kru reported living with some disability, highest across county, the lowest in recorded in Montserrado County (7.9 per cent). While a higher proportion of females than males with some difficulty and lot of difficulty have never been to school compared with their counterparts who have no difficulty, similar proportions of males and females are currently attending school irrespective of level of difficulty.

Concerning education, persons with disability in rural areas are lagging behind. Generally, a higher proportion of persons with disabilities in rural areas have never been to school compared to their counterparts with disabilities in urban areas compared to a lower proportion of those with no disabilities who live in both rural and urban areas. For the various levels of education, the proportion who have completed their education decreases with age and as age increases, the proportion who have never been to school also increases. A higher proportion of females than males have not completed any level of education and this worsen with disability status. Again, with regard to education, persons with disabilities in rural areas perform worse when it comes to completing any level of education

compared to their colleagues in urban areas who live with disabilities and those with no disabilities. Across all for all functional disability groups, more males than females, more urban dwellers than rural dwellers and younger people than older folks are literate.

Slightly higher proportions of males than females have never been married for each level of functional disability. Widowed women disproportionally report living with a lot of difficulty or some difficulty than widowed males. Lower proportions of rural folks worked seven days prior to the census compared to those in urban areas with these proportions increasing with level of functional disability in rural areas. Similarly, a lower proportion of females worked seven days preceding the census compared to males. It appears that with increasing age those who reported that they experienced some difficulty have lower scores than their counterparts with a lot of difficulty or no difficulty except for age 45-64 years. A lower proportion of females than males are salary workers, with slight differences by level of functional disability. In addition, across functional disabilities, slight differences are observed between males and females who are own account workers and contributing family workers and a higher proportion of urban residents are salary workers. However, with increasing functional difficulty the proportion of urban residents who reported doing salary work decreased. On the other hand, the proportion of individuals in rural areas who are own account workers or contributing family workers increased with increasing level of functional disability. It is to be noted that the proportion of rural dwellers who are own account and contributing family workers are higher in rural than in urban areas.

A higher proportion of the Liberia population has a functional disability associated with seeing (5.6 per cent) and the lowest is a functional disability associated with communication (4.0 per cent). In Liberia, furthermore, 1.7 per cent of the population have albinism. Of those who have albinism 61.9 per cent live in urban areas, about equal proportions are males and females, the largest proportion live in Montserrado County and the lowest live in River Cess.

The data shows that 13.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent of household heads live with some disabilities and a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all, respectively. A higher proportion of female household heads live with some disabilities and a lot of disability/cannot do at all than male heads and a higher proportion of heads of households in rural areas have a functional disability than those in rural areas. Households headed by persons with disabilities lack key amenities. The results show that while 23.0 per cent of heads with no disability have flush toilet for use by only household members 19.0 per cent and 18.1 per cent respectively of those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot perform at all and some difficulty have. Furthermore, about 4 in 10 heads of households who experience a lot of difficulty or cannot perform an activity at all, use bush/beach/other as their main toilet facility. The use of wood fuel for cooking is universal. Heads of households with no difficulty and a lot of difficulty have limited access to electricity for lighting compared with those with some difficulty. Access to safe drinking water (pipe or pump indoors, pipe or pump outdoors and public taps) is fairly available to individuals.

The Government of Liberia can leverage the insights from the 2022 LPHC census on persons with disabilities to foster a dynamic, inclusive society and workforce, driving economic growth through strategic investments in education, healthcare, job creation and governance. The report on persons with disabilities highlights key socioeconomic and demographic indicators, disaggregated by disability severity, and aligns with aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ARREST agenda. It provides essential data on the living conditions of individuals with disabilities, facilitating the need for further research and informing targeted interventions to address disparities and enhance accessibility at both national and local levels, ultimately aiming to reduce disability-related poverty and improve the standard of living for all.

Fact sheet

	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty or cannot perform the activities at all
Population with disability	88.6	8.7	2.7
Male	89.0	8.4	2.5
Female	88.2	9.0	2.8
Urban	89.7	7.9	2.4
Rural	87.4	9.6	3.0
Seeing	94.4	5.0	0.6
Hearing	95.8	3.7	0.4
Walking	94.4	4.8	0.8
Remembering	95.4	4.1	0.5
Communicating	96.0	3.3	0.7
Self-care	95.5	3.8	0.7
Male	84.2	12.7	3.1
Female	80.4	15.6	4.1
Urban	84.7	12.4	2.9
Rural	80.6	15.3	4.1
Persons with albinism			
	Yes	No	
Persons with albinism	1.7	98.3	
Female	1.6	98.4	
Male	1.7	98.3	
Urban	1.9	98.1	
Rural	1.4	98.6	

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

Disability is a universal human experience, which can affect anyone at any age and stage of life. The causes and degree of disability vary from person to person which make persons with disabilities a diverse group with different experiences in socio-cultural, economic and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with persons living with no disabilities. The need for inclusion and to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected has been the subject of much attention articulated at global, regional and national levels. Towards this effect, various conventions, approaches and frameworks have been developed to address the challenges of persons with disabilities.

In 1993, the United Nations adopted the "22 Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons Living with Disabilities". Although it was not a legally binding instrument, the Standard Rules represented a strong moral and political commitment of Governments to act to attain equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities. The United Nations Convention followed this on the Rights of Persons with Disability in 2006. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2015, which serves as a global agenda for development, acknowledges that persons with disabilities are among those at risk of being left behind owing to the inequality and exclusions they experienced. The framework document thus makes explicit pledge to "leave no one behind". SDG 10 clearly states, "inequality within and among countries is a persistent cause for concern".

The convergence point around the various conventions and approaches is the realization that efforts towards mainstreaming disability for inclusive development and measuring of progress are dependent on the availability of disaggregated disability statistics obtained through surveys and censuses. The data on disability in the census are needed to identify persons with disability, their location, composition, social and demographic status. Furthermore, the census data provides the vital denominator at national and community level for measuring rates of disability. Census data provides policymakers with valid and reliable data, which provides the basis for determining the broader and social, needs of persons with disabilities. It also provides a valid tool and evidence to identify gaps that are not addressed through policies.

The vital role of disability data has necessitated the need for measurement and data collection frameworks. In 1980, the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) were developed as a conceptual framework for measuring disability. The ICIDH framework had gone through several modification and revision over the years. Subsequently, in 2001, the World Health Organization (WHO) approved the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (WHO 2001) as the new common global framework for measuring health and disability at both individual and population levels. The ICF seeks to identify those who would be at greater risk than the general population of social exclusion. The ICF definition of disability focuses on the negative aspects of the interaction (measured as impairments affecting the body; activity limitations affecting an individual's actions or behaviour or participation restrictions affecting a person's experience of life) between an individual (with a health condition) and that individual's contextual (personal and environmental) factors. The ICF distinguishes multiple dimensions that can be used to monitor the situation of individuals with disability.

With the development of the ICF framework, the need for globally comparable measures of disability became imperative. The Washington Group (WG) on Disability Statistics established in 2001 was developed to fill in this gap. The WG short set of extended questions for use in household surveys and censuses to identify persons with disability is anchored on WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health conceptual models. The WG Short Set of Questions reflect advances in the conceptualization of disability which focuses on functioning in basic universal activities which is in contrast to approaches that are based on a medical model which focuses on impairments to bodily functions or structures. The short set asks about the presence of difficulties in six core functional domains: seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication. Questions on these domains are intended to help policymakers monitor the level of functioning in a population as well as assess the inclusion and equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities.

1.2 Country context of disability

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Liberia are among the poorest and most vulnerable to abuse and violence (SIDA report 2014). There is limited or no national support system for PWDS; hence, some of them depend on their few employed relatives for survival while others survive on alms through begging in street corners and from shops. They find their way through the busy streets with guide of a stick or crutches. Few PWDs especially women are involved in small economic activities like selling items such as (sweets, water and food) along the roadside. Women with disabilities and their families are at increased risk of multidimensional poverty and have limited or no capacity to withstand any kind of situational shock (Trani, Bakhshi, Myers Tlapek, Lopez and Gall, 2015). Children with disabilities are often excluded from learning as the current education system and structures do not accommodate them (Collins et al. 2021). Among PWDs, those with albinism face multiple forms of discrimination. Albinism is a relatively rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition that affects people regardless of ethnicity or sex. The condition is characterized by a significant deficit in the production of melanin, which results in the partial or complete absence of pigment in any part or all of the skin, hair and eyes. Albinism often results in two congenital and permanent health conditions: visual impairment to varying degrees and high vulnerability to skin damage from ultraviolet rays, including skin cancer (Ero et al., 2021). In most instances, the problems they experience with vision can impact learning and employment thereby making them vulnerable to poverty.

The civil war in Liberia had some implication for disability prevalence in the country. Past research shows that the conflict which lasted for about 14 years resulted in widespread violence and human rights abuses leading to a number of individuals sustaining physical injuries and mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder among survivors (Trani, 2011; Groce et al., 2011). These conflict-related injuries may have been exacerbated due to limited access to medical care and rehabilitation services (Groce et al., 2011). The conflict led to many healthcare services and infrastructure being destroyed leaving persons who obtained various injuries with very few or no medical services (Kett et al., 2009; Trani et al., 2009). For instance, poor access to mental healthcare services worsened the plight of persons who experienced different forms of trauma related to conflict. This is further compounded to the stigma associated with mental health (Trani et al., 2009). The conflict further worsened the socioeconomic conditions of individuals who were left with varying degrees of disability. This could potentially put them in marginalized and economically disadvantaged positions and increased their barrier to education, paid employment, and social inclusion (Jones, 2008).

After the conflict, however, some efforts have been made to address conflict-related disability prevalence in the country. This is in recognition that the civil war in Liberia could also account for the disability prevalence in Liberia and the plight of PWDs. The Government of Liberia, other agencies and organizations has been engaging in rebuilding healthcare system and improving access to rehabilitation services. Furthermore, these initiatives focus on advocating for disability rights and inclusion in development agendas (Trani et al., 2013). One such agenda is the Agriculture, Roads, Rule of Law Education, Sanitation/Health and Tourism (ARREST) agenda by the Government of Liberia with some focus persons with disability. The agenda seeks to 1) “Build specialized institutions that cater to citizens with physical and mental disabilities across the country” 2) “Guarantee that physical disabilities have opportunities as persons without disabilities to participate in civic life”. It remains imperative that efforts are sustained, and key investment are made in healthcare sector while championing social and -economic inclusion to reduce the effect of the conflict of persons with disability in Liberia.

At present there are only four specialized institutions in the country that cater to the needs of children with disabilities. These institutions are School for the Blind, School for the Deaf and Mute, the Group of 77 and the Antoinette Tubman Cheshire Home, all of which are located in capital Monrovia. In a similar manner, adults with disability are discriminated against in employment, social and governance structures (SIDA report 2014). While PWDs suffer abuse and neglect, there is no formal reporting mechanism to address their plight. PWDs have however organized themselves so that their voices can be heard. The National Union of Organizations of the Disabled is the umbrella organization for the group. It was established in 1995 as a non-profit corporation to promote the welfare of its members and to advocate for their protection and social inclusion. The union currently has 28-member organizations and has opened its chapters in all the 15 counties in the country. A collaborating group of national and international organizations work on issues of human rights and social inclusion for PWDs. These organizations have been labelled “Alliance on Disability” comprising of Carter Centre,

Handicap International, Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO), Sight Savers, National Commission on Disability (NCD) and National Union of Organizations of the Disabled. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been supportive in the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the implementation of CRPD.

The Government of Liberia has also taken several steps to develop and strengthen national policies geared towards improving the welfare of PWDs. In 2007, the country signed and ratified the U.N. Conventions on the Rights of PWDs and ratified same in 2008. Other treaties to eliminate all forms of discrimination that the country has signed include such as the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights among others. In furtherance to these, the Government established the NCD in 2005. The Commission advocated that 4 per cent of employees should be skilled persons with disabilities and that tax incentives be offered to businesses that hired PWDs. The NCD has also launched a community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities.

A five-year National Action Plan (NAP) for the period 2018-22 for the implementation of the CRPD has also been finalized by the NCD. The NAP harmonizes all the different national laws and acts concerning PWDs in areas of education, public accessibility, healthcare, employment and livelihood, independent living and self-determination, and access to justice and social protection. Although disability mainstreaming is a cross-cutting theme in the various ministries and agencies of government, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), is the arm of government charged with the overall responsibility of promoting, monitoring and coordinating disability rights and for mainstreaming of disability (Deepak, 2018).

1.3 Importance of report on persons with disability

The report on persons with disability is important because it provides comprehensive analyses of the population of PWDs in Liberia by examining crucial indicators such as education, age, sex, marital status, access to essential amenities, household wealth, labour force participation and geographic location. These data address significant human security concerns by bridging existing data gaps in access to key resources for PWDs in Liberia.

Furthermore, the report will offer valuable insights for the implementation and monitoring of the ARREST agenda. It also supports the tracking of progress related to disability-inclusive SDGs. Several SDGs contribute directly and indirectly to disability inclusion by addressing broader objectives such as poverty reduction, health improvement and enhanced access to education and employment opportunities. Some of these SDGs include 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17 with some highlighting specific targets for disability inclusion.

The ARREST agenda has also highlighted some key strategies that would support PWDs in Liberia. These include:

1. Build specialized institutions that cater to citizens with physical and mental disabilities across the country.
2. Guarantee that physically challenged people have opportunities as non-disabled people to participate in civic life.
3. Equip public institutions with appropriate technology that allows physically challenged students to access instructional materials without barriers.

The report will provide national and county level data to support the implementation of these key strategies.

1.4 Objectives

One of the aims of the Liberian Government is to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources. The general objective of this thematic report is to produce a national and county level gender disaggregated and age specific information on disability statistics that will provide the basis of evidence-based programmes and policies concerning PWDs. This report also provides evidence to monitor and evaluate achievements toward the realization of equal rights, opportunities and participation for people with disabilities. In particular, the report aims to present findings on:

- The number of PWDs and the prevalence of the different types and degree of disability;
- The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of PWDs;

- The household headship rate among people with disabilities;
- The characteristics of heads of household with disabilities; and
- The household characteristics and the living conditions of households headed by PWDs compared to those headed by persons without a disability.

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 Source of data

The data for this thematic report were primarily obtained from the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (PHC). Questions on the severity of disability and also a question on albinism were included in the household questionnaire to investigate the status of disability in Liberia. Various socioeconomic variables such as sex, type of place of residence, county, marital status, level of education, economic activity, nature of work and fertility were examined by the severity of disability. Also, household indicators like house ownership and access to essential amenities were collected during the census and these were examined by the severity of disability. Relevant tables and graphs were generated to display the results. Other complimentary data that was used was previous census. It is important to note that the measures of disability were different in the 2008 and 2022 censuses, thus, the results should be compared and interpreted with caution. Complete tables are presented as appendices.

1.5.2 Method

The 2022 National PHC carried out a complete enumeration of the entire population using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology which facilitates logic checks, skip patterns and validations during the interview. Questions on disability were addressed to each household member aged 5 years and above. For this report the analyses are conducted at the individual level and others at the household level. At the individual the report focuses on the severity of disability by sex, place and county of residence, literacy, level of education, marital status, economic activity status and nature of work. The analysis also looked at albinism in Liberia. Main source of fuel for lighting and cooking, household wealth, source of drinking water by severity of disability were examined at the household level.

1.6 Definition of concepts

Unlike the 2008 census, the 2022 census questions used to identify PWDs was based on the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) questions on functional disability which meets international standards of comparability. This approach allows for the examination of varying degrees in functional disability and could potentially help to identify more persons with disability. That being said the change in the approaches between 2008 and 2022 makes it difficult to perform trend analysis across time. However, both data allows researchers and policy makes to have a bird's eye view of the disability situation in Liberia and also offers the opportunity to begin to assess the importance of continuity in estimation of key indicators in censuses. WG-SS questions comprised of six core screening questions in areas of difficulties in six life domains. These are seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care and communication. Answers to the questions on the various domains of disability included four discrete scaled response categories coded according to the severity. The definition of the various domains of functional disability and the degree of severity of disability are offered below.

Domains of disability

Difficulty in Seeing: refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in perceiving, observing what is happening around him/her, or seeing even when wearing glasses or contact lenses.

Difficulty in Hearing: refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in distinguishing or hearing sounds from different sources in one or both ears, even when using hearing aids.

Difficulty in Walking or Climbing Stairs: refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in the use of the lower limbs, that is, legs, in such a way as to propel himself/herself over the ground to get from one point to another, without the assistance of any device (wheelchair, crutches, walker, etc.) or any human.

Difficulty in Remembering or Concentrating: refers to challenges or problems faced by a person in the use of his/her memory to recall incidents, events, knowledge or information acquired; or mental ability to accomplish some tasks, such as reading and calculating numbers.

Difficulty with Self-care: refers to challenges or problems relating to a person's ability to take care of himself/herself independently, including attending to

one's hygiene, washing all over the body, dressing and eating.

Difficulty in Communicating: refers to challenges or problems relating to a person's ability to effectively exchange information or ideas with other people using voice or signs (including sign language), or in writing.

Severity of difficulty

This refers to the degree of a person's inability to perform a specified function or activity based on the six domains illustrated above and is categorized as follows:

No difficulty – complete absence of any challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activity;

Some difficulty – presence of a partial or mild challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activity;

A lot of difficulty – acute challenge or problem in performing a specified function or activity

Cannot do at all – complete or total inability to perform a specified function or activity.

In this report, a person is said to have a disability or functional difficulty if he/she has some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or cannot perform an activity at all (severe disability/difficulty) in at least one of the six domains highlighted above. Thus, data collected on disability and on demographic, social and economic characteristics allows for descriptive analysis of the numbers and prevalence of disability among different population groups based on the severity of disability. In this report, the results are presented as degree of difficulty/disability, that is some difficulty and a lot of difficulty or cannot perform an activity (severe difficulty/disability) in at least one of the six domains. The key indicators produced in this report are the following:

The number of PWDs: the total number of persons reported a functional disability.

The prevalence of PWDs: the total number of persons who reported living with a specific type of disability: for example, the number of persons who answered that they have difficulties seeing, hearing, etc. divided by the total population of the country and multiplied by 100.

Multiple disabilities: the proportion of persons who reported living with more than one disability.

Household: this refers to a person or a group of two or more persons (related or unrelated) who live together in the same house or compound, share the same house-keeping arrangements (eating and sleeping), and are catered for as one unit and recognize one person as the head.

Household population: these are persons who are usual members of households and visitors to the households present on Census Night.

Marital status: refers to the civil marriage status of a person aged 12 years or older as at Census Night.

1.7 Limitation of data on persons with disabilities

One major limitation of the data on persons with disability in the census was the absence of information on the onset of the disability. This makes it difficult to establish causal direction with key sociodemographic and economic indicators. Additionally, the 2022 census did not have an option for respondents to indicate if they have any other disability apart from the six domains identified. This would have ensured complete coverage of persons with disabilities in the country. If these questions had been incorporated, respondents would have reported those disabilities that were not listed in the questionnaire, especially for respondents who may not have been sure about the type of disability. The 2022 census did not have questions on the causes of disability, which would have provided insight of possible policy options to address the causes of disabilities. While the census data provides information on the prevalence of disability by demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, it does not, however, provide information on unmet needs of persons with disability and in-depth information on the socio-cultural and economic context within which these issues are embedded. Such data can only be collected in specialized survey. Furthermore, the report is unable to examine trends due to differences in the way disability questions are asked in past censuses. However, the censuses offer an aerial perspective of the disability situation in Liberia across time.

1.8 Organization of report on persons with disabilities

The report on PWDs is divided into three parts. Part one, provides the prevalence, sex and age distribution of persons with disability at the national and county levels. It further provides analysis on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of PWDs. Part two presents analysis on the types of functional disabilities and their socio-cultural and socioeconomic characteristics as well as disabilities associated with albinism. Part three shows households living conditions of PWDs. The conclusions and policy recommendations are made in the last chapter.

Chapter 2: Persons with disability in Liberia

2.1 Prevalence of degree of functional disability in Liberia

In this section, results on the proportion of persons with varying degrees of difficulty in performing key activities are presented in Table 1. That is the census explores whether individuals have (1) no difficulty, (2) some difficulty and (3) a lot of disability/cannot perform key activities (severe difficulty/disability) related to seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self-care and communication. If an individual, reports that they have some disability on at least one of the six domains, they are categorized as having some disability. Furthermore, if they have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform the activity at all on at least one of the six domains, they are considered as having a lot of difficulty/cannot perform the activity at all. According to the 2022 LPHC, 8.7 per cent of the population 5 years and above have some difficulty in performing activities and 2.7 per cent of the population have a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all in at least one domain. This shows that 534,316 Liberians live with a functional disability. Among males, 8.4 per cent have some disability and for females' 9.0 per cent have a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all. Furthermore, while 2.8 per cent of females have reported lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all, 2.5 per cent of males did.

Table 1 further outlines the distribution of individuals with varying degrees of difficulty across the various age groups. The proportion who reported some disability increases with age. For instance, while among those 5-24 years 5.3 per cent have some disability, for those 65 years and above, 32.2 per cent have some disability. A similar pattern is observed for a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all categories. Among those 5-24 years, 2.1 per cent reported a lot of disability/cannot perform an activity but for those 65 years and above, 11.7 per cent indicated that they a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all. An overview of disability prevalence in both urban and rural areas, and also across various counties in Liberia is shown. The data expounds understanding of the distribution of disabilities within the population across space, allowing for interventions and resource allocation to be targeted to the specific needs of different areas and demographics. In urban areas, out of a total population of 2,586,077 individuals 5 years and above, 7.9 per cent reported some disability and 9.6 per cent of the rural population reported living with some disabilities. Again, a relatively higher proportion of the rural population (3.0 per cent) reported living with a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all compared to 2.4 per cent of the urban population.

Across counties, some stark distributions in levels of functional disabilities are observed. For instance, 13.9 per cent of the population of Grand Kru reported living with some disability. This is the highest across all the counties. In Montserrado County, however, 7.9 per cent of the population live with some disabilities, representing the lowest across counties. With regard to a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all, about one in 10 of the population of Bomi County fall in this category, yet only 1.4 per cent of the population of Margibi County reported living with a lot of disability/cannot perform the activity at all (severe disability). The high proportion of persons with a lot of difficulty in Bomi County require further investigation to understand the underlining causes and or reasons in order to provide the necessary interventions.

Table 1: Proportional distribution of levels of disability in Liberia

	No difficulty	Some difficulty	A lot of difficulty or cannot perform the activities at all	Total
Total	88.6	8.7	2.7	4,700,235
Age group				
5-24	92.6	5.3	2.1	2,485,225
25-44	89.8	8.0	2.2	1,528,554
45-64	76.0	19.8	4.2	538,859
65+	56.1	32.2	11.7	147,597
Sex				
Male	89.0	8.4	2.5	2,371,955
Female	88.2	9.0	2.8	2,328,280
Place of residence				
Urban	89.7	7.9	2.4	2,586,077
Rural	87.4	9.6	3.0	2,114,158
County of residence				
Bomi	81.7	8.0	10.4	118,780
Bong	87.1	8.5	4.5	414,201
Gbarpolu	87.8	10.4	1.8	85,544
Grand Bassa	89.2	9.0	1.8	258,168
Grand Cape Mount	88.8	8.4	2.8	161,748
Grand Gedeh	87.6	8.1	4.3	199,106
Grand Kru	84.4	13.9	1.7	98,612
Lofa	86.8	8.3	5.0	330,431
Margibi	90.3	8.2	1.4	273,014
Maryland	87.2	10.9	1.8	156,198
Montserrado	90.1	7.9	2.0	1,737,390
Nimba	88.2	10.1	1.7	540,223
River Cess	88.7	8.5	2.8	79,360
River Gee	87.6	10.8	1.6	112,369
Sinoe	89.5	8.7	1.8	135,091

2.2 Sociodemographic characteristics of persons with varying degrees of disability

This section presents the sociodemographic characteristics of persons with disability. Key characteristics presented are sex, place of residence, marital status, literacy level, school attendance, highest level of education completed, activity status and nature of work.

2.2.1 School attendance and functional disability by sex

The results show that among those who have never attended school, 44.3 per cent of males and 55.7 per cent of females have no difficulty compared to 41.8 per cent of males and 58.2 per cent of females with some difficulty. For those who have a lot of difficulty/cannot perform the activity at all, a similar trend is observed where 38.5 per cent of males have never been to school compared to 61.4 per cent of females (Table 2). The results show that more females than males have never been to school as degree of disability increases. The results show that more males than females reported that they have completed school by varying degrees of disabilities. Among those who reported no difficulty, 60.5 per cent of males compared to 39.5 per cent of females have completed school. This compares to 65.2 per cent of males and 34.7 per cent of females with a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all.

Among those with no disability, some disability and a lot of disability, the proportions who have dropped out of school are higher males than females. The results also show that there are slight differences in the proportions of those who have dropped out of school among males and females by disability status. For example, for those with no disability, 52.6 per cent of males compared to 47.4 per cent of females have dropped out of school. For those with a lot of difficulty/cannot perform at all too, 56.1 per cent of males and 43.8 per cent of females have dropped out of school. A similar pattern is observed for those with some disability. Across the varying degrees of difficulty, although it can be observed that the proportion currently attending school decreases with increasing level of difficulty. There is no significant gender difference in the proportion of those currently attending school and their disability status. For example, for females and males with no difficulty, 49.6 per cent and 50.4 per cent respectively are currently in school and for females and males with some difficulty, 49.8 per cent and 50.2 per cent are currently in school and for females and males with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all 51.9 per cent and 48.0 per cent are currently in school respectively.

Table 2: School attendance and functional disability by sex

School attendance	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never attended	44.3	55.7	1,281,845	41.8	58.2	217,592	38.5	61.4	57,392
Completed	60.5	39.5	763,393	64.9	35.1	65,072	65.2	34.7	18,875
Drop-out	52.6	47.4	584,742	55.5	44.5	64,675	56.1	43.8	18,304
Currently attending	50.4	49.6	1,536,040	50.2	49.8	62,052	50.3	49.6	30,554
Total	50.7	49.3	4,166,019	48.9	51.1	409,391	48.0	51.9	125,125

2.2.2 School attendance and functional disability by place of residence

In Table 3, stark rural/urban differences are observed with regard to school attendance and functional disability status. Among those with no disability about a third (33.7 per cent) in urban areas, have never been to school compared to more than 6 in 10 (66.3 per cent) of their counterparts who have not. Again, among those with some difficulty, 41.1 per cent of urban population have never been to school compared to 58.9 per cent of the rural population. For the population who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, 35.5 per cent are in urban areas compared to more than six out of 10 (64.5 per cent) who are in rural areas who stated that they have never been to school. Again, while a 77.7 per cent of those with no difficulty who are in urban areas have completed

school, only 22.3 per cent of their counterparts in rural areas have. This trend is similar for the other levels of disability.

The proportions who have dropped out of school was slightly similar in rural and in urban areas across the varying degrees of disability. For currently attending school, a higher proportion of those in urban areas (64.9 per cent) who have no difficulty are currently attending school compared to 35.1 per cent who are in rural areas. For those with some difficulty (urban = 61.0 per cent versus rural = 39.0 per cent) and a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all (urban = 63.0 per cent versus rural = 37.0 per cent), a similar pattern is observed.

Table 3: School attendance and functional disability by place of residence

School attendance	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Never attended	33.7	66.3	1,281,818	41.1	58.9	217,547	35.5	64.5	57,355
Completed	77.7	22.3	763,371	71.7	28.3	65,051	70.0	30.0	18,855
Drop-out	50.7	49.3	584,727	48.8	51.2	64,657	48.9	51.1	18,287
Currently attending	64.9	35.1	1,536,003	61.0	39.0	62,036	63.0	37.0	30,528
Total	55.7	44.3	4,165,919	50.2	49.8	409,291	49.4	50.6	125,025

2.2.3 School attendance and functional disability by age group

The results in Table 4 show that as age increases the proportion of individuals who have never been school reduces and a similar pattern is observed across disability status. Among those who have no disability, while 43.3 per cent of those 5-24 years have never been to school, only 4 per cent of those 65 years and above have not. For those with a lot of difficulty, cannot perform at all, 29.9 per cent of those 5-24 years and compared to 21.1 per cent of those 65 years and above have never been to school. With regard to completion of school for those with no difficulty, it can be observed that more than half (57.8 per cent) of those 25-44 years have completed school compared to 24.2 per cent of those 5-24 years and 2.2 per cent of those 65 years and above. For those with some difficulty, about equal proportions of those 25-44 years (37.8 per cent) and those 45-64 years (37.8 per cent) have completed school. For those who have a lot of difficulty or cannot perform an activity at all, 43.0 per cent of those 25-44 years and a quarter of those 45-64 years have completed school. Data on school drop-out shows that for those with no difficulty, 53.5 per cent of those 25-44 years old have dropped out of school. For those with some difficulty, 38.8 per cent of those 25-44 years have dropped out and for those with a lot of difficulty/cannot perform an activity at all, 39.0 per cent of those 25-44 years have dropped out of school. For the category currently attending school, as expected, majority of those 5-24 years are currently in school across disability status (no difficulty = 90.1 per cent, some difficulty = 84.1 per cent and a lot of difficulty/cannot perform at all = 89.2 per cent).

Table 4: School attendance and functional disability by age group

School attendance	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65	Total
Never attended	43.3	37.5	15.2	4.0	1,281,925	29.0	30.4	26.1	14.5	217,595	29.9	26.5	22.0	21.5	57,355
Completed	24.2	57.8	15.8	2.2	763,441	11.8	37.5	37.8	12.8	65,057	18.0	43.0	25.4	13.5	18,855

School attendance	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65	Total
Drop-out	30.4	53.4	14.2	1.9	584,778	14.8	38.8	35.8	10.6	64,664	22.2	39.9	25.9	12.0	18,287
Currently attending	90.1	9.0	0.8	0.2	1,536,076	84.1	11.0	3.6	1.2	62,075	89.2	8.5	1.6	0.7	30,528
Total	55.2	33.0	9.8	2.0	4,166,219	32.4	29.9	26.1	11.6	409,391	41.5	26.6	18.1	13.8	125,025

2.2.4 Highest Level of education completed and functional disability by sex

The sex differences show that a higher proportion of females have not completed any level of education compared to males and disability status appears to exacerbate these differences (Table 5). The results show that for those with no difficulty, while 44.7 per cent are males who have not completed any level of education 55.3 per cent are female their counterparts have not compared to and 42.0 per cent of males and 58.0 per cent of females who reported some difficulty. Similarly, while one in six of those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot perform at all are females and have not completed any level of education, 39.1 per cent are males. There is no significant gender difference with regard to gender and disability status by completing preschool.

For primary school education, for those who reported no difficulty, there is no significant difference in proportion for males and females. Yet, there is a difference in the proportion for males and females who reported some difficulty and a lot of difficulty. For instance, for those who reported some difficulty, 52.3 per cent are males and 47.7 per cent are females who have primary education. For those with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, these are the breakdown for males and females respectively with regard to primary school completion (males = 52.4 per cent versus females = 47.6 per cent).

Again, more males than females have secondary education. Among those with no difficulty a higher proportion of males (56.6 per cent) have secondary education compared to their female counterparts (43.4 per cent). Among those with some disability, while 61.2 per cent males have secondary education the remaining 38.8 per cent who are females have secondary education. A similar distribution is observed for those with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all.

Relatively, more males than females have tertiary education across the levels of disability. Again, those who reported no disability, 66.0 per cent are males with university education compared to 34 per cent females. For those who reported some difficulty (males = 69.2 per cent versus females = 30.8 per cent) have university education. This compares to those who have a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all (male = 70.0 per cent versus female = 30.0 per cent) with university education.

Table 5: Level of education completed and functional disability by sex

Level of education	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
None	44.7	55.3	1,372,994	42.0	58.0	224,079	39.1	60.9	60,625
Preschool	49.6	50.4	447,104	49.9	50.1	28,621	50.4	49.6	12,966
Primary	50.4	49.6	1,100,038	52.3	47.7	63,783	52.4	47.6	23,667
Secondary	56.6	43.4	1,051,732	61.2	38.8	71,331	60.9	39.1	22,327
University	66.0	34.0	180,503	69.2	30.8	19,106	70.0	30.0	4,854
Other tertiary	62.8	37.2	8,917	67.2	32.8	1,493	67.6	32.4	438
Total	50.7	49.3	4,161,288	48.9	51.1	408,413	48.0	52.0	124,877

2.2.5 Highest level of education completed and functional disability by place of residence

The results in Table 6 show that for persons with no disability 35.5 per cent who live in urban areas and 64.5 per cent in rural areas did not complete any level of education. Further, for those with some disability and did not complete any level of education, 41.6 per cent lives in urban compared to 58.5 per cent who live in rural areas. For persons with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all and did not complete any level of education, 36.6 per cent and 63.4 per cent live in urban and rural areas respectively. For primary school education, the results show that a higher proportion of persons in urban areas have completed primary school when compared to those who live in rural areas. With varying degrees of difficulty, the breakdown is as follows: no difficulty (urban = 58.3 per cent versus rural = 41.7 per cent), some difficulty (urban = 51.9 per cent versus rural = 48.1 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (urban = 55.3 per cent versus rural = 44.7 per cent).

With regard to secondary school education, the results show no significant difference between those who reported some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all, although rural residents within each disability category appear to be lagging behind. While for those with no difficulty and have secondary school, 73.3 per cent are urban residents compared to only 26.7 per cent who live in rural areas. This compared to 66.6 per cent in urban areas and 33.4 per cent in rural areas who have some difficulty and have secondary education, 11.7 per cent of their counterparts in rural areas have secondary education. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all (urban = 67.8 per cent versus rural = 32.2 per cent). Access to tertiary education remains low across all disability groups and particularly low for rural residents. The results show that 12.9 per cent, 16.0 per cent and 18.7 per cent of those with no difficulty, some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, live in rural areas have university education.

Table 6: Highest level of education completed and functional disability by place of residence

Level of education	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
None	35.5	64.5	1,372,994	41.6	58.4	224,079	36.6	63.4	60,625
Preschool	56.2	43.8	447,104	49.3	50.7	28,621	53.6	46.4	12,966
Primary	58.3	41.7	1,100,038	51.9	48.1	63,783	55.3	44.7	23,667
Secondary	73.3	26.7	1,051,732	66.6	33.4	71,331	67.8	32.2	22,327
University	87.4	12.6	180,503	84.0	16.0	19,106	81.3	18.7	4,854
Other tertiary	82.1	17.9	8,917	76.5	23.5	1,493	74.9	25.1	438
Total	55.7	44.3	4,161,288	50.2	49.8	408,413	49.4	50.6	124,877

2.2.6 Highest level of education completed and functional disability by age

The results show that for those who reported no disability, while 45.7 per cent are aged 5-24 years who have not completed any level of education, for those with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all 29.9 per cent and 25.7 per cent respectively are aged 5-25 years. As expected, majority of those aged 5-24 years have completed preschool education across all disability categories, although the proportions are higher for those with no disability compared to those who report some disability and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all. For primary school education, the results show that 75.3 per cent of those with have no disability, 45.8 per cent of those with some disability and 61.8 per cent of those with a lot of difficulty / cannot do at all are aged 5-24 years. The results point to the fact that among those who have no disability, a higher proportion aged 5-24 years have primary education compared to those with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty. However, among

those with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty, it appears that a higher proportion of those with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all are aged 5-24 years compared to those with some difficulty in that same age group. For those with no disability, the results show that 42.0 per cent, 46.9 per cent, 9.8 per cent and 1.3 per cent who are aged 5-24 years, 25-44 years 45-64 years and 65 years and above have secondary education, respectively. For those who reported some disability, 21.0 per cent who are aged 5-24 years and 9.8 per cent aged 65 years and above have secondary education while for those with a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all, 30.1 per cent aged 5-25 years and 9.6 per cent aged 65 years and above have secondary education.

With regard to tertiary education, for those with no disability, some disability and a lot of disability/ cannot do at all, seven in 10, 37.5 per cent and 48.2 per cent respectively are aged 25-44 years. A similar pattern is observed for those with other university education.

Table 7: Highest level of education completed and functional disability by age distribution

Level of education	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
None	45.7	36.0	14.4	3.8	1,372,994	29.9	30.0	25.8	14.3	224,079	32.4	25.7	21.2	20.6	60,625
Preschool	89.5	8.0	2.1	0.4	447,104	72.8	12.6	10.9	3.6	28,621	83.2	8.6	5.6	2.7	12,966
Primary	75.3	19.4	4.6	0.7	1,100,038	45.8	25.8	21.7	6.7	63,783	61.8	20.8	11.8	5.7	23,667
Secondary	42.0	46.9	9.8	1.3	1,051,732	21.0	37.9	31.2	9.8	71,331	30.1	40.4	19.9	9.6	22,327
University	0.8	70.9	25.0	3.3	180,503	0.9	37.5	46.7	14.9	19,106	0.9	48.2	33.4	17.5	4,854
Other tertiary	0.9	70.1	24.7	4.3	8,917	0.5	37.0	45.1	17.3	1,493	0.9	40.9	37.4	20.8	438
Total	55.2	32.9	9.8	2.0	4,161,288	32.4	29.9	26.1	11.6	408,413	41.5	26.6	18.1	13.8	124,877

2.2.7 Literacy status and functional disability by sex

The results on literacy status and its association with varying degrees of disability are shown in Table 8. For those with no difficulty, 54.7 per cent of males and 46.0 per cent of females are literate while 45.7 per cent of males and 54.3 per cent of females are not literate. For those with some disability, 58.2 per cent are males and 41.8 per cent are females who are literate and this compares to 42.8 per cent of males and 57.2 per cent of females are not literate. Furthermore, while 57.1 per cent and 42.9 per cent of males and females respectively are literate and have a lot of difficulty/cannot perform an activity at all, 40.7 per cent of males and nearly six in 10 of females are not literate.

Table 8: Literacy status and functional disability by sex

Literacy status	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Literate	54.0	46.0	2,484,089	58.2	41.8	161,760	57.1	42.9	55,652
Not literate	45.7	54.3	1,673,469	42.8	57.2	245,877	40.7	59.3	69,091
Total	50.7	49.3	4,157,558	48.9	51.1	407,637	48.0	52.0	124,743

2.2.8 Literacy status and functional disability by place of residence

Significant rural- urban differences exist for the various levels of disability by literacy skills (Table 9). A lower proportion of persons in rural areas are literate across all disability groups. For those with no difficulty, 66.7 per cent and 33.3 per cent live in urban and rural areas respectively and are literate. The results also show that a lower proportion of those with some difficulties who are literate live in rural areas, (38.2 per cent). A similar pattern is observed for those who reported living with a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all. For those who are not literate and who live in rural areas, 60.7 per cent, 57.4 per cent and 61.0 per cent have no difficulty, some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all respectively.

Table 9: Literacy status and functional disability by place of residence

Literacy status	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Literate	66.7	33.3	2,484,089	61.8	38.2	161,760	62.2	37.8	55,652
Not literate	39.3	60.7	1,673,469	42.6	57.4	245,877	39.0	61.0	69,091
Total	55.7	44.3	4,157,558	50.2	49.8	407,637	49.4	50.6	124,743

2.2.9 Literacy status and functional disability by age

The results in Table 10 shows that as age increases the proportion that is literate decreases across all disability groups. For instance, for those with no disability, 58.1 per cent aged 5-24 years and 1.1 per cent 65 years and above are literate, for those with some disability, 32.5 per cent aged 5-24 years and 8.8 per cent aged 65 years and above are literate and for those with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, 47.8 per cent aged 5-25 years and 7.8 per cent aged 65 years and above are literate. It can also be observed that as age increases the proportion who are not literate decreases for all disability categories. While among those who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all, 36.5 per cent aged 5-24 years and 18.9 per cent 65 years and above are not literate.

Table 10: Literacy status and functional disability by age distribution

Literacy status	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Literate	58.1	32.9	7.9	1.1	2,484,089	32.5	30.9	27.8	8.8	161,760	47.8	28.8	15.9	7.6	55,652
Not literate	51.1	33.0	12.6	3.3	1,673,469	32.2	29.3	25.0	13.5	245,877	36.5	24.8	19.8	18.9	69,091
Total	55.3	32.9	9.8	2.0	4,157,558	32.4	29.9	26.1	11.6	407,637	41.5	26.6	18.1	13.8	124,743

2.2.10 Marital status and functional disability by sex

In Table 11, the proportions never married for both males and females are similar across the various levels of difficulty, although slightly more males than females have never been married for those who reported no disability and a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all. The results show that for those with no difficulty, 54.9 per cent males and 45.1 per cent females are in polygamous unions. The results shows that about equal proportions of males and females with some disabilities and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all is married in polygamous unions.

For those with no difficulty, equal proportions of males (50.5 per cent) and females (49.5 per cent) are in monogamous unions. However, for those with some difficulty, while 46.3 per cent of females are in monogamous unions for their counterparts with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, 48.2 per cent are in such unions.

A higher proportion of females than males are separated or divorced across the different levels of disabilities and there are only slight differences by levels of disability. For example, among those with no difficulty, 55.0 per cent females and 57.7 per cent females are separated or divorced, for those with some difficulty, 55.7 per cent females and 60.7 per cent females are separated or divorced and among those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all 55.0 per cent females and 55.7 per cent females are separated or divorced respectively.

Again, a higher proportion of females than males are widowed and this increases slightly with level of difficulty. For those who reported no disability, 17.9 per cent males and 82.1 per cent females are widowed. However, among those who reported some difficulty (male = 16.8 per cent versus females = 83.2 per cent) and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all (males = 17.2 per cent versus females = 82.8 per cent) more females than males are widowed. There are no significant differences in the proportion of those in consensual unions across levels of disability by sex, although slightly more females than males are in consensual unions. For instance, 54.7 per cent of females with no difficulty compared to 55.0 per cent with some difficulty and 55.9 per cent with a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all are in consensual unions.

Table 11: Marital status and functional disability by sex

Marital status	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never married	52.0	48.0	2,142,748	49.5	50.5	174,763	50.1	49.9	49,490
Married monogamous	50.5	49.5	1,002,034	53.7	46.3	128,468	51.8	48.2	35,521
Married polygamous	54.9	45.1	59,447	60.5	39.5	9,110	60.0	40.0	2,722
Separated	45.0	55.0	36,513	44.3	55.7	6,166	45.0	55.0	1,701
Divorced	42.3	57.7	11,490	39.3	60.7	2,877	44.3	55.7	930
Widow/widower	17.9	82.1	44,837	16.8	83.2	25,409	17.2	82.8	10,090
Consensual Union	45.3	54.7	90,946	45.0	55.0	8,069	44.1	55.9	1927
Total	50.9	49.1	3,388,015	48.7	51.3	354,862	47.5	52.5	102,381

2.2.11 Marital status and functional disability by place of residence

The results show that for persons with no disability, some disability and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, 61.7 per cent, 58.1 per cent and 56.9 per cent live in urban areas respectively and have never been married (Table 12). This shows that larger proportions of persons are never married in urban areas than in rural areas and these proportions decrease with level of disability. Contrarily, for all disability categories, there are more married monogamous individuals in rural areas than in urban areas and this proportion increases slightly with degree of difficulty (rural: - no difficulty = 53.8 per cent, some difficulty = 58.1 per cent, a lot of difficulty = 58.2 per cent). A similar pattern is observed for those who reported that they are in polygamous unions:(no disability -urban = 48.6 per cent versus rural = 51.4 per cent), some disability- urban = 40 per cent versus rural = 60.0 per cent and a lot of difficulty- urban = 38.1 per cent versus rural = 61.9 per cent).

With regard to separated and divorced, the results show no difference between those who reported some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, although rural residents within each disability category appear to report higher proportions of being divorced or separated. While 66.1 per cent of those with no difficulties are rural residents and separated, 62.6 per cent of their counterparts with some difficulties in rural areas are separated and 63.6 per cent who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all, live in rural areas and are separated. A similar pattern is observed for who reported that they are divorced.

Again, those widowed a higher proportion are rural residents and this proportion increases by level of disability. This suggests that rural residents may

be more disadvantaged. That is for no difficulty (urban = 47.4 per cent versus rural = 52.6 per cent), some difficulty (urban = 45.4 per cent versus rural = 54.6 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (urban = 41.2 per cent versus rural = 58.8 per cent) are widowed.

Furthermore, as level of difficulty increases, there is no clear pattern in the urban-rural distortion with regard to being in a consensual union. For instance, for those with no difficulty, 51.8 per cent are urban residents, for those with some difficulty 49.4 per cent are urban residents and for those with a lot of difficulty, 54.0 per cent are urban residents.

Table 12: Marital status and functional disability by place of residence

Marital status	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Never married	61.7	38.3	2,142,748	58.1	41.9	174,763	56.9	43.1	49,490
Married monogamous	46.2	53.8	1,002,034	41.9	58.1	128,468	41.8	58.2	35,521
Married polygamous	48.6	51.4	59,447	40.0	60.0	9,110	38.1	61.9	2,722
Separated	33.9	66.1	36,513	37.4	62.6	6,166	36.4	63.6	1,701
Divorced	39.4	60.6	11,490	44.0	56.0	2,877	43.2	56.8	930
Widow/widower	47.4	52.6	44,837	45.4	54.6	25,409	41.2	58.8	10,090
Consensual Union	51.6	48.4	90,946	49.4	50.6	8,069	54.0	46.0	1927
Total	56.0	44.0	3,388,015	50.2	49.8	354,862	49.1	50.9	102,381

2.2.12 Marital status and functional disability by age

For all disability categories, as age increases, the proportion never married decreases. While for those with no difficulty, 63.7 per cent are aged 5-24 years, 1.3 per cent are aged 65 years and above. This percentage decreases to 40 per cent (5-24 years) for those with some disability and increases again to 51.4 per cent for those who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all. For those 65 years and above it increases to 7.0 per cent for those with some disability and slightly to 7.2 per cent for those with a lot of difficulty. In addition, more than half of those with no disability are aged 25-44 years and are in monogamous (59.4 per cent) or polygamous (57.9 per cent) unions. For individuals who reported living with some difficulty 35.9 per cent are aged 25-44 years and for those living with a lot of difficulty 40.0 per cent are aged 25-44 years and are in monogamous unions. A similar pattern is observed for those in polygamous unions.

For those separated, the age distribution is as follows; for no difficulty (25-44 years = 57.9 per cent), some difficulty (25-44 years = 34.9 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (25-44 years = 33.4 per cent). Among those who are divorced, while 48.2 per cent of those with no difficulty are divorced and aged 25-44 years, about a quarter of those with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty are within this age group. While for those widowed and who reported no difficulty, the highest proportions are aged 25-44 years (22.3 per cent), 45-64 years (46.1 per cent) and 65 years and above (26.4 per cent), for those with some difficulty (25-44 years =10.4 per cent, 45-64 years = 41.7 and 65+years = 45.4 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (25-44 years = 9.4 per cent, 45-64 years = 28.6 per cent and 65+years = 58.6 per cent). The results also show that the proportions who are in consensual unions are within the early age groups. For instance, while nearly six in 10 of those with no difficulty are age 25-44 years, half of those with some difficulty (50.0 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (50.8 per cent) are with this age group.

Table 13: Marital status and functional disability by age distribution

Marital status	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Never married	63.7	30.2	4.9	1.3	2,142,748	40.0	35.9	17.0	7.0	174,763	51.4	30.1	11.3	7.2	49,490
Married monogamous	12.5	59.4	24.4	3.7	1,002,034	5.5	35.9	43.4	15.3	128,468	8.8	40.4	32.9	17.9	35,521
Married polygamous	12.8	56.5	25.9	4.9	59,447	6.2	32.7	43.3	17.8	9,110	10.1	37.7	31.2	20.9	2,722
Separated	14.4	57.9	23.8	3.9	36,513	7.0	34.9	41.7	16.4	6,166	8.4	33.4	35.9	22.3	1,701
Divorced	9.0	48.2	35.2	7.6	11,490	5.0	24.7	48.3	22.0	2,877	6.6	24.5	39.8	29.1	930
Widow /widower	5.2	22.3	46.1	26.4	44,837	2.5	10.4	41.7	45.4	25,409	3.5	9.4	28.6	58.6	10,090
Consensual Union	31.2	58.6	9.1	1.0	90,946	19.8	50.0	24.1	6.1	8,069	18.9	50.8	22.7	7.6	1927
Total	45.3	40.3	12.0	2.4	3,388,015	22.7	34.2	29.8	13.3	354,862	29.1	32.2	21.9	16.8	102,381

2.2.13 Activity status and functional disability by sex

The 2022 Liberia PHC collected information on the activity status of people five years old and above with disability. The reference period was seven days prior to the census. Table 14 presents the results of persons with disability by activity status and sex. Of those who reported no disability, 51.3 per cent and 48.7 per cent are males who did not work seven days preceding the census compared to their counterparts with some disability (female = 53.2 per cent versus males = 46.8 per cent) and those with a lot of disability/cannot do at all (female = 53.9 per cent versus males = 46.1 per cent). This shows that relatively more females than males did not work seven days preceding the census and this increases slightly by disability status.

In contrast, more males than females reported that they worked seven days preceding the census and this proportion reduces as degree of difficulty in performing key activities increases. While 56.0 per cent of those with no disability are males, 53.5 per cent of those with some disabilities are males and another 53.1 per cent of those with a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all are males.

Table 14: Percentage distribution of people with disability by activity status and sex

Activity status	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Did Not worked	48.7	51.3	3,015,315	46.8	53.2	279,628	46.1	53.9	90,528
Worked	56.0	44.0	1,142,243	53.5	46.5	128,009	53.1	46.9	34,215
Total	50.7	49.3	4,157,558	48.9	51.1	407,637	48.0	52.0	124,743

2.2.14 Activity status and functional disability by place of residence

Table 15 shows the distribution of people with disability by activity status and place of residence. The results show that a higher proportion of people living in urban areas and did not work compared to those in rural areas across all disability status and these proportions decrease by disability status. For instance, for those with no difficulty 58.3 per cent live in urban areas and do not work, compared to 53.2 per cent with some difficulty and 52.5 per cent with a lot of difficulty/cannot perform an activity at all. Furthermore, for those who reported that they worked, the results show that as the level of difficulty increases, a higher proportion of persons in rural

areas worked compared to those in urban areas. It appears that the proportion who worked in rural areas increased with increasing degree of disability. The results show that 51.2 per cent of those with no difficulty and who worked lived in rural areas. This compares to 56.2 per cent of their counterparts who some difficulty and lived in rural areas and 58.9 per cent of those who reported a lot of difficult/ cannot perform an activity at all, lived in rural areas and worked.

Table 15: Percentage distribution of people with disability by activity status and place of residence

Activity status	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Did Not worked	58.3	41.7	3,015,315	53.2	46.8	279,628	52.5	47.5	90,528
Worked	48.8	51.2	1,142,243	43.8	56.2	128,009	41.1	58.9	34,215
Total	55.7	44.3	4,157,558	50.2	49.8	407,637	49.4	50.6	124,743

2.2.15 Activity status and functional disability by age group

In Table 17, results on the age distribution of individuals by functional disability status and activity status are shown. As age increases, the proportion who reported that they did not work seven days preceding the census decreased significantly within all disability groups. Among those who indicated that they have no difficulty and did not work seven days prior to the census, while 67.1 per cent are aged 5-24 years, 1.8 per cent are aged 65 years and above. For those with some difficulty and who did not work, however, 42.0 per cent were aged 5-24 years and 11.9 per cent were aged 65 years and above. Comparably, for those who reported a lot of difficulty and who did not work, half were aged 5-24 years and 15.5 per cent were aged 65 years and above. This suggests, compared to those who reported some difficulty, relatively a higher proportion of those who reported a lot of difficulty did not work and were aged 5-24 years. A similar pattern is observed for those who indicated that they worked seven days prior to the census.

Table 16: Percentage distribution of people with disability by activity status and age group

Marital status	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Did Not worked	67.1	24.7	6.4	1.8	3,015,315	42.0	26.6	19.5	11.9	279,628	50.1	20.5	14.0	15.3	90,528
Worked	24.0	54.8	18.8	2.5	1,142,243	11.3	37.1	40.6	11.0	128,009	18.7	42.5	28.8	10.0	34,215
Total	55.3	32.9	9.8	2.0	4,157,558	32.4	29.9	26.1	11.6	407,637	41.5	26.6	18.1	13.8	124,743

2.2.17 Nature of work and functional disability by sex

In Table 18, the results of the sex distribution of people by disability status and nature of work are presented. The results indicated that significantly more males than females are salary workers in Liberia. For those who reported no disabilities/ difficulty, the proportion of males (69.8 per cent) who were salary workers was higher than females (30.3 per cent). Nearly equal proportions of males and females were own account workers (males = 49.8 per cent versus females = 50.2 per cent) and contributing family workers (males = 50.1 per cent versus females = 49.9 per cent). The distribution among those who reported some difficulty is similar to what is observed among those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot perform and activity at all. For instance, while among those who reported some disability who are salary workers, are males' 68.8 per cent compared to 31.2 per cent who are females, for those who reported a lot of difficulty, 69.6 per cent are males and 30.4 per cent are females. Again, for own account workers the distributions are as follows; some difficulty (males = 46.9 per cent versus females = 53.1 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (males = 46.4 per cent versus females 53.6 per cent). A similar pattern is observed for those who indicated that they are contributing family workers.

Table 17: Percentage distribution of persons with disability by nature of work and sex

Nature of work	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Salary worker	69.8	30.2	353,511	68.8	31.2	37,580	69.6	30.4	9,553
Own account workers	49.8	50.2	683,307	46.9	53.1	79,295	46.4	53.6	21,424
Contributing family workers	50.1	49.9	105,425	48.3	51.7	11,134	48.2	51.8	3,238
Total	56.0	44.0	1,142,243	53.5	46.5	128,009	53.1	46.9	34,215

2.2.18 Nature of work and functional disability by place of residence

Table 19 shows the distribution of nature of work and place of residence by functional disability. The results show that for those who are salary workers, while exactly seven in 10 of those with no difficulty are urban folks, 64.1 per cent of those who live with some difficulties are urban dwellers and 62.0 per cent of those who reported a lot of difficulty are urban dwellers. This suggests that more urban dwellers are salary workers compared to rural dwellers across all functional disability status and this proportion decreases with increasing functional disability.

For those who indicated that they are own account workers, 62.2 per cent of those with no difficulty are in rural areas, 66.5 per cent have some difficulties and are in rural areas and 68.4 per cent have a lot of difficulty and live in rural areas.

There is no significant difference between people with no disability (urban = 48.5 per cent versus rural 51.5 per cent) and some disability (urban = 48.5 per cent versus rural 51.5 per cent) who engaged in family work. However, among those with a lot of difficulty while 42.1 per cent reported that they live in urban areas, 57.9 per cent are rural dwellers and contributing family workers. The results thus show that a higher proportion of rural dwellers are own account workers and contributing family workers than urban dwellers and this proportions increase with increasing functional disability.

Table 18: Percentage distribution of people with disability by nature of work and place of residence

Nature of work	No difficulty			Some difficulty			A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Salary worker	70.0	30.0	353,511	64.1	35.9	37,580	62.0	38.0	9,553
Own account workers	37.8	62.2	683,307	33.5	66.5	79,295	31.6	68.4	21,424
Contributing family workers	48.5	51.5	105,425	48.5	51.5	11,134	42.1	57.9	3,238
Total	48.8	51.2	1,142,243	43.8	56.2	128,009	41.1	58.9	34,215

2.2.19 Nature of work and functional disability by age distribution

Population distribution of functional disability by nature of work and age group are presented in Table 20. The result shows that for those who reported engaging in salary work, while six in 10 and 23.1 per cent are aged 25-44 years and 45-64 years respectively and have not difficulty, for those with some difficulty, 38.5 per cent are aged 25-44 years and 45.0 per cent are aged 45-64 years. However, among those with a lot of difficulty, 48.9 per cent are aged 25-44 years and 31.8 per cent are aged 45-64 years. For those who are own account workers, the distribution by disability status and age are as follows; for those with no disability, a quarter are

aged 5-24 years 54.5 per cent are aged 25-44 years 17.8 per cent are aged 45-64 years and 2.5 per cent are aged 65 years and above.

However, for those who reported living with some disability, only a tenth is aged 5-24 years and four in 10 are aged 45-64 years compared with those with a lot of difficulty where 42.1 per cent are aged 25-44 years and 28.9 per cent are aged 45-64 years. Furthermore, while nearly half (49.4 per cent) of all those who reported no disability and are contributing family workers are aged 4-24 years, 27.0 per cent of their counterparts with some disabilities are aged 5-24 years and 43.3 per cent who reported a lot of difficulty and are aged 5-24 years.

Table 19: Percentage distribution of people with disability by nature of work and age group

Marital status	No difficulty					Some difficulty					A lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all				
	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	5-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Salary worker	13.9	60.5	23.1	2.5	353,511	7.6	38.5	45.0	8.8	37,580	11.7	48.9	31.8	7.7	9,553
Own account workers	25.2	54.5	17.8	2.5	683,307	10.8	37.1	40.2	11.9	79,295	18.1	42.1	28.9	10.9	21,424
Contributing family workers	49.4	37.4	10.8	2.3	105,425	27.0	32.5	29.2	11.2	11,134	43.5	26.3	19.2	10.9	3,238
Total	24.0	54.8	18.8	2.5	1,142,243	11.3	37.1	40.6	11.0	128,009	18.7	42.5	28.8	10.0	34,215

2.3 Functional disability across various activity domains in Liberia

The Table 20 provides data on the proportion of persons with varying degrees of difficulty across the six domains examined in the 2022 LPHC for the population 5 years and older. The data highlights the proportion of persons with varying degrees of difficulty in Liberia with regard to engaging in activities such as seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, activities associated with self-care and communicating. The results stress on the importance of understanding and addressing these specific challenges in order to make the necessary accommodations to support persons with different forms of disabilities by severity.

Results in Table 20 show that for sight, 5.0 per cent of the population have some difficulty compared to 0.6 per cent who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all. Furthermore, 3.7 per cent of the population indicated that they experienced some difficulty in hearing whereas 0.4 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot hear at all. For varying degrees of difficulty in walking the results show that 4.8 per cent of the population have some difficulty walking and 0.8 per cent have a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all. In addition, 4.1 per cent of the population pointed out that they have difficulty remembering while 0.5 per cent said they had a lot of difficulty/cannot remember at all. With regard to self-care activities, 3.8 per cent of the population, reported some difficulty with self-care tasks but 0.7 per cent added that they experienced a lot of difficulty/cannot perform self-care tasks at all. Another 3.3 per cent (154,705) of the population, indicated that they experienced some difficulty communicating. However, only 0.7 per cent of the population 5 years and over reported a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all.

Table 20: Per cent of population 5 years and older with varying degrees of difficulty in performing activities

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		Some difficulty A lot of difficulty or cannot perform the activities at all		Total
Seeing	4,438,466	94.4	234,244	5.0	27,525	0.6	4,700,235
Hearing	4,503,420	95.8	175,978	3.7	20,837	0.4	4,700,235
Walking	4,437,177	94.4	227,371	4.8	35,687	0.8	4,700,235
Remembering	4,482,173	95.4	194,084	4.1	23,978	0.5	4,700,235
Self care	4,487,177	95.5	180,561	3.8	32,497	0.7	4,700,235
Communicating	4,513,784	96.0	154,705	3.3	31,746	0.7	4,700,235

2.3.1 Functional disability associated with seeing

The result show that for disability associated with sight (Table 21), while 94.7 per cent of males have no difficulty seeing, 4.8 per cent have some difficulty and 0.5 per cent have a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all. However, among females, 5.2 per cent reported some difficulty and 0.6 per cent have a lot of difficulty/ cannot see at all. For place of residence the results show that slightly higher proportions of those in rural areas have some disability (rural = 5.3 per cent versus urban = 4.8 per cent) and a lot of difficulty/ cannot see at all (rural = 0.5 per cent versus urban = 0.6 per cent) than in urban areas. The results show that as age increases the proportion with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty also increases. While among those 5-24 years 2.4 per cent have some disability associated with seeing and 0.3 per cent have a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all, for those 65 years and above 24.4 per cent have some disability and 4.5 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all.

The results on marital status show that the proportion of persons with functional disability appears to be lower for those who have never been married (some disability = 4.6 per cent versus a lot of difficulty/ cannot see at all = 0.4per cent). Again, the proportion of persons with functional disability associated with seeing appear to be lower for those in some form of union than those who were formerly in union. For those in unions a higher proportion of those in polygamous unions (7.4 per cent) have some disability associated with seeing compared to 6.2 per cent of those in monogamous unions and 4.0 per cent of those in consensual unions. However, for those formerly in unions, 23.2 per cent of those widowed have some disability in seeing compared to 11.8 per cent of those divorced and 7.8 of their counterparts who reported that they are separated.

Among those who have never attended school, 9.2 per cent have some disability, for those who have completed, 4.5 per cent have some disability with seeing and among those who have dropped out of school, 5.2 per cent have some difficulty in seeing. The results however show that those currently attending school record the lowest proportion of their population with some disability in seeing. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of disability.

The results on highest level of education completed are displayed in Table 21. Except for those who did not complete any level of education, the results show that as level of education increases the proportion with some disability and a lot of disability also increases. For instance, among those who have not completed any level of education 8.8 per cent have some disability in seeing and 0.8 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all. However, for those with other forms of tertiary education, about one in 10 have some difficulty seeing and 1.4 per cent a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all.

The Table 21 indicates that out of a total of 2,700,501 literate individuals, 2.9 per cent report some difficulty in seeing and 0.5 per cent report a lot of difficulty/ cannot see at all. For individuals who are not literate 7.7 per cent report some difficulty in seeing and 0.8 per cent report a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all

The 2022 LPHC asked individuals if they worked seven days preceding the census. The results show no significant difference between those who worked and those who did not work seven days preceding the census. For those who did not work 4.9 per cent reported some difficulty in seeing and 0.6 per cent said a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all and for those who worked 5.2 per cent reported some difficulty and 0.6 per cent a lot of difficulty/cannot see at all. Those who indicated that they worked seven days preceding the census were asked about the nature of work they were engaged in. A slightly lower proportion of contributing family workers indicated that they have some disability associated with seeing compared to 5.3 per cent of own account workers and 5.5 per cent of salary workers.

Table 21: Percentage distribution of persons with functional disabilities associated with seeing by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty seeing		Some difficulty seeing		A lot of difficulty/ cannot see at al		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	2,245,345	94.7	113,637	4.8	12,973	0.5	2,371,955
Female	2,193,121	94.2	120,607	5.2	14,552	0.6	2,328,280
Total	4,438,466	94.4	234,244	5.0	27,525	0.6	4,700,235
Place of residence							
Urban	2,448,857	94.7	123,235	4.8	13,985	0.5	2,586,077
Rural	1,989,609	94.1	111,009	5.3	13,540	0.6	2,114,158
Total	4,438,466	94.4	234,244	5.0	27,525	0.6	4,700,235
Age group							
5-24	2,417,301	97.3	60,670	2.4	7,254	0.3	2,485,225
25-44	1,453,952	95.1	67,744	4.4	6,858	0.4	1,528,554
45-64	462,335	85.8	69,797	13.0	6,727	1.2	538,859
65+	104,878	71.1	36,033	24.4	6,686	4.5	147,597
Total	4,438,466	94.4	234,244	5.0	27,525	0.6	4,700,235
Marital status							
Never married	2,248,968	95.0	107,994	4.6	10,039	0.4	2,367,001
Married monogamous	1,084,481	93.0	72,349	6.2	9,193	0.8	1,166,023
Married polygamous	65,019	91.2	5,303	7.4	957	1.3	71,279
Separated	40,459	91.2	3,451	7.8	470	1.1	44,380
Divorced	13,197	86.3	1,805	11.8	295	1.9	15,297
Widow/widower	57,986	72.2	18,675	23.2	3,675	4.6	80,336
Consensual Union	96,496	95.6	4,039	4.0	407	0.4	100,942
Total	3,606,606	93.8	213,616	5.6	25,036	0.7	3,845,258
Literacy							
Literate	2,610,219	96.6	79,063	2.9	12,219	0.5	2,701,501
Not Literate	1,819,385	91.5	153,843	7.7	15,209	0.8	1,988,437
Total	4,429,604	94.4	232,906	5.0	27,428	0.6	4,689,938
School attendance							
Never attended	1,399,218	89.9	144,144	9.3	13,358	0.9	1,556,720
Completed	804,701	95.0	37,759	4.5	4,817	0.6	847,277
Drop-out	627,990	94.1	34,736	5.2	4,945	0.7	667,671
Currently attending	1,606,557	98.6	17,605	1.1	4,405	0.3	1,628,567
Total	4,438,466	94.4	234,244	5.0	27,525	0.6	4,700,235
Highest level of education completed	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
None	1,497,540	90.3	146,352	8.8	13,806	0.8	1,657,698
Preschool	478,442	97.9	8,475	1.7	1,774	0.4	488,691
Primary	1,155,704	97.3	27,003	2.3	4,781	0.4	1,187,488

	No difficulty seeing		Some difficulty seeing		A lot of difficulty/ cannot see at al		Total
Secondary	1,102,013	96.2	37,932	3.3	5,445	0.5	1,145,390
University	190,231	93.0	12,712	6.2	1,520	0.7	204,463
Other tertiary	9,631	88.8	1,068	9.8	149	1.4	10,848
Total	4,433,561	94.4	233,542	5.0	27,475	0.6	4,694,578
Economic activity							
Did Not worked	3,201,339	94.6	164,456	4.9	19,676	0.6	3,385,471
Employed	1,228,265	94.2	68,450	5.2	7,752	0.6	1,304,467
Total	4,429,604	94.4	232,906	5.0	27,428	0.6	4,689,938
Nature of work							
Salary worker	376,250	93.9	21,841	5.5	2,553	0.6	400,644
Own account workers	738,167	94.2	41,319	5.3	4,540	0.6	784,026
Contributing family workers	113,848	95.0	5,290	4.4	659	0.6	119,797
Total	1,228,265	94.2	68,450	5.2	7,752	0.6	1,304,467

2.3.2 Functional disability associated with hearing

Table 22 provides data on the degree of difficulty in hearing by key sociodemographic characteristics. There is a generally similar distribution of reported difficulty in hearing between males and females. About 3.7 per cent of males report some difficulty in hearing compared to 3.8 per cent of females. This suggests that a small percentage of individuals experience some level of difficulty in hearing, with slightly more females reporting this compared to males. Again, approximately 0.41 per cent of males report a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all while 0.47 per cent of females report a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all. Overall, the data suggests that while there are slight differences in the reported degree of difficulty in hearing between genders, the majority of individuals, regardless of gender, do not experience significant difficulty in hearing.

The data is analysed comparing the place of residence with the degree of difficulty in hearing. In urban areas, 96.3 per cent of individuals reported no difficulty in hearing, but in rural areas, 95.2 per cent of residents share the same challenge. This points to a slightly higher proportion of urban dwellers experiencing no hearing challenges. Urban areas display a lower percentage of their residents (3.4 per cent) reporting some difficulty in hearing compared to rural areas, where 4.2 per cent of residents face similar challenges. A slightly higher proportion of individuals living in rural areas experience severe hearing difficulties or complete hearing loss, with 0.5 per cent reporting such challenges, compared to 0.4 per cent of urban dwellers. This suggests a marginally higher incidence of serious hearing issues among rural populations.

The results show a pattern of increasing hearing difficulties with age. While among all age groups, the majority report no difficulty in hearing, a small percentage show some challenges. In the 5-24 years age group, 2.5 per cent report some difficulty, which increases slightly to 3.6 per cent in the 25-44 years age group. Again, the incidence of some difficulty in hearing rises significantly in older age groups, with 6.6 per cent of individuals aged 45-64 years and 15.6 per cent of those aged 65 years and above reporting some difficulty in hearing. The percentage of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete hearing loss is relatively low across all age groups. In the 5-24 years age group, only 0.3 per cent reported severe challenges, which increases marginally to 0.4 per cent among the 25-44 years age group. As expected, the incidence of severe hearing difficulties or complete hearing loss rises noticeably with age. In the 45-64 years age group, 0.6 per cent report a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all but in the 65 years age group, 2.5 per cent reported same.

Marital status appears to have an impact on the proportion of persons with hearing difficulties. Persons who are in consensual, monogamous unions, polygamous unions and never married display relatively lower proportions of hearing challenges. Conversely, separated, divorced and widowed individuals tend to exhibit higher proportion with regard to hearing difficulties. Results in Table 16 show

that across the marital statuses, a small proportion of individuals reported some difficulty in hearing. This percentage is highest among those who are widowed (13.3 per cent) and lowest among those in consensual unions (2.3 per cent). Similarly, the proportion of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete hearing loss was highest among widow/widowers that is 2.5 per cent and lowest among those in consensual unions (0.3 per cent).

Generally, the data points to differences in the prevalence of hearing impairment in the population across different levels of education. Apart from those who have reported that they have not completed any level, the data shows that those who reported preschool and primary education levels exhibit lowest proportions of persons reporting some difficulty in hearing, while other tertiary education shows a slightly higher percentage. The incidence of some difficulty in hearing is relatively low across all educational levels, ranging from 7.0 per cent the highest among those who did not complete any level of education to 1.4 among those who had completed only preschool. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty or complete hearing loss.

The 2022 LPHC asked individuals if they could read and write any simple sentence in any language. The analysis explores the relationship between difficulty hearing and literacy. The results show that those who are not literate show a higher incidence of some difficulty in hearing and a slightly higher incidence of severe hearing difficulties or complete hearing loss compared to their literate counterparts. Among literate individuals, 98.1 per cent had no difficulty in hearing. Yet, among persons who are not literate, 92.7 per cent have no difficulty in hearing. Those who are not literate show a notably higher proportion of individuals reporting some difficulty in hearing compared to their literate counterparts. Among literate individuals, 1.5 per cent report some difficulty, while among those who are not literate, this percentage is higher at 6.7 per cent. Similarly, while among literate individuals, 0.31 per cent report a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all, among those who are not literate the percentage is slightly higher at 0.63 per cent.

The incidence of some difficulty in hearing varies to some extent by different school attendance categories. Among individuals who have never attended school, 8.0 per cent report some difficulty, the highest, and it is lowest among those currently attending (1.0 per cent). The percentage of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete hearing loss is relatively low across all school attendance categories. However, among individuals who have never attended school, 0.70 per cent reports a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all, and again it is lowest for those currently attending (0.45 per cent).

The incidence of some difficulty in hearing is relatively low across both economic activities' category. Among individuals who did not work, 4.2 per cent report some difficulty, while among those who worked, 2.5 per cent have some disability. Although lower proportions are observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty or complete loss by economic activities the pattern is similar for those who have some difficulty hearing. Among individuals who did not work, 0.5 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or cannot hear at all, while among those who worked 7 days preceding the census, 0.4 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or complete hearing loss.

The incidence of some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/cannot hear at all is relatively low across all categories of workers. Across all categories of nature of work, there is no significant difference in the proportions of persons who experience a lot of difficulty/cannot hear at all. However, there is a slight difference in the proportion of salary workers with some difficulty (2.2 per cent) compared to contributing family workers (2.7 per cent) and own account workers (2.7 per cent).

Table 22: Percentage distribution of persons with functional disability associated with hearing by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty hearing		Some difficulty hearing		A lot of difficulty/ cannot hear at all		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	2,274,740	95.9	87,413	3.7	9,802	0.41	2,371,955
Female	2,228,680	95.7	88,565	3.8	11,035	0.47	2,328,280
Total	4,503,420	95.8	175,978	3.7	20,837	0.44	4,700,235
Place of residence							
Urban	2,489,779	96.3	86,810	3.4	9,488	0.37	2,586,077
Rural	2,013,641	95.2	89,168	4.2	11,349	0.54	2,114,158
Total	4,503,420	95.8	175,978	3.7	20,837	0.44	4,700,235
Age group							
5-24	2,414,057	97.1	63,046	2.5	8,122	0.33	2,485,225
25-44	1,468,436	96.1	54,356	3.6	5,762	0.38	1,528,554
45-64	500,059	92.8	35,482	6.6	3,318	0.62	538,859
65+	120,868	81.9	23,094	15.6	3,635	2.46	147,597
Total	4,503,420	95.8	175,978	3.7	20,837	0.44	4,700,235
Marital status							
Never married	2,261,323	95.5	96,644	4.1	9,034	0.38	2,367,001
Married monogamous	1,122,483	96.3	37,878	3.2	5,662	0.49	1,166,023
Married polygamous	67,875	95.2	2,882	4.0	522	0.73	71,279
Separated	41,799	94.2	2,278	5.1	303	0.68	44,380
Divorced	14,082	92.1	1,047	6.8	168	1.10	15,297
Widow/widower	67,615	84.2	10,723	13.3	1998	2.49	80,336
Consensual Union	98,327	97.4	2,363	2.3	252	0.25	100,942
Total	3,673,504	95.5	153,815	4.0	17,939	0.47	3,845,258
Literacy							
Literate	2,651,421	98.1	41,812	1.5	8,268	0.31	2,701,501
Not literate	1,842,863	92.7	133,043	6.7	12,531	0.63	1,988,437
Total	4,494,284	95.8	174,855	3.7	20,799	0.44	4,689,938
School attendance							
Never attended	1,420,679	91.3	125,165	8.0	10,876	0.70	1,556,720
Completed	827,098	97.6	17,339	2.0	2,840	0.34	847,277
Drop-out	647,417	97.0	17,281	2.6	2,973	0.45	667,671
Currently attending	1,608,226	98.8	16,193	1.0	4,148	0.25	1,628,567
Total	4,503,420	95.8	175,978	3.7	20,837	0.44	4,700,235

	No difficulty hearing		Some difficulty hearing		A lot of difficulty/ cannot hear at all		Total
Highest level of education completed	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
None	1,519,560	91.7	126,900	7.7	11,238	0.68	1,657,698
Preschool	480,189	98.3	6,985	1.4	1,517	0.31	488,691
Primary	1,166,296	98.2	17,492	1.5	3,700	0.31	1,187,488
Secondary	1,122,552	98.0	19,226	1.7	3,612	0.32	1,145,390
University	199,303	97.5	4,452	2.2	708	0.35	204,463
Other tertiary	10,481	96.6	324	3.0	43	0.40	10,848
Total	4,498,381	95.8	175,379	3.7	20,818	0.44	4,694,578
Activity status							
Did Not worked	3,227,972	95.3	141,935	4.2	15,564	0.46	3,385,471
Employed	1,266,312	97.1	32,920	2.5	5,235	0.40	1,304,467
Total	4,494,284	95.8	174,855	3.7	20,799	0.44	4,689,938
Nature of work							
Salary worker	390,320	97.4	8,809	2.2	1,515	0.38	400,644
Own account workers	759,928	96.9	20,887	2.7	3,211	0.41	784,026
Contributing family workers	116,064	96.9	3,224	2.7	509	0.42	119,797
Total	1,266,312	97.1	32,920	2.5	5,235	0.40	1,304,467

2.3.3 Functional disability associated with walking

The results on the association between key sociodemographic variables and degree of difficulty in walking are shown in Table 23. Among both males and females, a higher proportion has no difficulty in walking. The majority of individuals in both gender groups demonstrate clear mobility without any reported hindrances. A slightly a higher proportion among females (5.1 per cent) than among males (4.5 per cent) reported some difficulty in walking. The percentage of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete inability to walk is minimal in both gender groups, with males at 0.7 per cent and females at 0.8 per cent.

The data shows that the majority of individuals in both urban and rural settings demonstrate clear mobility without any reported hindrances. Although, the incidence of some difficulty in walking is relatively low in both urban (4.3 per cent) and rural (5.5 per cent) areas. Persons in rural areas show a slightly higher percentage compared to urban areas. Similarly, the proportions of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or who cannot walk at all are minimal in both urban (0.7 per cent) and rural (0.9 per cent) areas although slightly higher in rural areas.

The Table 23 illustrates the degree of difficulty in walking across different age groups. Largely, the results indicate a pattern of increasing difficulty in walking with advancing age, highlighting the impact of age on mobility. Among those 5-24 years, a significant majority, 97.1 per cent report no difficulty in walking, indicating the highest across the age groups compared to those aged 65 and above with the lowest proportion (68.2 per cent) of those reporting no difficulty. Again, as age increases, the proportion with some disability significantly increase from 2.6 per cent among those 5-24 years to one in four (25.2 per cent) of individuals aged 65 years and above. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all.

The results on marital status show that the proportion of persons with functional disability with walking appear to be lower for those have never been married (some disability = 4.5 per cent versus a lot of difficulty/cannot do at all = 0.5per cent). Again, the proportion of persons with disability associated

with walking is lower for those in some form of union than those who were formerly in union. For those in unions, for example, a higher proportion of those in polygamous union (6.7 per cent) have some disability compared to 5.5 per cent of those in monogamous unions and 3.7 per cent of those in consensual unions. On the other hand, for those formerly in unions, those widowed have more difficulty (24.2 per cent) compared to 11.4 per cent of those divorced and 8.0 per cent of their counterparts who reported that they are separated. For those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all a similar pattern is observed. While for among those who have never been married 0.5 per cent indicated a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all for those widowed, 7.2 per cent indicated the same.

The results show that as level of education increases, the proportion who report no difficulty in walking also increases, except for those who have not completed any level of education where 89.4 per cent indicated they have no difficulty in walking. With regard to some difficulty, again as level of education increases, the proportion of persons with some difficulty increases. For instance, among those with preschool education 1.9 per cent have some difficulty walking but 3.7 per cent and 5.9 per cent of those with university or other tertiary education respectively reported some difficulty in walking. It is to be noted that nearly one in 10 (9.3 per cent) of those who have not completed any level of education, have some disability, the highest across the different levels of education. Likewise, as level of education increases, the proportion of persons who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot walk at all (primary school = 0.5 per cent versus tertiary (university and other tertiary) = 1.9 per cent) also increases. Also, 1.2 per cent of those who have not completed any level of education have a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all.

From Table 23 it can be observed that of the literate population 2.4 per cent reported some difficulty in walking and 0.5 per cent report a lot of difficulty/ cannot walk at all. For individuals who are not literate, a higher proportion that 8.2 per cent reported some difficulty in walking and 1.2 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all. The results then indicate that those who are not literate experience varying degrees of difficulty than those who are literate in Liberia.

With different categories of school attendance, the proportions with some difficulty in walking vary. For example, among individuals who have never attended school, 9.8 per cent reported some difficulty, the highest, but for those currently attending 1.0 per cent shared the same sentiment, representing the lowest across the school attendance categories. The percentage of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or who are unable to walk at all, for those who have never been to school, 1.3 per cent, for those who have completed 0.6 per cent, 0.9 per cent of those who have dropped out and 0.3 per cent of those who are currently attending school experienced report this degree of difficulty.

Table 23 further provides insights into the degree of difficulty in walking based on economic activity status. There is no significant difference among those who worked and those who did not work with regard to no difficulty in walking. Again, among those who did not work, 4.9 per cent reported some difficulty, while among those who work, this percentage is slightly lower at 4.5 per cent. For the category, labelled a lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all, the overall percentages are low for both groups (work = 0.7 per cent versus did not work = 0.8 per cent) demonstrating a similarly low incidence of severe mobility challenges.

In Table 23, an analysis of the degree of difficulty in walking among different types of workers is presented. For salary workers, 95.6 per cent reported no difficulty in walking, 3.8 per cent reported some difficulty in walking and 0.6 per cent indicated that they cannot walk at all or experience a lot of difficulty in walking. Again, for own account workers, 94.4 per cent had no difficulty in walking, followed by 0.7 per cent who said they have a severe difficulty. For contributing family workers, the breakdown is as follows; 95.0 per cent, 4.3 per cent and 0.7 per cent for no difficulty, some difficulty and severe difficulty respectively.

Table 23: Percentage distribution of persons with functional disability associated with walking by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty walking		Some difficulty walking		A lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	2,248,045	94.8	107,872	4.5	16,038	0.7	2,371,955
Female	2,189,132	94.0	119,499	5.1	19,649	0.8	2,328,280
Total	4,437,177	94.4	227,371	4.8	35,687	0.8	4,700,235
Place of residence							
Urban	2,457,270	95.0	111,316	4.3	17,491	0.7	2,586,077
Rural	1,979,907	93.6	116,055	5.5	18,196	0.9	2,114,158
Total	4,437,177	94.4	227,371	4.8	35,687	0.8	4,700,235
Age group							
5-24	2,412,598	97.1	63,575	2.6	9,052	0.4	2,485,225
25-44	1,455,408	95.2	65,029	4.3	8,117	0.5	1,528,554
45-64	468,505	86.9	61,509	11.4	8,845	1.6	538,859
65+	100,666	68.2	37,258	25.2	9,673	6.6	147,597
Total	4,437,177	94.4	227,371	4.8	35,687	0.8	4,700,235
Marital status							
Never married	2,248,885	95.0	105,623	4.5	12,493	0.5	2,367,001
Married monogamous	1,089,981	93.5	64,578	5.5	11,464	1.0	1,166,023
Married polygamous	65,640	92.1	4,779	6.7	860	1.2	71,279
Separated	40,153	90.5	3,560	8.0	667	1.5	44,380
Divorced	13,148	86.0	1,741	11.4	408	2.7	15,297
Widow/widower	55,117	68.6	19,469	24.2	5,750	7.2	80,336
Consensual Union	96,656	95.8	3,687	3.7	599	0.6	100,942
Total	3,609,580	93.9	203,437	5.3	32,241	0.8	3,845,258
Literacy							
Literate	2,624,536	97.2	63,562	2.4	13,403	0.5	2,701,501
Illiterate	1,803,707	90.7	162,516	8.2	22,214	1.1	1,988,437
Total	4,428,243	94.4	226,078	4.8	35,617	0.8	4,689,938
School attendance							
Never attended	1,384,652	88.9	152,160	9.8	19,908	1.3	1,556,720
Completed	814,054	96.1	27,782	3.3	5,441	0.6	847,277
Drop-out	631,421	94.6	30,454	4.6	5,796	0.9	667,671
Currently attending	1,607,050	98.7	16,975	1.0	4,542	0.3	1,628,567
Total	4,437,177	94.4	227,371	4.8	35,687	0.8	4,700,235

	No difficulty walking		Some difficulty walking		A lot of difficulty/cannot walk at all		Total
Highest level of education completed	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
None	1,482,642	89.4	154,549	9.3	20,507	1.2	1,657,698
Preschool	477,460	97.7	9,327	1.9	1904	0.4	488,691
Primary	1,157,416	97.5	24,639	2.1	5,433	0.5	1,187,488
Secondary	1,109,251	96.8	29,864	2.6	6,275	0.5	1,145,390
University	195,396	95.6	7,666	3.7	1,401	0.7	204,463
Other tertiary	10,083	92.9	635	5.9	130	1.2	10,848
Total	4,432,248	94.4	226,680	4.8	35,650	0.8	4,694,578
Activity status							
Did Not worked	3,191,580	94.3	167,027	4.9	26,864	0.8	3,385,471
Employed	1,236,663	94.8	59,051	4.5	8,753	0.7	1,304,467
Total	4,428,243	94.4	226,078	4.8	35,617	0.8	4,689,938
Nature of work							
Salary worker	382,926	95.6	15,318	3.8	2,400	0.6	400,644
Own account workers	739,931	94.4	38,562	4.9	5,533	0.7	784,026
Contributing family workers	113,806	95.0	5,171	4.3	820	0.7	119,797
Total	1,236,663	94.8	59,051	4.5	8,753	0.7	1,304,467

2.3.4 Functional disability associated with remembering

The relationship between functional disability associated with remembering and key sociodemographic characteristics are presented in Table 24. Table 24 highlights data on the degree of difficulty in remembering by sex. Across the different degrees of disability, similar proportions are observed between males and females. Overall, the data suggests that while there are slight differences in the reported degree of difficulty in remembering between genders, the majority of individuals, regardless of gender, do not experience significant difficulty in remembering. About 4.0 per cent of males report some difficulty in remembering compared to 4.3 per cent of females. This suggests that a small percentage of individuals experience some level of difficulty in remembering in Liberia, with slightly more females reporting this compared to males. Again, 0.5 per cent and 0.6 per cent of males and females respectively reported a lot of difficulty or cannot remember at all.

Comparing the place of residence with the degree of difficulty in remembering the results show that 96 per cent of the urban population reported no difficulty in remembering, and in rural areas, 94.6 per cent of residents have no difficulty. This points to a slightly lower proportion of rural folks experiencing no challenges with remembering. Urban areas display a lower percentage of their residents (3.6 per cent) reporting some difficulty and 0.4 per cent reporting severe difficulties or complete memory loss compared to rural areas, where 4.7 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively of residents face similar challenges.

The results show a pattern of increasing memory difficulties with age. A small percentage show no difficulty associated with remembering among all age groups. In the 5-24 years age group, 3.0 per cent report some difficulty, which increases marginally to 3.7 per cent in the 25-44 years age group. Again, the incidence of some difficulty in remembering rises significantly in older age groups, with 6.9 per cent of individuals aged 45-64 years and 17.5 per cent of those aged 65 years and above reporting some difficulty in remembering. The percentage of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete memory loss is fairly low across all age groups. For instance, in the 5-24 years and 25-44 years age

groups, 0.4 per cent each of persons report severe or complete memory loss. As anticipated, the incidence of severe difficulties in remembering or complete memory loss rises noticeably with age. In the 45-64 years age group, 0.7 per cent report a lot of difficulty or cannot remember at all but in the 65 years age group, 3.0 per cent reported same.

The 2022 LPHC asked individuals about their marital status. The results show that marital status appears to have an impact on the proportion of persons with difficulties associated with remembering. Persons who are in consensual unions, monogamous unions, polygamous unions and those never married display relatively lower proportions of remembering challenges. Conversely, separated, divorced and widowed individuals tend to exhibit higher proportion with regard to remembering. In Table 18, across the marital statuses, a small proportion of individuals reported some difficulty in remembering. This percentage is highest among those who are widowed (15.7 per cent) and lowest among those in consensual unions (2.8 per cent). Similarly, the proportion of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete memory loss was highest among widow/widowers that is 3.0 per cent and lowest among those in consensual unions (0.3 per cent). This shows that widowhood is potentially associated with the vulnerability of varying degrees of difficulty in remembering.

The results highlight some differences in the proportion who reported a disability associated with remembering in the population across different levels of education. Nine in 10 of those who have not completed any level of education, compared to 98 per cent of those with secondary school education have no difficulty in remembering. Apart from those who reported that they have not completed any level, the data shows that those who reported preschool and primary education levels exhibit lowest proportions of persons reporting some difficulty in remembering, while other tertiary education show a slightly higher percentage. The incidence of some difficulty in remembering is relatively low across all educational levels, ranging from 8.2 per cent, the highest among those who did not complete any level of education to 1.4 among those who had completed only preschool. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty or complete memory loss.

The analysis on individual's ability to read and write in any language (literacy) and degree of difficulty in remembering are shown in Table 18. Among persons who are not literate, 91.9 per cent have no difficulty in remembering compared to 97.9 per cent of the literate population. Those who are not literate show a notably higher proportion of individuals reporting some difficulty in remembering compared to their literate counterparts. Among literate individuals, 1.8 per cent report some difficulty, while among those who are not literate, this percentage is higher at 7.3 per cent. Similarly, while among literate individuals, 0.3 per cent report a lot of difficulty or cannot remember at all, among those who are not literate the proportion is slightly higher at 0.8 per cent.

The proportions in varying difficulty in remembering by the different school attendance categories are displayed in Table 18. Among individuals who have never attended school, 8.6 per cent report some difficulty in remembering, the highest, and it is lowest among those currently attending (1.4 per cent). The percentage of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or complete memory loss is relatively low across all school attendance categories. However, it is lowest for those currently attending (0.3 per cent). And for those who have never attended school, 0.9 per cent report a lot of difficulty or cannot remember at all.

A marginally lower proportion (94.9 per cent) of those who did not work seven days preceding the census have no difficulty remembering compared to 96.7 per cent of those who worked. The incidence of some difficulty in remembering is relatively low across both economic activity categories. Among individuals who did not work, 4.6 per cent report some difficulty, while among those who worked, 2.9 per cent have some disability. Although lower proportions are observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty or complete memory loss by economic activity the pattern is similar for those who have some difficulty. Among individuals who did not work, 0.6 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or cannot remember at all, while among those who worked seven days preceding the census, 0.4 per cent reported a lot of difficulty or complete loss of memory.

Table 24 shows the proportion of the Liberian population 5 years and over with varying degrees of difficulty in remembering by nature of work. The proportion of the populace with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty/cannot remember at all is relatively low for the different types of workers captured in the census. For the various types of work, 2.5 per cent of salary workers, 3.1 per cent of own account workers and 3.2 per cent of contributing family workers reported some difficulty in remembering. Furthermore, the proportion of salary workers with a lot of difficulty/cannot remember at all was 0.3 per cent compared to contributing family workers (0.4 per cent) and own account workers (0.5 per cent).

Table 24: Percentage distribution of persons with functional disability associated with remembering by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty remembering		Some difficulty remembering		A lot of difficulty/cannot remember at all		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	2,266,915	95.6	94,073	4.0	10,967	0.5	2,371,955
Female	2,215,258	95.1	100,011	4.3	13,011	0.6	2,328,280
Total	4,482,173	95.4	194,084	4.1	23,978	0.5	4,700,235
Place of residence							
Urban	2,482,057	96.0	94,086	3.6	9,934	0.4	2,586,077
Rural	2,000,116	94.6	99,998	4.7	14,044	0.7	2,114,158
Total	4,482,173	95.4	194,084	4.1	23,978	0.5	4,700,235
Age group							
5-24	2,401,494	96.6	74,124	3.0	9,607	0.4	2,485,225
25-44	1,465,640	95.9	56,842	3.7	6,072	0.4	1,528,554
45-64	497,721	92.4	37,307	6.9	3,831	0.7	538,859
65+	117,318	79.5	25,811	17.5	4,468	3.0	147,597
Total	4,482,173	95.4	194,084	4.1	23,978	0.5	4,700,235
Marital status							
Never married	2,257,375	95.4	99,909	4.2	9,717	0.4	2,367,001
Married monogamous	1,118,733	95.9	40,966	3.5	6,324	0.5	1,166,023
Married polygamous	67,599	94.8	3,210	4.5	470	0.7	71,279
Separated	41,627	93.8	2,402	5.4	351	0.8	44,380
Divorced	14,030	91.7	1,076	7.0	191	1.2	15,297
Widow/widower	65,257	81.2	12,631	15.7	2,448	3.0	80,336
Consensual Union	97,856	96.9	2,791	2.8	295	0.3	100,942
Total	3,662,477	95.2	162,985	4.2	19,796	0.5	3,845,258
Literacy							
Literate	2,645,331	97.9	47,623	1.8	8,547	0.3	2,701,501
Not literate	1,827,769	91.9	145,278	7.3	15,390	0.8	1,988,437
Total	4,473,100	95.4	192,901	4.1	23,937	0.5	4,689,938
School attendance							
Never attended	1,409,757	90.6	133,532	8.6	13,431	0.9	1,556,720
Completed	826,396	97.5	18,005	2.1	2,876	0.3	847,277
Drop-out	644,327	96.5	20,078	3.0	3,266	0.5	667,671
Currently attending	1,601,693	98.3	22,469	1.4	4,405	0.3	1,628,567
Total	4,482,173	95.4	194,084	4.1	23,978	0.5	4,700,235

	No difficulty remembering		Some difficulty remembering		A lot of difficulty/cannot remember at all		Total
Highest level of education completed	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
None	1,507,391	90.9	136,277	8.2	14,030	0.8	1,657,698
Preschool	475,257	97.3	11,446	2.3	1988	0.4	488,691
Primary	1,162,821	97.9	20,760	1.7	3,907	0.3	1,187,488
Secondary	1,121,928	98.0	20,141	1.8	3,321	0.3	1,145,390
University	199,312	97.5	4,508	2.2	643	0.3	204,463
Other tertiary	10,476	96.6	307	2.8	65	0.6	10,848
Total	4,477,185	95.4	193,439	4.1	23,954	0.5	4,694,578
Activity status							
Did Not worked	3,212,018	94.9	154,811	4.6	18,642	0.6	3,385,471
Worked	1,261,082	96.7	38,090	2.9	5,295	0.4	1,304,467
Total	4,473,100	95.4	192,901	4.1	23,937	0.5	4,689,938
Nature of work							
Salary worker	389,417	97.2	9,907	2.5	1,320	0.3	400,644
Own account workers	756,306	96.5	24,362	3.1	3,358	0.4	784,026
Contributing family workers	115,359	96.3	3,821	3.2	617	0.5	119,797
Total	1,261,082	96.7	38,090	2.9	5,295	0.4	1,304,467

2.3.5 Functional disability associated with self-care

In Table 25 varying degree of disability associated with self-care tasks by key sociodemographic indicators are shown. Among both males and females, a higher proportion has no difficulty with regard to self-care tasks. There are no significant differences in proportions between males and females with varying degree of difficulty in self-care related tasks. The data shows that the majority of individuals in both urban and rural settings do not report any difficulty associated with self-care task. However, proportions of persons with some difficulty in performing self-care task is relatively low in urban (3.5 per cent) than in rural (4.2 per cent) areas. Similarly, the proportions of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or who cannot perform any self-care task are lower in urban (0.6 per cent) than in rural areas (0.8 per cent).

Table 25 illustrates the degree of difficulty in performing self-care tasks across different age groups. As expected, the results indicate a pattern of increasing difficulty in performing self-care tasks as age increases. For those 5-24 years, a significant majority, 96.1 per cent report no difficulty in performing self-care tasks, the highest across the age groups. However, for those aged 65 years and above, eight in 10 reported no difficulty. This is the lowest proportion across the various age groups. Once more, as age increases, the proportion with some disability and a lot of disability/cannot perform self-care tasks activities at all significantly increased from 3.2 per cent among those 5-24 years to one in four (25.2 per cent) of individuals aged 65 and above and then from 0.7 per cent to 4.1 per cent respectively.

The results on marital status of persons with functional disability with engaging in self-care tasks are shown in Table 19. Again, the proportion of persons with some disability and a lot of difficulty associated with self-care tasks is lower for those in union than those who were formerly in union. For those in unions, for example, 1.8 per cent of those in consensual unions, 3.4 per cent of those in monogamous unions and for the population in polygamous unions, 4.3 per cent have some difficulty. On the other hand, for those formerly in unions, those widowed have more difficulty (12.9 per cent) followed by 5.6 per cent of those divorced and 4.3 per cent

of their counterparts who reported that they are separated. For those who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform any self-care activities at all, a similar pattern is observed. It is important to note that among those who have never been married these are the breakdown: some disability = 3.4 per cent versus a lot of difficulty/cannot perform any self-care task at all = 0.4 per cent.

Among those who reported no difficulty in relation to self-care tasks for those who have not completed any level of education 91.3 per cent indicated that they have no difficulty, the highest across the categories presented whereas 98.2 per cent of those with secondary education indicated that they have no functional difficulty at all when performing self-care task. With regard to some difficulty, among those with none and preschool 7.6 per cent and 2.9 per cent report this degree of difficulty. However, from primary school through to other tertiary, the pattern is different. For example, among those with primary education 1.6 per cent have some difficulty with self-care related tasks compared to 1.4 per cent of those with secondary education. 3.0 per cent and 3.8 per cent of those with university or other tertiary education respectively reported some difficulty in performing self-care tasks. Also, 1.1 per cent of those who have not completed any level of education have a lot of difficulty/cannot perform any self-care task at all, the highest across the categories of education. It appears that among the population with primary (0.4 per cent) and university education (0.4 per cent) equal proportions reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform self-care tasks at all compared with 0.3 per cent of those with secondary education.

The results indicate that for those who are not literate, a higher proportion experience varying degree of difficulty than those who are literate in Liberia. From Table 19 it can be observed that of the literate population 1.2 per cent reported some difficulty in self-care tasks and 0.4 per cent report a lot of difficulty/cannot perform self-care tasks at all. For individuals who are not literate, a higher proportion that is 6.2 per cent reported some difficulty in self-care task and 1.0 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform self-care tasks at all.

With different categories of school attendance categories, the proportions with some difficulty in walking vary. While among individuals who have never attended school, 7.9 per cent reported some difficulty, the highest, it is followed by those who dropped out of school (2.2 per cent). The results show that 1.7 per cent of those currently attending reported some difficulty, representing the lowest across the school attendance categories. The percentages of individuals reporting a lot of difficulty or who are unable to perform any self-care task, among those who have completed (0.4 per cent), dropped out of school (0.5 per cent) or currently attending school (0.4 per cent) are similar. Among those who have never been to school 1.1 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot perform at all. The results show that never being to school worsens one's functional difficulty in performing self-care tasks.

In Table 25 some perspective into the degree of difficulty associated with self-care task and based on economic activity status are highlighted. While among those who did not work, 94.7 per cent did not report any difficulty, 97.5 per cent of those who worked did. Once more, among those who did not work a higher proportion 4.5 per cent reported some difficulty, compared to 2.1 per cent of those who worked. Again, those who did not work appear to be disadvantaged in relation to experiencing a lot of difficulty/cannot perform self-care tasks at all. For those who did not work 0.8 per cent and for those who worked, 0.4 per cent reported that they experienced a lot of difficulty/cannot perform self-care tasks at all. Furthermore, Table 19 shows results on the degree of difficulty associated with self-care among different types of workers in Liberia. For salary workers 97.8 per cent reported no difficulty with self-care, 1.9 per cent reported some difficulty and 0.3 per cent indicated that they experienced a lot of difficulty or cannot perform these self-care tasks at all. Again, for own account workers, 97.5 per cent had no difficulty, followed by 2.1 per cent who had some difficulty and 0.5 per cent who said they have a severe difficulty or could not perform self-care tasks at all. For contributing family workers, the breakdown is as follows; 96.9 per cent, 2.6 per cent and 0.4 per cent for no difficulty, some difficulty and severe or cannot perform self-care tasks at all respectively.

Table 25: Percentage distribution of persons with functional disability associated with self-care by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty with selfcare task		Some difficulty with selfcare task		A lot of difficulty/cannot perform selfcare task		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	2,265,517	95.5	90,549	3.8	15,889	0.7	2,371,955
Female	2,221,660	95.4	90,012	3.9	16,608	0.7	2,328,280
Total	4,487,177	95.5	180,561	3.8	32,497	0.7	4,700,235
Place of residence							
Urban	2,478,841	95.9	91,540	3.5	15,696	0.6	2,586,077
Rural	2,008,336	95.0	89,021	4.2	16,801	0.8	2,114,158
Total	4,487,177	95.5	180,561	3.8	32,497	0.7	4,700,235
Age group							
5-24	2,389,516	96.1	79,455	3.2	16,254	0.7	2,485,225
25-44	1,475,042	96.5	47,591	3.1	5,921	0.4	1,528,554
45-64	504,423	93.6	30,184	5.6	4,252	0.8	538,859
65+	118,196	80.1	23,331	15.8	6,070	4.1	147,597
Total	4,487,177	95.5	180,561	3.8	32,497	0.7	4,700,235
Marital status							
Never married	2,263,945	95.6	92,706	3.9	10,350	0.4	2,367,001
Married monogamous	1,128,247	96.8	30,817	2.6	6,959	0.6	1,166,023
Married polygamous	68,256	95.8	2,455	3.4	568	0.8	71,279
Separated	42,046	94.7	1913	4.3	421	0.9	44,380
Divorced	14,212	92.9	864	5.6	221	1.4	15,297
Widow/widower	66,776	83.1	10,379	12.9	3,181	4.0	80,336
Consensual Union	98,760	97.8	1,852	1.8	330	0.3	100,942
Total	3,682,242	95.8	140,986	3.7	22,030	0.6	3,845,258
Literacy							
Literate	2,646,197	98.0	43,670	1.6	11,634	0.4	2,701,501
Not literate	1,831,882	92.1	135,748	6.8	20,807	1.0	1,988,437
Total	4,478,079	95.5	179,418	3.8	32,441	0.7	4,689,938
School attendance							
Never attended	1,417,736	91.1	122,388	7.9	16,596	1.1	1,556,720
Completed	827,948	97.7	15,734	1.9	3,595	0.4	847,277
Drop-out	649,218	97.2	14,851	2.2	3,602	0.5	667,671
Currently attending	1,592,275	97.8	27,588	1.7	8,704	0.5	1,628,567
Total	4,487,177	95.5	180,561	3.8	32,497	0.7	4,700,235

	No difficulty with selfcare task		Some difficulty with selfcare task		A lot of difficulty/cannot perform selfcare task		Total
Highest level of education completed	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
None	1,513,915	91.3	125,797	7.6	17,986	1.1	1,657,698
Preschool	469,440	96.1	14,384	2.9	4,867	1.0	488,691
Primary	1,163,940	98.0	18,862	1.6	4,686	0.4	1,187,488
Secondary	1,124,847	98.2	16,575	1.4	3,968	0.3	1,145,390
University	199,560	97.6	4,017	2.0	886	0.4	204,463
Other tertiary	10,464	96.5	303	2.8	81	0.7	10,848
Total	4,482,166	95.5	179,938	3.8	32,474	0.7	4,694,578
Activity status							
Did Not worked	3,205,866	94.7	152,550	4.5	27,055	0.8	3,385,471
Worked	1,272,213	97.5	26,868	2.1	5,386	0.4	1,304,467
Total	4,478,079	95.5	179,418	3.8	32,441	0.7	4,689,938
Nature of work							
Salary worker	391,855	97.8	7,454	1.9	1,335	0.3	400,644
Own account workers	764,215	97.5	16,279	2.1	3,532	0.5	784,026
Contributing family workers	116,143	96.9	3,135	2.6	519	0.4	119,797
Total	1,272,213	97.5	26,868	2.1	5,386	0.4	1,304,467

2.3.6 Functional disability associated with communicating

The result in Table 26 shows disability associated with communicating and sociodemographic characteristics of respondents. While 96.1 per cent of males have no difficulty communicating, 3.2 per cent have some difficulty and 0.6 per cent have a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all. However, among females, 95.9 per cent have no difficulty communicating, 3.3 per cent reported some difficulty and 0.6 per cent have a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all. There is only a slight difference in the proportions of persons who experience varying difficulty communicating by place of residence. A slightly higher proportion of residents in urban areas, 96.4 per cent than in rural areas 95.6 per cent have no difficulty communicating. Similarly, while in urban areas 3.0 per cent, in rural areas, 3.7 per cent have some difficulty communicating. Similar proportions of those in urban and rural areas have a lot of difficulty or cannot communicate at all.

The results show that as age increases the proportions with no difficulty communicating decreases with increasing age. Also, with increasing age, the proportions with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty also increase. While among those 5-24 years 2.7 per cent have some disability, 12.3 per cent of 65 years old and above have some difficulty communicating. Only 0.6 per cent of those 5-24 years have a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all compared to 2.2 per cent of those 65 years and over.

The proportion of persons with functional difficulty communicating appear to be lower for those in some form of union than those who were formerly in union and those who have never been married for the population 12 years and above. For those in unions a higher proportion of those in polygamous union (2.7 per cent) have some disability compared to 1.7 per cent and 2.1 per cent of those in consensual and monogamous unions respectively. However, for those formerly in unions, one in 10 of those widowed have some disability compared to 4.5 per cent of those divorced and 3.4 per cent of their counterparts who reported that they are separated. A similar pattern is observed for those who experienced a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all. While 2.3 per cent of widows have a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all, 0.5 per cent of those in consensual union do.

Among those who have never attended school, 7.3 per cent have some difficulty communicating, while for those who have completed, 1.3 per cent and among those who have dropped out of school 1.8 per cent have some difficulty in communicating. The results show that those currently attending school recorded the lowest proportion of their population with some disability in communicating. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of disability. In Table 20, the results on highest level of education completed by varying degrees of functional disability in communication are displayed. Among those who have not completed any level of education 7.0 per cent have some disability in communicating and 1.0 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all. However, for those with tertiary education, the results show that 1.3 per cent of those with university and 1.8 per cent of those with other tertiary education have some difficulty communicating. This compares with those with a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all, where 0.5 per cent of those with university and 0.8 per cent of those with other tertiary are in this category of functional disability. The table indicates that out of a total of 2,700,501 literate individuals, 98.4 per cent have no difficulty communicating, 1.1 per cent reported some difficulty and 0.5 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all. For individuals who are not literate however, 92.8 per cent reported no difficulty, 6.2 per cent some difficulty and 1.0 per cent reported a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all.

The results show slight difference between those who worked and those who did not work seven days preceding the census. For those who did not work, 3.9 per cent reported having some difficulty in communicating compared to 1.7 per cent of their counterparts who have not. Again, for those who did not work 0.7 per cent said they had a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all while 0.6 per cent of those who worked did.

Those who indicated that they worked seven days preceding the census were asked about the nature of work they were engaged in. The data showed a marginal difference between those who were salary workers (1.5 per cent) and those who were own account workers (1.7 per cent) with regard to some difficulty communicating. Yet, 2.1 per cent of contributing family workers indicated that they have some difficulty communicating. The results also show that 0.5 per cent, 0.7 per cent and 0.8 per cent of salary workers, own account workers and contributing family workers respectively have a lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all.

Table 26: Percentage distribution of persons with functional disability associated with communicating by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty communicating		Some difficulty communicating		A lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	2,279,852	96.1	76,741	3.2	15,362	0.6	2,371,955
Female	2,233,932	95.9	77,964	3.3	16,384	0.7	2,328,280
Total	4,513,784	96.0	154,705	3.3	31,746	0.7	4,700,235
Place of residence							
Urban	2,492,857	96.4	77,323	3.0	15,897	0.6	2,586,077
Rural	2,020,927	95.6	77,382	3.7	15,849	0.7	2,114,158
Total	4,513,784	96.0	154,705	3.3	31,746	0.7	4,700,235
Age group							
5-24	2,401,997	96.7	67,277	2.7	15,951	0.6	2,485,225
25-44	1,474,729	96.5	45,081	2.9	8,744	0.6	1,528,554
45-64	510,855	94.8	24,164	4.5	3,840	0.7	538,859
65+	126,203	85.5	18,183	12.3	3,211	2.2	147,597
Total	4,513,784	96.0	154,705	3.3	31,746	0.7	4,700,235

	No difficulty communicating		Some difficulty communicating		A lot of difficulty/cannot communicate at all		Total
Marital status	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Never married	2,265,901	95.7	86,744	3.7	14,356	0.6	2,367,001
Married monogamous	1,134,206	97.3	24,297	2.1	7,520	0.6	1,166,023
Married polygamous	68,881	96.6	1948	2.7	450	0.6	71,279
Separated	42,482	95.7	1,515	3.4	383	0.9	44,380
Divorced	14,444	94.4	696	4.5	157	1.0	15,297
Widow/widower	70,594	87.9	7,920	9.9	1,822	2.3	80,336
Consensual Union	98,700	97.8	1,716	1.7	526	0.5	100,942
Total	3,695,208	96.1	124,836	3.2	25,214	0.7	3,845,258
Literacy							
Literate	2,658,458	98.4	30,321	1.1	12,722	0.5	2,701,501
Not literate	1,846,183	92.8	123,276	6.2	18,978	1.0	1,988,437
Total	4,504,641	96.0	153,597	3.3	31,700	0.7	4,689,938
School attendance							
Never attended	1,428,251	91.7	113,311	7.3	15,158	1.0	1,556,720
Completed	832,083	98.2	10,778	1.3	4,416	0.5	847,277
Drop-out	651,768	97.6	11,918	1.8	3,985	0.6	667,671
Currently attending	1,601,682	98.3	18,698	1.1	8,187	0.5	1,628,567
Total	4,513,784	96.0	154,705	3.3	31,746	0.7	4,700,235
Highest level of education completed							
None	1,526,232	92.1	115,522	7.0	15,944	1.0	1,657,698
Preschool	475,490	97.3	9,751	2.0	3,450	0.7	488,691
Primary	1,167,659	98.3	13,854	1.2	5,975	0.5	1,187,488
Secondary	1,127,883	98.5	12,175	1.1	5,332	0.5	1,145,390
University	200,926	98.3	2,606	1.3	931	0.5	204,463
Other tertiary	10,564	97.4	195	1.8	89	0.8	10,848
Total	4,508,754	96.0	154,103	3.3	31,721	0.7	4,694,578
Activity status							
Did Not worked	3,230,381	95.4	131,675	3.9	23,415	0.7	3,385,471
Worked	1,274,260	97.7	21,922	1.7	8,285	0.6	1,304,467
Total	4,504,641	96.0	153,597	3.3	31,700	0.7	4,689,938
Nature of work							
Salary worker	392,644	98.0	6,052	1.5	1948	0.5	400,644
Own account workers	765,275	97.6	13,382	1.7	5,369	0.7	784,026
Contributing family workers	116,341	97.1	2,488	2.1	968	0.8	119,797
Total	1,274,260	97.7	21,922	1.7	8,285	0.6	1,304,467

2.4 Multiple disability

The data allowed for the examination of the population who reported more than one type of disability. Since six domains of activities were explored, it suggests than an individual can report living with from two to six domains of disabilities (Table 27). The results show the proportion of the population 5 years and above who reported that experience some difficulty, a lot of difficulty or cannot perform at all in at least one of the six domains. The data shows that in Liberia about equal proportion of population have one type of disability and multiple disability each. Among males however, while 50.9 per cent have one type of disability 49.1 per cent have multiple disabilities. Among females the reverse is true (one type of disability = 49.0 per cent versus multiple disabilities = 51.0 per cent). In urban areas while 51.9 per cent of the population live with a disability, 47.9 per cent of their counterparts in rural areas reported living with one disability. On the other hand, for multiple disabilities, higher proportion of rural residents (52.1 per cent) live with multiple disabilities than urban residents (48.1 per cent).

Table 27: Proportional distribution of the population five years and about living with a single or multiple disability

	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
One type of disability	132,393	50.9	134,202	49.0	266,595	49.9
Multiple	127,773	49.1	139,948	51.0	267,721	50.1
Total	260,166		274,150		534,316	100.0
	Urban		Rural		Total	
One	138,679	51.9	127,916	1.1	266,595	49.9
Multiple	128,539	48.1	139,182	47.9	267,721	50.1
Total	267,218	100.0	267,098	52.1	534,316	100.0

Among those who reported living with multiple disabilities, the breakdown is shown in Table 28. In Liberia, nearly a third of the population (32.2 per cent) reported living with two types of disabilities and 37.9 per cent reported six types of disabilities. Among males, 31.7 per cent reported living with two types of disability and two out of five reported living with all six types of disabilities. Among females who reported multiple disabilities however, while 32.7 per cent reported two types of disabilities, 35.9 per cent indicated that they live with all types of disability. Across all groups, except for those who reported up to six disabilities (urban = 41.7 per cent versus rural = 34.7 per cent), persons in rural areas consistently show a higher percentage of individuals with multiple disabilities compared to urban areas. This trend suggests that the prevalence or reporting of multiple disabilities might be higher in rural settings, possibly influenced by factors such as access to healthcare, socioeconomic conditions or population distribution.

2.5 Persons living with albinism

Persons who live with albinism in Liberia are likely to experience extreme poverty due to neglect and abandonment. They may also have poor access to education and well-paid employment. Exposure to intense levels of ultraviolet radiation has potential health effects that cannot be overemphasized. In Liberia, albinos are organized under an umbrella organization called the Liberia Albino Society aimed at championing the rights of persons living with albinism. In this section data on the population 5 years and above living with albinism are presented. Furthermore, demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of persons with albinism are also presented.

2.5.1 Prevalence of albinism in Liberia

The 2022 LPHC asked individuals 5 years and above if they have albinism. The results show that in Liberia, 1.7 per cent (77,846) of the population have albinism (male = 1.7 per cent versus female = 1.6 per cent).

The results also show that 1.9 per cent of Liberians who live in urban areas live with albinism compared to 1.4 per cent of who live in rural areas. Furthermore, 2.2 per cent of the population of the Grand Gedeh live with albinism, the highest across counties and 1.2 per cent of the population of River Cess love with albinism, the lowest.

Table 28: Proportional distribution of persons living with Albinism in Liberia

Characteristics	Yes	No	Total
Total	**1.7**	**98.3**	**4,700,235**
Female	1.6	98.4	2,328,280
Male	1.7	98.3	2,371,955
Urban	1.9	98.1	2,586,077
Rural	1.4	98.6	2,114,158
County of residence			
Bomi	1.4	98.6	118,780
Bong	1.3	98.7	414,201
Gbarpolu	1.4	98.6	85,544
Grand Bassa	1.7	98.3	258,168
Grand Cape Mount	1.8	98.2	161,748
Grand Gedeh	2.2	97.8	199,106
Grand Kru	1.4	98.6	98,612
Lofa	1.4	98.6	330,431
Margibi	1.7	98.3	273,014
Maryland	2.0	98.0	156,198
Montserrado	1.9	98.1	1,737,390
Nimba	1.2	98.8	540,223
River Cess	1.2	98.8	79,360
River Gee	1.3	98.7	112,369
Sinoe	1.8	98.2	135,091
Total	1.7	98.3	4,700,235

Again, for all those who reported living with albinism, we explore the share of the population by sex, place of residence and county of residence (Table 29). Of the 77,846 who reported living with albinism, 49.0 per cent are females and 51.0 per cent are males. Also, a higher proportion of persons who live with albinism live in urban areas (61.9 per cent) compared to rural areas (38.1 per cent). Montserrado County has the largest share of persons living with albinism with nearly 42.1 per cent living with albinism. However, 1.3 per cent of those who reported living with albinism live in River Cess.

Table 29: Distribution of persons with albinism

Characteristics	Yes	Percent
Sex of respondents		
Female	38,147	49.0
Male	39,699	51.0
Place of residence		
Urban	48,161	61.9
Rural	29,685	38.1
County of residence		
Bomi	1,706	2.2
Bong	5,376	6.9
Gbarpolu	1,170	1.5
Grand Bassa	4,373	5.6
Grand Cape Mount	2,921	3.8
Grand Gedeh	4,386	5.6
Grand Kru	1,340	1.7
Lofa	4,730	6.1
Margibi	4,579	5.9
Maryland	3,125	4.0
Montserrado	32,736	42.1
Nimba	6,595	8.5
River Cess	990	1.3
River Gee	1,405	1.8
Sinoe	2,414	3.1
Total	77,846	100.0

Chapter 3: Household living conditions of persons with disabilities

3.1 Sociodemographic characteristics of heads of households and functional disability status

Household heads remain integral for the well-being of all household members. Living with disability could potentially increase the vulnerability of heads of households especially other members of the household living with disability, children and pregnant women, especially those living in poor areas. The analysis therefore provided information on the proportion of heads of households living with varying degrees of disabilities by key sociodemographic indicators.

In Liberia, 82.9 per cent of all household heads reported no disability compared to 13.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent who indicated that they live with some disabilities and a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an at activity at all in at least one of the six domains, respectively. For male household heads while 84.2 per cent have no disability, females, slightly a lower proportion have no disability (eight in 10). A higher proportion of female household heads (15.6 per cent) than male heads (12.7 per cent) reported some disabilities. A similar pattern is observed for those who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity in at least one of the six domains (male heads = 3.1 per cent versus female heads = 4.1 per cent). The distribution by place of residence shows that while 12.4 per cent household heads in urban areas have some disability, in rural areas about 15.3 per cent do. Again, 2.9 per cent of males headed households have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all compared to 4.1 per cent of those in rural areas. This suggests that a higher proportion of rural heads live with disability than urban heads.

The distribution of household wealth and disability status are shown in Table 30. While 81.1 per cent of household heads in the poorest wealth group have no disability, 83.7 per cent and 87.8 per cent of those in the middle and richest household have no disability, respectively. This shows that a higher proportion of those in the richest household quintile have no disability compared to exactly eight in 10 heads of households in the richer wealth group. Again, it appears the proportion of household heads decreases with increasing wealth (poorest = 14.3 per cent, poorer = 14.2 per cent and middle = 12.8 per cent) except for those in the richer wealth group (17per cent) where it increases and then reduces again for those in the richest wealth group (10 per cent). However, in Table 30, it can be observed that as household wealth increases, the proportions household heads with a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all in at least one domain also decreases. For example, among those in the richest wealth group, while 2.2 per cent have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all, nearly double of this of the population in the poorest group (4.7 per cent) reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all. The result shows that the vulnerability of the poorest household is heightened.

The results on marital status show that 87.0 per cent of those in consensual unions have no disability, the highest across marital status categories. Among those who are widowed, however, more than half (58 per cent) have no disability, the lowest among all the categories. The results show that a lower proportion of those formerly married have no disability compared to those in unions and those never married.

Table 30: Percentage distribution of household headship and functional disability by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		Total
Sex	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Male	644,373	84.2	96,944	12.7	23,710	3.1	765,027
Female	339,446	80.4	65,797	15.6	17,156	4.1	422,399
Place of residence							
Urban	551,316	84.7	80,393	12.4	19,048	2.9	650,757
Rural	432,503	80.6	82,348	15.3	21,818	4.1	536,669
Household wealth							
Poorest	199,822	81.1	35,207	14.3	11,495	4.7	246,524
Second	175,894	81.9	30,388	14.2	8,400	3.9	214,682
Middle	197,247	83.7	30,189	12.8	8,259	3.5	235,695
Fourth	203,559	80.0	43,336	17.0	7,424	2.9	254,319
Richest	207,297	87.8	23,621	10.0	5,288	2.2	236,206
Marital status							
Never married	359,284	84.3	55,102	12.9	11,623	2.7	426,009
Married monogamous	506,719	84.2	75,471	12.5	19,389	3.2	601,579
Married polygamous	31,740	81.3	5,702	14.6	1,619	4.1	39,061
Separated	19,872	80.2	3,900	15.7	994	4.0	24,766
Divorced	7,186	73.7	1996	20.5	567	5.8	9,749
Widow/widower	32,001	58.0	17,341	31.4	5,863	10.6	55,205
Consensual Union	27,017	87.0	3,229	10.4	811	2.6	31,057
School attendance							
Never attended	351,331	77.3	82,571	18.2	20,724	4.6	454,626
Completed	327,595	87.0	39,150	10.4	9,587	2.5	376,332
Drop-out	224,972	83.5	35,723	13.3	8,790	3.3	269,485
Currently attending	79,921	91.9	5,297	6.1	1,765	2.0	86,983
Highest level of education completed							
None	360,996	77.4	84,007	18.0	21,148	4.5	466,151
Preschool	22,751	79.9	4,458	15.7	1,263	4.4	28,472
Primary	148,656	84.4	21,847	12.4	5,527	3.1	176,030
Secondary	340,693	87.8	37,901	9.8	9,563	2.5	388,157
University	105,749	86.5	13,487	11.0	3,078	2.5	122,314
Other tertiary	4,974	78.9	1,041	16.5	287	4.6	6,302
Total	983,819		162,741		40,866		1,187,426

Furthermore, while among married monogamous heads of households' 12.5 per cent have some difficulty, the proportion is slightly higher among married polygamous heads, (14.6 per cent), relative to 12.9 per cent of those never married and one in 10 who are in consensual unions. Those who are formerly married or in union appear to have higher proportions of persons with some disability. For example, as high as 31.4 per cent of widows/ widowers have some disability. A similar trend is observed for those who reported that they have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all. While 2.7 per cent of those never married reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all, as high as one in 10 of those widowed have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all.

For heads of households who are currently attending school, 91.9 per cent have no difficulty, the highest for the school attendance categories and 77.3 per cent of those never been to school have no difficulty, recording the lowest (Table 30). The results further show that while 18.2 per cent of heads of households who have never been to school have some difficulty, only 6.1 per cent of household heads currently attend school. Again, among those who have completed a level of education and those who have dropped out of school have some disability, one in 10 and 13.3 per cent respectively have some disability. For those with a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all, the breakdown is as follow; among those who are currently in attending school only 2.0 per cent have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all compared to 4.9 per cent of those who have never attended school. Again, among household heads who have completed a level of education and who have dropped out of school, 2.5 per cent and 3.3 per cent have a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all, respectively.

The results on the relationship between the highest level of education completed by head of household by varying degree of disability are shown in Table 30. Among those who have not completed any level of education, 77.4 per cent have no disability compared to 79.7 per cent of those with preschool education, 84.4 per cent of among those with primary education, 87.8 per cent with secondary education and 86.5 per cent of those with university education and 78.9 per cent of those with other tertiary education. While among heads of households who have not completed any level of education, 18.0 per cent have some disability, the highest, among those with secondary education 9.8 per cent of some disability, the lowest. Again, among heads of households who indicated that they have other tertiary education, 4.6 per cent compared to 2.5 per cent each among those with secondary and university education have a lot of disability or cannot perform an activity at all.

The data on household head literacy level and its association with varying degree of disability show that among literate heads, 86.6 per cent have no disability but among those who are not literate 77.9 per cent have no disability (Table 31). Also, heads who are literate have a lower proportion of persons with disability than those who are not literate; some disability (literate =10.8 per cent versus not literate =17.6 per cent) and a lot of disability or cannot perform an activity at all (literate 2.7 per cent versus not literate 4.5 per cent).

The results show that as the age of household head increases the proportion with varying degrees of disability increases. For instance, among heads of household who are 24 years and below, nine in 10 have no difficulty compared to more half of household heads who are 85 years old and above. Also, while only 7.2 per cent of those 24 years and below has some difficulty, 29.6 per cent of those 85 years and over have some difficulty. In addition, 2.5 per cent of heads 24 years old and below live with severe disability.

For activity status, the results show that among those who did not work seven days preceding the census, 81.1 per cent have no disability, 14.9 per cent have some disability and 4.0 per cent have a of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all. However, among those who have worked, 84.6 per cent have no difficulty, 12.5 per cent and 2.9 per cent have some difficulty or a of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all, respectively.

Among the heads of household who worked seven days preceding the census, while among contributing family workers 82.2 per cent have no difficulty, among salary workers, 86.5 per cent have no difficulty. Furthermore, while among heads of households who are salary workers 11.0 per cent have some disability, nearly 15.0 per cent of those heads who are contributing family workers reported some disability. A similar trend is observed among those who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all in at least one domain.

Table 31: Percentage distribution of household headship and functional disability by key sociodemographic indicators

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform at all		Total
Literacy status	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**	**Percent**	**Number**
Literate	586,673	86.6	73,012	10.8	18,032	2.7	677,717
Not literate	397,146	77.9	89,729	17.6	22,834	4.5	509,709
Total	983,819		162,741		40,866		1,187,426
Age group							
5-24	115,933	90.2	9,296	7.2	3,245	2.5	128,474
25-44	567,106	88.9	56,577	8.9	14,448	2.3	638,131
45-64	249,664	75.3	68,055	20.5	13,714	4.1	331,433
85-84	42,592	55.5	26,113	34.0	8,036	10.5	76,741
85+	5,014	54.9	2,700	29.6	1,423	15.6	9,137
Total	980,309		162,741		40,866		1,183,916
Activity status							
Did not worked	470,746	81.1	86,765	14.9	23,158	4.0	580,669
Worked	513,073	84.6	75,976	12.5	17,708	2.9	606,757
Total	983,819		162,741		40,866		1,187,426
Nature of work							
Salary worker	199,871	86.5	25,419	11.0	5,671	2.5	230,961
Own account workers	285,839	83.5	45,675	13.3	10,982	3.2	342,496
Contributing family workers	27,363	82.2	4,882	14.7	1,055	3.2	33,300
Total	513,073		75,976		17,708		606,757
Household ownership							
Purchased	44,647	84.0	6,864	12.9	1,669	3.1	53,180
Constructed	354,014	77.8	82,960	18.2	17,801	3.9	454,775
Inherited	186,906	83.4	28,509	12.7	8,792	3.9	224,207
Mortgaged/NHA	2030	83.0	329	13.5	87	3.6	2,446
Rented	297,705	89.3	28,132	8.4	7,653	2.3	333,490
Government (Provided)	4,872	82.5	772	13.1	263	4.5	5,907
Private Company (Provided)	17,374	85.3	2,593	12.7	403	2.0	20,370
Private Individual (Provided)	24,961	82.0	4,250	14.0	1,225	4.0	30,436
Squatter	33,467	83.5	4,884	12.2	1,750	4.4	40,101
Gifted	14,942	79.3	2,849	15.1	1,058	5.6	18,849
Other	2,747	80.3	517	15.1	159	4.6	3,423

3.2 Household headship and access to key household amenities

3.2.1 Type of toilet facility used by the household and functional disability status of household head

In Table 32, data on the relationship between household's access to toilet facility and degree of disability experienced by head of household are presented. Among heads of households who reported no difficulty, 23.0 per cent reported that they have flush toilet for use by household members only compared to 19.0 per cent of heads with some difficulty and 18.1 per cent with a lot of difficulty. The results suggest that as the functional difficulty of the head of household increases the proportion with access to flush toilet for use by household members only slightly decreases.

Again, for heads who reported no difficulty, while 9.7 per cent reported that household members use open pit latrine among heads who reported some difficulty, it is nearly double (19.7 per cent) this number. However, among heads who reported a lot of difficulty 12.7 per cent indicated that their households use open pit latrine. The results also show that four in 10 household heads with a lot of difficulty use the bush/ beach/ other as their toilet facility. This compares to 31.9 per cent of heads with no difficulty and 32.8 per cent with some difficulty.

Table 32: Per cent distribution of type of toilet facility used by household and disability status of household head

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform activity at all		Total
Type of toilet facilities	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Flush toilet for HH use only	225,796	23.0	30,964	19.0	7,394	18.1	264,154
Flush toilet shared with other HH	183,636	18.7	22,852	14.0	5,799	14.2	212,287
Covered pit latrine outside building	165,279	16.8	23,827	14.6	6,140	15.0	195,246
Open pit latrine	95,370	9.7	31,687	19.5	5,184	12.7	132,241
Bush/beach/other	313,584	31.9	53,329	32.8	16,343	40.0	383,256
Total	983,665	100.0	162,659	100.0	40,860	100.0	1,187,184

3.2.2 Main source of cooking fuel used by the household and functional disability status of household head

Household heads were asked to indicate the main sources of fuel for cooking in their households. The results in Table 32 show that while among those with no disabilities, more than half, 52.8 per cent and 43.9 per cent rely on charcoal and wood respectively as their main sources of cooking fuels, among those who reported some difficulty, 50.5 per cent and 47.2 per cent rely on charcoal and wood and among those who reported a lot of difficulty, 42.8 per cent and 54.9 per cent rely on charcoal and wood respectively. This shows that the use of wood fuels remains widespread with no significant difference by disability status of household head.

Table 33: Per cent distribution of main source of household cooking fuel by disability status of head of household

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform activity at all		Total
Source of cooking fuel	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Electricity	15,175	1.5	1,468	0.9	331	0.8	16,974
Cooking Gas	9,917	1.0	1,224	0.8	269	0.7	11,410
Kerosine	2,687	0.3	364	0.2	64	0.2	3,115
Charcoal	519,622	52.8	82,110	50.5	17,498	42.8	619,230
Wood	431,346	43.9	76,782	47.2	22,433	54.9	530,561
Other	4,918	0.5	711	0.4	265	0.6	5,894
Total	983,665	100.0	162,659	100.0	40,860	100.0	1,187,184

3.2.3 Main source of fuel for lighting by the household and functional disability status of household head

In Table 34, the results suggest that while about a quarter (25.7 per cent) of heads of household with a lot of difficulty use electricity as their main source of fuel for lighting, 32.6 per cent and 34.5 per cent of their counterparts who reported no difficulty and some difficulty respectively use electricity. This shows that access to electricity remains a challenge in Liberia and households with heads who live with a lot of difficulty remain disadvantaged. The use of Chinese/battery light is widespread. The results show among heads who reported no disabilities, 55.1 per cent use Chinese/battery light compared to 52.1 per cent with some difficulty and nearly six in 10 of those with a lot of difficulty.

Table 34: Per cent distribution of main source of fuel for lighting by the household and functional disability status of head of household

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform activity at all		Total
Main source of fuel for lighting	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Electricity	320,765	32.6	56,141	34.5	10,481	25.7	387,387
Kerosine	2,788	0.3	491	0.3	134	0.3	3,413
Candle	13,844	1.4	2,421	1.5	862	2.1	17,127
Palm oil lamp (chako lantern)	11,638	1.2	3,151	1.9	866	2.1	15,655
Wood	32,677	3.3	5,001	3.1	1,663	4.1	39,341
Solar panel	55,524	5.6	9,797	6.0	2,381	5.8	67,702
Chinese/battery light	542,127	55.1	84,783	52.1	24,227	59.3	651,137
Other	4,302	0.4	874	0.5	246	0.6	5,422
Total	983,665	100.0	162,659	100.0	40,860	100.0	1,187,184

3.2.4 Main source of drinking water by disability status of head of household

In the 2022 LPHC, household heads were asked to indicate their main sources of drinking water (Table 35). The results show that among heads of households with no difficulty in performing the key activities, 6.6 per cent use pipe or pump indoors, 47.3 per cent have pipe or pump outside the compound, 11.3 per cent use water from closed well/protected well and equal proportion use water from open well (12.5 per cent) and river, lake, spring, creek (12.4 per cent). However, among those who reported some difficulty, 15.8 per cent use pipe or pump indoors, 42.7 per cent have pipe or pump outside the compound, 8.7 per cent use water from closed well/protected well, 11.1 per cent use water from open wells and 13.1 per cent rely on water from rivers, lakes, springs and creeks. Furthermore, among heads of households who reported a lot of difficulty, 6.7 per cent use pipe or pump indoors 48.3 per cent have pipe or pump outside the compound, 8.8 per cent use water from closed well/protected well, 13.0 per cent rely on water from open well and 15.7 per cent use water from rivers, lakes, springs and creeks.

Table 35: Per cent distribution of main source of drinking water by disability status of head of household

	No difficulty		Some difficulty		A lot of difficulty/ cannot perform activity at all		Total
Main source of drinking water	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Pipe or Pump indoors	64,956	6.6	25,697	15.8	2,756	6.7	93,409
Pipe or Pump out doors	464,884	47.3	69,527	42.7	19,721	48.3	554,132
Public Taps	32,091	3.3	5,284	3.2	1,122	2.7	38,497
Closed Well/Protected	110,879	11.3	14,218	8.7	3,602	8.8	128,699
Open Well	123,009	12.5	18,061	11.1	5,332	13.0	146,402
River, lake, spring, creek	121,959	12.4	21,356	13.1	6,426	15.7	149,741
Water Vendors	7,528	0.8	946	0.6	272	0.7	8,746
Bottled water	5,442	0.6	741	0.5	132	0.3	6,315
Rainwater	49,061	5.0	6,108	3.8	1,253	3.1	56,422
Other	2,411	0.2	433	0.3	175	0.4	3,019
Sachet water	1,445	0.1	288	0.2	69	0.2	1,802
Total	983,665	100.0	162,659	100.0	40,860	100.0	1,187,184

Chapter 4: Conclusion and recommendation

4.1 Conclusion

The report on PWDs aimed to provide data on the population of PWDs in Liberia. The census provides national and county level data on the population of PWDs needed to inform programmatic interventions. The report analysed data of the population of PWDs by key indicators such as education, access to key amenities, household wealth, labour force participations, place and county of residence. These respond to key human security issues by bridging the data gap with regard to access to social and economic resources. Again, the report provides key data to allow for implementation and possible tracking of the goals and objectives of the ARREST agenda. The report also offers data needed for tracking the progress of SDGs related to disability. This is due to the fact that several SDGs directly and indirectly contribute to disability inclusion through broader goals such as poverty reduction, health improvement, and access to education and employment opportunities.

The results show that 534,316 Liberians live with a functional disability. That is 8.7 per cent of the population 5 years and above have some difficulty in performing activities and 2.7 per cent of the population have a lot of disability/cannot perform the activities at all in at least one domain. These domains include seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self-care and communication. The report shows that 8.4 per cent of males and 9.0 per cent of females have some disability while 2.8 per cent of females and 2.5 per cent of males reported living with a lot of disability/cannot perform an activity at all.

As people age, the proportion reporting a disability also increases. While 7.9 per cent of urban residents reported some disabilities, 9.6 per cent of the rural population reported living with some disabilities/a lot of disability/cannot perform an activity at all. Some stark county level distributions were observed. The data shows that 13.9 per cent of the population of Grand Kru reported living with some disabilities, highest across county. However, in Montserrado County 7.9 per cent of the population live with some disabilities, which is the lowest.

A higher proportion of females than males with some difficulty and lot of difficulty have never been to school compared with their counterparts who have no difficulty. However, similar proportions of males and females reported that they are currently attending school irrespective of level of difficulty. The data analysis shows that generally, a higher proportion of PWDs in rural areas have never been to school compared to their counterparts with disabilities in urban areas. While 58.9 per cent and 64.5 per cent of those with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty respectively in rural areas have never been to school, 41.1 per cent and 35.5 per cent of their counterparts in urban areas with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty respectively have never been to school. This compares to a lower proportion of their counterparts with no disabilities that live in both rural and urban areas. Concerning age, the results show that the proportion that has never been to school increases with age. Across the various levels of education, the proportion that has completed their education decreases with age.

The results also show that a lower proportion of males have not completed any level of education compared to females. This means that more females than males have not completed any level of education and this worsen with disability status. The results appear to suggest individuals with disabilities in rural areas lag behind when it comes to completing any level of education when compared to their counterparts in urban areas who live with disabilities and their counterparts with no disabilities. The results show slight differences across disability groups. Across all functional disability statuses, a lower proportion of females are literate than males. Also, as level of difficulty increases, a higher proportion of rural dwellers reported not being literate. Across all functional disability groups, as age increases the proportions of literate persons decrease and this worsens with increasing functional disability.

Across the various levels of difficulty, similar proportions of males and females indicated that they have never been married. The proportions are only slightly higher for males than females. The results

also show that among those who reported living with some difficulty, 46.3 per cent of females are in monogamous unions compared to 48.2 per cent of their counterparts who reported a lot of difficulty/ cannot do at all. Women who are widowed appear to disproportionally report living with a lot of difficulty or some difficulty than their male counterparts. For instance, while 17.2 per cent of males with a lot of difficulty report that they are widowed, 82.8 per cent of their female counterparts who are widowed indicated that they are widowed.

With regard to work activity, the results show that, lower proportions of people living in rural areas reported that they worked seven days prior to the census compared to those in urban areas. In rural areas, these proportions increase with increasing level of functional disability. More males than females worked seven days preceding the census, and among males this decreased with increasing difficulty in performing the activities. As age increased the proportion who worked seven days preceding the census decreased. It appears that with increasing age those who reported that they experienced some difficulty have lower scores than their counterparts with a lot of difficulty or no difficulty.

Significantly more males than females reported being salary workers. There are only slight differences by level of disability status. The data suggests that among the various levels of reported functional disabilities, there are slight differences between males and females for those who indicated that they are own account workers and contributing family workers. Also, for the various categories of functional disability, a higher proportion of urban residents indicated that they are salary workers. It is important to note that as the degree of difficulty increases the proportion of urban dwellers who reported doing a salary work decreased. Contrarily, as level of functional disability increases the proportion of individuals in rural areas who reported that they are own account workers or contributing family workers increased. The proportions of rural residents who indicated that they are own account and contributing family workers are higher in rural than in urban areas.

In Liberia, a higher proportion of the population has a functional disability associated with seeing (5.6 per cent) and the lowest is a functional disability associated with communication (4.0 per cent). In Liberia, 1.7 per cent of the population have albinism. A higher proportion of persons who live with albinism live in urban areas (61.9 per cent) and about equal proportions of person who have albinism are males and females. The largest share of persons living with albinism live in Montserrado County and River Cess recorded the lowest proportion of persons who live with albinism.

In this report the disability status of heads of household are explored. The data suggests that while 13.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively of household heads reported that they live with some disabilities and a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all, more than eight in 10 heads of households reported that they experience no difficulty at all. A higher proportion of female household heads (15.6 per cent versus 4.1 per cent) than male heads (12.7 per cent versus 3.1 per cent) reported some disabilities and a lot of disability/cannot do at all, respectively. A higher proportion of household heads in rural areas have a functional disability compared to their counterparts in urban areas. Concerning access to key amenities, the results show that households headed by PWDs lack these key amenities. For example, about 4 in 10 heads of households who experience a lot of difficulty or cannot perform an activity at all, indicated that they use bush/beach/ other as their main toilet facility. While 23.0 per cent of heads with no disability have flush toilet for use by only household members, for those who reported a lot of difficulty/cannot perform at all and some difficulty, 19.0 per cent and 18.1 per cent respectively reported same. In Liberia, the use of wood fuel for cooking is universal. With regard to the main source of fuel for lighting, heads of households with no difficulty (32.6 per cent) and a lot of difficulty (25.7 per cent) have limited access to electricity for lighting compared with those with some difficulty (34.5 per cent). Access to safe drinking water (pipe or pump indoors, pipe or pump outdoors and public taps) is fairly available to individuals. This is because for heads who reported no difficulty, 57.2 per cent have access to pipe or pumps, compared to 61.7 per cent of heads with some difficulty and 57.7 per cent of heads with a lot of difficulty or cannot perform at least one of the six domains of activity.

4.2 Recommendations

Data from the 2022 LPHC highlight key challenges that individuals who reported that they live with functional disabilities encounter with regard to access to socioeconomic services and vital amenities in Liberia. The following recommendations are made based on the findings. The results show the need for the Government of Liberia to continue to implement strategic interventions by providing key policy guidelines and legislative protocols that are inclusive across various sectors and departments.

The ARREST agenda should clearly implement its strategies that will enhance the lives of persons living with functional disabilities with key focus on young people, women, the elderly and also those in rural areas. Furthermore, the five-year NAP for the period 2018-2022 should be reviewed and key strategies implemented.

The results show that about half a million Liberians live with a functional disability, with 129,906 citizens indicating that they experience a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all. This suggests that access to healthcare services must be expanded to address the peculiar health concerns of these individuals. As healthcare services improve, preventive measures could be put in place to further reduce preventable causes of functional disabilities. It is also recommended that the Spatial Planning Department of the Ministry of Local Government must continue to take into consideration the increasing number of PWDs in Liberia and make the necessary accommodation in terms of accessible roads, building and transportation for PWDs in Liberia. While slight differences are observed for males and females with regard to the experience of functional disabilities, particular interventions could be implemented to support women with disabilities and further studies would be required to assess their specific vulnerabilities and needs. Ageing has long been associated with experiencing functional disabilities. Thus, it is important that specific infrastructure and healthcare services are provided for the aged. The data shows that a higher proportion of rural dwellers experience functional disabilities than those in urban areas. Government should continue to expand livelihood provision interventions to individuals in rural areas especially and also for counties with a high proportion of their population with disabilities. An example is Grand Kru where about 13.9 per cent of her population reported living with some disability, highest across county.

Expanding access to education is essential for achieving universal access to education. Target 4.5 of SDG 4 highlight the need to "eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities". The data shows that a higher proportion of females than males with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty have never been to school compared with their counterparts who have no difficulty. The MGCSP which oversees promoting, monitoring and coordinating disability rights and for mainstreaming of disability activities in Liberia and also, the Ministry of Education must work together to promote inclusive education. Promoting inclusive education will require improving infrastructure, providing assistive technology, training teachers on inclusive education and disability, and embarking on campaigns that demystify the academic abilities of girls and boys with disabilities. The MGCSP should collaborate with civil society organizations and other donor partners to embark on advocacy campaigns that highlight the educational needs of persons with functional disabilities with the aim of rallying the support of the public and state institutions to promote inclusivity. Also, access to inclusive education must be championed in rural areas as a lower proportion of individuals with some difficulty and a lot of difficulty in rural areas has never been to school. This will go a long way to ensure that more girls and rural residents complete higher levels of formal education and become literate as the data suggest that they lag behind. The data suggest that significantly higher proportion of females who are widowed have some disabilities or a lot of disabilities. While more research is needed to understand these findings, social protection interventions such as cash transfers and training in livelihood activities must be provided for these women to reduce their risk of experiencing extreme poverty and hardship.

The results also highlight the need for the Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government to expand access to work and livelihood strategies to persons with functional disabilities in rural areas as the data shows a lower proportion of residents in rural areas worked seven days prior to the census and are not salary workers compared to their urban counterparts. This can be done by decentralizing opportunities, expanding industries, mechanizing agriculture and providing various opportunities along the value chain for persons with functional disabilities. The NCD advocates that 4.0 per cent of employees should be skilled PWDs in addition to providing tax incentives to businesses who employ PWDs. It is recommended these be reviewed and implemented to support the economic opportunities of PWDs.

The data also shows that as age increased the proportion who worked seven days preceding the census decreased. This suggests that older people may lack pension or sources of income in their older age, and this may be worse for those who report living with disabilities. The Government must implement support strategies to support these older persons.

It is important that the albino community is supported in Liberia. This can be done by providing specific support after broad consultation and also embarking

on educational campaigns aimed at reducing discrimination against albinos.

The data shows that 17.1 per cent of household heads live with some disabilities and a lot of difficulty/ cannot perform an activity at all. About one in five female household heads (19.7 per cent) than male heads (15.8 per cent) reported living with a functional disability. Again, a higher proportion of household heads in rural areas have a functional disability compared to their counterparts in urban areas. These results highlight the need to expand livelihood support to household heads with disabilities. Further studies are needed to map out the living conditions of these household heads and that of their members to be able to ascertain the kind of support that could be provided to them.

The albino population of Liberia is estimated at 1.7 per cent with a higher proportion living in urban areas and in Montserrado County. It is recommended that the rights of persons with albinism are championed to eliminate stigma and provide them with social and economic opportunities. Civil society organizations and state institutions must work hand in hand to champion this cause.

The results show that households headed by PWDs lack key amenities like access to safe drinking water, toilet facilities, electricity for lighting and clean fuels for cooking. Expanding community safe water infrastructure and providing and teaching communities to develop safe toilet facilities will reduce access to unsafe water and prevent waterborne diseases, especially among children. Local Government and local assemblies can champion this. While government continues to embark on expanding nationwide electrification and making liquified petroleum gas more accessible and affordable to all, efforts must be made to highlight the health benefits of using improved cook stoves as the majority of households use wood fuels for cooking.

References

Jones, H. (2008). Addressing the needs of disabled persons in post-conflict situations. Forced Migration Review, 30, 38-39.

Kett, M., Stubbs, S., Yarjah, D. B., & King, R. (2009). Impact of war on child health in northern Liberia. Journal of Tropical Pediatrics, 55(2), 69-71.

Trani, J. F. (2011). Impact of armed conflict on disability and mental health. In M. A. Rice & J. A. Prince (Eds.), War and Health: Lessons from the Gulf War (pp. 222-239). New York: Oxford University Press.

Trani, J. F., Bakhshi, P., & Brown, D. (2013). One size does not fit all: Disability norms and measurement in India and Liberia. Social Science & Medicine, 98, 94-102.

Groce, N., Banks, L. M., Stein, M. A., & Kett, M. (2011). Disability and poverty: The need for a more nuanced understanding of implications for development policy and practice. Third World Quarterly, 32(8), 1493-1513.

Trani, J. F., Bakhshi, P., & Brown, D. (2009). The impact of post-conflict environments on disabilities and disabled people in Liberia. Disasters, 33(4), 678-692.

Collins, E., Masiga, C., & Ngugi, D. (2021). Evaluation of Disability Mainstreaming Status in Selected Public High Schools and Employment Institutions in Liberia. International Journal of Gender Studies, 6(1), 51-79. https://doi.org/10.47604/ijgs.1377.

Swedish International development agency SIDA (2014). Disability Rights in Liberia – Liberia December 2014.

Ero, I., Muscati, S., Boulanger, Anne-Rachelle and Annamanthadoo. India (2021) People with Albinism Worldwide. A Human Rights Perspective.

World Health Organization. (2001). IFC: International classification of functioning, disability and health.