



In **Liberia**, Last Mile Health is the government's longest-serving community health partner. Since 2007, we've worked together to launch, scale, and sustain Liberia's first national community health program.

The need: Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world, and nearly 30% of the population lives more than five kilometers from the nearest clinic or hospital. In these communities, sheer distance is often the biggest barrier to accessing care. Reaching a clinic can take several hours or more, and often includes travel by foot, canoe, or motorbike on narrow paths through the rainforest.

Our focus: To close the health equity gap at Liberia's last mile, we worked with the Ministry of Health to develop a national community health worker program that brings care directly to patients' doorsteps. Now, we're working together to expand service scope and quality, ensure sustainable financing, and increase government ownership.

By the numbers

Last Mile Health has worked in Liberia since 2007. We supported the government to launch its first nationwide, professionalized community health worker program in 2016. To date, we've assisted the government to deploy and empower **5,220 community health workers** across Liberia who serve a total population of more than one million people. In addition to this work at the national level, we currently manage program implementation in two of Liberia's 15 counties. Our direct implementation supports 797 community health workers who serve a population of 165,205 people.

Number of community health workers directly supported to date:

5,220

Program background

In 2007, Liberia was emerging from more than a decade of civil war when we set out to launch a public HIV treatment program in rural Grand Gedeh County. Together with the Ministry of Health and the Global Fund, we went on to scale that program to 19 public clinics across 12 of Liberia's 15 counties.

Through that early work, we learned that it wasn't enough to make primary care accessible at clinics and hospitals. To reach those most in need, we also had to find a way to bring health services directly to Liberia's most remote communities.

In response to that need, we took our work to remote Konobo District in 2012. There, we established a community health worker program that was uniquely tailored to local needs. When a devastating Ebola outbreak overwhelmed Liberia's clinics and hospitals starting in 2014, that door-to-door model offered a critical tool for managing the outbreak and sustaining access to essential primary care.

Background (continued)

In the wake of the Ebola outbreak in 2016, the Ministry of Health sought to make our work in Konobo District the norm across Liberia. At their invitation, we co-led the design and launch of a new program to deploy paid, professionalized community health workers nationwide. As of June 2024, the program now reaches rural and remote communities in every district across Liberia.



Pillar Nufepolu has served as a nurse supervisor for community health workers for more than four years. Her role includes clinical mentorship, supply chain management, and more.

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I want to bring more attention to community health because it's really changing the lives of our people.

- Pillar Nufepolu
Community health supervisor
Grand Bassa County, Liberia

Current activities

National-level technical assistance: Our work at the national level is currently focused on developing stronger training curricula and assessment tools. We're also serving as a key partner to the government as they scale up an [electronic Community-Based Information System](#).

Program innovation: In Rivercess County, we work alongside the Ministry of Health to test new clinical interventions and innovate around quality of care. Recently, we've been focused on equipping community health workers to deliver [new family planning options](#) and support the launch of a new malaria vaccine program.

Research and evidence generation: In Grand Bassa County, we're focused on running a series of ongoing research and evaluation activities to measure the impact of Liberia's national community health worker program.

Evidence

Since 2016, community health workers across Liberia have delivered nearly 1.3 million potentially-lifesaving treatments for malaria, diarrhea, or respiratory infection to children under five. Our research found that community health workers now treat between 40 and 50 percent of all such cases among children in rural Grand Bassa County, making them a top source of care.

Additionally, Liberia's community health workers have completed over 14.1 million routine home visits since 2016. These visits offer a valuable chance to build trust with patients and:

- Provide health education and psychosocial support,
- Proactively diagnose and treat common illnesses,
- Refer patients for higher-level care when needed, and
- Monitor for signs of a potential disease outbreak.

Key community health worker outputs, 2016 to date:



14.1 million
routine household visits



1.3 million
treatments for childhood illness

Opportunity

Thanks to dedicated health workers like Pillar Nufepolu, communities across Liberia that were once deemed “unreachable” are now served by a trained, professional community health worker. With the program successfully launched in all 15 counties, our focus now is on optimizing program quality. Last Mile Health offers funding partners an exceptional leverage opportunity to strengthen this groundbreaking program and set Liberia on course for achieving universal health coverage.

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