



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. Too often, the barrier of distance and cost leads to preventable deaths, especially for mothers and children.

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 to patients' doorsteps. Now, we're working to expand the scope of services, improve quality of care, and increase government ownership for long-term sustainability.

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.

By the numbers

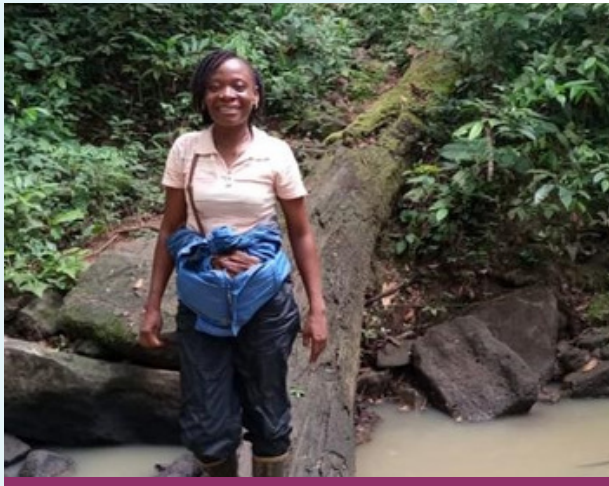
Last Mile Health has worked in Liberia since 2007. We supported the government to launch its first nationwide professional community health worker program in 2016. Today, we assist the government to support **5,275 community health workers** who serve a total population of more than one million people. 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 973 community health workers who serve a population of 206,565 people.

Number of community health workers
directly supported in 2025:

5,275

Background (continued)

In 2016, in the wake of the Ebola outbreak, 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, professional community health workers nationwide. In June 2024, the program reached full scale, bringing primary care to communities in every district in the country.



Pillar Nufepolu has served as a nurse supervisor for community health workers for more than five 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: We are the Ministry of Health's leading technical partner, providing expert input in evidence-based community health interventions to address areas of need. Our activities include strengthening training curricula, assessment tools, and digital systems. With the Ministry, we are working to increase government ownership and sustainable financing.

Innovations in community health: In Rivercess County, we test interventions in improving healthcare access and quality. In 2024, we equipped frontline health workers to support the rollout of a new malaria vaccine, and in 2025, we began piloting mother-to-mother support groups to increase healthy practices.

Facilitating a government-owned community health program: We work alongside Ministry staff to equip county health teams to implement the National Community Health Program for long-term sustainability. This work has included extensive geomapping of communities, health workers, and resources.

Evidence

Since 2016, community health workers across Liberia have delivered more than 1.5 million potentially lifesaving treatments for malaria, diarrhea, or respiratory infection to children under five. Among children with a fever seen by community health workers, 95% received a rapid diagnostic test, and 98% of those testing positive received appropriate treatment with ACTs.

Additionally, Liberia's community health workers have completed over 17.3 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:



17.3 million
routine household visits



1.5 million
treatments for childhood illness

Opportunity

Today, Liberian communities once deemed "unreachable" are served by professional community health workers. Now, we're working alongside the Ministry of Health to strengthen primary care for the long term by securing sustainable financing for the National Community Health Program and improving its quality. Last Mile Health offers funding partners an exceptional leverage opportunity to build on the strong achievements of this groundbreaking program, setting the course for lasting systemic impact and bringing universal health coverage within reach for all Liberians.

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