

Republic of Liberia



2008 Census Atlas

LIBERIA INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEO-INFORMATION SERVICES (LISGIS)

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

September 2011

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FORWARD

The post-war socio-economic planning and development of Liberia is pressing concern to Government and its development partners. Such an onerous undertaking cannot be actualized with scanty, outdated and deficient databases. Realizing the limitation, and in accordance with article 39 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, the President of Liberia approved, on May 31, 2007, "An Act Authorizing the Executive Branch of Government to Conduct the National Census of the Republic of Liberia".

The Population and Housing Census is the major source of demographic and social-economic statistics in Liberia. The country has conducted three scientific population and housing censuses at intervals of about ten years since 1962. The latest census being the fourth was conducted in 2008 as post war census. This census collected household-based data on the socio-economic conditions of the population as well as agriculture and other community based information.

The country currently finds itself at the crossroads of undergoing major rehabilitation and reconstruction. Virtually, every aspect of life has become an emergency and in resource allocation, crucial decisions have to be taken in a carefully planned and sequential manner.

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), has published the 2008 Census results in different reports at different times and with varying degrees of detail. This has culminated in the production of the first Census Atlas for Liberia. It has involved extensive consultations and collaboration between the International staff on one hand, and GIS/Cartography Division and other professional staff of LISGIS, on the other hand. It is also worth mentioning that UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the production of this first Census Atlas.

The Atlas presents maps and graphic representations of the spatial distribution of the population, housing and agriculture indicators. The tables that were extracted from the fourteen (14) Thematic Repots and used in production of the maps and figures in this Census Atlas are enlisted in Annex 1.

T. Edward Liberty (Ph. D

DIRECTOR GENERAL (LISGIS)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of this first post-war census was a result of the dedicated efforts of the Census Commission, the Development Partners, the Board of Directors, the Management and staff of the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), Government line ministries and agencies, county officials and local authorities, the 11,618 field staff who were deployed throughout the country and the millions of Liberians and Foreign Residents who responded.

Several International and local analysts have worked assiduously at various stages to translate the data from statistical tables to report formats that can easily be utilized by the Government, International agencies, development partners, other data users and the general public.

We recognize the hard work and laudable contribution of the International GIS Consultant, Mr. Isaac Mwangangi, and the comments and suggestions provided by the UNFPA Country Representative, Ms. E. Fundira. Special appreciation goes to the technical support team of LISGIS: Dr. T. Edward Liberty, Messrs: Johnson Q. Kei, Augustine Fayiah, Dorothy D. Johnson, Richard Ngafua, Charles T. Akoi and Mr. Thomas Davis of the GIS/ Cartography Division.

The 2008 National Population and Housing Census programme is adjudged to have been executed within acceptable limits of the highest international standards, using state-of-the-art technology and expertise at all stages of the census operations. One of these is the use of the GIS/GPS technology in the production of the first Census Atlas of Liberia. The extra resources and other support have been coming from a plethora of organisations whose contributions and moral support are herein acknowledged.

We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the United Nations Population Fund for their continuous support all throughout the tenure of the 2008 Census activities, from the stages of planning, execution, analysis and the completion of the fourteen final reports as well as the production of the Census Atlas. They have contributed varied levels of assistance, from logistics to the provision of technical expertise.

On behalf of the Census Commission and the Board of Directors of LISGIS, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Government of Liberia and our development partners for providing the required resources for conducting this census and producing the Census Atlas. My thanks also go to all local institutions and Analysts that worked with LISGIS to implement and conclude the census programme. Special appreciation for making the census a success goes to Dr. Toga McIntosh, former Chairman of the Commission, the Census Commissioners, the Census Secretariat and other local and international professionals, all categories of census field staff, office staff and all respondents who provided the required information.

Ample

Hon. Amara Konneh Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs and Chairman of the Census Commission

Chapter 1: Introduction

Introduction

A census is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing and disseminating demographic, economic, social and spatial data pertaining, at a specific time, to all persons in a country or a well-delimited part of a country.

The population and housing census conducted every decade is a complete count of all the people and households in Liberia. The results represent a snapshot of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the populace of the country, thus enabling planners and policy-makers to measure changes in these characteristics over time. It is also the primary source of information about the number and characteristics of the population in each administrative area. It provides a sampling frame and related functional projections that are necessary for sector planning which affects public expenditure in the areas of education, agriculture and health.

The census exercise provides information on the number of people living in a particular area as well as information on housing, health, education, employment, migration, displacement and disability. The results of the census are important in identifying the extent and nature of social exclusion and resulting service need. Census results are vital in supporting local and national government efforts in planning, implementation and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), as well as support of research and business decision-making processes.

The objective of this atlas is to present the 2008 Liberia Population and Housing Census in an accessible form for a variety of users in the public and private sectors. The atlas highlights the similarities and differences in the socio-economic and demographic conditions between the counties of Liberia, using a number of key variables in the form of maps, charts and tables. The maps show the spatial distribution of the population and their demographic characteristics within counties with brief description of each topic along with corresponding charts.

Data Collection

Due to the civil war, Liberia did not conduct the 1994 and 2004 rounds of censuses. However, on April 21, 2007, the 52nd National Legislature enacted the law empowering the Executive Branch of Government to conduct Liberia's fourth census in March 2008. The population and housing census was conducted on March 28, 2008 and data collection lasted for a period of ten days.

The aim of the enumeration was to take a count of all persons who were within the border of Liberia by midnight of March 20th (Census Night). Enumeration started on March 21st including the canvassing of institutional and floating populations. The completed questionnaires/schedules were assembled at the divisional census offices for quick checks and validation, such that all cases which required call backs, were attended before the questionnaires were finally dispatched to Monrovia.

Data Entry and Processing

The results of the 2008 National Population and Housing Census were compiled and processed by County, District, Clan and Enumeration Area (EA). The Census Enumeration Area is the smallest census reporting unit. On the average, an EA contains 80-120 households or 496 residents.

The 2008 Census Atlas of Liberia

This atlas maps variables that describe the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population of Liberia as of March 21st, 2008 at county level. The variables that are mapped have been chosen with regards to their usefulness as indicators of demographic and social conditions in the country.

The atlas is intended for Liberian decision makers, development partners, planning agencies, educators and students. In addition, this atlas is being distributed not only to key individuals in government, but also to members of the National Legislature, non-governmental and civil society organizations, economic and social researchers, educational institutions and donors.

The maps in the atlas are produced using thematic mapping approach. This approach shows values for spatial units (such as counties) which are divided into a number of ranges that are represented by various colors or shading. Where maps show areas of deviation from the country average, the class intervals for the range have been chosen with reference to that average. Where needed, the maps are accompanied by textboxes, tables and charts. This is intended to provide concise information about the statistics being mapped and broadly describe the spatial patterns being shown.

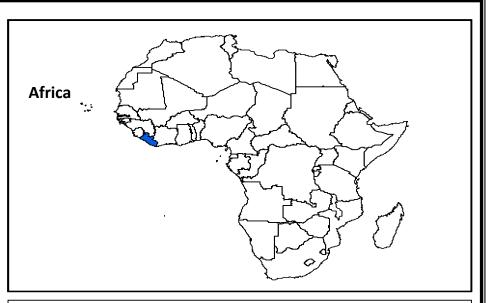
Chapter 1: Introduction

Administrative Areas

County	Land Area		Population			Households Heads	
	Square Miles	Percent Total	Size	Percent Total	Density	Size	Percent Total
Bomi	757.4	2.0	84,119	2.4	111	20,508	3.
Bong	3,478.42	9.0	333,481	9.6	96	69,810	10.4
Bassa	3,141.76	8.2	221,693	6.4	71	14,533	2.2
Cape Mount	1,869.33	4.9	127,076	3.7	68	47,440	7.:
Grand Gedeh	4,358.69	11.3	125,258	3.6	29	23,950	3.0
Grand Kru	1,570.61	4.1	57,913	1.7	37	18,143	2.
Lofa	3,919.39	10.2	276,863	8.0	71	8,969	1.3
Margibi	10,18.56	2.6	209,923	6.0	206	49,642	7.4
Maryland	930.17	2.4	135,938	3.9	146	45,095	6.
Montserrado	738.52	1.9	1,118,241	32.2	1514	19,254	2.9
Nimba	4,600.12	12.0	462,026	13.3	100	232,585	34.
Rivercess	2,225.01	5.8	71,509	2.1	32	80,734	12.
Sinoe	3,912.59	10.2	102,391	2.9	26	9,822	1.
River Gee	2,065.36	5.4	66,789	1.9	32	13,981	2.
Gbarpolu	3,904.88	10.1	83,388	2.4	21	15,829	2.
Liberia	38,490.81	100.0	3,476,608	100.0	90.3	670,295	100.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION





Brief History of Liberia

Liberia is bounded by Sierra Leone on the West, Guinea on the North, Cote d'Ivoire on the East and the Atlantic Ocean on the South. The territorial area of Liberia is 38,490.81 square miles with a population of 3,476,608.

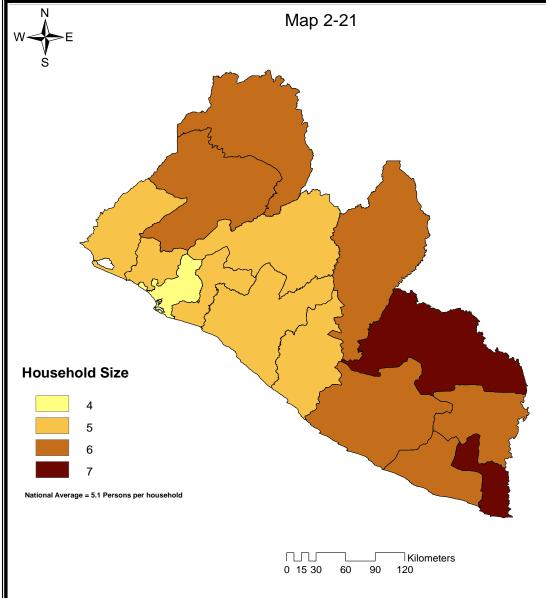
The climate is humid tropical with two seasons, rainy and dry. The rainy season is from April to October, and the dry from November to March. The average annual rainfall is about 400m. The average annual temperature is 28 degree Celsius.

Liberia was founded in 1822 as a haven for free slaves from North America. Prior to the arrival of the free slaves, the country had long been inhabited by the indigenous Mande, Kwa and Mel tribal groups.

In 1847, Liberia gained independence with its flag, constitution and other key national symbols resembling those of the United States of America. The first government, since 1847 was toppled in a violent Coup d' e' tat on April 12, 1980. This ushered in the government of the People Redemption Council (PRC) headed by Sgt. Samuel K. Doe who later was democratically elected as President in 1985.

A full-fledged civil war led by Mr. Charles Taylor began on December 24, 1989, and this war lasted for a period of fourteen (14) years.

The war temporarily ended in 1997 with the election of a civilian administration led by Mr. Charles G. Taylor. The war resumed in 1999 and in 2003, Mr. Taylor resigned. An Interim Government of National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL), headed by Mr. Charles Gyude Bryant, was appointed in 2003. In 2005, general presidential and legislative elections were held ushering in the democratically elected, first female president in Africa, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

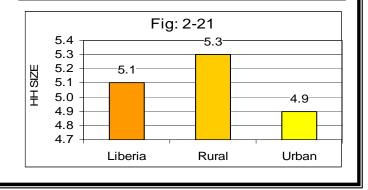


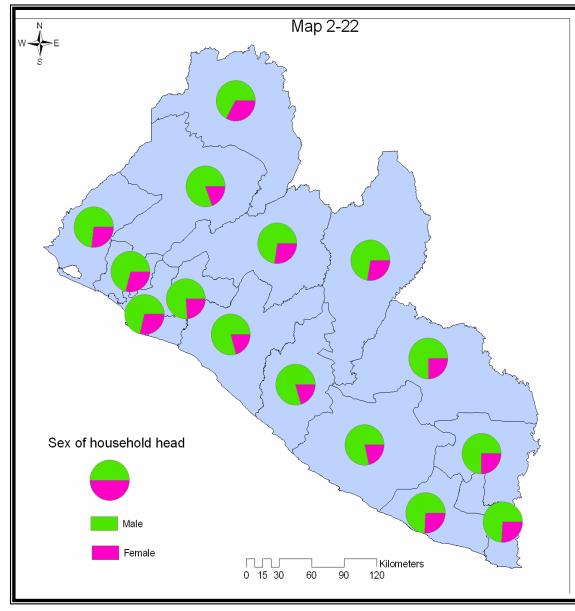
Average Household Size in 2008

The average household size is a measure of the number of persons per household. It is important in the planning process because many people are found in such social arrangement.

The average household size in Liberia was 5.1 persons. It was 5.3 in rural areas as compared to 4.9 in urban centres.

At the county level, the average household sizes ranged between 4 and 7 people; with Maryland and Grand Gedeh having the highest at 7 persons which is far above the national average. This could be due to three reasons: the rural nature of the counties; migration as a result of job search; and rapid increase in population growth since 1974 (LISGIS, 2009). Montserrado County depicts the least households, about 4 persons. Possibly, this may be due to the high cost of living in urban centers. The national average household size of 5.1 persons was surpassed in nine of the fifteen counties.



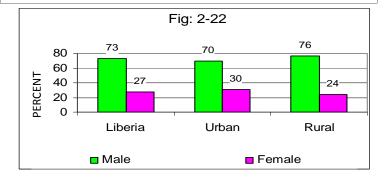


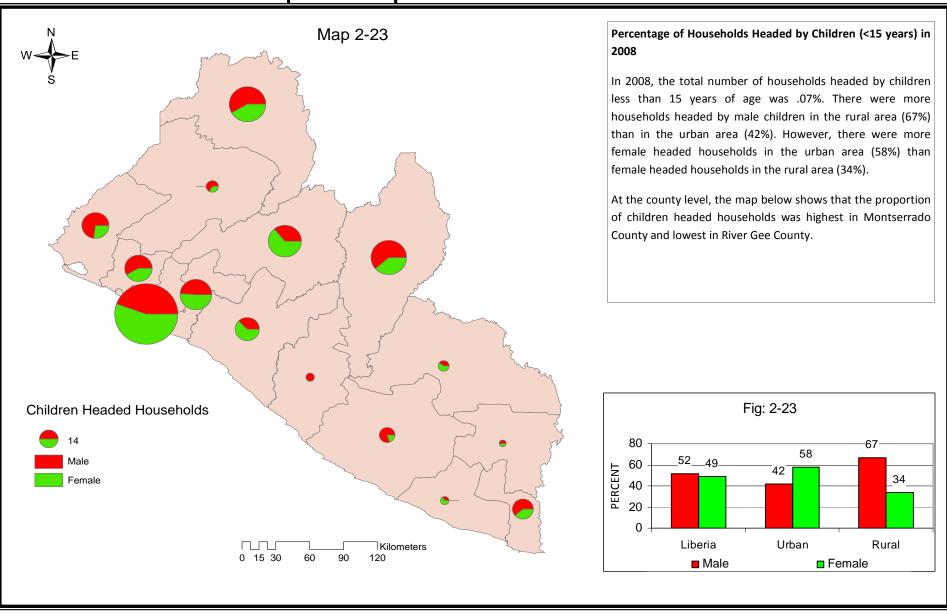
Distribution of Households by Sex of Head and Residence in 2008

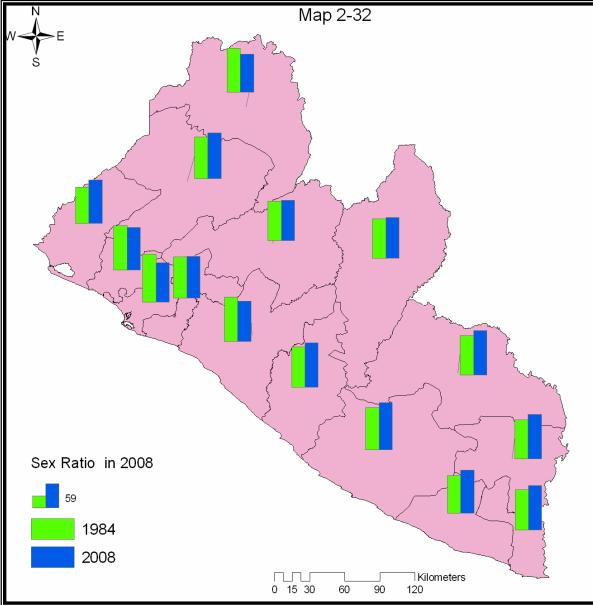
Distinction of household heads by sex is important because it is often associated with household welfare. For instance, female-headed households are believed to be poorer than male-headed households (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000). With increasing economic hardship particularly during periods characterized by increasing level of unemployment even among educated Liberians, increase in female headship may influence demographic indicators such as mortality and fertility.

Fig: 2-22 shows that more households were headed by females in urban areas (30%) than in the rural areas, (24%). The figure also shows that the reverse holds true for males. Households headed by male were more in the rural areas (76%) than in urban areas (70%).

Viewing the map, at the county level, the highest percentage of female household is in Lofa while the lowest is in Gbarpolu. The main reason for this difference is that Lofa was a battle ground for a long time during the civil conflict and many men lost their lives in combat while Gbarpolu was on the sideline of the conflict.





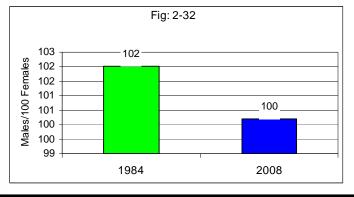


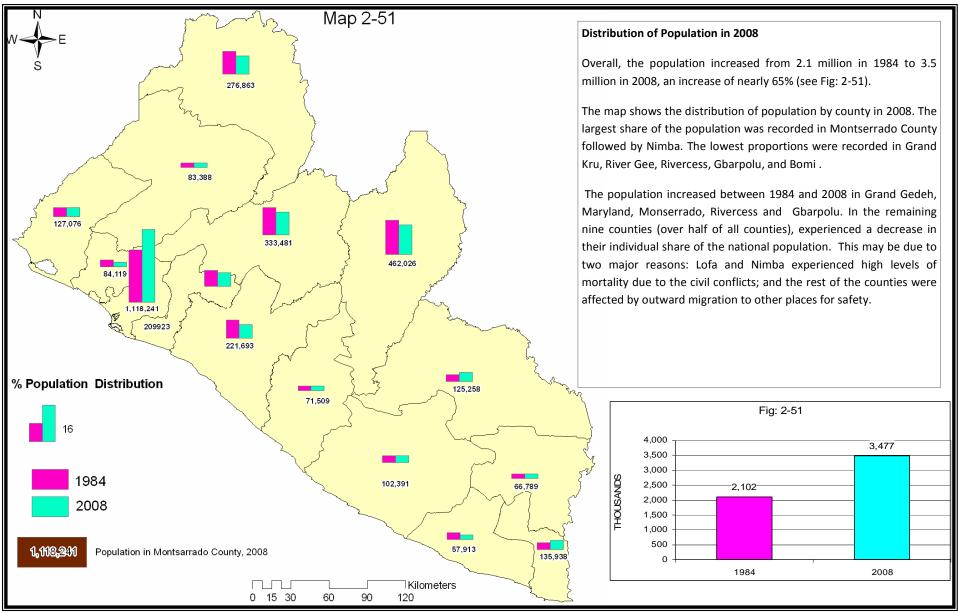
Sex Ratio in 2008

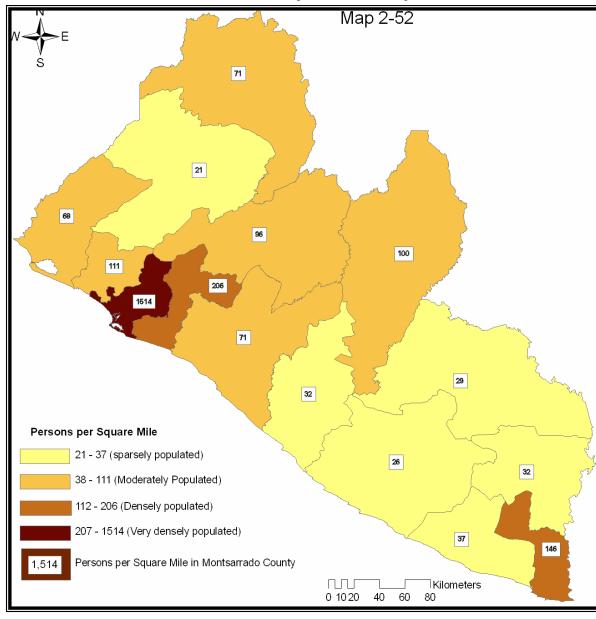
The index used to measure sex composition of the population is the sex ratio. It is defined as the number of males for every 100 females. A ratio higher than 100 depicts an excess of males and less than 100, an excess of females in the population.

Fig: 2-32 shows that there were about 100 males in Liberia for every 100 females at the time of the 2008 census compared to 102.0 in 1974 and 102 in 1984.

According to the map, the lowest sex ratios were observed in Lofa and Montserrado counties respectively and the highest was recorded in Sinoe County. About 10 out of the 15 counties had higher sex ratio than the national average. However, there was significant decrease in the number of males compared to females observed in Bomi, Lofa, Bassa and Montserrado counties. This may be due to two reasons: Lofa and Grand Bassa were heavily affected by the Liberian Civil War, while many females migrated from rural counties to Montserrado for safety.





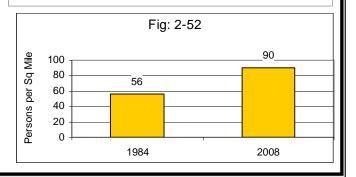


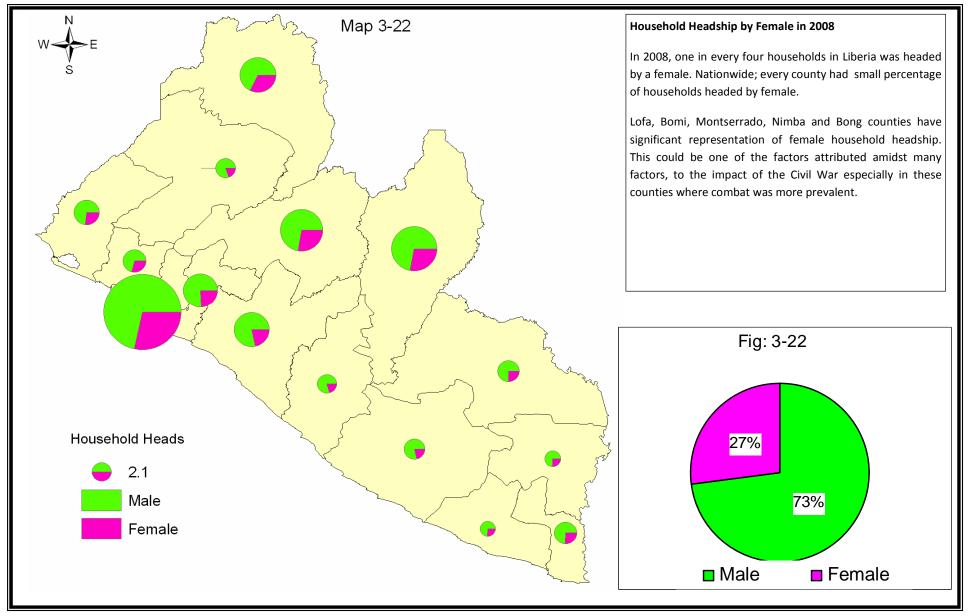
Population Density in 2008

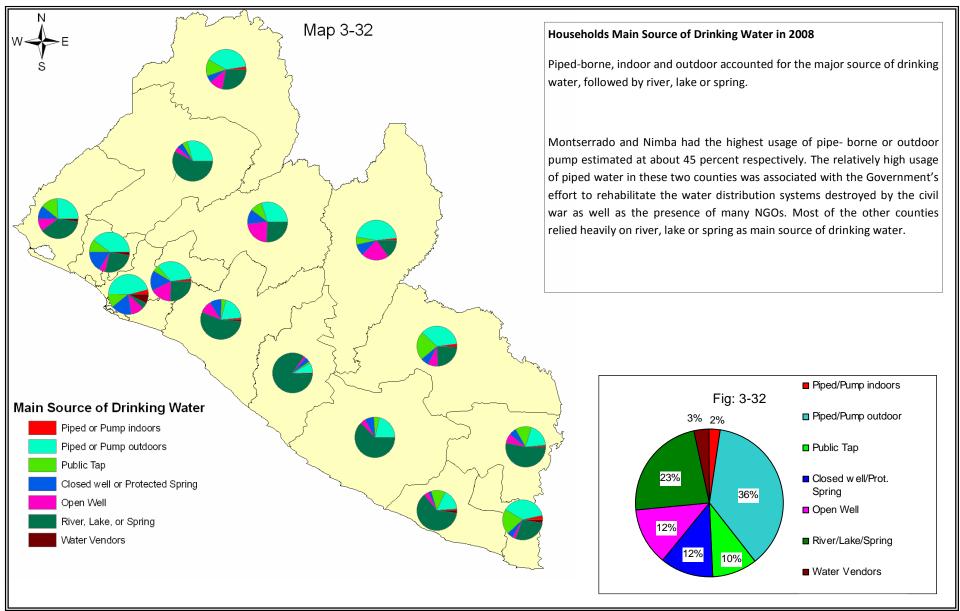
Population density is a measure of the man-land relationship expressed in terms of the number of persons per square kilometers or miles. In 2008, the population density of Liberia was 90 persons per square miles representing a 60.7 percent rise over the figure of 56 attained in 1984.

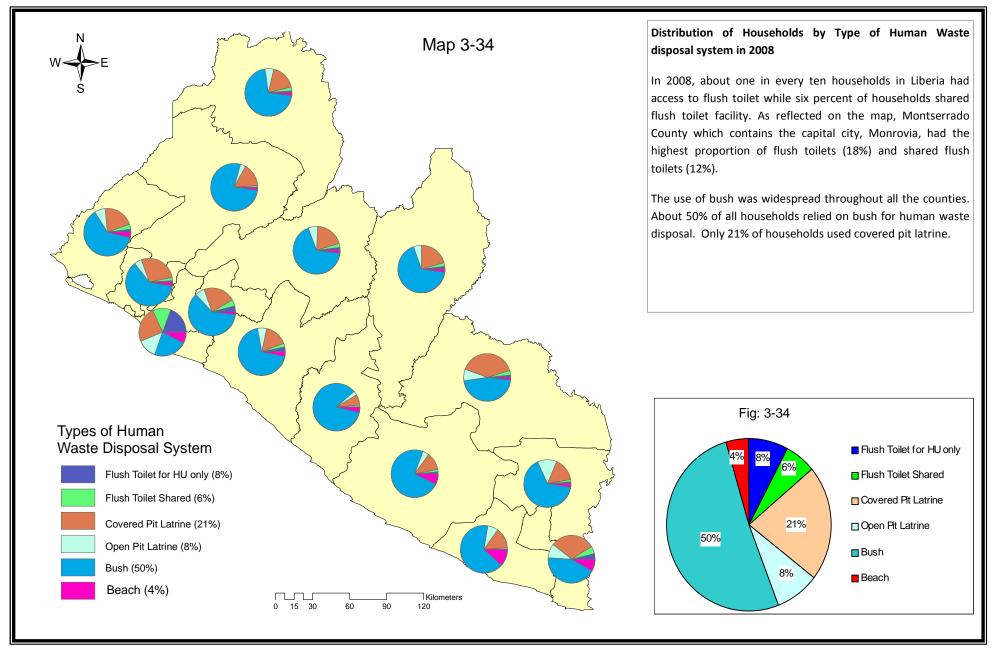
Population density is classified into four categories at county level as: very densely populated (over 1000); densely populated (100-210); moderately populated (50-99) and sparsely populated (below 50). As expected of a highly urbanized area, Montserrado County was the most densely populated county in Liberia with a density of 1,514 persons per square mile and also with the smallest land area. This is because Montserrado hosts the capital city of Liberia, Monrovia.

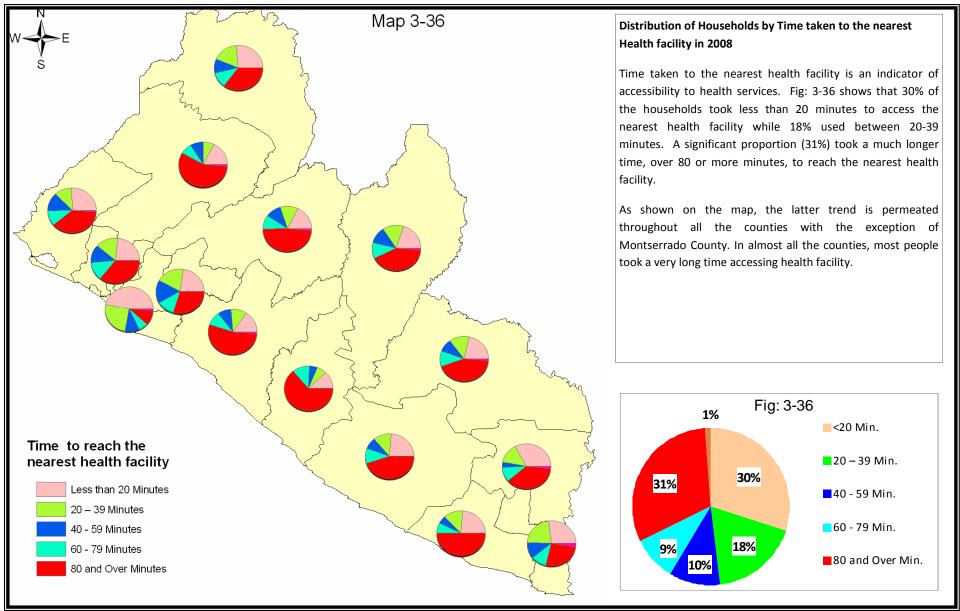
The following counties recorded population density above average: Bong (96), Nimba (100), Bomi (111), Maryland (146), Margibi (206) and Montserrado (1,514). The rest of the counties namely : Lofa (71), Grand Bassa (71), Grand Cape Mt. (68), Grand Kru (37), River Gee (32), Rivercess (32), Grand Gedeh (29) and Sinoe (26), recorded below average.

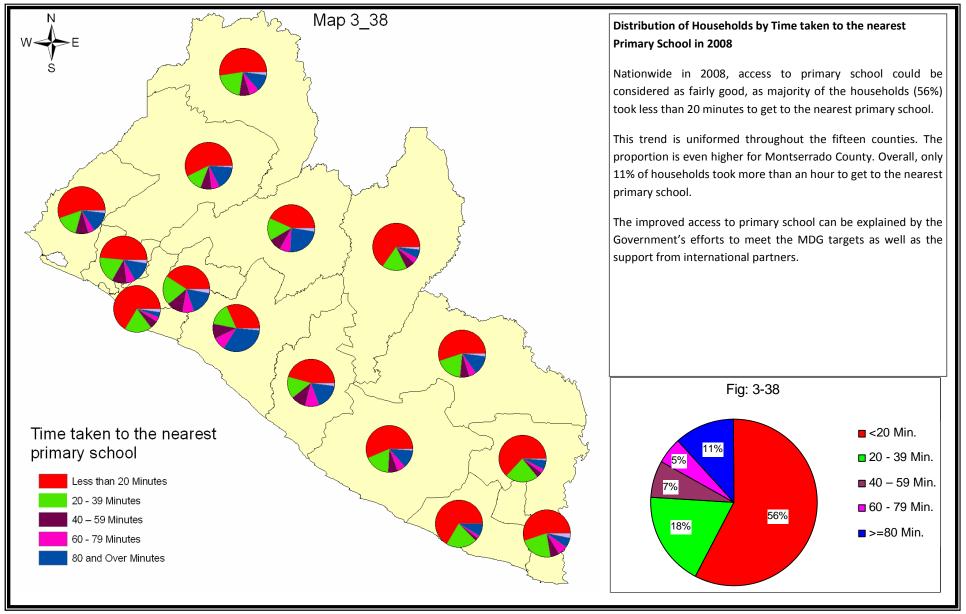


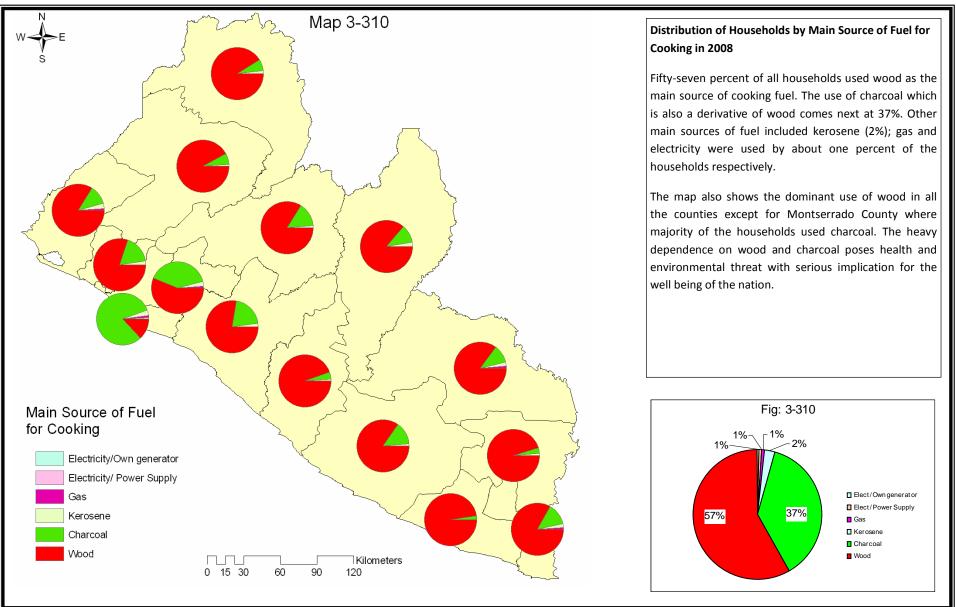


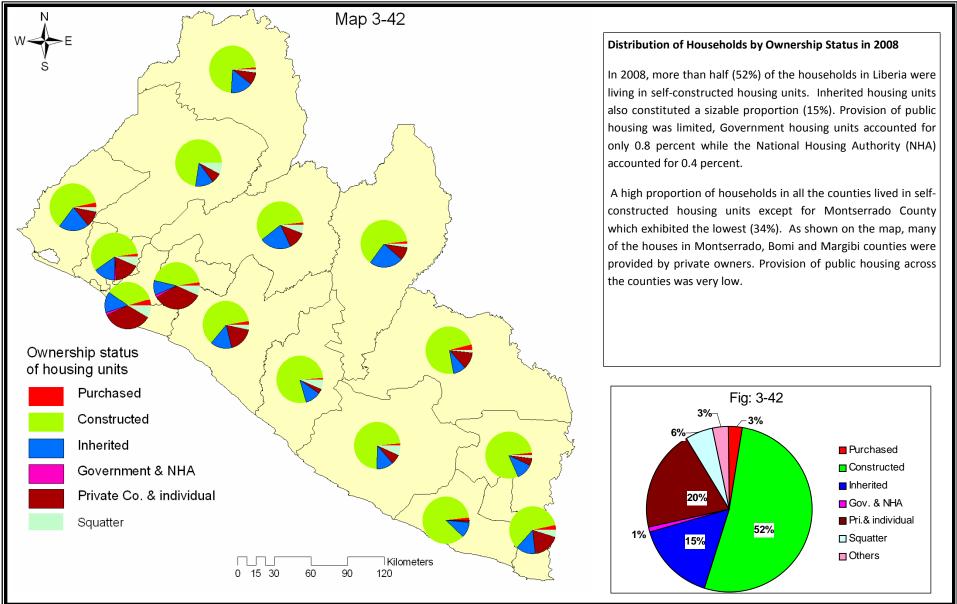


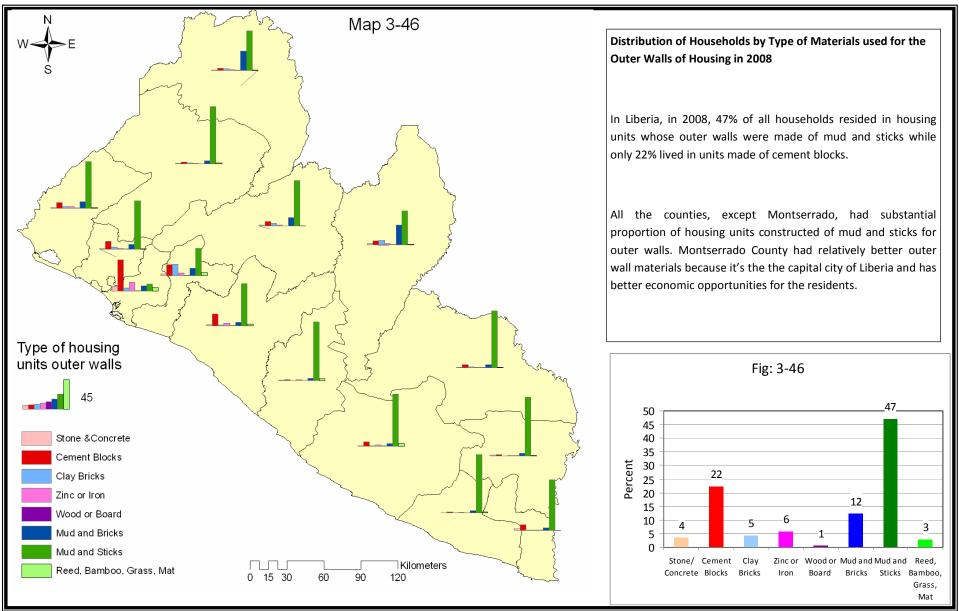


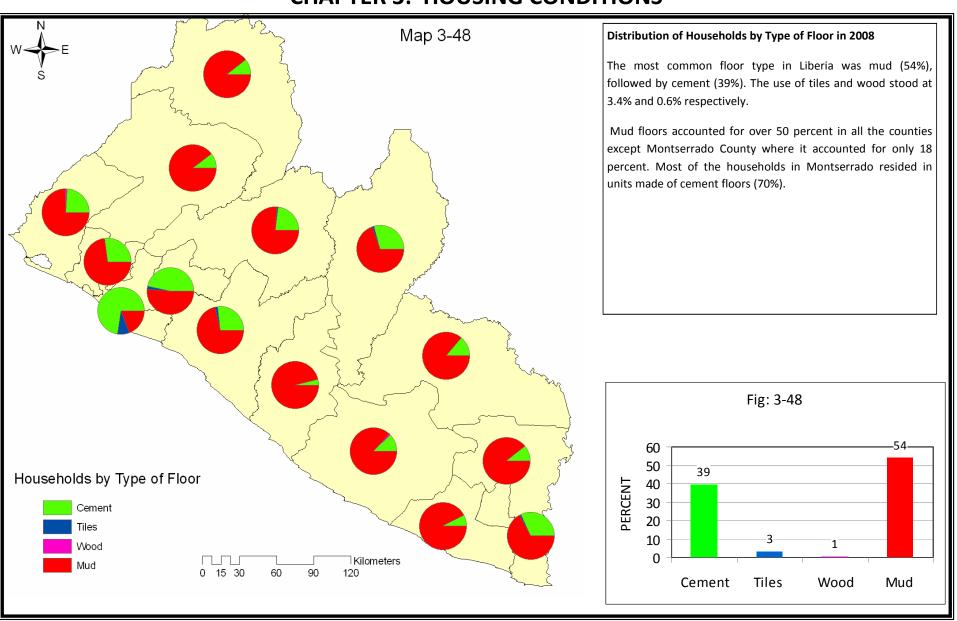


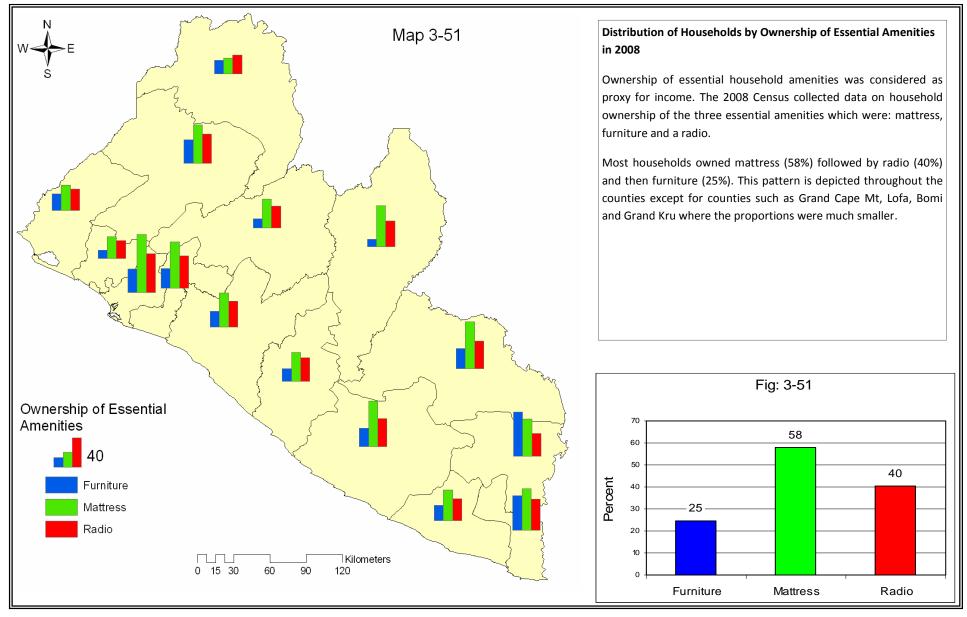


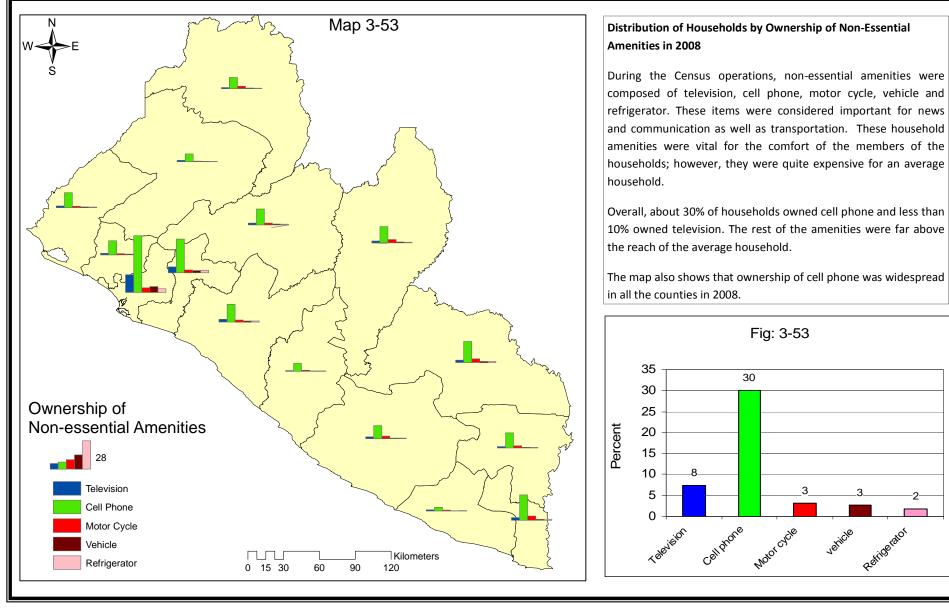


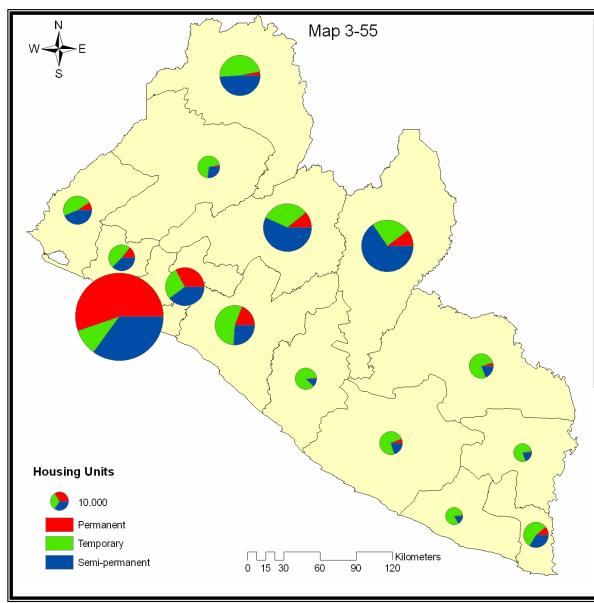








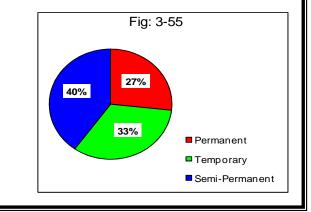


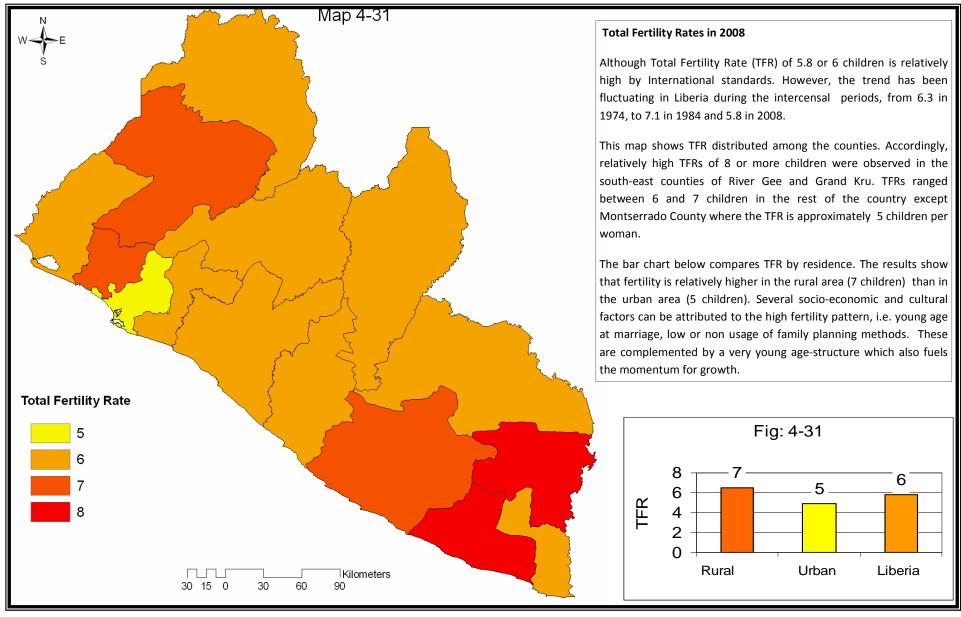


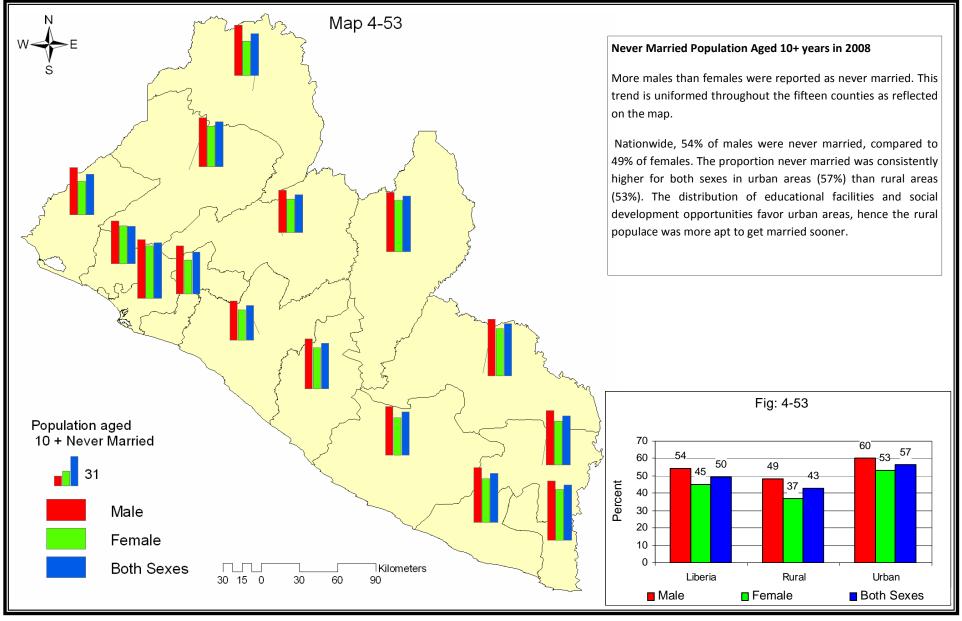
Distribution of Households by Quality of Housing Units in 2008

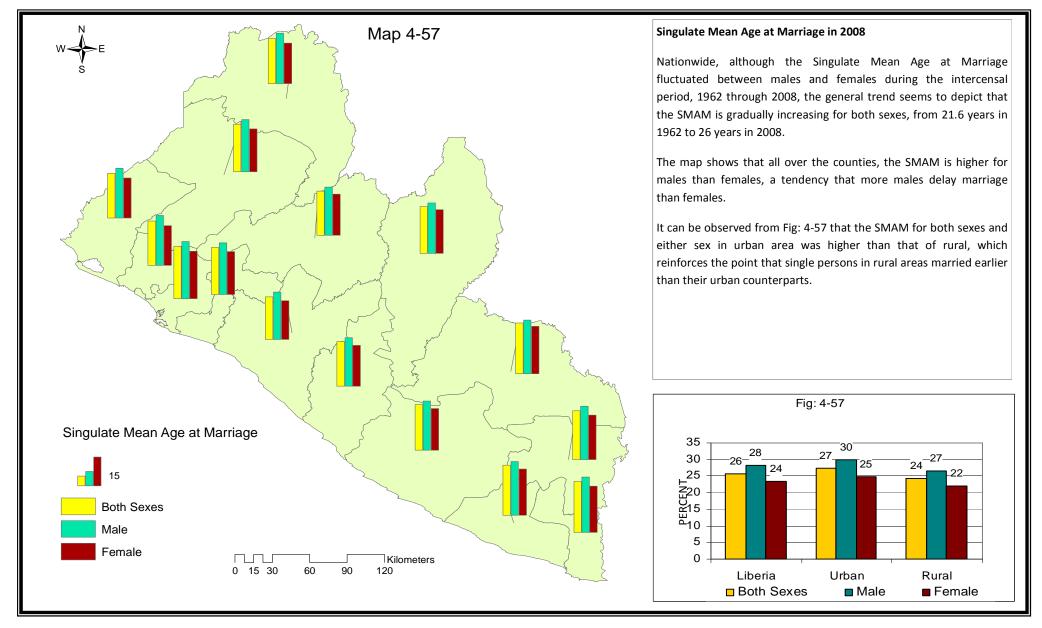
Three broad types of dwelling units were identified during the 2008 census; permanent, semi-permanent and temporary units. Permanent dwelling units were those dwellings constructed with durable materials such as concrete walls, cement floor, concrete roof and tile floor, zinc roof, among others with a life span of at least fifteen years. Temporary structures were those built of inferior construction materials such as outer walls made of zinc or sticks and mud; roof with bamboo leaves; they often last for at most three years. Semi-permanent structures were those units that were built with a mixture of permanent and temporary materials.

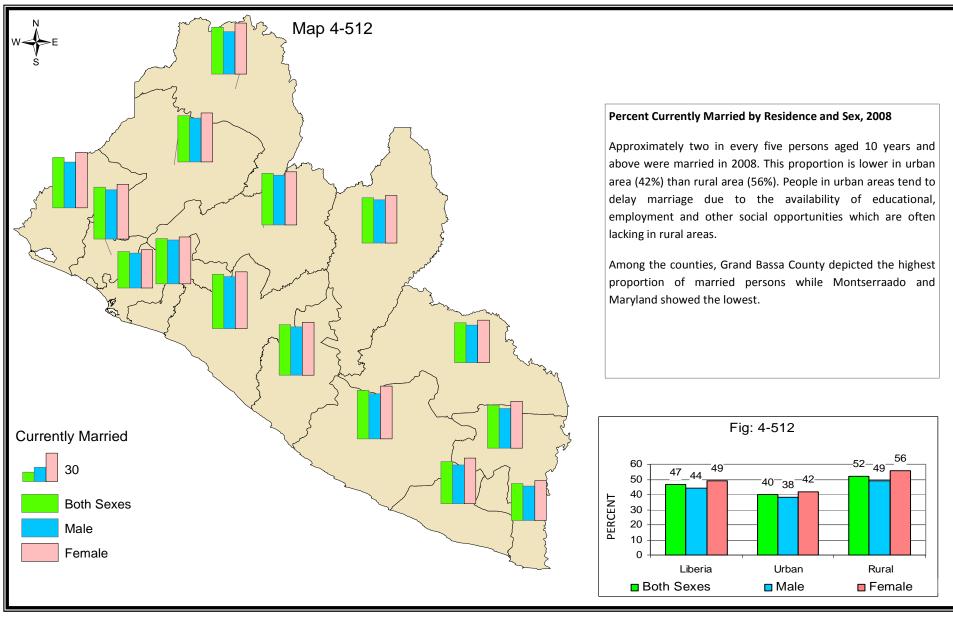
Forty-percent of all households resided in semi-permanent houses, 33% lived in temporary structures while only 27% resided in permanent structures. The map shows that throughout the fifteen counties, very small proportion of household members resided in permanent structures with the exception of Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa counties. Most households lived in temporary and semi-permanent structures.

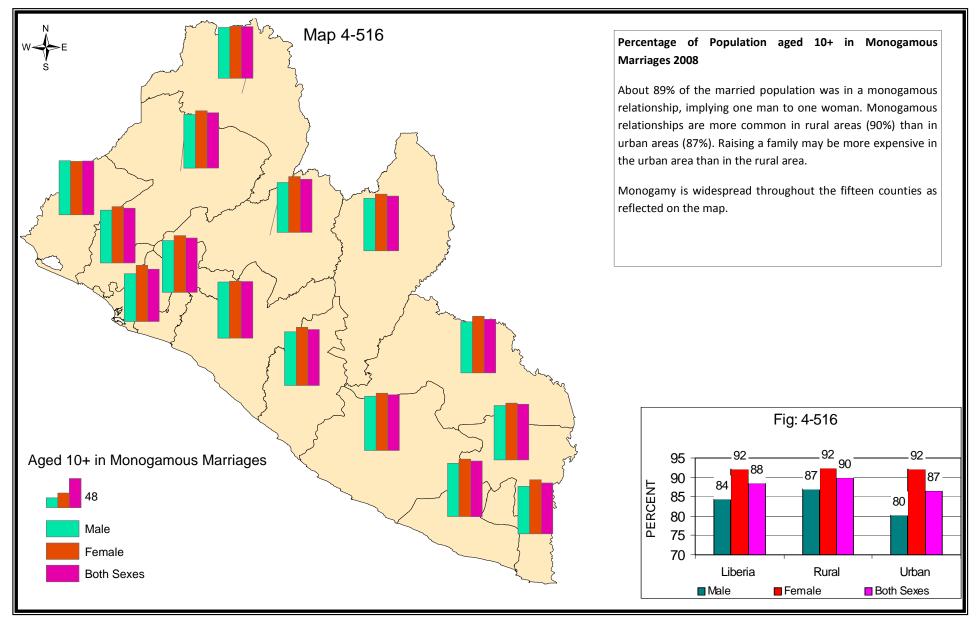


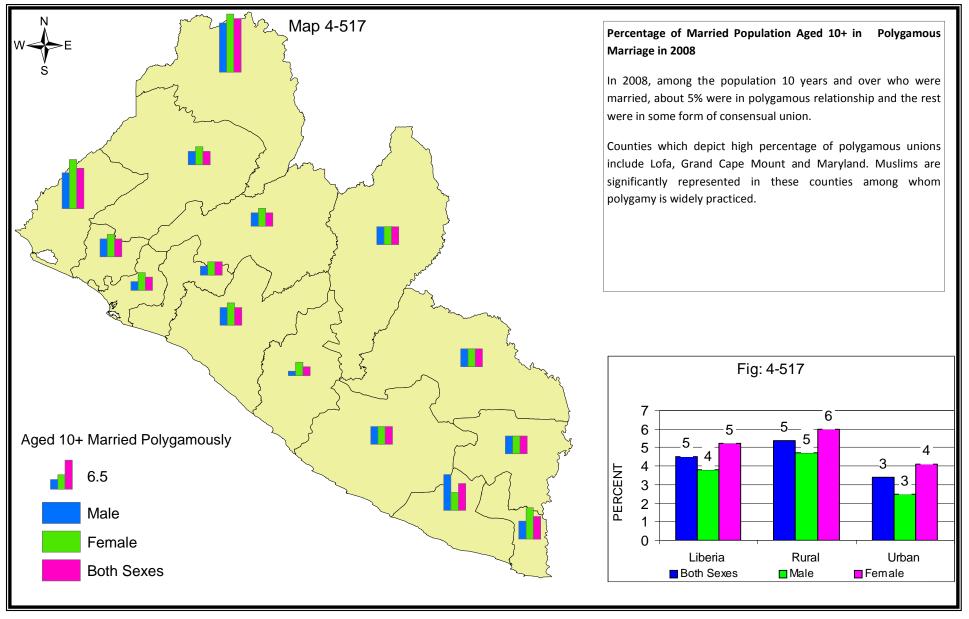


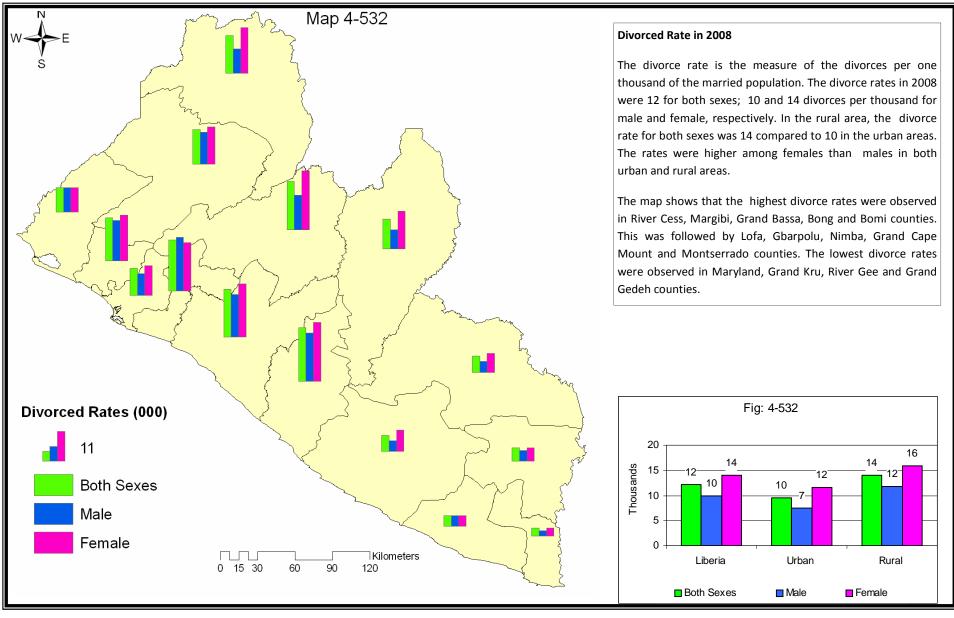


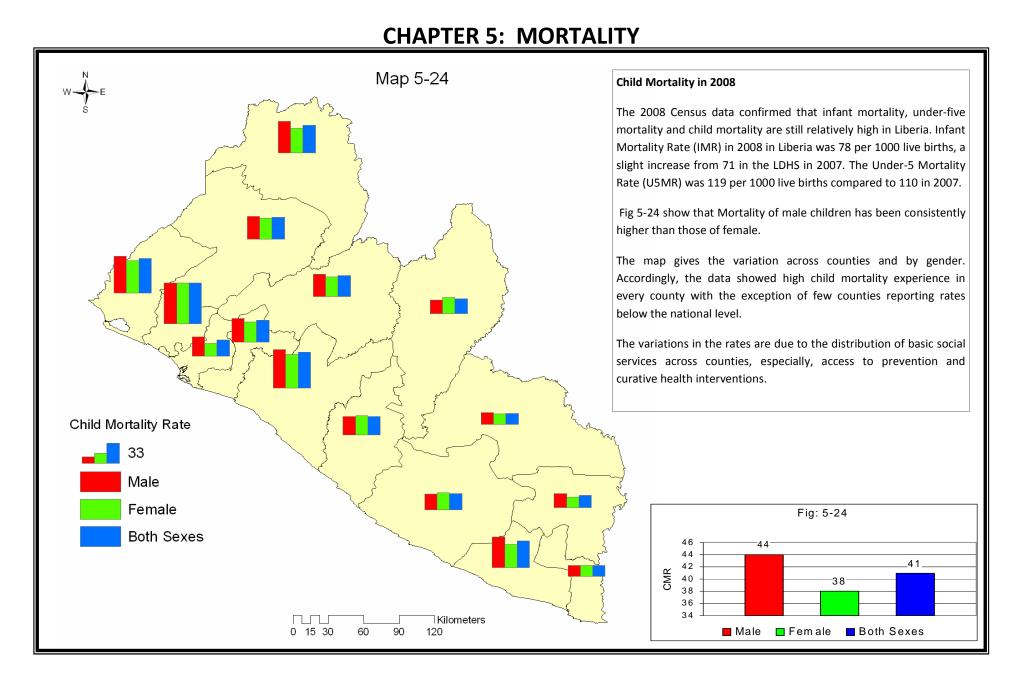




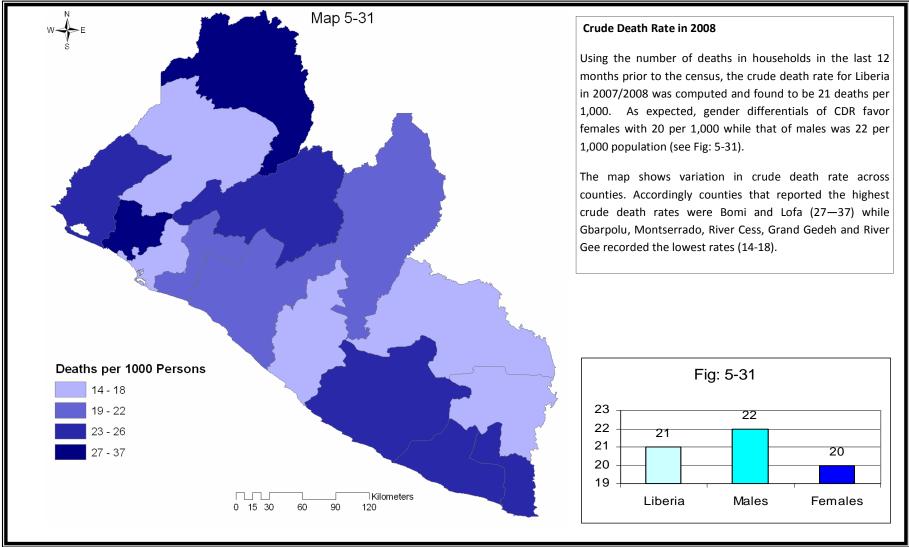




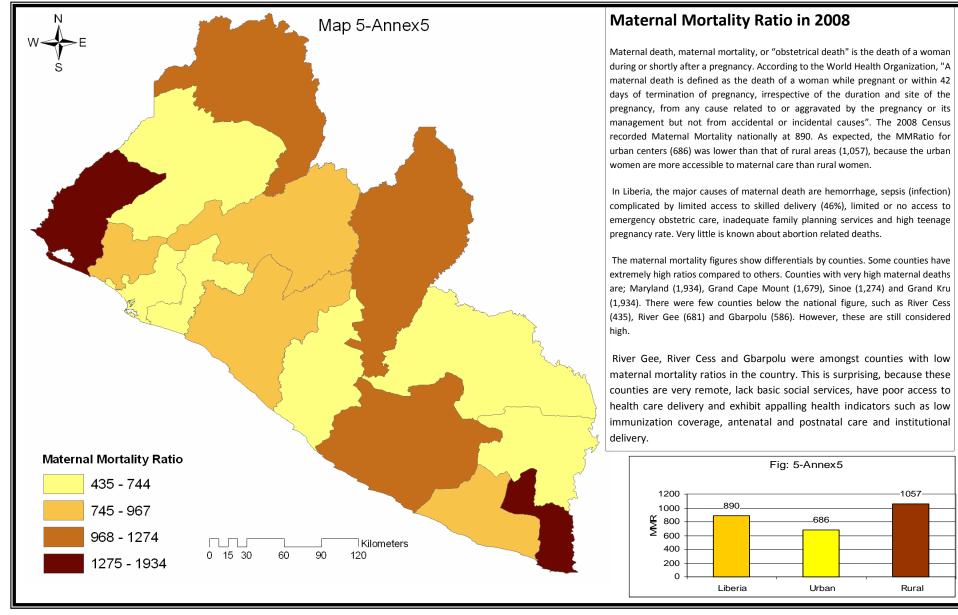




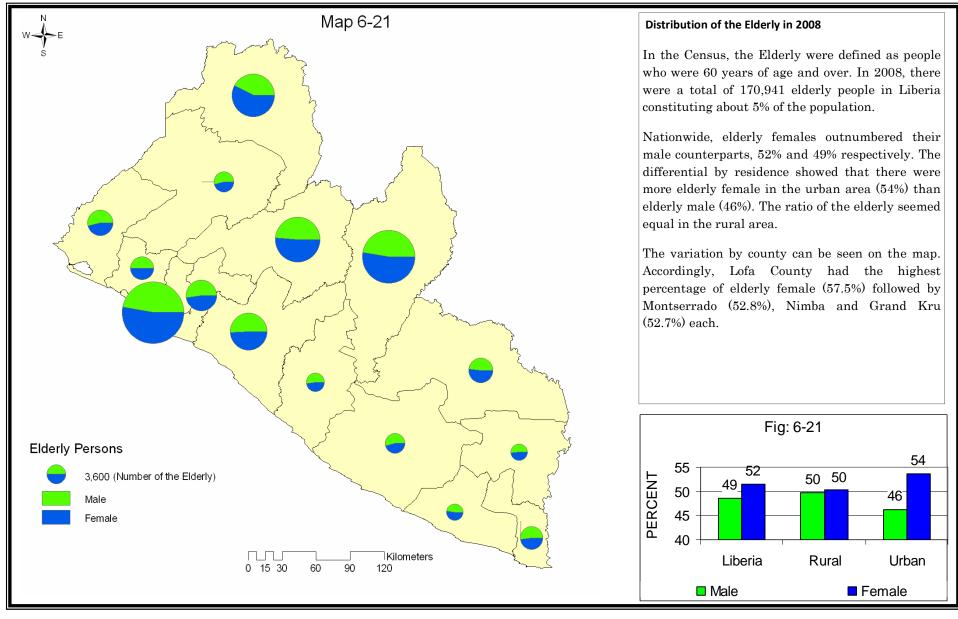
CHAPTER 5: MORTALITY



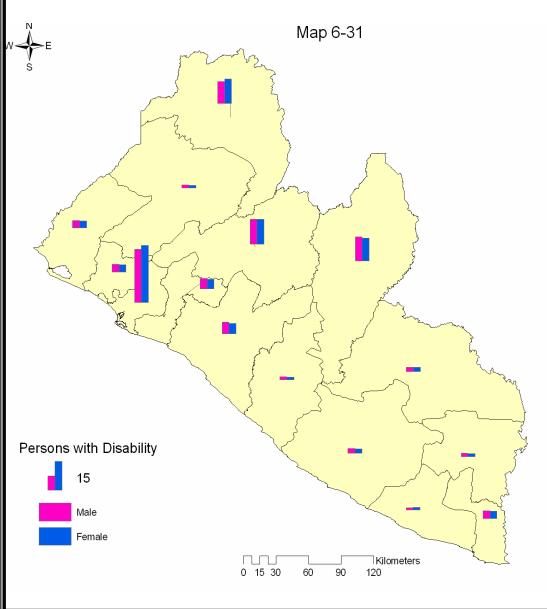
CHAPTER 5: MORTALITY



CHAPTER 6: DISABILITY AND THE ELDERLY



CHAPTER 6: DISABILITY AND THE ELDERLY

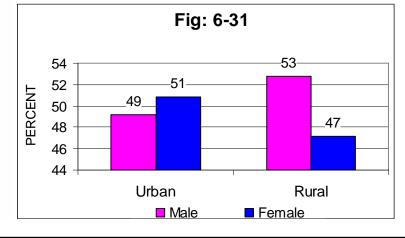


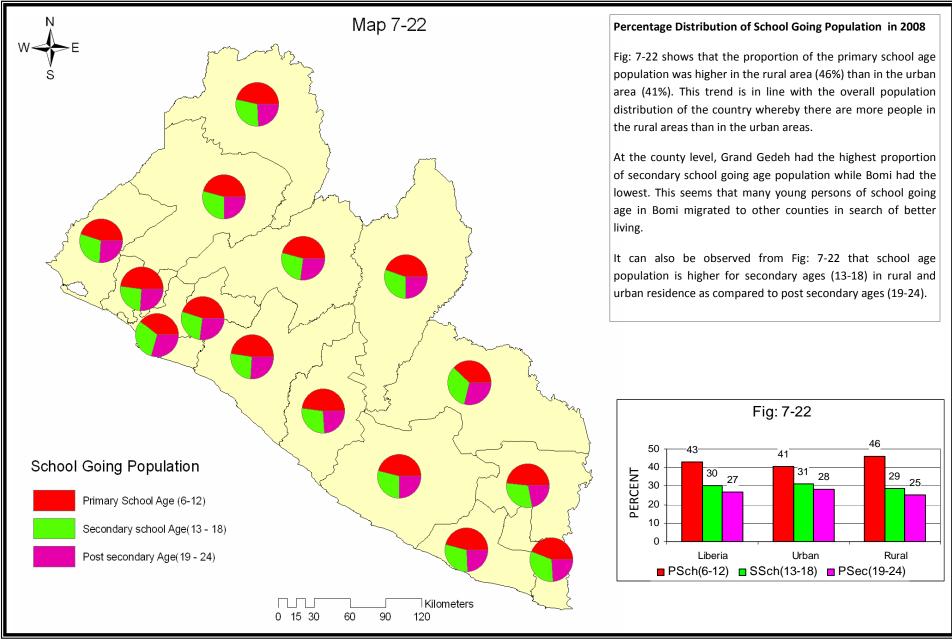
Distribution of Persons with Disability in 2008

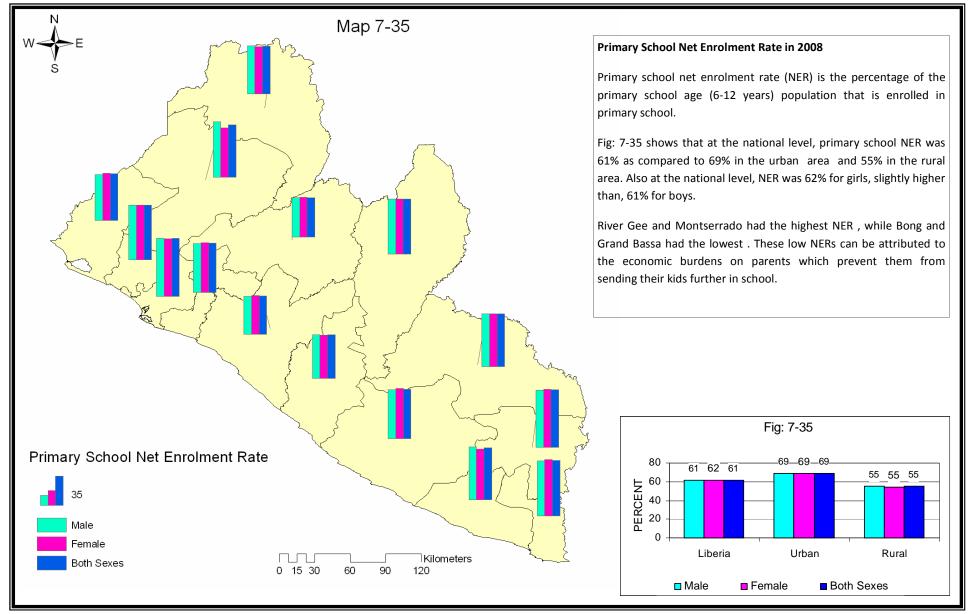
The 2008 Population and Housing Census defined persons with disability as those who were at greater risk of experiencing restrictions in performing specific tasks or participating in daily activities. This group included persons who experienced limitations in basic functions, such as walking or hearing, even if such limitations were ameliorated by use of aiding devices.

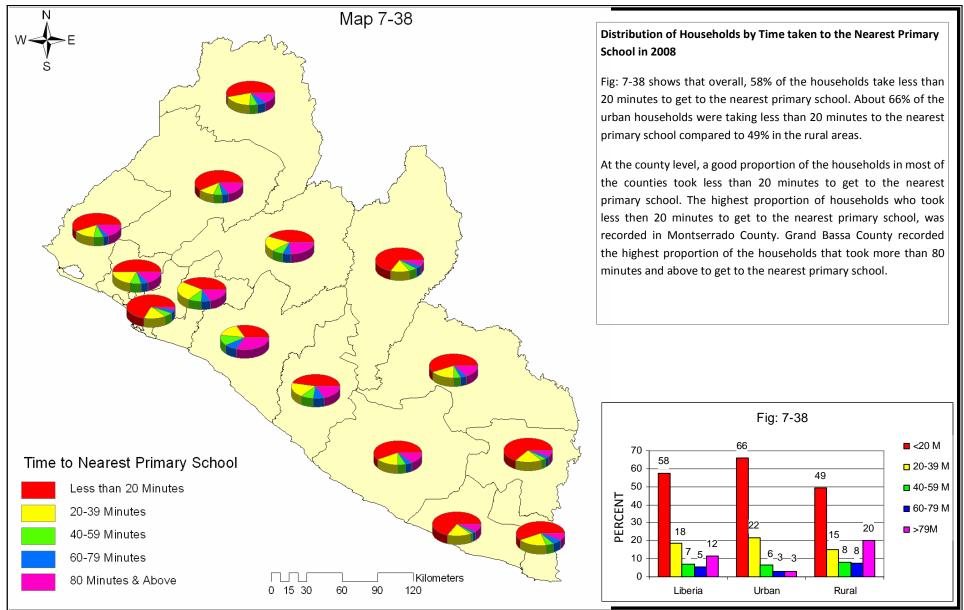
Disability rate varied across the counties as shown on the map. Disaggregating the data by gender Montserrado County had the highest percentage of female and male disability followed by Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties.

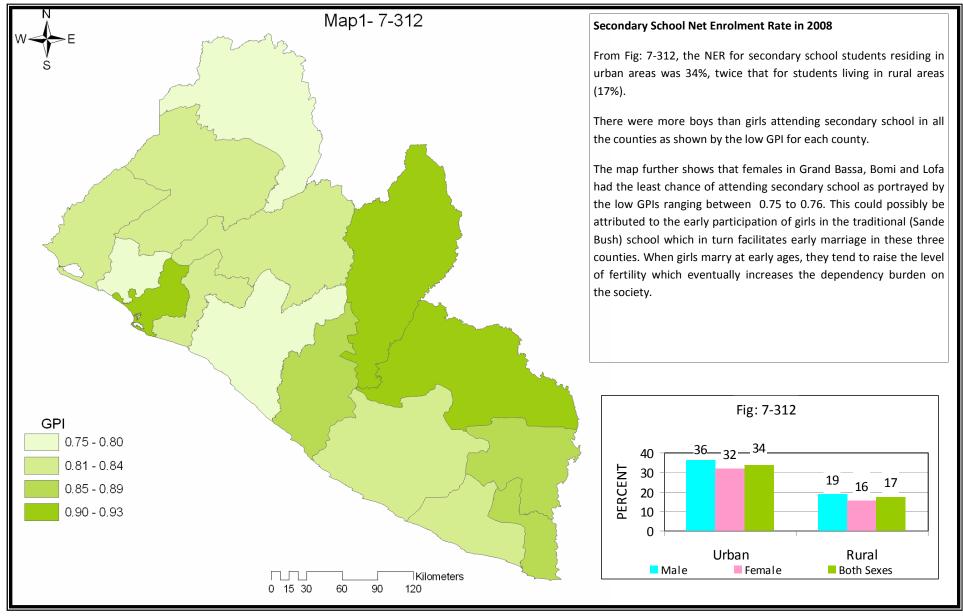
The chart below also shows that there were slightly more disabled female in the urban area (51%) than the male (49%). The reverse holds true for the rural area, 53% male and 47% female.

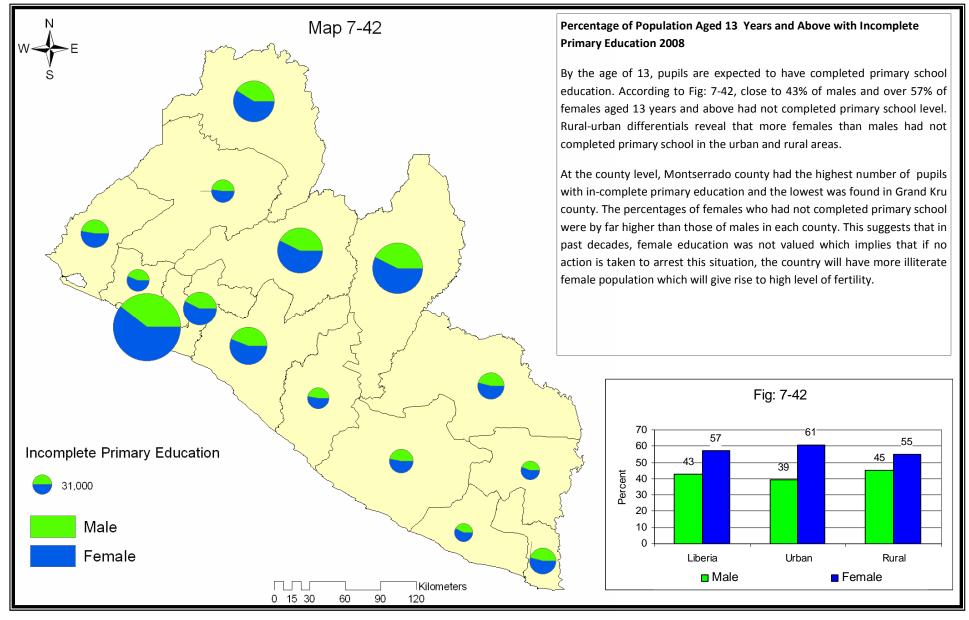


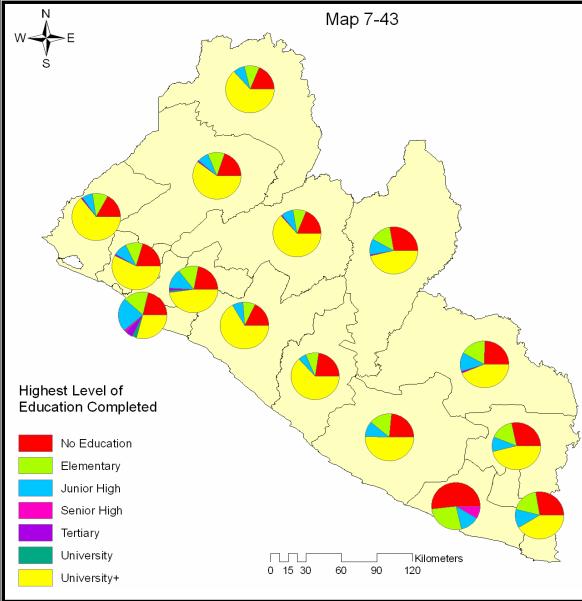










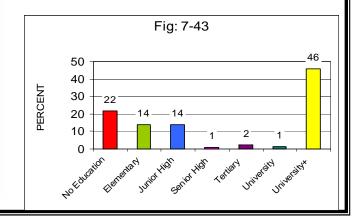


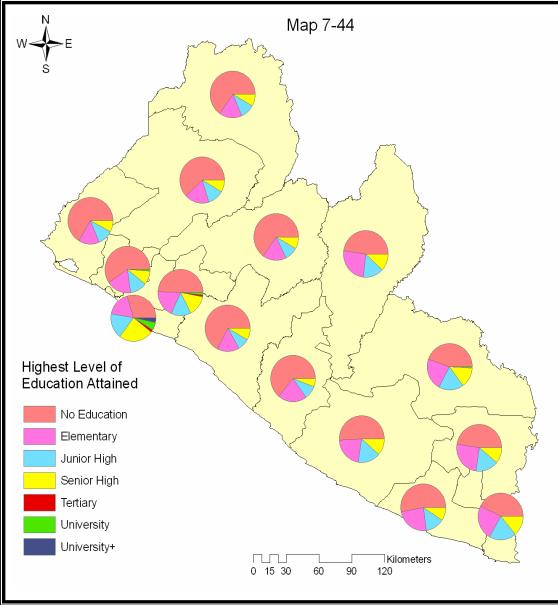
Distribution of Population Aged 13 Years and above by Highest level of Education Completed

Fig: 7-43 shows the percent distribution of the population aged 13 years and above by highest level of education completed. Close to 22% of the population aged 13 years and above had no level of education compared to 46% who had completed university level and above.

At the county level, Grand Kru had the highest proportion of persons who had no level of education, while Grand Bassa had the highest proportion of persons who completed University level and above.

Grand Kru lost almost all of its social infrastructures including schools and hospitals during the war. This made many of the children who were in school to quit school and get involved in other economic activities; others migrated to other parts of the country to seek better lives.



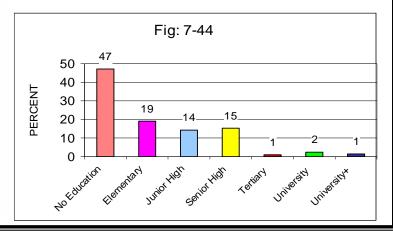


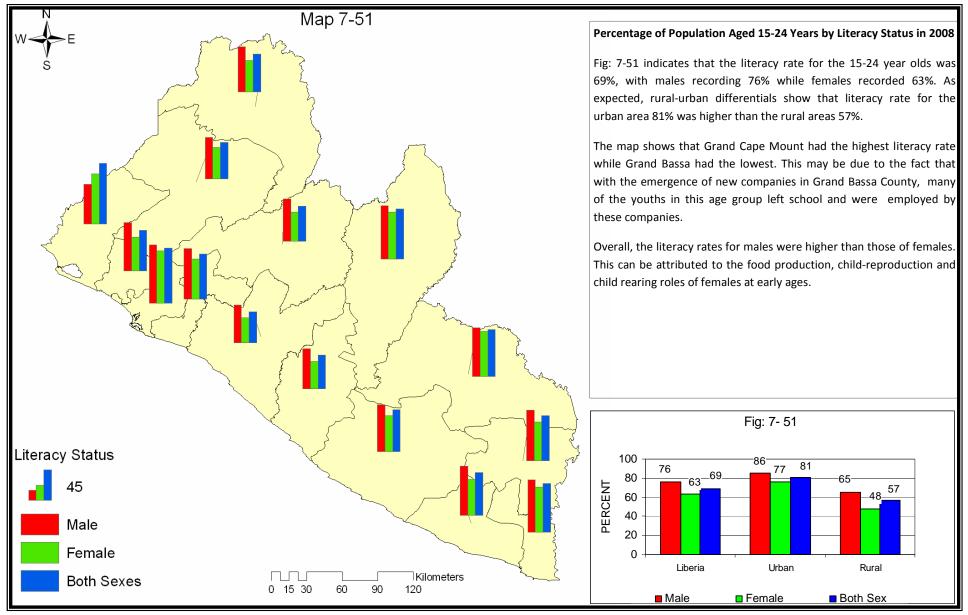
Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Highest Level of Education in 2008

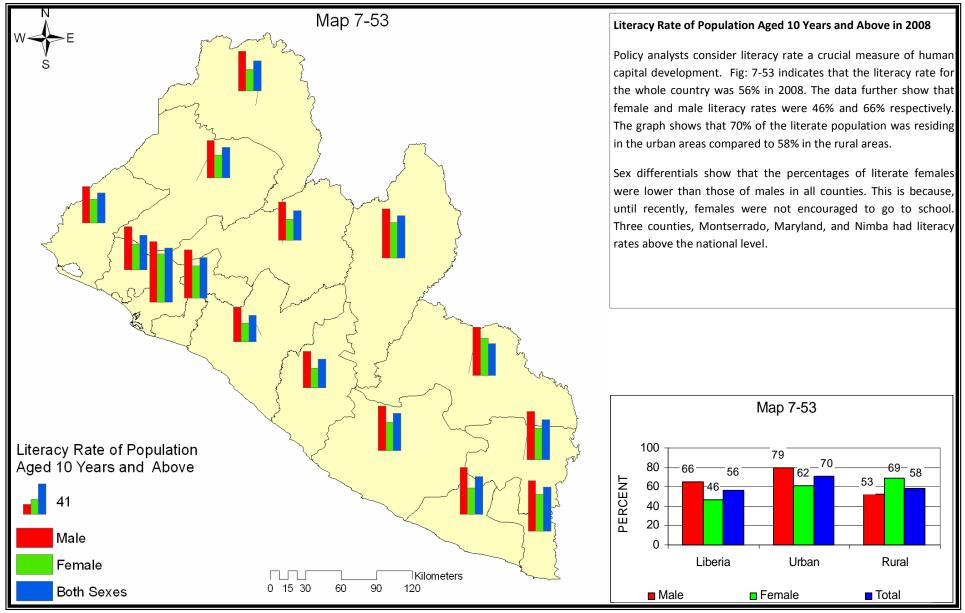
Fig: 7-44 shows the highest level of education attained for all persons aged 15 years and above. The table reveals that 15 percent of all persons aged 15 years and above attained some level of senior high school education compared to 47 percent who had no level of education.

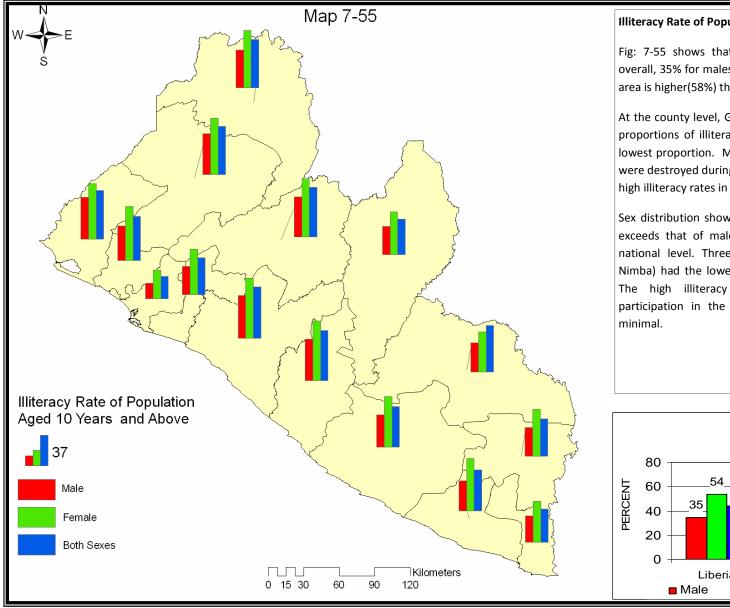
The high proportion for those who had no level of education can be explained by the economic difficulties faced by parents to support their children as a result of the civil war. This forced many children to drop out of schools to help their parents with the economic burden.

Grand Bassa had the highest proportion of all persons aged 15 years and above who had no level of education compared to Montserrado with the lowest proportion.







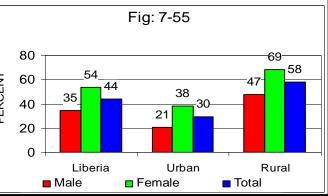


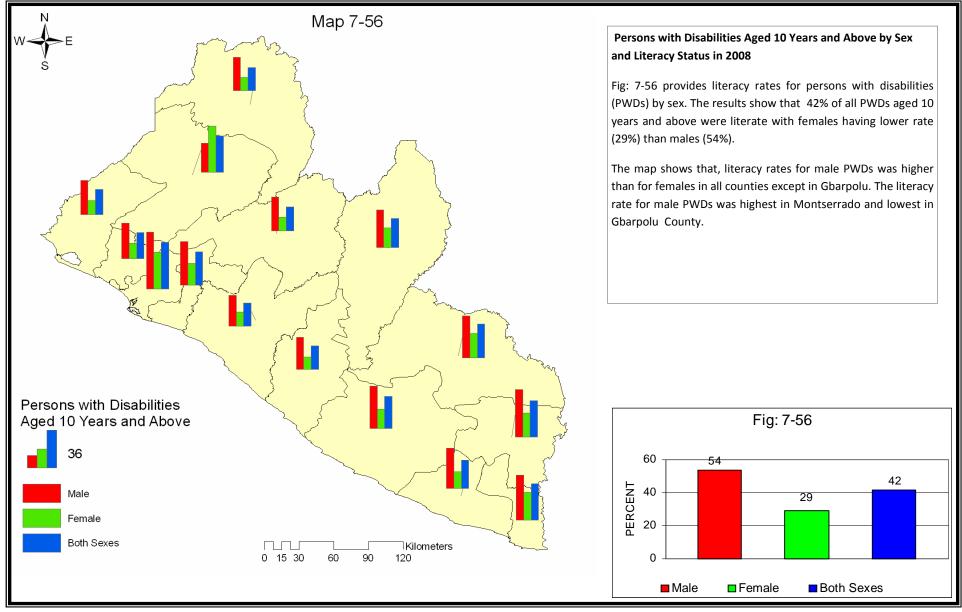
Illiteracy Rate of Population Aged 10 Years and Above in 2008

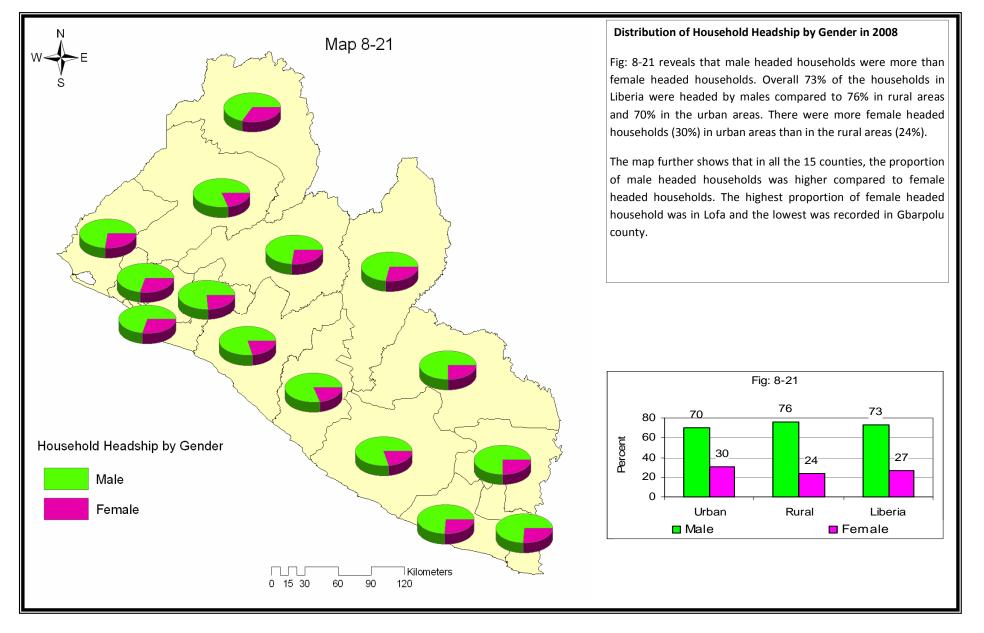
Fig: 7-55 shows that the illiteracy rate for Liberia was 44% overall, 35% for males and 54% for females. Illiteracy in the rural area is higher(58%) than in the urban area (30%).

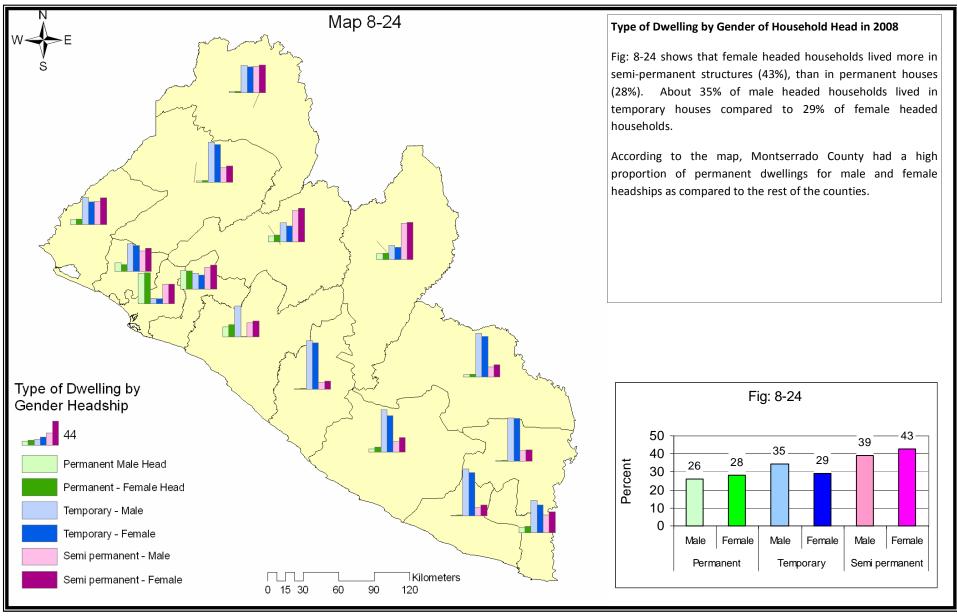
At the county level, Grand Bassa and River Cess had the highest proportions of illiterate population while Montserrado had the lowest proportion. Many schools in Grand Bassa and River Cess were destroyed during the war and this may be attributed to the high illiteracy rates in these counties.

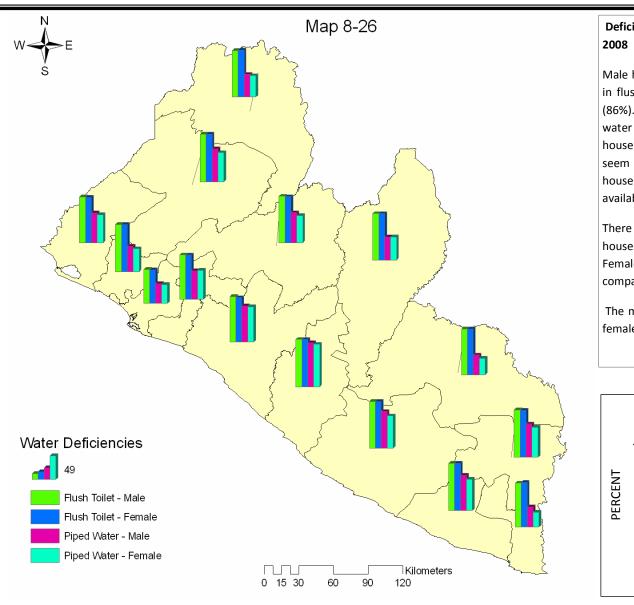
Sex distribution shows that the percentage of illiterate females exceeds that of males for all the counties as well as at the national level. Three counties, (Montserrado, Maryland, and Nimba) had the lowest illiteracy rates below the national rate. The high illiteracy among females suggests that their participation in the formal sector of the economy may be minimal.









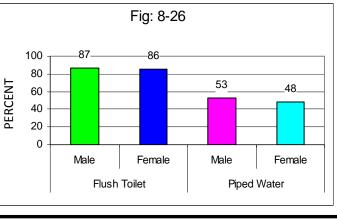


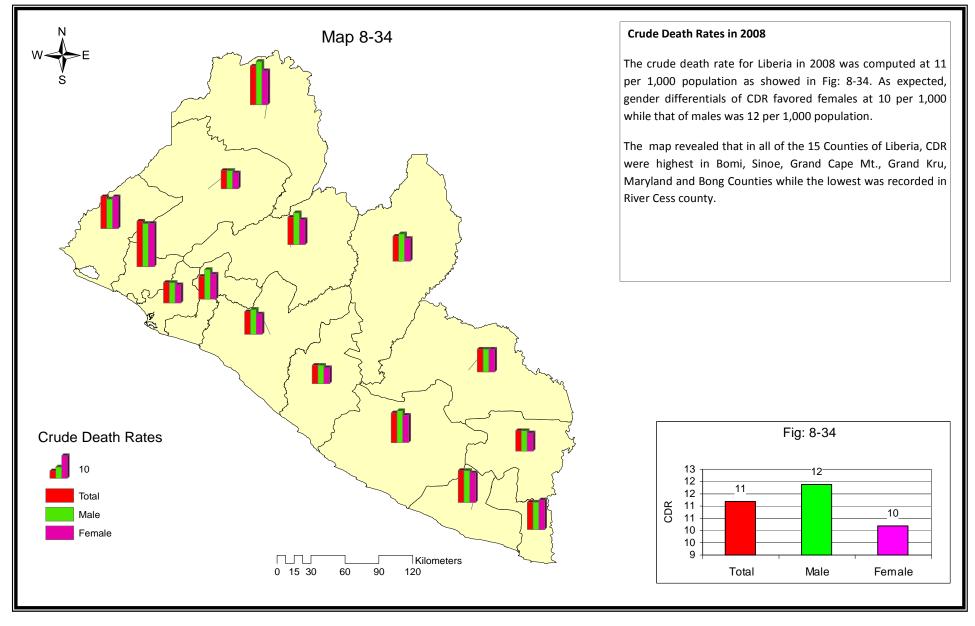
Deficiencies in Flush Toilet and Piped Water by Gender in 2008

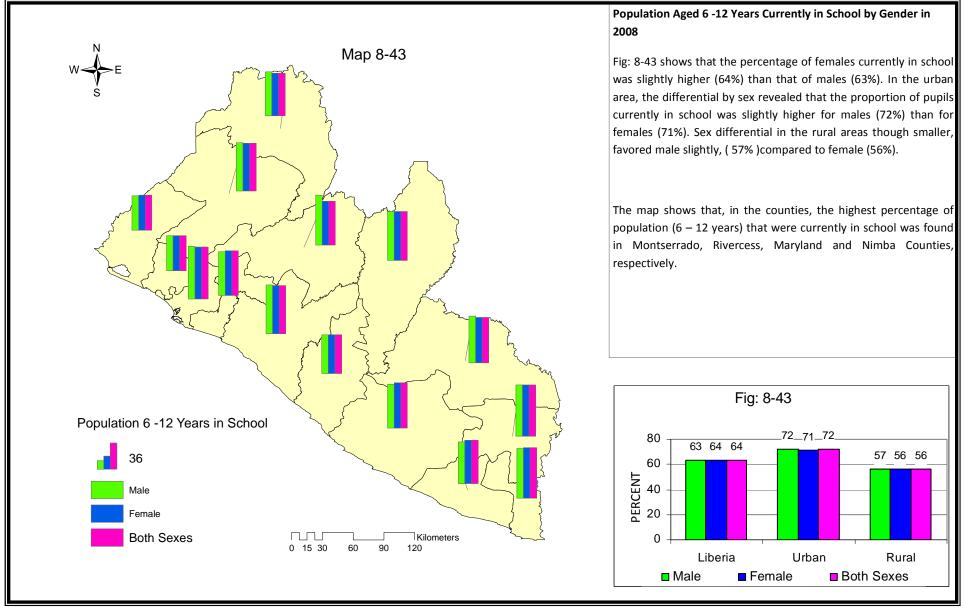
Male headed households in Liberia had slightly more deficiency in flush toilets (87%) compared to female headed households (86%). In addition, female headed households which had piped water deficiency were less (48%) compared to the male headed households (53%). This indicates that male headed households seem to be doing slightly better compared to female headed households when it comes to flush toilets and piped water availability in their households.

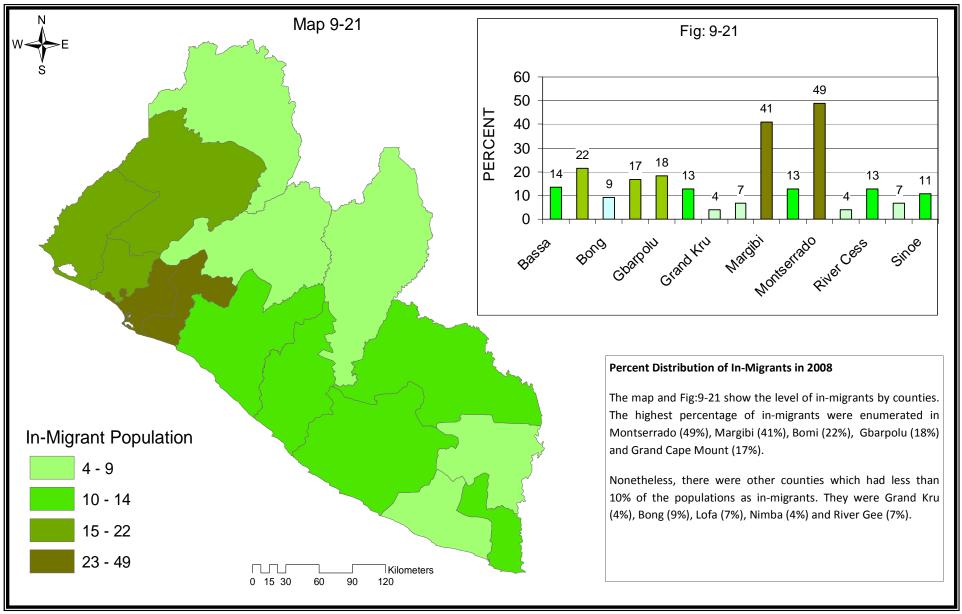
There is a marked difference between female and male headed households in every county regarding piped water deficiency. Female households had less deficiency of piped water compared to male headed households.

The map also shows flush toilet deficiency for both males and females in the counties as compared to piped water.









Montserrado

Grand Gedeh

Rivercess River Gee

Bomi

Sinoe Maryland

Grand Kru

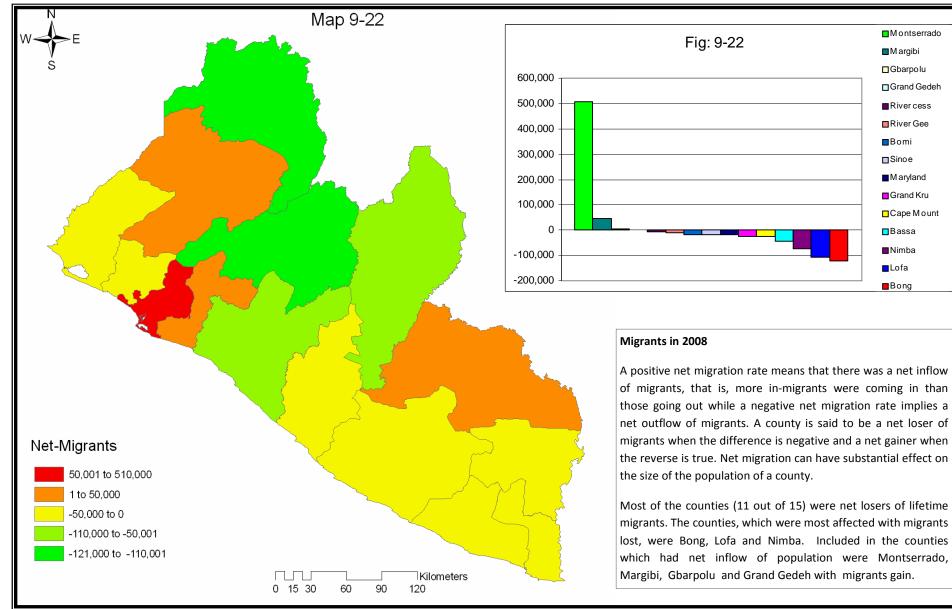
Bassa Nimba

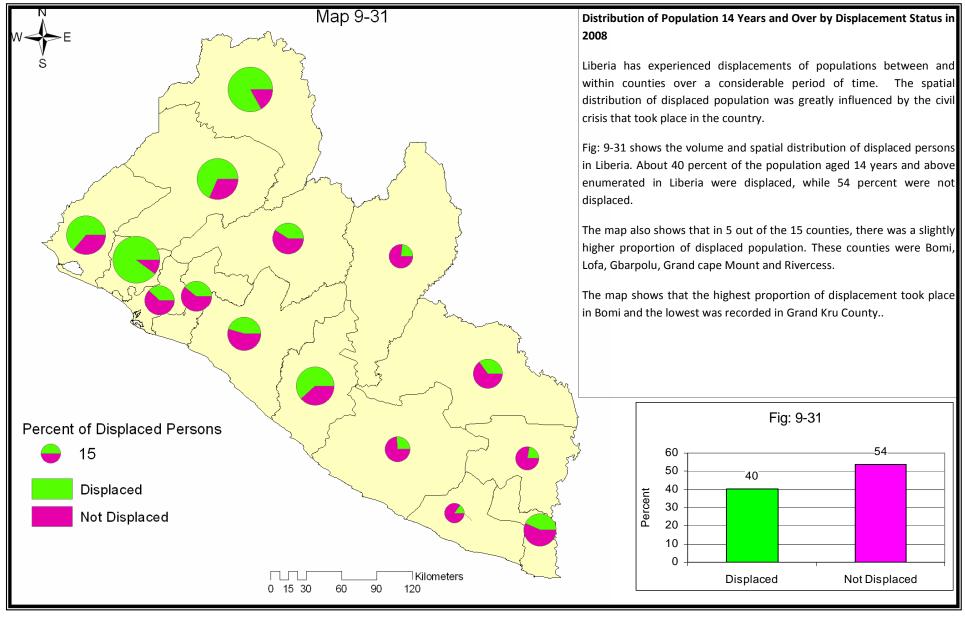
∎Lofa

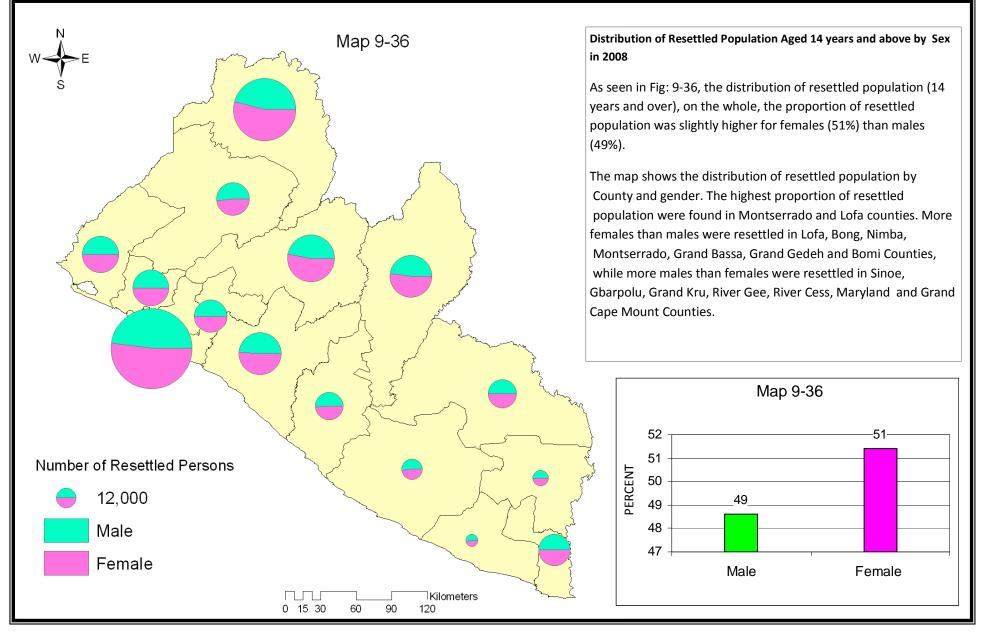
Bong

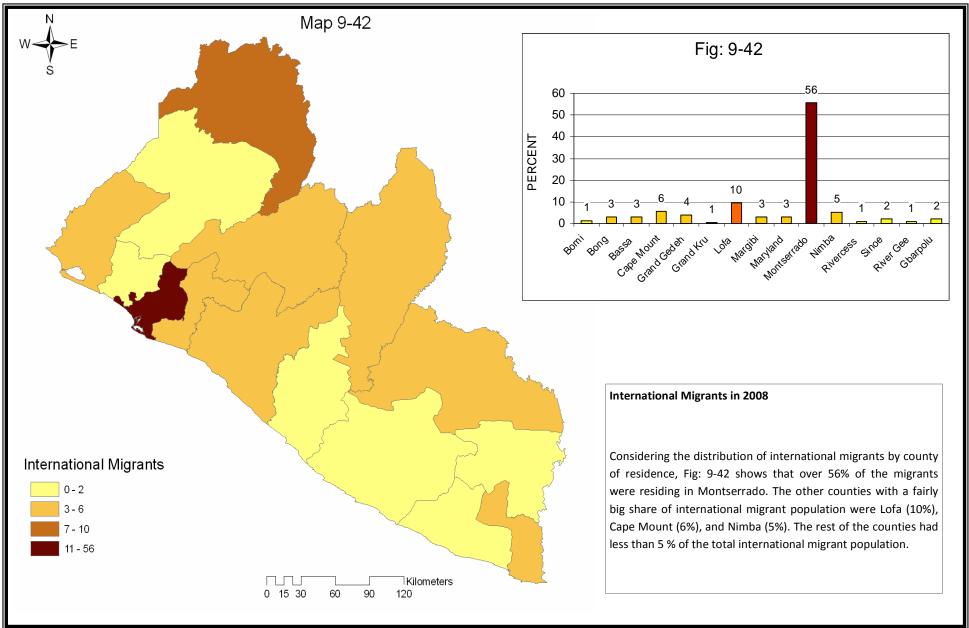
Cape Mount

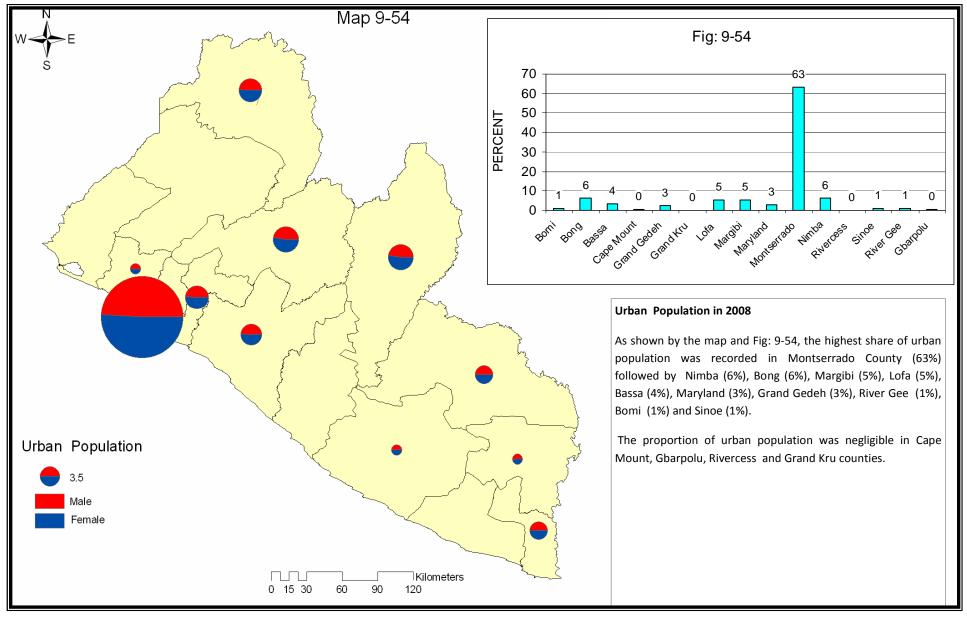
Margibi Gbarpolu

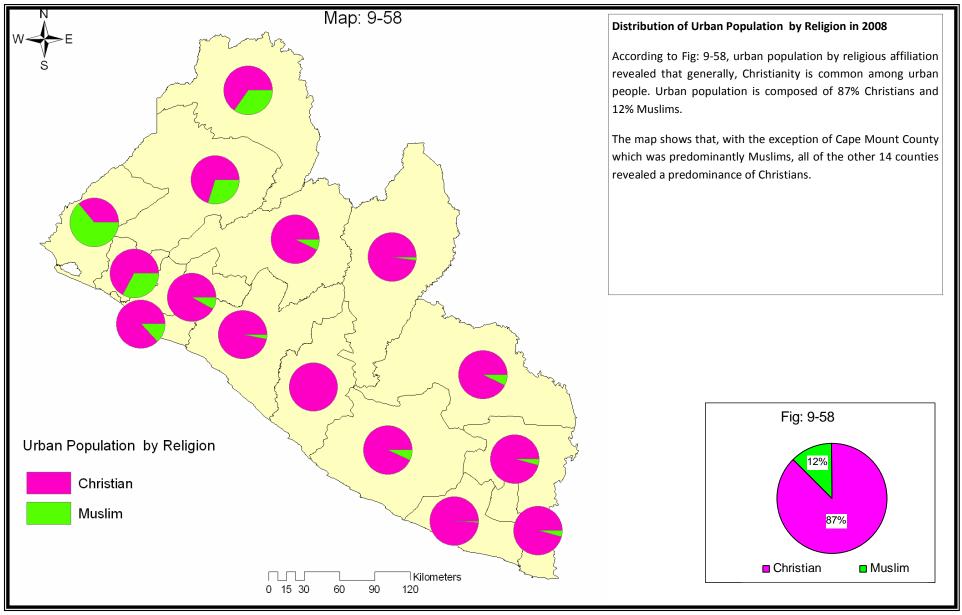


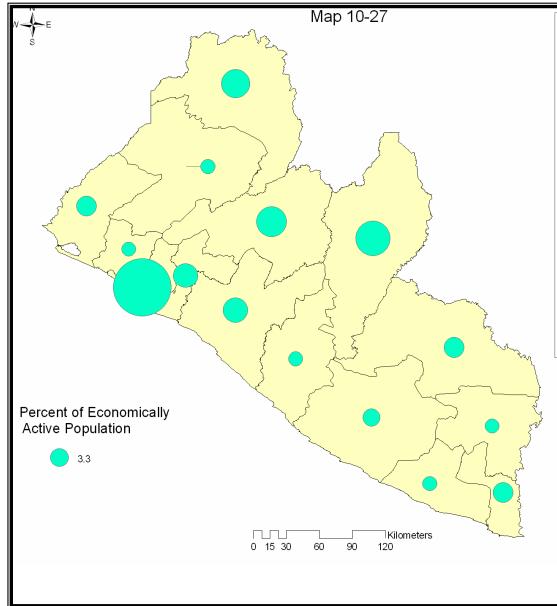










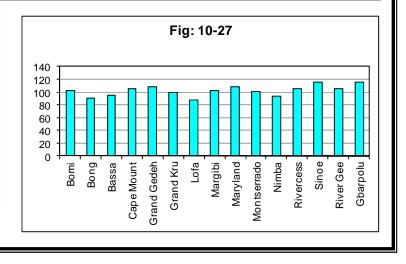


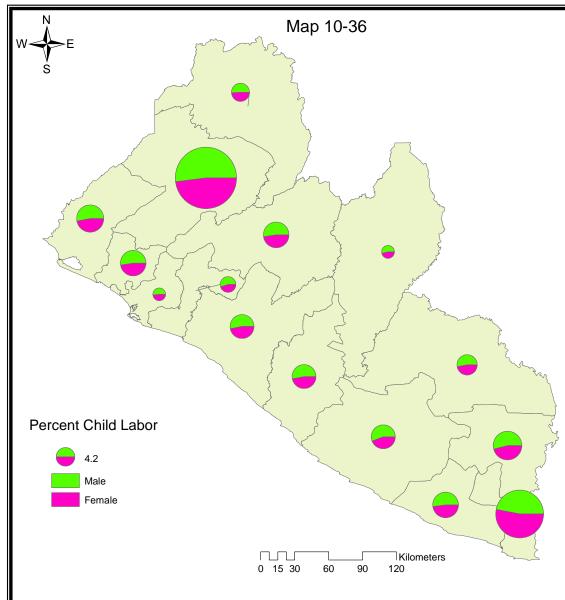
Percentage distribution and Sex Ratio of economically active population aged (15-64 year) in 2008

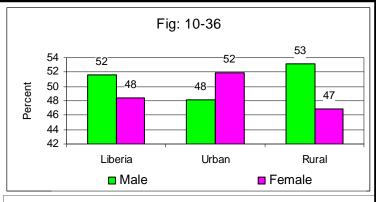
This section presents the percentage distribution and sex ratio of economically active population aged 15-64 year by County. As can be observed from the map Montserrado county had the largest share of the economically active population. The least shares were observed in Gbarpolu, Bomi, Rivercess, River Gee and Grand Kru.

Fig:10-27 shows that Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Lofa and Nimba Counties had less economically active female population. These counties were most affected by the war because most of the fighting groups eminated in these counties. The ratio is also low in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas.

The counties whose sex ratio were above 100 were Sinoe, Gbarpolu, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Rivercess, Cape Mount, River Gee, Margibi, Bomi and Montserrado. These counties were more reliant on labor intensive agriculture, while Bomi and Grand Cape Mount reliant on mining.





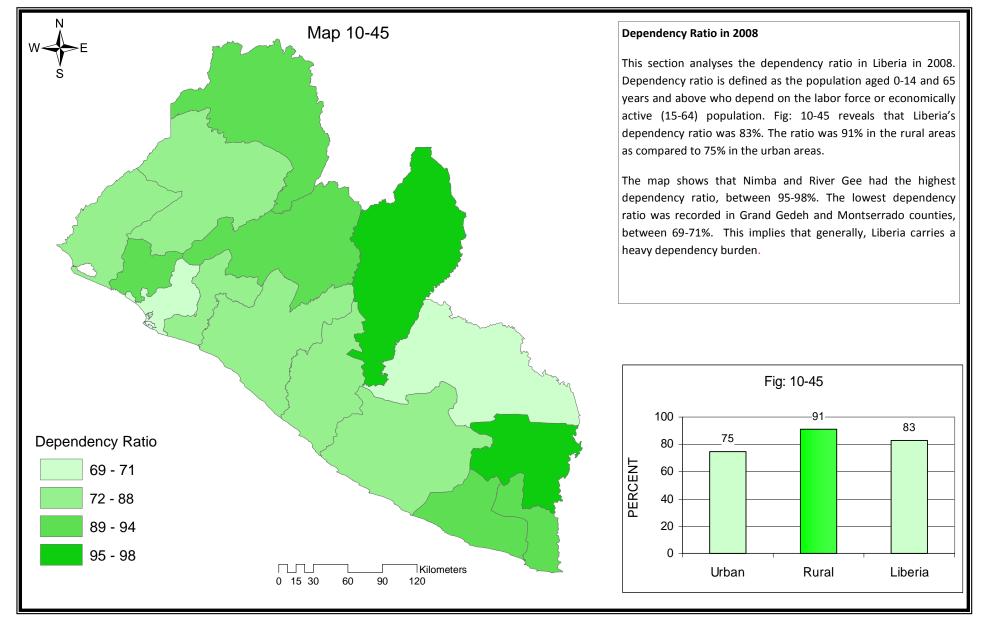


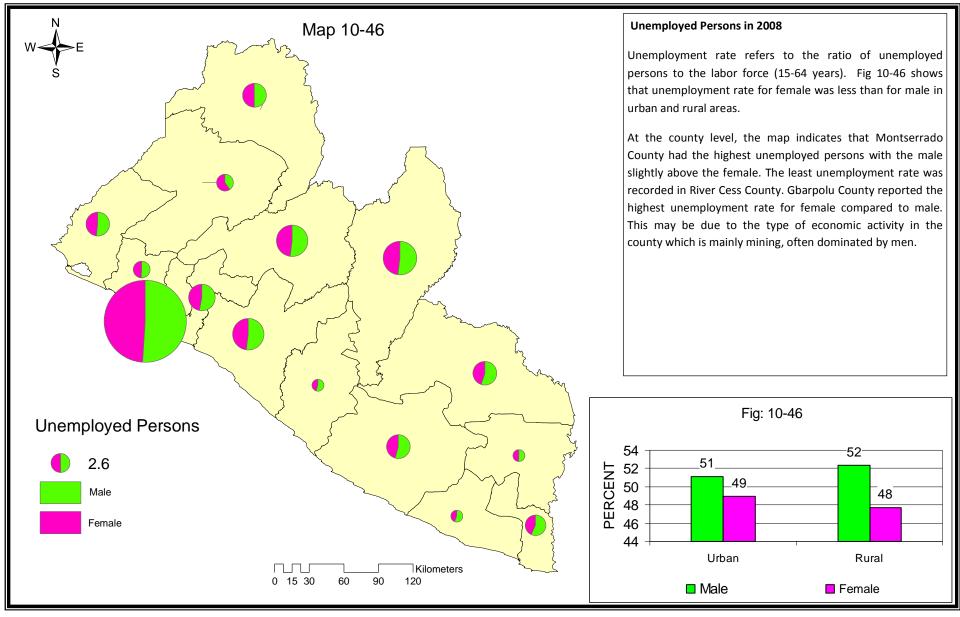
Distribution of Child Labor by Sex in 2008

In 2008, male child labor was 52% compared to 48% for female. There was high concentration of female child labor in the urban (52%) compared to their male counterparts (48%). In the rural area, the reverse holds true, male (53%) and female (47%). This high proportion of male child labor in rural areas may be prevalent because the rural populace was mostly engaged in agricultural production, which is generally labor intensive.

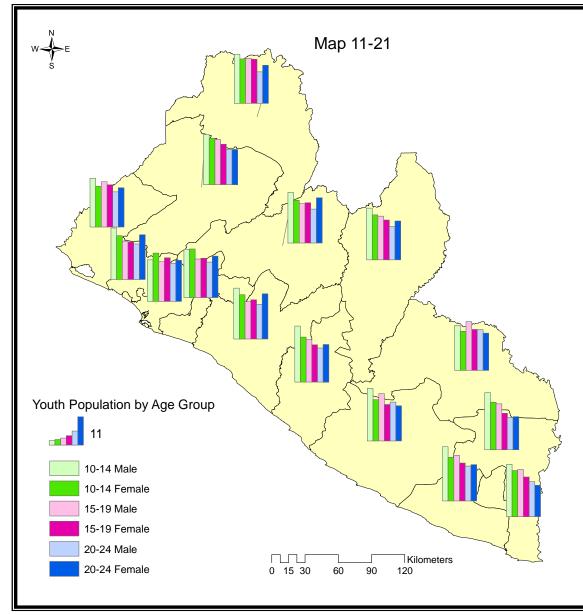
The highest proportion of child labor was recorded in Gbarpolu and Maryland counties. These counties have poor infrastructures and hence more dependent on subsistence agriculture, which is labor intensive. Nimba County showed the lowest child labor rate, this may be attributed to the availability of schools as well as employment for parents.

Maryland and Lofa Counties accounted for high female child labor participation because of their cross border trade, majority of whom were female traders. Sinoe and Margibi Counties contributed the highest male child labor because the male children were engaged in income generating agricultural activities in these counties.





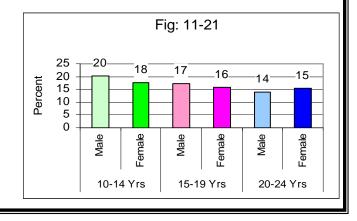
CHAPTER 11: YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS



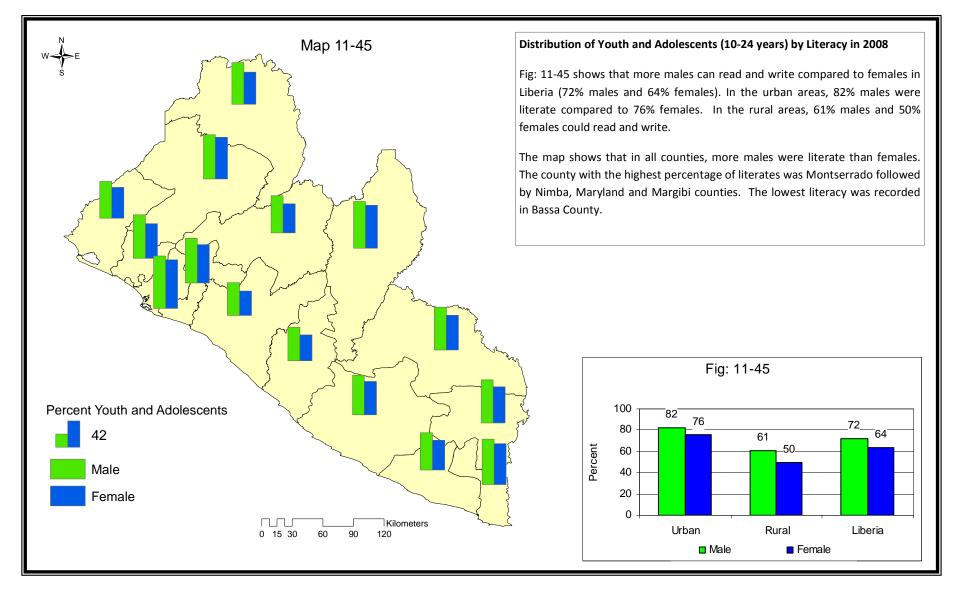
Youth Population by Five- year Age Groups in 2008

Fig: 11-21 shows the population of youth and adolescents classified into three five year age groups (10-14, 15-19, 20-24) cross classified by sex. In the 10-14 age group, there were predominantly more males than females in all of the counties with the exception of Margibi and Montserrado counties were more females existed.

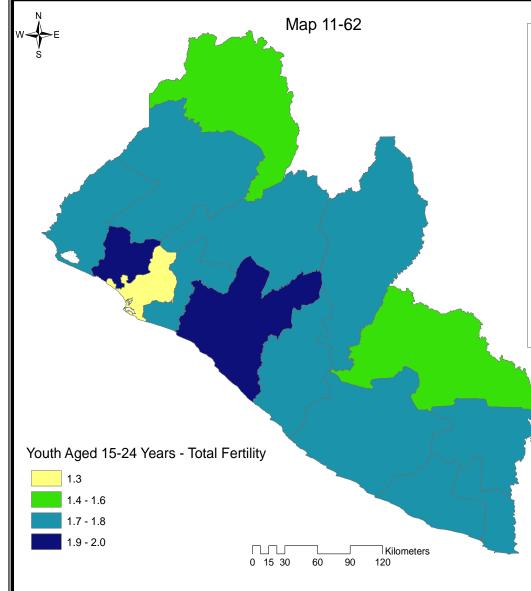
Among the 15-19 age group, eleven counties showed distribution of more males than females, while Bong, Bassa, and Montserrado counties showed the contrary in favor of females. Regarding the young adults aged 20-24 years, the pattern seems to reverse, 10 counties reflected female dominated population. This condition may be attributed to the after math of the civil war where male mortality or migration could have been high.



CHAPTER 11: YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS



CHAPTER 11 YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS

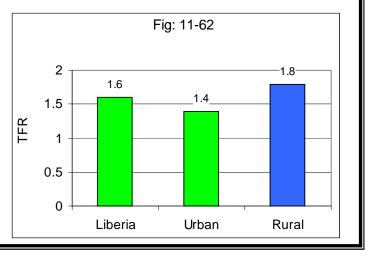


Distribution of Youth Aged 15-24 Years by Total Fertility and Residence in 2008

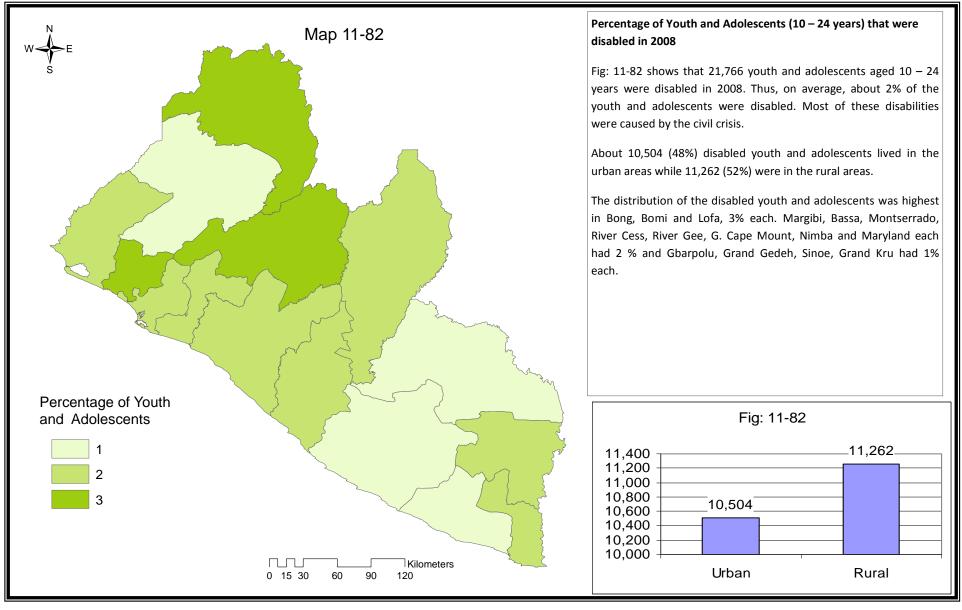
The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) as reported by the 2008 National Population and Housing Census stands at 6 children per woman. This is quite high by international standards. The TFR for the youth and adolescents is 2 children for the rural areas and 1.4 for the urban areas.

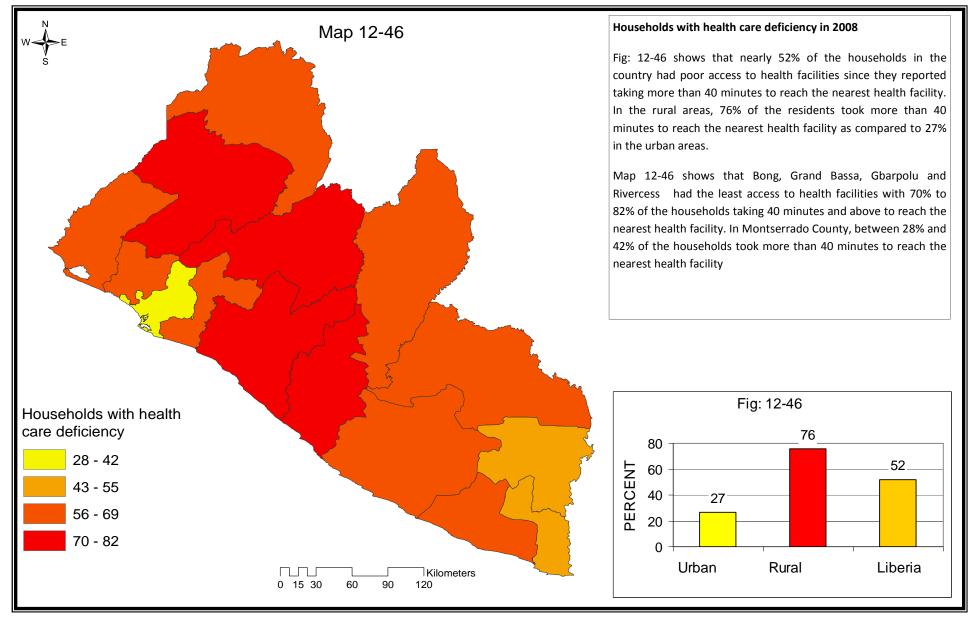
The slightly high adolescents fertility in the rural areas could be attributed to early marriages, low education levels of women, limited social development opportunities and unavailability and lack of knowledge of family planning services compared to urban centers.

It is further revealed that adolescents fertility was high (1.9-2.0) in Bomi and Grand Bassa counties. Grand Gedeh and Lofa fell in the range of (1.4-1.6) children. Only Montserrado had the least of (1.3) children. The rest of the counties fell in the range of (1.7-1.8) children. Most of the educational, social and economic development as well as employment and health services are concentrated in Montserrado County. These condtions contributed to the low adolescent's fertility level in Montserrado County when compared to the rest of the counties.



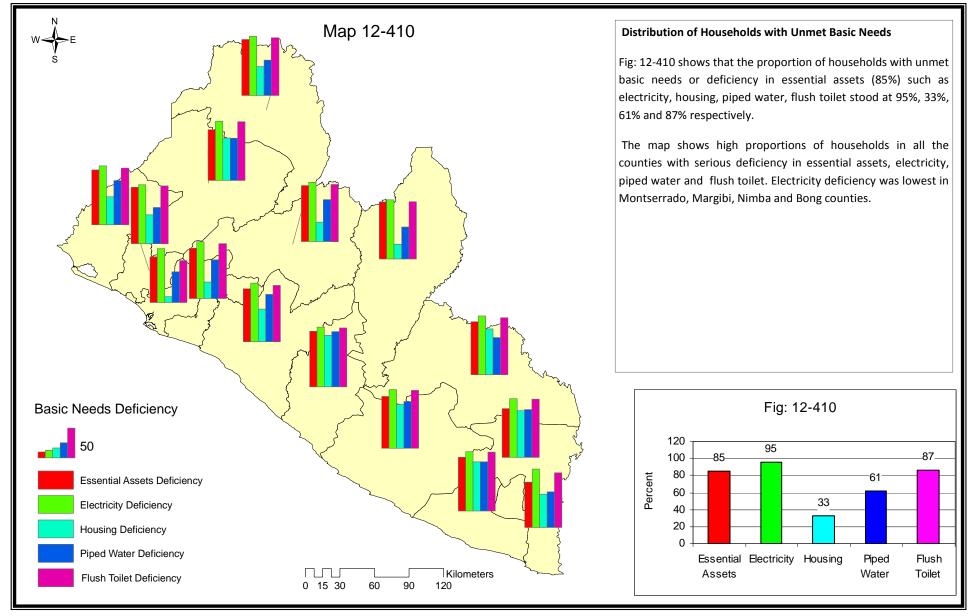
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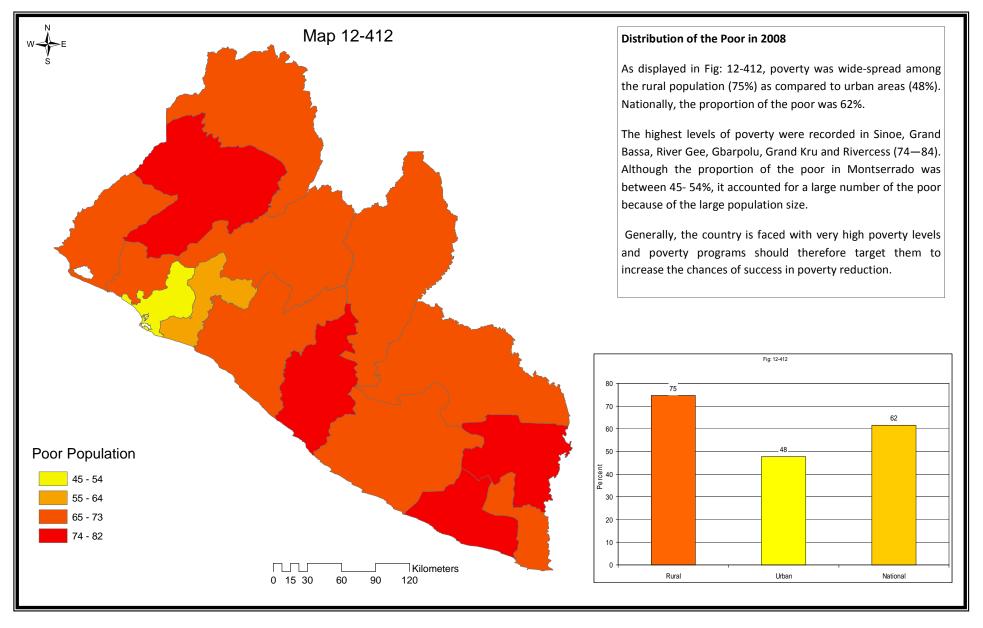


CHAPTER 12: POVERTY

CHAPTER 12: POVERTY

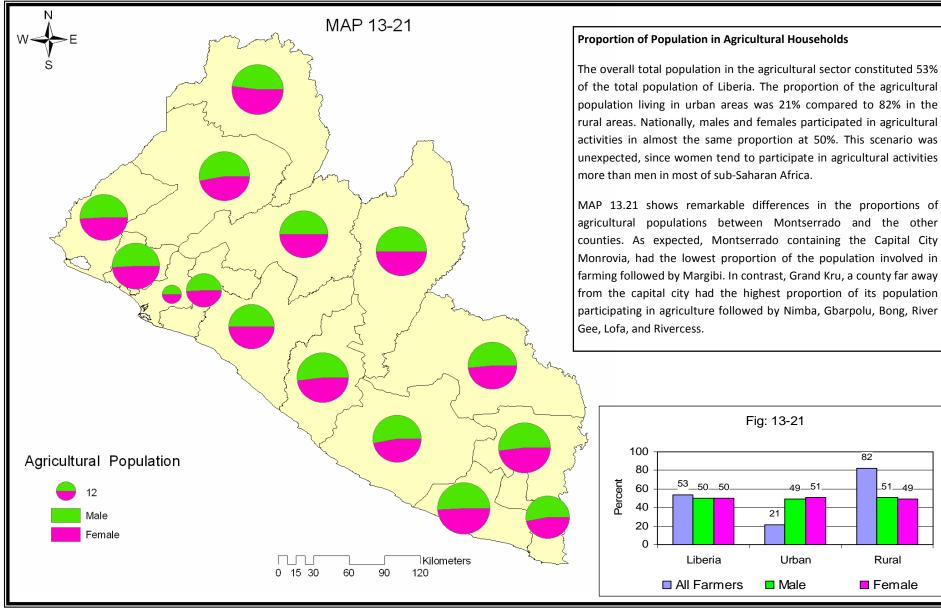


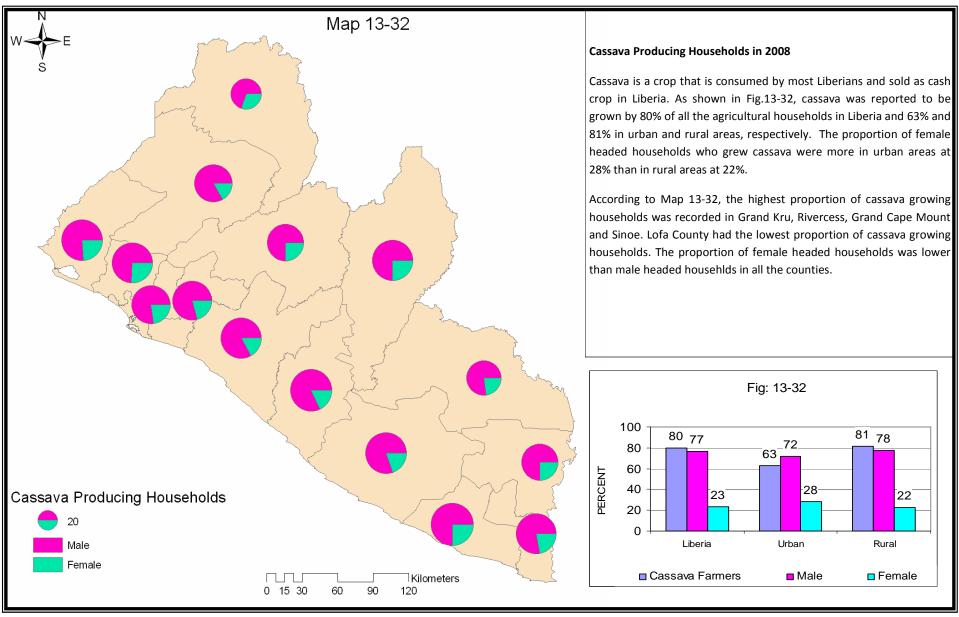
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Map 12-55 Distribution of Household Heads by Age in 2008 According to Fig: 12-55, the proportion of the youth resident in temporary houses was 31% which was not significantly different from those whose heads were in the most economically active group at 32%. The elderly (64 years and above) had a higher proportion of those living in temporary housing units compared to the other age groups. The youth and elderly headed households living in temporary housing units were high in Rivercess, Grand Kru, and River Gee Counties. Fig: 12-55 **Temporary Housing Units** 50 43 39 40 32 31 Prcent <25 Years 30 25 - 59 Years 20 60 Years+ 10 Kilometers 0 0 15 30 90 60 120 <25 Years 25-59 Years 60 Years+

CHAPTER 12: POVERTY





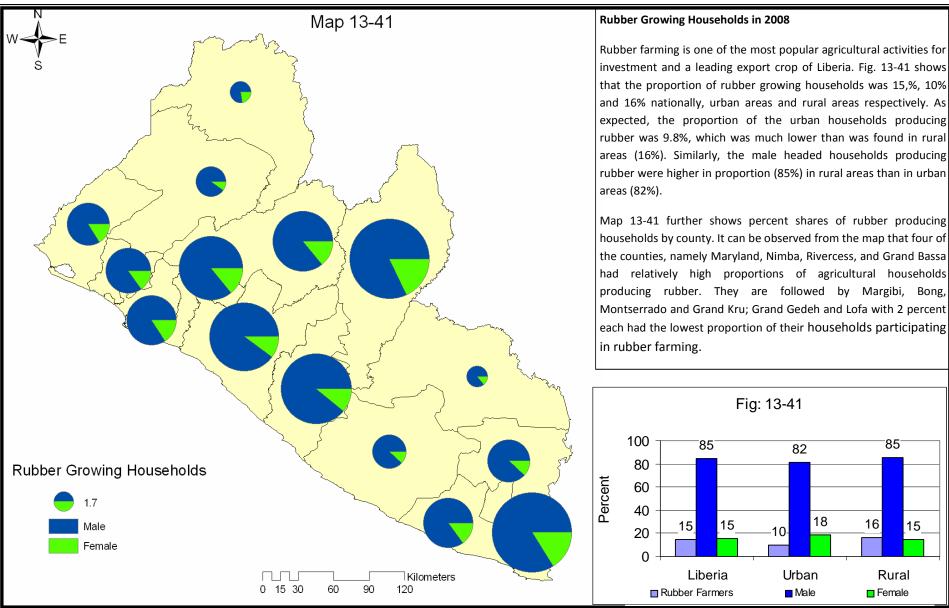


Fig: 13-41

82

Urban

Male

-10-

18

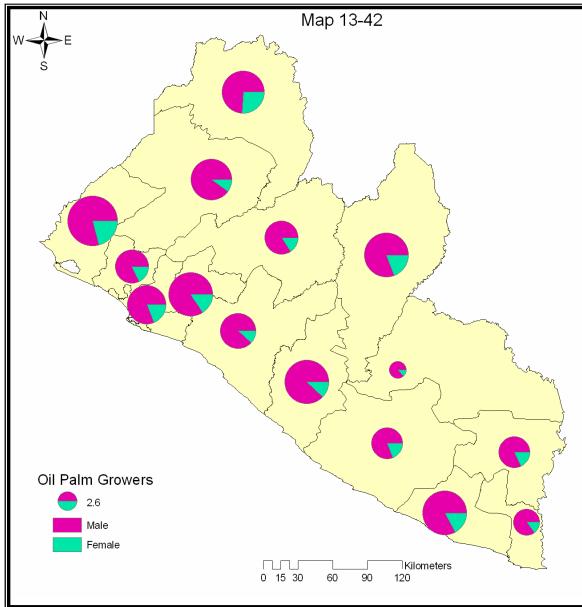
85

Rural

Female

15

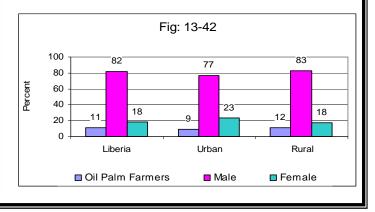
16

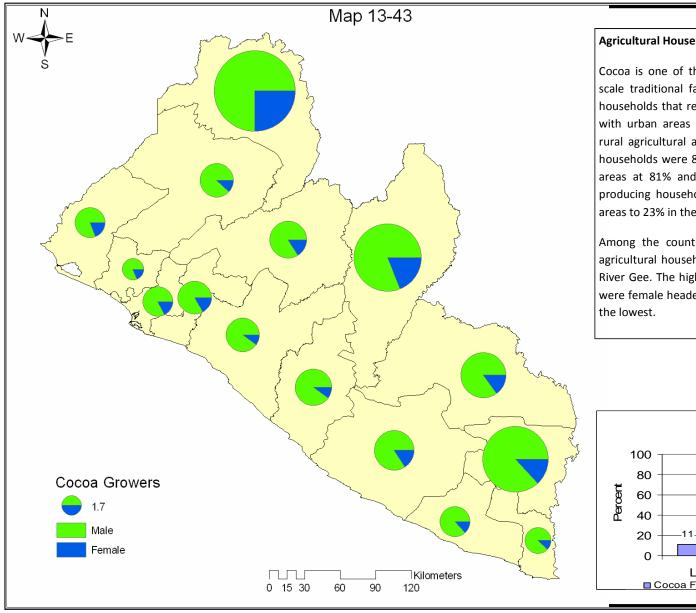


Agricultural Households Growing Oil Palm in 2008

Oil palm is well adapted to Liberian climatic conditions. The crop grows almost everywhere from swamp to upland areas and survives the scratch and burn agricultural practices. Fig. 13-42, shows that the households in Liberia that participated in producing oil palm constituted 11% of total agricultural households. The number of agricultural households reported producing oil palm in the urban and rural areas were 9 %, and 12%, respectively. Male-headed oil palm households were 82 %, 77% and 83 overall, urban and rural areas respectively. Femaleheaded were 18 % overall and 23% and 18% in the urban and rural areas respectively.

Map 13-42 shows that the percent shares of agricultural households by the oil palm households at the county level. Grand Cape Mount leading, followed by Nimba, Margibi, River Cess and Grand Kru. Grand Gedeh had the lowest proportion. Lofa female headed households had the highest proportion of agricultural households farming oil palm compared to Gbarpolu where female headed households participated the least.

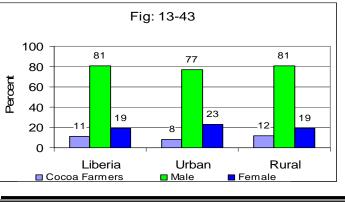


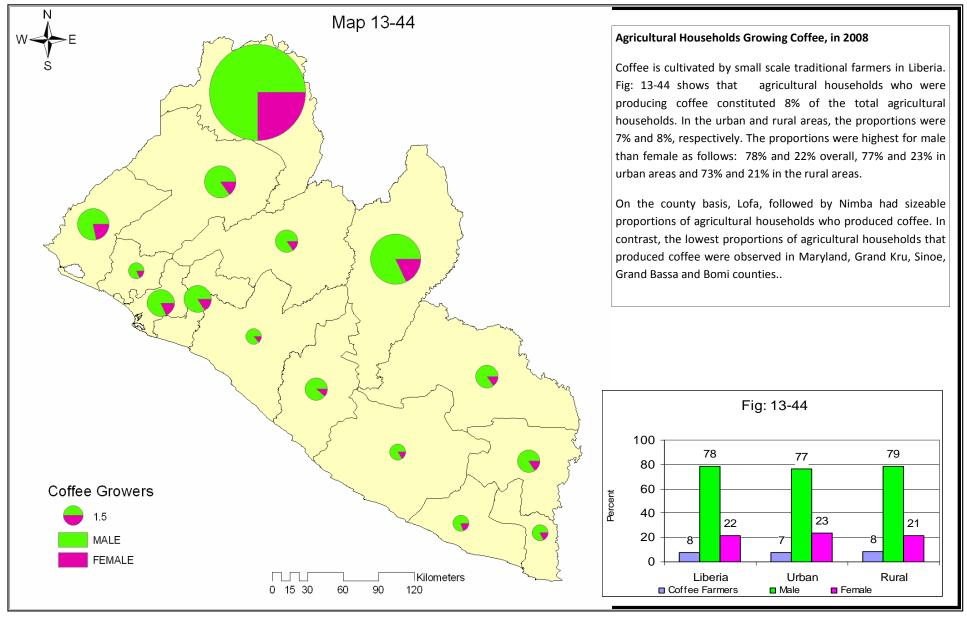


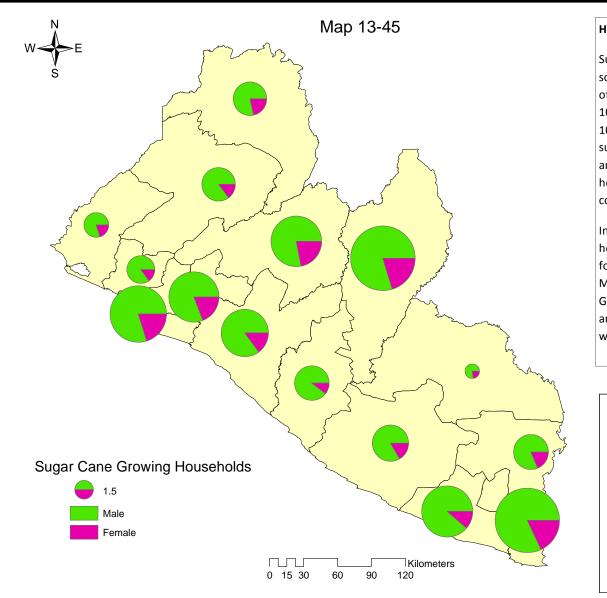
Agricultural Households Growing Cocoa, 2008

Cocoa is one of the export crops of Liberia, cultivated by small scale traditional farmers. According to Fig. 13-43, agricultural households that reported producing cocoa were 11%. This varied with urban areas having households producing cocoa 8 %, and rural agricultural areas with 12%. Male-headed cocoa producing households were 81%, which were distributed in urban and rural areas at 81% and 77% respectively. The female-headed cocoa producing households were 19% varying from 19% in the rural areas to 23% in the urban centers.

Among the counties, Lofa reported the highest proportion of agricultural households producing cocoa, followed by Nimba and River Gee. The highest proportion of agricultural households who were female headed was recorded in Lofa while Grand Bassa had the lowest.



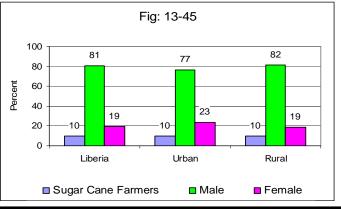


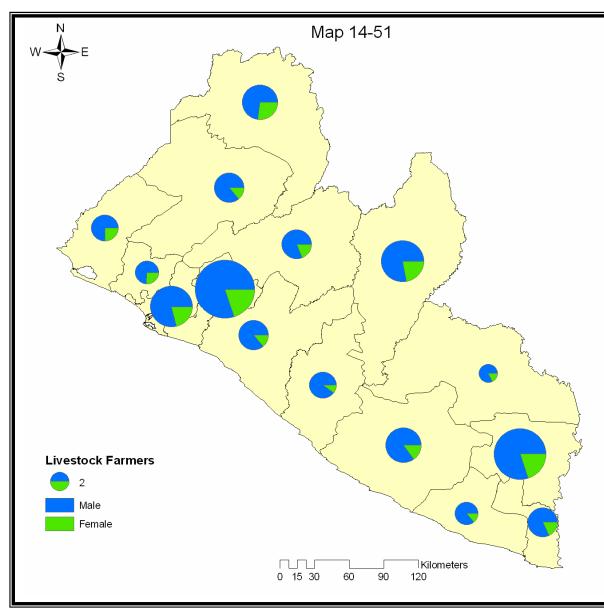


Households Growing Sugarcane in 2008

Sugarcane is one of the major cash crops, cultivated by small scale traditional farmers in Liberia. In Fig: 13-45, the proportion of agricultural households who reported growing sugarcane was 10% of the total agricultural households. The proportion was 10% in both urban and rural areas. Overall, male-headed sugarcane farming households were 81% as compared to 77% and 82% in urban and rural areas respectively. Similarly, female-headed sugarcane farming households were 23% in urban areas compared to 19% in rural areas.

In terms of counties, highest proportions of agricultural households growing sugarcane were recorded in Nimba followed by Maryland, Montserrado, Grand Kru, Bong and Margibi. In contrast the lowest proportions were recorded in Grand Gedeh followed by Cape Mount, Bomi, Lofa, Rivercess and River Gee. The proportion of male headed households who were producing sugarcane dominated in all the counties.

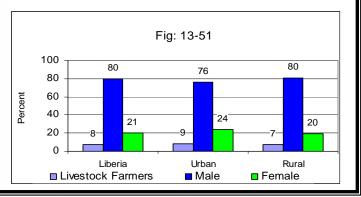




Agricultural Households Rearing Livestock, 2008

Fig: 13-51shows that the number of agricultural households who reported rearing livestock constituted 8% of the total agricultural households. In relative terms, the proportion of agricultural households engaged in livestock farming was higher in urban areas 9% than rural areas 7%. This is not a surprise given that the rural households do not have money to invest in livestock farming. In addition, it is possible that many of the urban residents do farming of animals in the rural areas where there is a lot of land. The participation of female headed households was 21% in animal rearing at national and 24% and 20% at urban and rural levels respectively.

Map 13-51, shows that, across the counties, Margibi had the highest proportion of its agricultural households rearing livestock, followed by River Gee, and Nimba. Low participation was recorded in almost half of the counties starting with Grand Gedeh followed by Grand Kru, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, River Cess, Maryland and Gbarpolu. Female headed housholds' participation was highest in Lofa and Bomi.



ANNEX 1

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