



WEST AFRICA REPORT

April 2021

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Abbreviations

FAO	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
GHRD	Global Human Rights Defence
ICC	International Criminal Court
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
WHO	World Health Organization

Introduction

This report aims at highlighting differentiating human rights-related occurrences as present in the western African continent. Its specific focus will be on Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, as well as Liberia. It is of crucial importance to highlight the significant progressions and retrogressions of the beforementioned countries and thus, covers selected key occasions as was present throughout April 2021. Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) calls upon the international and national communities, stakeholders as well as governments for constructive policy changes and the support of one another in realizing the full enjoyment of human rights of every individual, with a specific focus on those belonging to marginalized and minority groups.

Burkina Faso

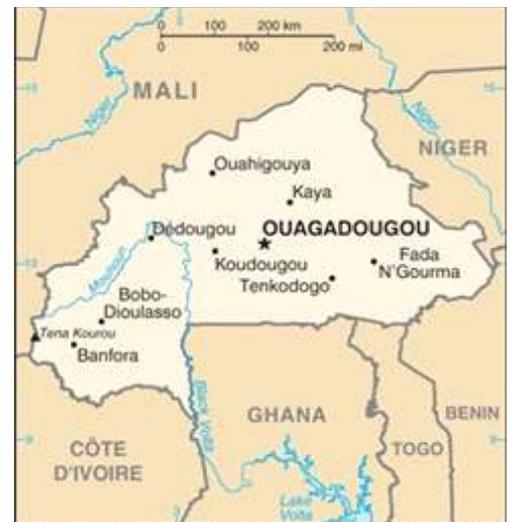
Country Background



Burkina Faso is a landlocked country located in the western African continent, bordering Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, as well as Togo. Its national flag holds a specific meaning to the country; red symbolizes the country's struggle for independence, green symbolizes hope and abundance, yellow symbolizes the country's mineral wealth. According to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), Burkina Faso – accounting for 274,200 square kilometers – is

home to little over 21,5 million citizens. The country is divided into 13 administrative regions with Ouagadougou as its capital and largest city, followed by Bobo-Dioulasso. The density of its population is mainly found in the center and southern regions of the country, including the areas surrounding Ouagadougou.

The climate in the country is divided into three differentiating climate zones including a hot tropical savanna with a short rainy season in the country's southern half, a tropical hot semi-arid steppe climate in the country's northern half, and a small area of hot desert in the very north of the country bordering the Sahara Desert. Burkina Faso is a presidential republic led by the Head of State, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, who serves the presidential seat since December 29, 2015. It gained its independence, from France as its colonizing power, on August 5, 1960. To date, the country's legal system remains to be based on French civil law in conjunction with customary law. Similarly, its official language is French, however, approximately 90 percent of the population utilizes native African languages belonging to the Sudanic family spoken population.



Human Rights Events of April 2021

Justice for Thomas Sankara



The Ouagadougou Military Tribunal in Burkina Faso indicted on 13 April 2021 its former President, Mr. Blaise Compaoré, for the assassination of his predecessor, Thomas Sankara during the 1987 coup in which Compaoré gained power.¹ The charges of the indictment include the attacking of state security, complicity in murders, and concealing corpses in the Sankara case.²

Thomas Sankara came into power in 1983 and initiated a campaign to revitalize the country. His government changed the name of the country from Upper Volta to Burkina Faso which translates to “the land of the upright man” – setting the tone for his ambitious, yet fruitful intentions for Burkina Faso.³ Between 1983 and 1987, the Sankara government was responsible for the vaccination of 2.5 million children against meningitis, yellow fever, and measles. It furthermore led a national literacy campaign that increased the literary rates in Burkina Faso from 13 percent in 1983 to 73 percent in 1987.⁴ Sankara worked on creating a self-sufficient Burkina Faso by giving arable land to subsistence farmed as well as improving food productions. His government was likewise responsible for outlawing female circumcision, forced marriages, and polygamy.



Thomas Sankara's contribution to the fruitful development of Burkina Faso was undeniable and gathered supporters over the years. Therefore, the beforementioned indictment is a victory for Sankara's family and supporters who have for years asked for a formal investigation into his assassination and for his body to be exhumed. The requests were repeatedly denied by former president Blaise Compaoré, while he was in power in Burkina Faso.⁵ It was only in 2015 that Burkina Faso's transitional government reopened the investigations into Sankara's assassination.

1. Asala, K. (2021b, April 13). Burkina Faso: Ex-president Compaoré to be tried in Sankara murder case. *Africanews*. <https://www.africanews.com/2021/04/13/burkinabe-ex-president-compaore-stands-trial-in-sankara-murder-case/>; Laoundiki, C. M. (2021, April 13). Dossier Thomas Sankara : Une dizaine de personnes dont Blaise Compaoré poursuivies en jugement. *LeFaso*. <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article103982>

2. Tantoh, M., & Chifamba, J. (2021, April 16). Burkina Faso: Former President Compaore Charged in Thomas Sankara Murder. *All Africa*. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202104160647.html>

3. Lakemfa, O. (2021, April 16). In Death, Sankara Marches From Victory To Victory. *Premium Times Nigeria*. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/455602-in-death-sankara-marches-from-victory-to-victory-by-owei-lakemfa.html>

4. TRT World. (2021, April 15). Will Thomas Sankara's family finally get justice? <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/will-thomas-sankara-s-family-finally-get-justice-45936>

5. Akinwotu, E. (2021, April 13). Burkina Faso ex-president Compaoré to face trial over Thomas Sankara murder. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/13/trial-in-absentia-burkina-faso-ex-president-blaise-compaore>



Former President Compaoré, who has been in exile in Côte d'Ivoire since 2014 – when he was forced to resign following mass demonstrations against an attempt to extend his 27-year rule – has always denied his involvement in Sankara's murder.⁶ Alongside Blaise Compaoré, thirteen other individuals, including his right-hand man Mr. Gilbert Diendéré and his security chief Mr.

Yacinthe Kafando, were also indicted on charges of assassination and concealment of corpses. Furthermore, the Court Chamber ordered the capture of those who have not yet been detained and maintained the arrest warrants issued against Blaise Compaoré, Gilbert Dienéré, and Yacinthe Kafando.⁷

Food Insecurity and Child Malnutrition

Burkina Faso has been dealing since 2019 with a humanitarian crisis as it has been subjected to attacks from numerous armed groups, falling victim to a wide variety of natural disasters, with the COVID-19 pandemic gravely impacting the country. Thus, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) established a Humanitarian Response Plan which started in January 2021 and will last until the end of the year.⁸ The plan aims at protecting the livelihoods of food-insecure populations, as well as strengthening the capacity of governance structures in order to better coordinate emergency and resilience responses. The FAO furthermore intends to help the people of Burkina Faso with the deteriorating food insecurity and malnutrition circumstances by providing emergency agricultural assistance.

6. Agbortogo, E. (2021, April 15). Burkina Faso: Thomas Sankara Murder - Ex-President Compaore, 13 Others Charged. Cameroon Tribune. <https://www.cameroon-tribune.cm/article.html/39331/en.html/thomas-sankara-murder-ex-president#>

7. Laoundiki, C. M. (2021, April 13). Dossier Thomas Sankara : Une dizaine de personnes dont Blaise Compaoré poursuivies en jugement. LeFaso. <https://lefaso.net/spip.php?article103982>

8. About FAO. (2021). Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <http://www.fao.org/about/en/>

However, the nutritional crisis is not improving as Save the Children warned on April 13, 2021, that over 1,5 million children in Burkina Faso under the age of five are facing a severe nutrition crisis which may be exacerbated by long-standing conflicts.⁹ The beforementioned number amounts to one-third of all children under the age of five. To date, nearly 1,3 million people in Burkina Faso are subjected to a structural lack of food, nearly half of which are children. Subsequently, the violence throughout the country displaced hundreds of thousands, resulting in worsening the situation of children. Insecurity in the country's rural regions prevents people from working in their fields or keeping their animals which are the two main sources of food and income. As men fear being attacked or recruited by armed rebel groups, many cannot work if it involves traveling. The beforementioned consequently leaves many households reliant on humanitarian aid.¹⁰

Burkina Faso's Sahel and Eastern regions are most vulnerable to food security and are likewise among the most affected by security incidents, reflecting the consequences of conflict on livelihood.¹¹ Throughout the years, Burkina Faso witnessed an increase in terror attacks, derived from several armed groups, within all regions of its country. However, mainly its northern and eastern regions are disproportionately attacked as 'western education' has become a target by armed groups, leading to students and teachers being intimidated, attacked, or even raped. To date, over 2,000 educational facilities have closed their doors, resulting in more than 3,000 students being prevented from access to education.¹²

9. Save The Children. (2021, April 13). Burkina Faso: 1.5 million children are facing a nutrition crisis. <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/burkina-faso-child-nutrition-crisis>

10. Politics Home (2021, 13th April) "Burkina Faso: 1.5 million children are facing a nutrition crisis" <https://www.politicshome.com/members/article/burkina-faso-15-million-children-are-facing-a-nutrition-crisis>

11. Relief Web (2021, 7th April) "West and Central Africa: Weekly humanitarian snapshot (30 March - 5th April 2021)" <https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/west-and-central-africa-weekly-regional-humanitarian-snapshot-30-march-5-april>

12. France24 (2021, 5th April) "Burkina Faso: Schools losing ground to Islamist insurgency" <https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/focus/20210405-burkina-faso-schools-losing-ground-to-islamist-insurgency>

Côte d'Ivoire

Country Background



The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is a country located in the western African continent, bordering Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, as well as Mali. Its national flag holds a specific meaning to the country; orange symbolizes the country's land and savannah of the north and its fertility, white symbolizes peace and unity, green symbolizes the country's forest of the south and the country's hope for a

bright future. According to the UNFPA, Côte d'Ivoire – accounting for 322,463 square kilometers – is home to little over 27,1 million citizens. The country is divided into 12 districts and 2 autonomous districts with Yamoussoukro as its legislative capital and largest city, followed by Abidjan as its administrative capital and second-largest city. The density of its population is mainly found in the forested southern regions of the country, with the highest concentration of people residing in and around the cities on the Atlantic coast. Most of the country's northern savanna remains sparsely populated with higher concentrations along transportation corridors.

The climate in the country varies from tropical along the coast, semiarid in the far north with three seasons: warm and dry, hot and dry, as well as hot and wet. The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire is a presidential republic led by the Head of State, President Alassane Ouattara, who serves the presidential seat since December 4, 2010. It gained its independence, from France as its colonizing power, on August 7, 1960. To date, the country's legal system remains to be based on the French civil law code with the possibility for judicial review of legislation in the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court. Similarly, its official language is French, however, over 60 native dialects are utilized of which Dioula is the most widely spoken throughout the country.



Human Rights Events of April 2021

Appeal Against Former President Laurent Gbagbo Dismissed



The former president of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, along with his associates, was accused of crimes against humanity concerning the violence that followed the controversial elections in 2010 during which approximately 3,000 Ivorians lost their lives. During the elections, Gbagbo refused to accept his loss to incumbent President Alassane Ouattara, resulting in an intervention by the French army on Ouattara's behalf.

The Prosecutor's appeal against the former President, Laurent Gbagbo, was dismissed on the 31st of March by the Trial Chamber of International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands.¹³ The appeal attempted to bring into question the ICC's 2019 decision in which they have absolved the former president of alleged crimes against him.¹⁴

However, the victims of the post-election violence expressed their disappointment, as they to date still struggle to gain access to any form of redress. The latter would enable victims to get justice and the ability to move forward.¹⁵ Although the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission – as created under the Presidency of Ouattara – served as a national reparation program aimed at identifying the politically responsible ones in conjunction with providing a shared national account of the violence, the Commission did not guarantee proper redress.



13. Situation in the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire. (2021). International Criminal Court. https://www.icc-cpi.int/CourtRecords/CR2021_03218.PDF

14. Kouassi, A. (2021, 04 01). Cote d'Ivoire: Gbagbo Acquittal - '3,000 Dead, and No One Guilty!' All Africa. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202104010629.html>

15. Cote d'Ivoire: With Gbagbo and Blé Goudé Acquitted, What Is Next for Victims in Côte d'Ivoire? (2021, April 6). AllAfrica.Com. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202104030227.html>

Furthermore, as the former president has made it clear that he intends to return to his homeland, it remains unclear what this will entail for Ivorian politics as Gbagbo still enjoys many supporters. Hence, the supporters of former President Gbagbo celebrated his release on April 1st, 2021, as they viewed it as a liberation for the African continent. To date, Gbagbo remains a prominent figure in the society of Côte d'Ivoire due to the fact that in the view of his supporters, he remains a key factor for the reconciliation of the country as such.¹⁶ According to former Minister of Defence, Mr. Lida Kouassi, Gbagbo is believed to rehabilitate democracy and unite the Ivoirians.

Despite being cleared of crimes against humanity, Gbagbo is still facing charges on account of facilitating robbery in branches of the Central Bank of the State of West Africa and other commercial banks during the post-electoral crisis in 2010, which could potentially result in a sentence of 20 years. As the Ivorian authorities negotiate Gbagbo's return, the political climate is expected to grow tense. Beyond politics, however, are thousands of families who have lost loved ones, without justice or answers.¹⁷

16. BBC News. (2021, March 31). Ivory Coast's ex-President Gbagbo free to go home after ICC acquittal. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56595150>

17. Daniel, F. (2021, 04 1). Cote d'Ivoire: Gbagbo Acquittal At ICC Raises Questions Over Much-Needed Court Reforms. All Africa. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202104010707.html>

The Gambia

Country Background



The Republic of the Gambia is a country located in the western African continent, bordering Senegal. Its national flag holds a specific meaning to the country; red symbolizes the sun and its savannah, blue symbolizes the Gambia River, green symbolizes the country's forests and its agriculture, white symbolizes unity and peace. According to the UNFPA, the Republic of the Gambia— accounting for 11,300 square

kilometers – is home to little over 2,5 million citizens. The country is divided into 5 regions, 1 city and 1 municipality with Banjul as its capital and Serekunda as its largest city. The density of its population is mainly found in settlements scattered along the Gambia River. The largest communities, including the capital of Banjul and the country's largest city, Serekunda, are found at the mouth of the Gambia River along the Atlantic coast.

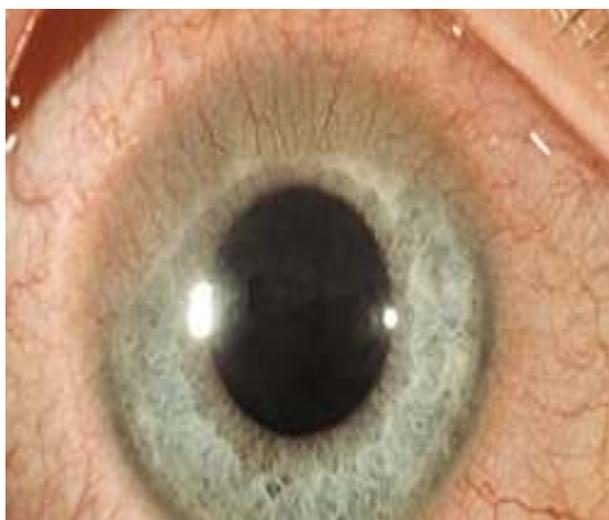
The climate in the country is tropical with a hot and rainy season from June to November and a cooler and dry season from November to May. The Republic of the Gambia is a presidential republic led by the Head of State, President Adama Barrow, who serves the presidential seat since January 19, 2017. It gained its independence, from



the United Kingdom as its colonizing power, on February 18, 1966. To date, the country's legal system remains to be a mixture of English common law in conjunction with Islamic law and customary law. Similarly, its official language is English, however, Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, and other indigenous vernaculars are widely spoken throughout the country.

Human Rights Events of April 2021

WHO Validation for Eliminating Trachoma



The World Health Organization (WHO) validated the Gambia on 20 April 2021 for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem.¹⁸ Trachoma is a tropical eye disease caused by a bacterial infection, spreading from person to person through contaminated fingers, fomites and mainly affects children. If left untreated, trachoma can result in visual impairment and blindness.¹⁹ Trachoma remains a public health problem in 45 countries globally, endangering over 137 million people. A public health problem is defined as being a medical issue affecting a significant portion of a specific population.²⁰

WHO Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, Dr. Ren Minghui, congratulated the Gambia on its remarkable achievement, adding that the Gambia has become the second country in 2021 – after Côte d'Ivoire – to eliminate a neglect tropical disease. Its success in eliminating trachoma is largely attributed to the implementation of the WHO's SAFE strategy.²¹ The SAFE strategy consists of surgical interventions, antibiotics, good hygiene, adequate access to water and sanitation facilities. Additionally, the WHO warned that schools in areas with previously high trachoma infections would remain under close supervision due to poor sanitary conditions, limited water resources, and overcrowded education facilities.²² Together with the government of the Gambia, the WHO aims to ensure a swift and efficient response to any resurgence of the disease.

18. World Health Organization. (2021, April 20). WHO validates Gambia for having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem. <https://www.who.int/news/item/20-04-2021-who-validates-gambia-for-having-eliminated-trachoma-as-a-public-health-problem>

19. World Health Organization. (2019). Trachoma. Retrieved April 20, 2021, from <https://www.who.int/health-topics/trachoma>

20. The University of Nevada, Reno. (2020, November 10). Top Public Health Problems & Concerns. University of Nevada, Reno. <https://onlinedegrees.unr.edu/blog/top-public-health-problems-concerns-unr-online-degree/>

21. Rolley, L. (2021, April 23). Gambia reaches global health milestone by eliminating devastating eye disease. The Point. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/gambia-reaches-global-health-milestone-by-eliminating-devastating-eye-disease>

22. Mbewa, D. O. (2021, April 21). The Gambia eliminates trachoma as a public health problem. CGTN Africa. <https://africa.cgtn.com/2021/04/21/the-gambia-eliminates-trachoma-as-a-public-health-problem/>

Inadequate Educational Facilities



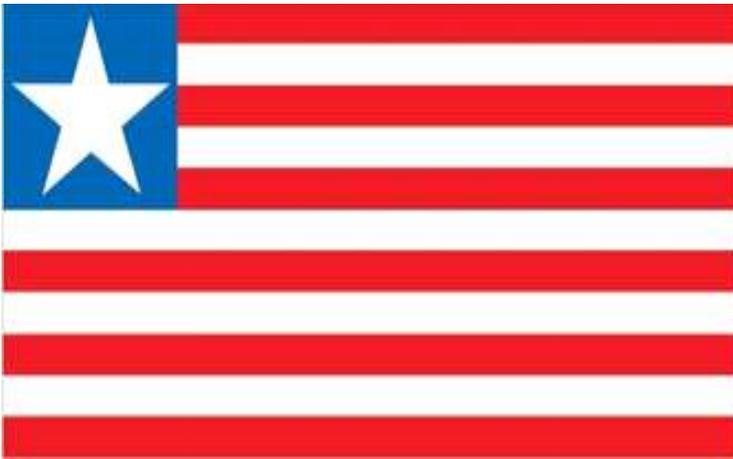
The Jiboro Basic Cycle School, located in southern Gambia, encounters severely inadequate educational facilities. The latter hampers the enjoyment of effective as well as efficient education as reported anonymously on 19 April 2021 to news outlet The Point. The lower classes of the Jiboro school are subjected to insufficient furniture, making it unable to cater to the 1030 pupils in grades one to six. Three to four pupils of the school's lower classes are forced to share a single bench and table, which is in practice solely meant to be utilized by a single student. Subsequently, some pupils have to spread mats on the ground in order to attend their classes. The inadequate and lacking education facilities make it difficult for pupils to learn. The uncomfortable and unideal situations lead to some pupils having poor handwriting skills which affect their future academic prospects.

The inadequate furniture situation likewise resulted in making the school management lessen its annual enrolment numbers. The latter bears the highly likely potential of impeding the right to education of new students waiting to be enrolled. Noteworthy is the fact that Jiboro's management has sent a formal letter in 2019 to the Basic Education Ministry of the Gambia, requesting furniture. However, to date, the government is yet to respond and provide adequate educational facilities for the school.²³

23. Waan, S. (2021, April 19). Jiboroh Basic Cycle School faces inadequate furniture for over 4 years. The Point. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/jiboroh-basic-cycle-school-faces-inadequate-furniture-for-over-4-years>; The Gambia: Jiboro Basic Cycle School has faced inadequate furniture for over four years. (2021, April 19). Eminentra South Africa. <https://eminentra.co.za/the-gambia-jiboro-basic-cycle-school-has-faced-inadequate-furniture-for-over-four-years/243852/>

Liberia

Country Background



The Republic of Liberia is a country located in the western African continent, bordering Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, as well as Sierra Leone. Its national flag holds a specific meaning to the country; the stripes symbolize the signatories of the Liberian Declaration of Independence, the blue square symbolizes the African mainland, the star symbolizes the freedom granted to ex-slaves. According to the Liberian constitution, the blue color signifies liberty, justice, and fidelity, the

white color signifies purity, cleanliness, and guilelessness, red signifies steadfastness, valor, and fervor. According to the UNFPA, the Republic of Liberia – accounting for 11,369 square kilometers – is home to little over 5,2 million citizens. The country is divided into 15 counties with Monrovia as its capital and largest city. More than half of the population lives in urban areas, with approximately one-third living within an 80-kilometers radius of Monrovia.

The climate in the country varies from hot and humid tropical, to dry winters with hot days and cool to cold nights, and wet, cloudy summers with frequent heavy showers. The Republic of Liberia is a presidential republic led by the Head of State, President George Weah, who serves the presidential seat since January 22, 2018. It gained its independence, from the United States of America as its colonizing power, on July 26, 1847. To date, the country's legal system remains to be a mixture of common law based on Anglo-American law in conjunction with customary law. Similarly, its official language is English, however, over 20 ethnic groups are widely spoken throughout the country, few of which can be written or used in correspondence.



Human Rights Events of April 2021

Extension UNFPA Sexual and Reproductive Health Program



The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), funded by the Swedish government, extended its Sexual and Reproductive Health Program on 17 April 2021 – specifically targeting boys and girls in Sinoe County.²⁴ Through the creation of the Youth Friendly Centers, the program provides both boys and girls with education regarding sexual and reproductive health matters. The program as such was first launched in Liberia in 2017 and initially targeted the Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee counties.²⁵

During the launch of the program in Sinoe County, UNFP Representative and Head of Office at UNFP Liberia, Dr. Bannet Ndyanabangi, explained that the program proved to be very effective in the three counties, as teenage pregnancy rates decreased significantly from 57.9 percent in 2013 to 27.2 percent in 2020. The program enhanced the potentials of Liberia's youth, ensuring that they stay in school and that girls do not get pregnant at a young age. The Liberian Minister of Health, Dr. Willhelmina Jallah, urged the youth to use the Youth Friendly Centers to access counseling support as well as the means of contraception. Sinoe County Health Officer, Mr. Alexander Tokay, thanked UNPF and the Swedish government for support and emphasized the importance of sexual and reproductive health education – especially for young girls – in preventing teenage pregnancies and maternal mortality.²⁶



24. Koinyeneh, G. C. (2021, April 22). Liberia: UNFPA, Swedish Government Launch Sexual Reproductive Health Program in Sinoe County. FrontPage Africa. <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/health/liberia-unfpa-swedish-government-launch-sexual-reproductive-health-program-in-sinoe-county/>

25. Koinyeneh, G. C. (2021, April 15). Liberia: Teenage Pregnancy "Drastically" Decreasing in Southeastern Liberia Amid UNFPA, Swedish Government's Intervention. AllAfrica. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202104150858.html>

26. Geterminah, H. N. (2021, April 21). Swedish Government, UNFPA Extend Reproductive Health Rights to Sinoe. Liberian Observer. <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/swedish-govt-unfpa-extend-reproductive-health-rights-to-sinoe/>

Children Vaccination Against Typhoid



Liberia has become the first country in Africa to introduce the typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) into its Expanded Program for Virus Immunization for children under 14 years of age.²⁷ In an effort to combat typhoid, a life-threatening infection caused by the *Salmonella Typhi* bacterium which is primarily spread through contaminated food or water.²⁸ Typhoid is an endemic in Liberia with more than 7,400 cases annually, resulting in the Liberian government introducing a vaccine campaign on April 6, 2021.²⁹

The typhoid vaccination is expected to reach over 1.9 million children aged between nine months to 15 years of age across Liberia's 15 counties. The vaccine will be available at several specifically designated sites throughout the country, including health facilities, schools, churches, markets, and transportation hubs.³⁰ The initiative by the Liberian government is an effort in the



necessary direction to ensure that all children obtain better health conditions and to reduce infant mortality. The introduction of the TCV vaccine is a strong action in reinforcing the routine immunization as well as enhancing the ability to protect children – aiming to ensure that no child is forced to suffer from the devastating impacts of typhoid such as diarrhea, fatigue, and fever.

27. Front Page Africa Press Release (2021, 7th April) "Liberia Becomes First Country In Africa To Introduce Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine" <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/health/liberia-becomes-first-country-in-africa-to-introduce-typhoid-conjugate-vaccine/>

28. The World Health Organisation (WHO) <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/typhoid>

29. Darlington Porkpa (2021, 11th April) "Liberia takes the lead to introduce the typhoid vaccine for children" <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20210411-liberia-takes-the-lead-to-introduce-the-typhoid-vaccine-health-medicine-children-africa>

30. Front Page Africa Press Release (2021, 7th April) "Liberia Becomes First Country In Africa To Introduce Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine" <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/health/liberia-becomes-first-country-in-africa-to-introduce-typhoid-conjugate-vaccine/>

Improving Child Nutrition Services

Children under the age of five in the rural Montserrado (northwest of Liberia) and Grand Bassa (west-central of Liberia) counties in Liberia will be benefitting from a four-year-multisectoral response to improve nutritional services and access. The response will be implemented by the Liberian Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Consortium, a coordinated governmental consortium for delivering water, sanitation, and hygiene. The two before mentioned counties were identified as those being worst hit by malnutrition. The project launched in Monrovia – Liberia's capital – on April 8, 2021, aims to reduce chronic malnutrition in a sustainable manner within selected communities of the Montserrado and Grand Basso counties.

The project aims to improve access to safe, diverse, and nutritious food, as well as sustainable access to safe water, sanitation, and environmental hygiene practices. Moreover, through the monitoring, evaluating, and documenting of the project, evidence-based prevention of malnutrition. The project's main target is women and children under five years of age with low access to proper nutrition, water, and hygiene services. Healthcare workers such as caregivers and community-based health workers are given priority to access the improved nutritional services, due to their special needs and peculiar roles.

27. Front Page Africa Press Release (2021, 7th April) "Liberia Becomes First Country In Africa To Introduce Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine" <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/health/liberia-becomes-first-country-in-africa-to-introduce-typhoid-conjugate-vaccine/>

28. The World Health Organisation (WHO) <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/typhoid>

29. Darlington Porkpa (2021, 11th April) "Liberia takes the lead to introduce the typhoid vaccine for children" <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20210411-liberia-takes-the-lead-to-introduce-the-typhoid-vaccine-health-medicine-children-africa>

30. Front Page Africa Press Release (2021, 7th April) "Liberia Becomes First Country In Africa To Introduce Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine" <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/health/liberia-becomes-first-country-in-africa-to-introduce-typhoid-conjugate-vaccine/>

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