



YOUTH CRIME WATCH LIBERIA

2026 Organizational Profile

Empowering Youth. Advancing Gender Equality. Transforming Communities.

Women-Led | ECOSOC Special Consultative Status | Est. 2005

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ABOUT US

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) is a nationally recognized, women-led nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and transforming the lives of vulnerable populations across Liberia. Established in 2005 with the vision of creating safer, more inclusive, and prosperous communities, YCWL addresses the root causes of poverty, crime, violence, social exclusion, gender inequality, and youth unemployment through sustainable, community-driven development interventions.

Legally registered under the laws of the Republic of Liberia, YCWL implements programs in education and literacy, child protection, youth leadership, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), technical and vocational education and training (TVET), entrepreneurship and livelihoods, peacebuilding, civic engagement, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience. Through its community-centered approach, the organization promotes social inclusion, economic empowerment, democratic participation, and community resilience.

YCWL holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the highest recognitions granted by the United Nations to non-governmental organizations.

Our History

Founded by young Liberians committed to addressing the root causes of crime, violence, and social exclusion, YCWL was officially launched on January 28, 2005, at the University of Liberia. During its inaugural year, the organization promoted peaceful democratic participation during Liberia's historic elections, established school-based Youth Crime Watch Clubs, conducted youth leadership trainings, and earned international recognition through two Extra Mile Awards.

As Liberia transitioned from conflict to recovery, YCWL expanded its work beyond crime prevention to address broader development challenges affecting children, youth, and women's rights and empowerment. In partnership with national and international stakeholders, like the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), YCWL supported awareness campaigns on sexual and gender-based violence, promoted access to protection and justice services, and strengthened youth participation in peacebuilding and community development.

Today, with more than 20 years of experience, YCWL has evolved into one of Liberia's leading youth development organizations, implementing programs across multiple counties and impacting thousands of lives annually. The organization believes that lasting, transformative change is achieved when individuals are equipped with the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and support needed to realize their full potential and actively participate in shaping their communities and nation.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) is a legally registered, nonprofit, non-governmental, and women-led organization operating under the laws of the Republic of Liberia.

YCWL is governed by a Board of Directors, which provides strategic leadership, policy oversight, and fiduciary responsibility to ensure accountability, transparency, and organizational sustainability.

The day-to-day operations of the organization are led by the Executive Director and a dedicated management team responsible for program implementation, financial management, administration, partnerships, and organizational development.

YCWL also works closely with community volunteers, peer educators, youth leaders, women's groups, relevant government institutions, and local partners to ensure meaningful community participation and sustainable impact.

The organization operates under established policies and systems that promote good governance, safeguarding, financial accountability, risk management, and ethical conduct in all aspects of its work.

VISION, MISSION & CORE FOCUS AREAS

Our Vision

To mobilize and equip youth changemakers in Liberian society, to create a safer environment free of crime, and to foster youth empowerment and good citizenship throughout Liberia.

Our Mission

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia exists to positively impact the youthful population, inspiring them to play key roles that are vital to national development. We exist to empower, improve, and transform the livelihood of young people in our society.

Our Core Focus Areas

- Education & Literacy Development
- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Environment & Climate Protection
- Crime Prevention & Peace Building
- Governance, Accountability, & Leadership
- Agriculture
- Gender & Women Empowerment
- Economic Development & Livelihood

Through strategic partnerships, evidence-based programming, and community-centered approaches, Youth Crime Watch of Liberia remains committed to empowering individuals and strengthening communities to drive sustainable development, social cohesion, and positive social change throughout Liberia.

OUR APPROACH

At the heart of Youth Crime Watch of Liberia's (YCWL) work is the belief that sustainable peace, social justice, and community development can only be achieved when young people — especially those most vulnerable to crime, violence, exclusion, and poverty — are empowered to become active agents of change.

YCWL believes that when children, adolescents, and young people are equipped with knowledge, practical skills, positive role models, and meaningful opportunities, they are better able to make informed decisions, build sustainable livelihoods, contribute to their communities, and become leaders of positive change. We also recognize that lasting change requires supportive families, inclusive communities, and responsive institutions that enable young people to thrive.



Community engagement and feedback session with YCWL project stakeholders

To achieve this, YCWL combines education, literacy, life skills, entrepreneurship, technical and vocational training, child protection, sexual and reproductive health education, leadership development, peacebuilding, and civic engagement within a community-based approach. Through mentorship, peer education, community participation, and strategic partnerships, we connect young people with the skills, support systems, and opportunities they need to succeed.

By investing in the potential of young people, particularly girls and young women, YCWL contributes to stronger communities, greater social inclusion, increased economic opportunities, and reduced vulnerability to violence, crime, and exploitation. Our long-term vision is a Liberia where young people are empowered to shape their own futures, actively participate in society, and contribute to peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous communities.

YCWL believes that lasting change is achieved when young people are equipped with the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and support needed to shape their own futures and contribute positively to their communities. Our work is guided by the following approaches:

Youth-Centered Approach

Young people are at the center of our work. We view them as leaders and agents of change and actively engage them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programmes.

Peer-to-Peer Education and Mentorship

Through peer educators, youth leaders, mentors, and volunteers, YCWL creates opportunities for young people to learn from one another, build confidence, strengthen leadership skills, and promote positive change within their communities.

Community-Driven Development

YCWL works closely with community leaders, parents and caregivers, women's groups, schools, civil society organizations, and government institutions to identify priorities and develop locally owned and sustainable solutions.

Integrated Programming

Recognizing that the challenges facing young people are interconnected, YCWL combines education, child protection, leadership development, entrepreneurship, technical and vocational training, sexual and reproductive health education, peacebuilding, and civic engagement within a holistic programming approach.

Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Programming

As a women-led organization, YCWL promotes gender equality and social inclusion across all areas of its work, with particular attention to girls, young women, and vulnerable populations.

Volunteerism and Youth Engagement

YCWL promotes volunteerism as a pathway for leadership development, civic responsibility, and community service, creating opportunities for young people to actively contribute to community development and social change.

GENDER APPROACH & COMPLAINT MECHANISM

Gender Approach

YCWL's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment is interchangeably linked with all our efforts.

The Gender Desk was created to ensure that all programs have a gender-sensitive lens, and that we bridge the gap between men and women through equal and equitable opportunities, while also combating the disparities women face.



YCWL staff and team members at a community outreach event.

We believe in a joint approach — awareness and skills training for the most vulnerable groups of our society, women and children, while including men, community dwellers, and local and national stakeholders in the discussion. A change in society can only be guaranteed if we treat our children equally and break with common societal stereotypes.

At YCWL, we put a strong emphasis on staff training, and regular Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Safeguarding training for all members of staff, implementing partners, and community volunteers.

Complaint and Response Mechanism (CRM)

We have set up a platform and reporting channel through which victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, and other forms of abuse, are reported and linked to responsible authorities for redress. YCWL has set up a Complaint and Response Mechanism (CRM), including a helpline managed at the county level by its Social Workers and at YCWL headquarters level by a full-time designated focal person.

These complaints are attended to, filed, and referred to the appropriate recipient according to the Referral Pathway. For external referral, YCWL works in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health.

24/7 Reporting Hotline: +231-555-867-979 | +231-779-002-375

EXPERTISE & TECHNICAL CAPACITY

With over 20 years of implementation experience, YCWL has built a multidisciplinary team capable of managing the full project cycle — from design and proposal development through monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Our leadership and staff bring expertise in youth development, child protection, education, gender equality, peacebuilding, economic empowerment, and organizational management.

YCWL has successfully implemented projects funded by UN agencies, bilateral donors, international NGOs, and foundations while maintaining compliance with international standards and donor requirements. We have proven capacity in community mobilization, participatory development, safeguarding, gender equality, psychosocial support, and stakeholder engagement — working closely with government institutions, community leaders, schools, and local actors to ensure sustainable, locally owned solutions.

Our technical capacity is strengthened through our partnership with AGIAMONDO (German Civil Peace Service), which provides expertise in organizational development and institutional strengthening. We have also successfully recruited and managed over 50 international volunteers, interns, and technical experts whose contributions have enhanced program quality and organizational systems.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT & QUALITY ASSURANCE

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) applies a **Results-Based Management (RBM)** approach to the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of its programmes. The organization combines results-based and participatory management practices, ensuring that qualified technical staff, decentralized decision-making, and active stakeholder engagement guide every stage of the project cycle from planning and implementation to monitoring, learning, and evaluation.

YCWL maintains a robust **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)** system led by dedicated M&E personnel who oversee project performance using integrated results frameworks, measurable indicators, and regular field monitoring. The organization utilizes digital data collection tools such as **KoboToolbox**, alongside surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews, to generate reliable evidence for decision-making, reporting, and programme improvement. Monthly performance and budget reviews ensure accountability, effective resource utilization, and achievement of planned results, while strict data protection and informed consent procedures safeguard beneficiary information. Community feedback is integrated through trained community committees, regular stakeholder consultations, and a dedicated Complaints and Response Mechanism (CRM), ensuring programmes remain transparent, responsive, and aligned with community needs. Monthly performance

and budget reviews, together with strong data protection and informed consent procedures, promote accountability, effective resource utilization, and the achievement of sustainable results.

Financial Management and Internal Controls

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) maintains a robust financial management and internal control system that promotes transparency, accountability, and compliance with donor requirements. The organization has established procedures for tracking expenditures, preparing financial and project reports, and submitting donor financial claims in accordance with approved budgets and reporting guidelines. All financial transactions are supported by appropriate documentation and follow clearly defined approval processes.

YCWL applies strict segregation of duties across procurement, payment authorization, financial recording, asset management, and bank reconciliation to minimize financial risk and strengthen accountability. Financial responsibilities are shared among programme, finance, and management staff, ensuring that no single individual controls an entire transaction. The organization also maintains computerized financial records, an asset management register, and regular bank reconciliations to ensure accurate reporting, effective resource management, and compliance with organizational policies and donor standards.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: UN WOMEN & THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) is proud to serve as a national implementing partner of the EU–UN Spotlight Initiative 2.0 in Liberia, working in close partnership with UN Women. The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations dedicated to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), harmful practices, and the structural inequalities that sustain them.

YCWL currently serves as a national implementing partner for the EU–UN Spotlight Initiative 2.0 in Liberia, in partnership with UN Women.

Through this partnership, YCWL delivers Inclusive Skills Training and community-based prevention and protection programming under Spotlight Initiative 2.0 activities, reaching adolescent girls, young women, and vulnerable youth across Montserrado, Lofa, and Nimba Counties. This includes vocational and entrepreneurship training tracks in Agriculture and Digital Entrepreneurship, designed to strengthen the economic independence of survivors and at-risk populations as a protective factor against gender-based violence.

YCWL's collaboration with UN Women extends YCWL's longstanding work on the Gender Desk, the Complaint and Response Mechanism (CRM), and PSEA safeguarding, ensuring that programming under Spotlight Initiative 2.0 is survivor-centered, rights-based, and aligned with national and international standards for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls.

Why This Partnership Matters

- It strengthens community-based referral pathways for survivors of GBV and SGB.
- It builds the economic resilience of women and girls through inclusive skills training in viable livelihood sectors.
- It embeds gender-responsive, survivor-centered approaches across YCWL's broader program portfolio.
- It aligns local implementation with the global Spotlight Initiative framework and UN Women's technical standards.
- It connects grassroots Liberian communities to national and international policy dialogue on ending violence against women and girls.

As a women-led organization with Special Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), YCWL brings both grassroots legitimacy and institutional credibility to this partnership — positioning UN Women and the Spotlight Initiative's investments to achieve sustained, locally-owned impact in some of Liberia's most underserved counties.

OUR PROGRAMS

YCWL implements an integrated portfolio of flagship programs spanning gender equality, education, entrepreneurship, agriculture, digital skills, and literacy — each designed to equip Liberian youth and women with the tools to lead, earn, and thrive.

Girls In Charge (GIC) — Flagship Women & Girls Empowerment Program

Girls In Charge is the flagship empowerment program of YCWL, designed to equip girls and young women, primarily between the ages of 15 and 35, with the confidence, leadership skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to become empowered leaders and changemakers in their communities. Through an experiential learning approach combining interactive workshops, mentorship, peer-learning sessions, role modeling, and inspirational speakers, participants discover their strengths and take charge of their lives and futures.

The program advances leadership development, civic participation, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health education, alongside menstrual health awareness and reusable sanitary pad production — helping girls remain in school and participate fully in society.



Girls In Charge participants at a community empowerment session.

Youth in ICT and Digital Skills Development

Youth in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) is a flagship initiative aimed at bridging the digital divide and equipping young people with the technological skills needed to succeed in the 21st-century economy. The program provides training in computer applications, digital literacy, coding, web development, and online safety — increasing employability, entrepreneurship, and innovation potential among disadvantaged and vulnerable youth.

Impact Accelerator Program (IAP) & Youth2Work

Impact Accelerator and Youth2Work is a comprehensive youth entrepreneurship and employability initiative empowering young people aged 15–35 with the skills, resources, networks, and opportunities needed to build sustainable livelihoods.

Impact Accelerator Program (IAP)

YCWL’s startup incubation and business acceleration platform supports aspiring young entrepreneurs in transforming ideas into viable businesses through business development training, mentorship, networking, and linkages to investors and funding opportunities.

Youth2Work Program

Designed to improve youth employability through workplace readiness training, CV writing, interview preparation, professionalism, and pathways to internships, apprenticeships, and employment.

Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness Development

The Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Program empowers young people with practical skills in climate-smart agriculture, modern farming, and agribusiness to promote employment, entrepreneurship, and food security.

Through its Student Gardening Initiative, YCWL intends to establish school gardens where students gain hands-on farming experience while learning about nutrition, environmental stewardship, and sustainable agriculture. Through this integrated approach, YCWL is expected to cultivate a new generation of skilled agripreneurs who contribute to improved livelihoods, food security, and sustainable agricultural development in Liberia.

Street Library Initiative

The Street Library Initiative is YCWL's flagship literacy and education program designed to combat illiteracy and expand access to educational resources for children and young people in underserved communities. Through community-based libraries, reading clubs, storytelling sessions, literacy campaigns, and digital learning opportunities, the initiative promotes a culture of reading and lifelong learning.



Children participating in a Street Library reading and literacy session

Operating from Wood Camp Community in Paynesville and expanding into Margibi and Bong Counties, the Street Library has reached more than 4,000 children since inception, with approximately 80% of

children returning after their first visit — supported in part by hot meals provided through the Netsbett Family Foundation.

Sanoyea Professional Skills Development Academy

Sanoyea Professional Skills Development Academy, located in Sanoyea, Bong County, is owned and operated by Youth Crime Watch of Liberia. The Professional Skills Development Academy serves as a vocational training facility and community learning hub for children, youth, women, and families.

The academy provides opportunities for skills development, entrepreneurship training, and livelihood support while creating a safe and inclusive environment for learning and personal growth.



OUR REACH, IMPACT & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

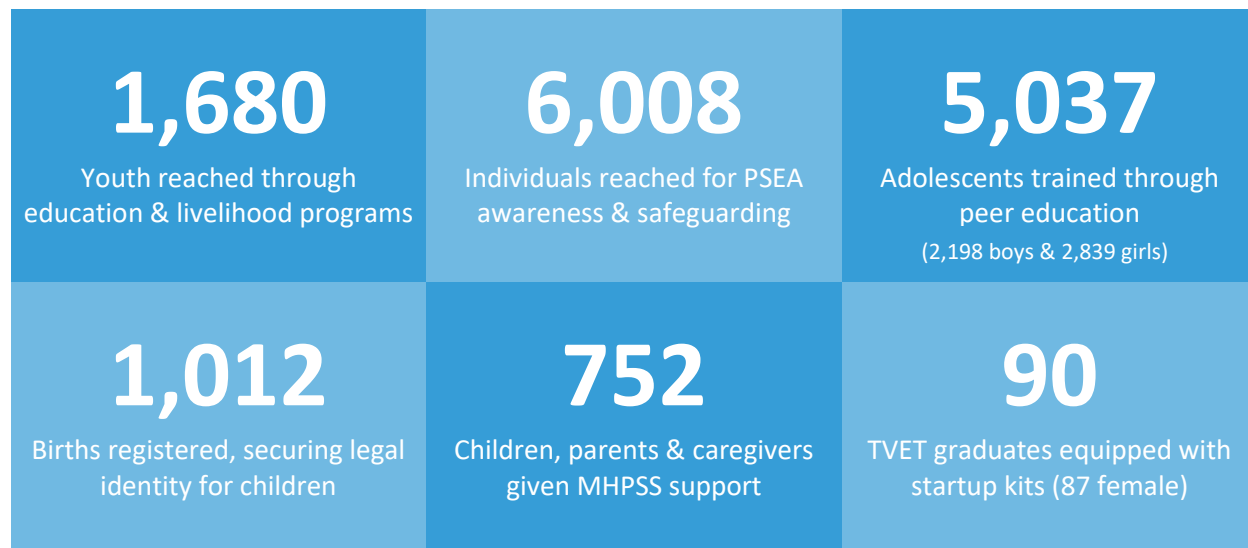
The facility includes dedicated spaces that support the participation of women and young mothers, ensuring that access to training and economic opportunities is not limited by caregiving responsibilities. Through the academy, YCWL continues to invest in practical skills development and community empowerment.

Key Focus Areas

- Technical and Vocational Training
- Youth and Women Empowerment
- Entrepreneurship Development
- Community Capacity Building
- Livelihood Skills
- Inclusive Learning Environment

Since its establishment in 2004, Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) has been at the forefront of youth empowerment, gender equality, education, community development, peacebuilding, and crime prevention initiatives across Liberia. With more than 20 years of sectoral experience, YCWL operates across Montserrado, Bong, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, Margibi, and Lofa Counties, and has implemented programs with UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, USAID/EDC, the European Union, and other development partners.

Headline 2024 Results



Community-wide youth mobilization event in a YCWL project location.

Protection, Gender Equality & Community Awareness

- Reached **6,008** individuals (1,625 boys, 1,987 girls, 536 men, 1,860 women) through PSEA awareness and direct training.
- Supported **5,205** individuals through GBV and SEA survivor-access awareness campaigns.
- Engaged **1,610** community members through social norm change interventions on GBV prevention and referral pathways.

Child Protection & Adolescent Empowerment

- Trained and mentored **5,037** adolescents through children's clubs and peer education on violence prevention and child protection.
- Trained **859** adolescent girls on child marriage prevention and protection mechanisms.
- Strengthened **six** Community Child Welfare Committees and Child Protection Structures.

Education, Life Skills & TVET

- Enabled **1,707** adolescents to complete life-skills and employability training programs.
- Mobilized **2,183** members of PTAs, School Management Committees, and Child Protection Committees.
- Graduated **90** TVET beneficiaries after six months of vocational training, with startup kits provided for income-generating activities.
- Facilitated employment for at least **20** TVET graduates across Kakata, Gbarnga, Dolo Town, Unification Town, and Sanoyea.



Vocational (tailoring) and classroom-based skills training delivered under YCWL's TVET and education programs.

Be The Change Academy (BTCA)

Implemented in partnership with Peace Child International (PCI-UK) and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), BTCA equips young people — particularly young women — with practical business knowledge and mentorship to start and grow sustainable enterprises.



Enhancing Social Cohesion Through Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Marginalized Youth

With UNICEF support, YCWL implemented this peacebuilding and resilience project across Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties under the Government of Liberia and United Nations' At-Risk Youth Empowerment Programme (A-YEP).

- Supported **18** community structures and grassroots partners through operational grants.
- Empowered **15** youth-led and women-led organizations through direct financial support.
- Trained **300** at-risk female youth ambassadors and marginalized youth leaders across 10 communities.
- Reached **2,000** marginalized youth with substance abuse prevention awareness campaigns.

Green Cities Partnership: Waste Reduction & Green Employment

In partnership with Green Cities, Inc. and with funding support through the GIZ Public-Private Partnership Fund, YCWL implemented sustainable waste management programming in Montserrado County, including the establishment of seven Buy-Back Centers through collaboration with the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA).

- Engaged **30** stakeholders through a county-wide Stakeholder Engagement Workshop.
- Trained **200** waste collectors and community enterprises through a Training of Trainers program.
- Extended training to **1,800** additional community members and informal waste collectors.



Community awareness and engagement campaign in a YCWL project area.

USAID Youth Advance Project (with EDC)

Through the USAID Youth Advance Project, implemented with the Education Development Center (EDC), YCWL provides Basic Education and Work Ready Now training for out-of-school youth aged 15–16 in Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties — increasing economic self-reliance and resilience through literacy, numeracy, and employability skills.

451

Learners across Montserrado & Grand Bassa (Cohort 3)

97%

Learners remained active in class

25+

University-level youth trained in Future Proof Skills (pilot)

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS

Beyond its flagship programs, YCWL has implemented a wide range of targeted initiatives in partnership with international organizations, government bodies, and civil society — expanding its reach into access to justice, civic education, peacebuilding, electoral participation, and youth facility development.

Sanoyea Professional Skills Development Academy Complex

Located in Sanoyea, Bong County, this permanent YCWL facility serves as a vocational training site for the Be The Change Academy (BTCA) and a hub of hope for children, youth, women, and families in the surrounding communities. Understanding the unique challenges faced by mothers, the facility includes a dedicated, safe, and comfortable space for lactating mothers, ensuring that having a baby does not become a barrier to learning, personal growth, or economic empowerment.

This child-friendly environment allows mothers to attend training sessions, breastfeed, and care for their infants while continuing to build valuable skills for a brighter future. By supporting both mother and child, YCWL is creating opportunities for women to pursue their dreams, strengthen their families, and contribute meaningfully to their communities' development.

Promoting Youth Access to Justice and Democratic Participation

In partnership with The Carter Center and with funding from the Government of Sweden, YCWL organized a National Stakeholders Dialogue on Youth and Access to Justice in Liberia, held September 30, 2021 in Monrovia. The dialogue brought together government institutions, youth leaders, civil society organizations, universities, legal professionals, and community stakeholders to address barriers to justice affecting young people.



YCWL staff and partners at the National Stakeholders Dialogue on Youth and Access to Justice, Monrovia.

Key Achievements

- Convened national stakeholders from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Liberia National Bar Association, Liberia National Police, youth organizations, universities, and civil society groups.
- Created a platform for meaningful dialogue between young people and decision-makers on justice, human rights, and governance issues.
- Facilitated discussions on legal aid, youth rights, pre-trial detention, women and girls' access to justice, and youth conflict with the law.
- Developed practical recommendations to strengthen legal awareness, civic education, youth participation, legal aid services, and justice sector reforms.

IMPACT: The initiative strengthened youth engagement in governance and justice discussions, elevated youth voices in national policy conversations, and contributed to advocacy efforts for improved access to justice and civic participation in Liberia.



Panel discussion during the National Stakeholders Dialogue on Youth and Access to Justice

ACP-European Union Culture Support Programme & Fraunhofer Portugal

Through the ACP Street Libraries Project, YCWL promoted literacy, digital innovation, and community learning by establishing and modernizing street libraries across Liberia. The initiative improved access to reading materials and educational opportunities for children and youth in underserved communities.

Public Awareness on Armed Violence Reduction and Social Cohesion

With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Community Security and Social Cohesion Program, YCWL implemented a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing armed violence, promoting peaceful coexistence, and strengthening youth engagement in peacebuilding. The initiative focused on high-risk communities in Paynesville and New Kru Town, where youth are often exposed to violence, crime, and substance abuse.

Key Achievements

- Reached two high-risk communities through intensive awareness and engagement activities.
- Conducted community mapping and stakeholder consultations involving local leaders, youth groups, schools, and community organizations.
- Partnered with major media institutions including Truth FM, Real TV, UNMIL Radio, Star Radio, and SKY FM to amplify peacebuilding messages.
- Mobilized hundreds of young people and community members through road shows, community dialogues, music, drama, and public awareness events.
- Successfully launched a county-wide Armed Violence Reduction Campaign involving government representatives, community leaders, media institutions, and development partners.
- Distributed campaign materials, including posters, flyers, stickers, and branded awareness materials in strategic public locations.

IMPACT: The project increased public awareness of the dangers of armed violence and substance abuse, strengthened community participation in peacebuilding initiatives, fostered collaboration between youth and local authorities, and empowered young people to become champions of peace, security, and social cohesion in their communities.

PROMOTING PEACEFUL ELECTIONS AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth Electoral Violence Prevention and First-Time Voter Engagement Project

YCWL partnered with WANEP-Liberia and the EU-funded Electoral Mitigation and Advocacy Mission (EMAM) Project to implement a voter awareness and electoral violence prevention campaign in Jorquelleh District #2, Bong County.

The initiative addressed challenges young people, particularly first-time voters, face during elections—including vulnerability to misinformation, political manipulation, and election-related violence. Through community engagement and civic education, the project promoted informed participation and peaceful electoral conduct among young people.

Key Achievements

- Conducted a 2-day electoral awareness and violence prevention campaign in Jorquelleh District #2, Bong County.
- Directly engaged more than 100 first-time voters and community members through community outreach and civic education activities.
- Reached communities and public spaces identified as high-risk areas for electoral violence, including Lofa Packing Market, Bong Athletic and Social Intellectual Center (BASIC), Old Iron Gate Junction, Duala Community, and Kolita-Worlah Community.
- Provided voter education on electoral procedures, voter rights and responsibilities, peaceful participation, and conflict prevention.
- Facilitated awareness sessions in collaboration with representatives from the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY).
- Conducted one-on-one engagements with first-time voters to increase their understanding of the electoral process and discourage participation in election-related violence.

IMPACT: The campaign empowered young people with accurate electoral information, strengthened civic awareness, and increased confidence among first-time voters to participate peacefully in the democratic process. By targeting communities vulnerable to political tension and electoral violence, the initiative contributed to reducing the risk of election-related conflict and promoting a culture of peaceful political participation.

Through this intervention, YCWL helped amplify youth voices, foster responsible citizenship, and reinforce the importance of democratic values, dialogue, and non-violence. The project demonstrated the critical role young people can play as peace ambassadors and agents of positive change in building a peaceful, inclusive, and democratic Liberia.

This initiative reflects YCWL’s broader commitment to advancing peacebuilding, civic engagement, youth leadership, and democratic governance, ensuring that young people are equipped to contribute meaningfully to national development and sustainable peace.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) implements programmes across multiple counties in Liberia. Through its network of community-based organizations, schools, youth groups, women’s groups, and local stakeholders, YCWL maintains a strong grassroots presence and the capacity to implement programmes in both urban and rural communities.

Counties Reached

- Montserrado
- Margibi
- Bong
- Grand Bassa
- Rivercess
- Grand Cape Mount
- Gbarpolu
- Bomi
- Lofa
- Nimba

PARTNERS, DONORS, MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Key Partners and Donors

Since its establishment, Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) has built strong partnerships with national and international organizations, government institutions, donor agencies, and development partners committed to advancing youth empowerment, education, gender equality, peacebuilding, child protection, and sustainable development.

These partnerships have enabled YCWL to expand its reach, strengthen institutional capacity, and deliver impactful programmes that improve the lives of children, adolescents, young people, women, and vulnerable communities across Liberia.

United Nations and Multilateral Partners

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Women
- United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Bilateral and International Development Partners

- AGIAMONDO (German Civil Peace Service)
- European Union (EU)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Government of Sweden
- Government of Japan
- TrustAfrica

International NGOs and Technical Partners

- Peace Child International (PCI-UK)
- The Carter Center
- Oxfam Great Britain (OXFAM-GB)
- Volunteer for International Development and Aid (VIDA)
- Equip Africa
- Fraunhofer Portugal
- Microsoft Portugal
- Mediators Beyond Borders International
- Ignitus Worldwide
- Peace Insight
- Acting Globally
- Netsbett Family Foundation

National and Community Partners

- Government of Liberia and relevant line ministries
- Liberia National Police (LNP)
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- Cuttington University
- Green Cities Inc.
- WANEP-Liberia
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Youth-led and Women-led Organizations across Liberia

YCWL currently serves as a national implementing partner for the Spotlight Initiative 2.0 in Liberia and continues to work closely with government institutions, local communities, and development partners to promote sustainable and inclusive development.

Networks and Memberships

YCWL actively participates in national and international networks, coordination platforms, and advocacy coalitions that promote youth development, child protection, education, gender equality, peacebuilding, and civic engagement. Through these platforms, the organization contributes to policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, coordination efforts, and collective action aimed at improving the lives of children, adolescents, and young people in Liberia.

Key memberships and affiliations include:

- ECOSOC Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Adolescent Girls Working Group (AGWG)
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Task Force
- Child Protection Network of Liberia
- Youth Development and Engagement Platforms coordinated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Liberia's Early Warning and Response Program (LERN)
- Education Sector Coordination Platforms
- Civil Society and Community Development Networks

Through its active participation in these networks, YCWL contributes to national policy discussions, strengthens partnerships, promotes youth voices, and supports coordinated responses to issues affecting young people and vulnerable communities across Liberia.



YCWL community mobilization event in a project county.

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EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LIBERIANS

APPENDIX A: Youth Crime Watch of Liberia Program Framework and Focus Areas

These program areas and sub-activities provide a comprehensive framework that guides the work of Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) in empowering young people, strengthening communities, and promoting sustainable development across Liberia. They reflect YCWL's commitment to advancing education, child protection, gender equality, peace and security, environmental sustainability, economic empowerment, good governance, and agricultural development through community-driven and evidence-based interventions.

The framework is aligned with Youth Crime Watch of Liberia's mission, vision, and strategic priorities, while also supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Liberia's National Development Plan (ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development AAID), and the priorities of national and international development partners. It provides a flexible platform for designing, implementing, and scaling high-impact programs that respond to the evolving needs of children, youth, women, and vulnerable communities throughout Liberia.

Below is a detailed breakdown of sub-activities that can be implemented under each of Youth Crime Watch of Liberia (YCWL) Core Focus Areas:

Education & Literacy Development

- Early Childhood Education support
- Community Reading and Learning Centers (Street Libraries)
- School enrollment and retention campaigns
- Back-to-School support initiatives
- Reading, writing, and numeracy improvement programs
- Adult literacy and functional literacy classes
- Digital literacy and ICT education
- STEM education initiatives
- Financial literacy education
- Civic and citizenship education
- Leadership development for students
- School mentorship and career guidance
- Scholarships and educational sponsorships
- School infrastructure rehabilitation
- Teacher capacity building and professional development
- School sanitation and hygiene promotion
- School feeding and nutrition awareness
- School clubs (Peace, Environment, Health, Debate, Anti-Drug, Human Rights)
- Library establishment and book donation campaigns
- Educational technology integration
- Inclusive education for children with disabilities
- Youth innovation and entrepreneurship education
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
- Community education awareness campaigns

Child Protection & Safeguarding

- Child rights awareness campaigns
- Child abuse prevention education
- Prevention of child labor
- Prevention of child trafficking
- Prevention of child marriage
- Birth registration awareness
- School safeguarding systems
- Community child protection committees
- Case management and referral services
- Psychosocial support for vulnerable children
- Family strengthening and parenting education
- Positive parenting training
- Child participation and youth voices
- Safe spaces for children
- Child-friendly reporting mechanisms
- Child online safety and cyber protection
- Reintegration support for vulnerable children
- Protection of children in emergencies
- Disability-inclusive child protection
- Child legal aid referrals
- Child protection policy development
- Capacity building for teachers and caregivers
- Advocacy for child-friendly policies

Environment & Climate Protection

- Tree planting campaigns
- Community forestry initiatives
- Climate change education
- Climate adaptation projects
- Climate resilience building
- Environmental conservation education
- Waste management systems
- Plastic recycling initiatives
- Community clean-up campaigns
- Biodiversity conservation
- Wetland protection
- Coastal conservation activities
- Renewable energy promotion
- Solar energy awareness
- Clean cooking technologies
- Water conservation
- Sustainable sanitation initiatives
- Environmental advocacy
- School environmental clubs
- Green entrepreneurship development
- Circular economy initiatives
- Carbon reduction awareness
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Environmental policy advocacy
- Community resilience planning

Crime Prevention & Peace Building

- Youth crime prevention education
- Community policing initiatives
- Violence prevention campaigns
- Drug abuse prevention
- Anti-gang awareness
- Conflict prevention and mediation
- Community dialogue forums
- Peace education in schools
- Restorative justice initiatives
- Rehabilitation and reintegration of at-risk youth
- Juvenile justice advocacy
- Community safety assessments
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) prevention
- Countering violent extremism awareness
- Social cohesion activities
- Civic engagement programs
- Human rights education
- Election peace campaigns
- Neighborhood Watch support
- Security sector engagement
- Mediation and negotiation training
- Youth peace ambassador programs
- Early warning and response systems
- Trauma healing and reconciliation activities

Governance, Accountability & Leadership

- Youth leadership development
- Good governance education
- Civic participation initiatives
- Local governance engagement
- Public accountability forums
- Social accountability monitoring
- Community scorecards
- Budget transparency education
- Anti-corruption awareness
- Citizen participation platforms
- Policy advocacy
- Human rights promotion
- Election observation and civic education
- Public policy dialogues
- Institutional capacity strengthening
- Organizational development support
- Board governance training
- Strategic planning facilitation
- Financial management training
- Project management training
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)
- Digital governance initiatives
- Volunteer leadership development
- Community leadership forums
- Women's leadership initiatives

Agriculture

- Climate-smart agriculture
- Sustainable farming practices
- Youth agribusiness development
- Farmer field schools
- Home gardening initiatives
- School gardening programs
- Poultry farming
- Fish farming (Aquaculture)
- Livestock production
- Vegetable production
- Cassava production
- Rice production
- Cocoa and coffee production
- Value chain development
- Agricultural entrepreneurship
- Agribusiness incubation
- Food processing and preservation
- Agricultural marketing
- Post-harvest management
- Irrigation systems promotion
- Organic farming
- Agroforestry
- Soil conservation
- Agricultural cooperatives
- Access to agricultural finance
- Agricultural extension services
- Digital agriculture
- Mechanized farming awareness
- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Youth in commercial farming

Gender & Women Empowerment

- Women's leadership development (Girls in Charge)
- Girls' education initiatives
- Gender equality advocacy
- Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)
- Women's economic empowerment
- Women's entrepreneurship
- Financial inclusion for women
- Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)
- Women's cooperative development
- Girls' mentorship programs
- Life skills education
- Safe spaces for women and girls
- Gender-responsive governance
- Legal rights awareness
- Women's political participation
- Positive masculinity engagement
- Male engagement for gender equality
- Prevention of early marriage
- Prevention of teenage pregnancy
- Digital inclusion for women
- Women in STEM
- Women in agriculture
- Women's peacebuilding initiatives

Economic Development & Livelihood

- Youth employability programs
- Entrepreneurship development
- Business startup support
- Business incubation
- Small business development
- Vocational skills training
- Apprenticeship programs
- Internship placement
- Career readiness training
- Soft skills development
- Financial literacy
- Savings promotion
- Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs)
- Cooperative development
- Market linkage support
- Digital entrepreneurship
- E-commerce training
- Green job development
- Circular economy enterprises
- Creative industries development
- Handicraft production
- Hospitality and tourism skills
- ICT and digital skills
- Freelancing skills development
- Access to finance initiatives
- Microenterprise support
- Business mentoring and coaching
- Youth innovation hubs
- Social enterprise development
- Employment placement services