

# KEY FACTS FROM LIBERIA

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH WATER

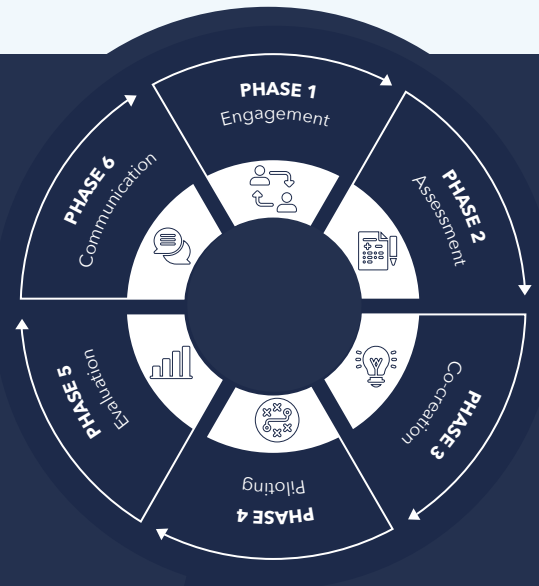
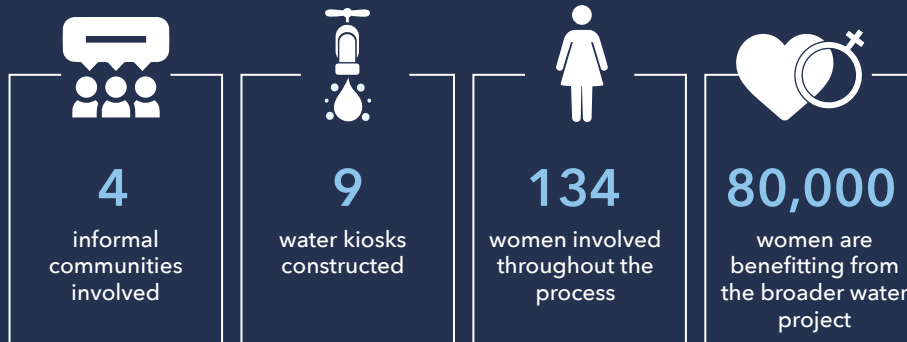
Cities Alliance  
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by  
UNOPS

 **Location**  
Monrovia, Liberia

 **Partners**  
Federation of Liberia Urban PoorSaver (FOLUPS) and YMCA, supported by SIDA

Globally, in **80 % of households with water shortages**, women and girls are responsible for water collection.



## UNDERSTANDING WATER VULNERABILITY

Today due to the rapid urbanization in Greater Monrovia, over 70% of the city's population lives in informal settlements.

To strengthen women's voices and promote their participation in Montserrado County, Liberia, Cities Alliance organised a workshop and undertook a survey where women provide their inputs for the City Development Strategy.

Through the process, which is part of a continuous engagement with women living in informal settlements, the construction of water kiosks and cleaning of public spaces were identified as key priority interventions for communities in the area. In fact, women bear the primary responsibility for water collection in Monrovia. The walk long distance every day every day, which increases their risk of sexual abuse, disease and dropping out of school.

July 2020- October 2020

“

Women are the main beneficiaries in the use of water, everything we do, we do that with water, and we need it quickly. In the Boobish community, we used to walk 15 minutes away from the community to find water - the kiosks that are being constructed bring life to our communities.”

Member of the Federation of  
Liberia Urban Poor Savers



# GENDER MAPPING IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Cities Alliance in partnership with the Federation of Liberian Urban Poor Savers (FOLUPS), conducted gender assessments in the three communities of Clara Town, Doe Community and Pipeline Community, in order to investigate women's situation within their communities and the level of safety of public spaces. A series of gender mapping workshops, safety audit checklists and community walks have been conducted, through the engagement of women. The participants answered questions such as *What neighbourhood space do you use? Where do you go shopping? and Where do you feel unsafe?* The gender mapping process provided input for the design and construction of water kiosks and the improvement of public spaces.

October 2020 - January 2021



*Crime rate in Pipeline community is at its peak and maintaining streetlights, signage, and other basic social services is a critical challenge."*

*A participant to the women walk in Pipeline*



TRAINING ON WATER KIOSKS' MANAGEMENT

## CO-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF WOMEN-LED WATER KIOSKS

Cities Alliance supported the construction of 9 water kiosks in four informal settlements in Greater Monrovia, to ensure access to safe and reliable water supplies. Representatives of women's groups from the target communities were trained for 10 days on the water kiosks operation and maintenance. During the construction women conducted monitoring visits of the sites, and they will be in charge of the management of the kiosks.

April - September 2021



*Water is a women's issue. To narrow the gender gap in leadership at all levels of the water sector, and to ensure water security for all, women need to have greater involvement in water governance."*



WATER KIOSK FINALIZED