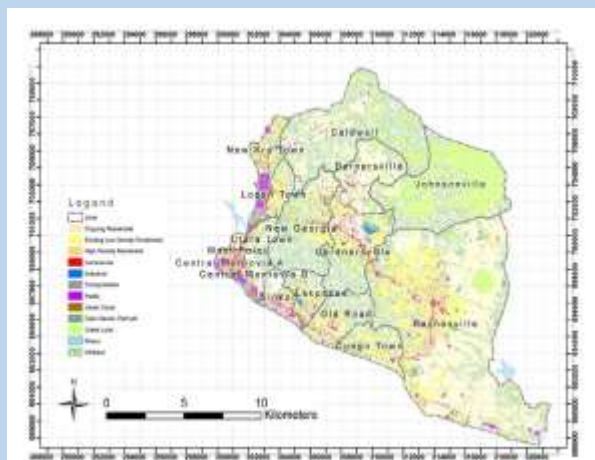


Introduction:

The fact sheet information has been generated from the Liberia Country Programme baseline survey conducted from mid-March to mid June 2017. The baseline employed a special survey to capture the working conditions of informal workers focusing on petty traders and waste pickers in greater Monrovia-Liberia.

Figure 1 Boundary map of greater Monrovia



A sample of 555 petty traders in Duala market, Red-light Market which is the largest market in the country and central Monrovia were selected for interview. In addition, 50 waste pickers from different Community based Enterprises (CBEs) were also interviewed. The sample sizes were determined statistically using Slovin’s formula.

The survey employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Individual interviews, 8 Focused group discussions with petty traders and key informant interviews with two city mayors, two city planners, two commissioners, and representatives or leaders from Ministry of Public Works, WASH Consortium, Liberia Water and Sewerage Corporation (LWSC), FOLUPS members, NAPETUL members and waste-pickers members of CBEs were conducted.

Socio-economic characteristics of petty traders and waste-pickers in Greater Monrovia.

58% and 76% of the petty traders and waste-pickers respectively are male. This denotes a high engagement of the male as compared to their counter parts.

68% of the petty traders are aged 18 – 35 years. On the other hand, 46% of the waste-pickers are 18-35 years. This denotes high engagement of the youth in petty trading compared to waste collection.

53% and 40% of the petty traders and waste-pickers respectively completed senior high school, however, 43% and 60% of the petty traders and waste-pickers respectively reported poor educational backgrounds of junior high, elementary and no education

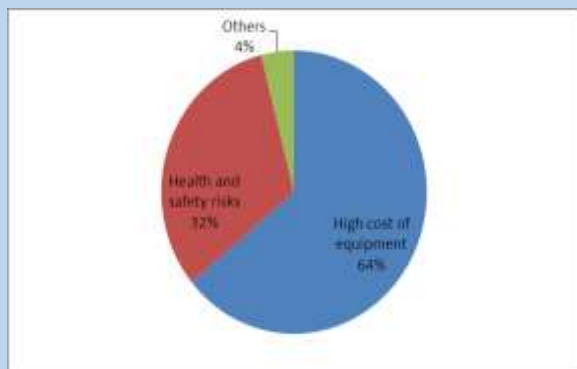
12% of the petty traders pay taxes to relevant authorities. An average of 7294 LRD (73 USD) is paid as tax per year. All waste-pickers pay an average tax of 42,827 LRD (approximately 428 USD) per year to the relevant authorities.

Petty traders reportedly earn 9,525 LRD (approximately USD 95) and make profits worth 3298 LRD (approximately USD 33), on average per month

Constraints to the expansion of Petty trader businesses

- A lack of access to financial support, mentioned by 80.4% of the petty traders
- Limited space for selling mentioned by 50.3% of the petty traders
- Harassment from police mentioned by 82%.

Constraints to the expansion of waste-picker businesses



Source: LCP baseline report 2017

The high cost of equipment, health and safety risks involved in waste picking were the main factors that constrained expansion of waste-picker business mentioned by 64% and 32% of the waste pickers.

Working conditions of petty traders:

89% and 91% of the petty traders have access to storage facilities and sanitation facilities respectively.

Table 1 Petty traders working conditions based on gender and age

Indicator	per cent			per cent	
	All	Male	Female	18-35 yrs	>35 yrs
Open space without shelter	39	49	29	39	46
Open space with shelter	61	51	71	61	54
Has access to store	89	84	93	89	85
Toilet located within 500m	91	88	93	89	90
Attended meeting	43	43	43	41	46
Experienced harassment	82	82	82	86	73
Experienced theft of goods	54	47	61	53	53
Access to loan	7	8	6	5	12

Source: LCP baseline report 2017

The survey revealed poor access to financial services among petty traders, only 7% had access to a business loan

Survey results indicated that petty traders work under poor conditions and environments. 39% operated their businesses in open spaces, 82% faced harassment from police and 54% experienced theft of their goods six months prior to the survey.

Working conditions of waste-pickers:

Table 2 Waste picker working conditions based on gender and age

VARIABLES	All	Male	Female	18-35 yrs	>35 yrs
No of vehicles	3	3	3	2	3
Attended meeting	53	58	47	39	59
Experienced harassment	43	46	40	30	50
Frequency of experiencing harassment	3	3	3	3	3
Frequency of falling sick/getting injured	2	2	2	2	2
Denied access to waste	28	17	11	13	11
Customer refused to pay	92	92	92	91	93

Source: LCP baseline report 2017

92% of the waste pickers reported access to garbage collection containers

53% of the waste-pickers reported to have attended at least one meeting to discuss issues related to the working conditions in the six months before the survey, which denotes freedom of expression of concerns among waste-pickers to a certain extent.

Results indicated poor working conditions and environment among waste-pickers as well.

Overall, 43% reported being exploited or harassed by intermediaries in the six months before the survey.

43% of the waste pickers had fallen sick or been injured related to garbage collection at least two times in the six months preceding data collection

Business aspirations of petty traders and waste-pickers:

55% of the petty traders had plans to start a new IGA, 70% would be still working in petty trading in the next one year.

74% of male petty traders would still be working in petty trading 5-10 years, compared to 65% of females

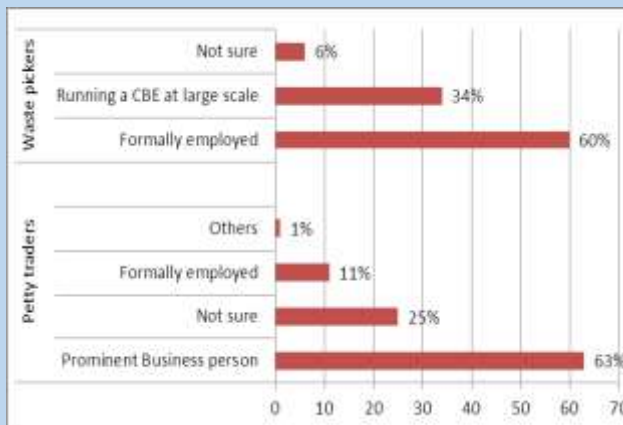
82% of the male waste-pickers had plans to start a new IGA in the next 5–10 years compared to only 50% of the women

Specific prospects in 5-10 years among informal workers

63% of the petty traders expressed their desire to be prominent business persons in 5–10 years after the survey.

A quarter (25%) of petty traders were not sure exactly what they would be doing in 5–10 years from the time of the survey.

60% of the waste pickers expressed their desire to be formally employed in 5-10 years after the survey.



Challenges that would stop the informal workers from realizing their plans:

Petty traders pointed out limited access to financial services (80%) as the key hindrance to obtaining prospects

Waste-pickers highlighted limited access to health and safety equipment (94%) as the major challenge that can stop them from realizing their plans in future

