



CDC - Led Government Achievement

# REDEFINED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

(2018–2023)



If there was one sector where the Weah Administration bore a sacred burden, it was the Youth. President George Manneh Weah did not just lead the youth; he was the youth—a product of Clara Town, a son of the struggle, and the ultimate symbol of possibility.

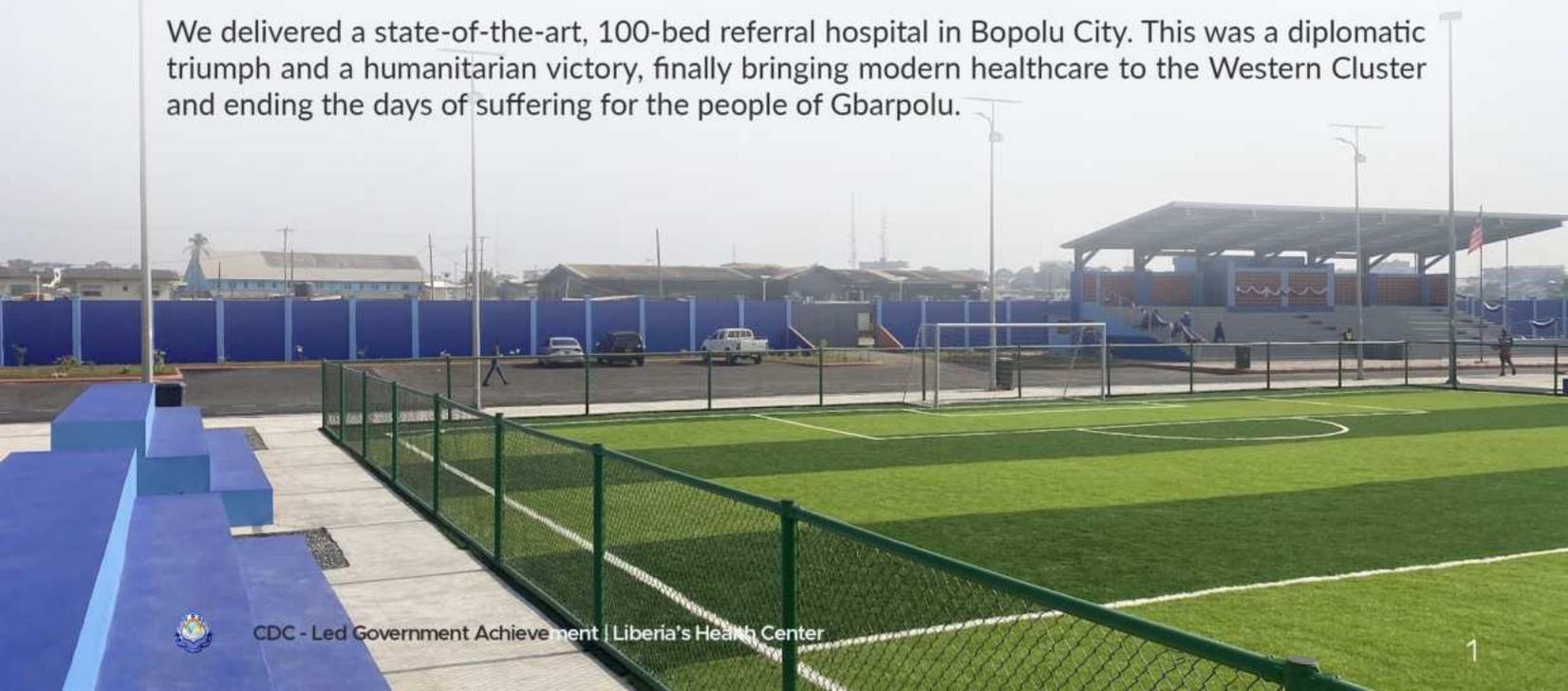
Between 2018 and 2023, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, under the guidance of the CDC-led government, moved beyond the empty rhetoric of the past. We understood that the youth of Liberia did not need more speeches; they needed skills, spaces, and sustenance.

The turnover notes from this era reveal a fundamental shift: from viewing youth as a "security threat" to recognizing them as our greatest economic asset. Here is the unvarnished record of the "Pro-Poor Agenda" for the young people of Liberia—a dual-track revolution of Concrete and Capital.

## 1. THE CONCRETE LEGACY:

Transforming the Slums into Sanctuaries

We delivered a state-of-the-art, 100-bed referral hospital in Bopolu City. This was a diplomatic triumph and a humanitarian victory, finally bringing modern healthcare to the Western Cluster and ending the days of suffering for the people of Gbarpolu.



# THE PHP "UNITY" SPORTS PARK

(Redemption of the Coast)

- The Vision: For decades, the PHP (Public Health Pond) community behind the Barclay Training Center was defined by neglect and a dark history of execution. We reclaimed this space, turning a historic scar into the Unity Sports Park.
- The Facility: We delivered a massive multi-sport complex featuring two football pitches, basketball and volleyball courts, a boardwalk, and an outdoor gym.
- The Symbolism: This was the first time a government built a world-class facility inside a community, rather than hiding it away in a rich suburb. It beautified the coastline and restored dignity to the residents of South Beach and Central Monrovia.



# THE INVINCIBLE SPORTS PARK

(The Crown Jewel)



- The Transformation: We took a stretch of sand near the airfield—used for years as an open defecation site—and built the finest recreational park in the country.
- The Impact: Today, it stands as a monument to excellence, boasting FIFA-standard turf, housing for nearby residents, prayer grounds for our spiritual warriors, and safe playgrounds for children. It is not just a park; it is the physical embodiment of the Weah Standard.



# THE WEST POINT MINI STADIUM

(A Promise Kept)

- The Reality: West Point is the heartbeat of Monrovia's struggle. For years, their "field" was a dust bowl that turned into a mud trap in the rainy season.
- The Deliverable: The Weah Administration constructed a fully fenced, artificial turf Mini-Stadium right in the heart of the township. We installed floodlights, allowing the youth to play safely at night, keeping them away from crime and drugs.



# SKD PRACTICE PITCH

(Grassroots Excellence)

- While the main stadium was being refurbished, we recognized that grassroots football needs access. We constructed a FIFA-standard artificial turf practice pitch at the SKD complex, ensuring that our Third Division and community leagues play on professional surfaces, not gravel.



## 2. THE SKILLS REVOLUTION:

Youth Rising" & TVET



We recognized a painful truth: a university degree is not the only path to prosperity. The Weah Administration declared a "TVET Revolution," prioritizing Technical and Vocational Education and Training to give our youth marketable skills for the industries of tomorrow.

- **The "Youth Rising" Project** (EU & UNIDO Partnership)
- **The Scale:** A massive €25 Million investment funded by the European Union and implemented by UNIDO.
- **The Mission:** We moved beyond "soap making." We physically rehabilitated and equipped vocational training centers (VTCs) across seven counties (including MVTC in Montserrado, BWI in Margibi, and centers in Sinoe and Maryland).
- **The Upgrade:** We equipped these schools with modern industrial tools for heavy-duty mechanics, automotive electricity, and carpentry. We trained the trainers. We ensured that when mining concessions hire, they hire skilled Liberians.

## MVTC MODERNIZATION:

We expanded the curriculum of the Monrovia Vocational Training Center to include IT and modern trade skills, bridging the gap between education and the 21st-century marketplace.



### 3. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

#### Putting Money in Pockets

Hope is good, but income is better. The Weah Administration launched aggressive interventions to provide direct economic lifelines to the most vulnerable youth, transitioning them from the streets to the bank



- **The Youth Opportunities Project (YOP) \ REALISE:**

- **The Reach:** Supported by the World Bank (\$10M+), this flagship program reached over 15,000 households.
- **Rural Strategy:** We provided "farming startup grants" and tools to youth groups in all 15 counties to plant communal farms (rice, cassava, oil palm), turning subsistence farmers into agri-entrepreneurs.
- **Urban Strategy:** We provided business grants and management training to youth in Monrovia to start barber shops, beauty salons, and retail businesses.
- **Post-COVID Expansion:** In 2021/2022, we successfully transitioned YOP into the REALISE Project, securing nearly \$10 Million in additional financing to protect the livelihoods of youth in the informal sector.

### THE BEACH AND WATERWAY CLEANING PROGRAM:

**The Dignity of Labor:** We employed thousands of young people from coastal slum communities—New Kru Town, West Point, Popo Beach—to clean our beaches. This was not a handout; it was a paycheck for honest work, putting food on tables while keeping our environment clean.



## 4. THE "AT-RISK" YOUTH:

### The Compassion Agenda

Perhaps the most touching legacy of the Weah Administration was the refusal to leave anyone behind—including the so-called "Zogos." While others looked away in disgust, President Weah looked with compassion.



- **National Fund Drive for At-Risk Youth:**
- **The Initiative:** The President led a historic \$13.8M fundraising target to rehabilitate disadvantaged youth, pledging an initial \$1M from the Government.
- **The Action:** We operationalized the Detoxification and Rehabilitation Center in Margibi County.
- **The Result:** For the first time, the state provided a structured pathway for addiction recovery. We witnessed the first batch of graduates return to society not as outcasts, but as clean, skilled citizens. We declared that no Liberian child is "throw-away."

The CDC-led government did not offer the youth empty promises of a distant future; we offered them the tools for today.

- We found them playing in the mud; we left them playing on FIFA Turf.
- We found them unskilled; we left them with TVET Certifications.
- We found them hopeless in the ghettos; we gave them a pathway to Rehab.
- We found them idle; we gave them Business Grants.

**NOTE:** *Can this be replaced with "sports" – since "youth development" covers sports!?*