

## *RCs Joint Monthly Report*

<b>Reporting Period</b>	December, 2022
<b>Report title</b>	LTOs monthly infield social economic trend monitoring report
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<b>Submitted to</b>	Head of Secretariat
<b>Submission Date</b>	January, 2022

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**Sec: 1.0: Overview**

LEON’s infield monitors known as LTOs for short on a monthly basis, track social economic issue in the 73 electoral districts. Information garnered are file to our online election monitoring databased called ELMO. This report contains findings on social economic trends/activities for the month of December 2022 in the 15 political subdivision of Liberia. The report indicates social economic developments across Liberia and highlights recurring or new social economic developments that are impacting citizens lives generally.

**Sec: 1.1: Trending social economic issues monitored for the period**

- i. Districts accessibility
- ii. Inflation in prices of commodities
- iii. Prices of commodities
- iv. Drugs activities
- v. Gender Involved in Drugs Activities
- vi. Drugs Dealers Living in the District
- vii. Lawmakers Activities
- viii. Health related Issues

**Sec: 1.2: Number of checklists submitted per counties**

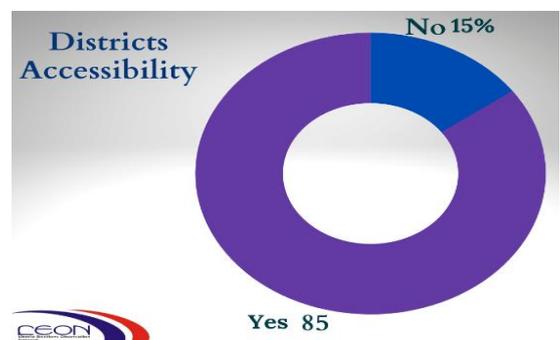
Month	County	# of checklists	# of LTOs per county
December	Montserrado	17	17
	Bomi	3	3
	Grand Cape Mount	3	3
	Gbarpolu	3	3
	Lofa	5	5
	Nimba	9	9
	Bong	7	7
	Margibi	5	5
	Grand Bassa	5	5
	Rivercess	2	2
	Grand Gedeh	3	3
	Grand Kru	2	2
	Sinoe	3	3
	Maryland	3	3
	Rivergee	3	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>

This table show that all 73 LTOs nationwide send in report on social economic activities in their districts for the month of November.

**Section 2.0: Key findings embalmment**

**Section 2.1: Districts accessibility**

Compare to November which 84% of our monitors reported YES to district accessibility, December at 85% reflecting a 1% increase. Between these two months, this development shows an upward shift in road accessibility. Counties/districts that reported inaccessibility were: Gbarpolu, dist. 3&2, Grand Gedeh, dist. 2, Lofa, dist. 4&2, Nimba, dist. 7,3&5 and Sinoe dist.1). Even though this might seem welcoming, most Liberians often decries difficult roads across the country.



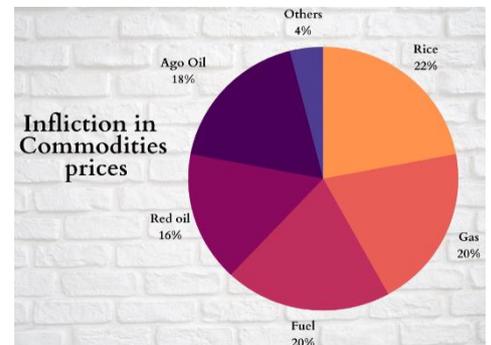
## Section 2.2: Inflation



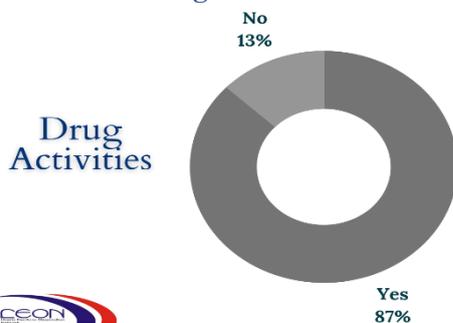
As in past months, in December 91% of our monitors reported high inflation indicating a 1% increase compared to November, at 90%. Like in previous months, inflicting across Liberia still poses untold social economic to many Liberians overall.

## Section 2.3: Commodities prices

As reported November, December presented a high price trend of commodities across Liberia. Similar percentage of November were also reported for December. 22% of our monitors reported **YES** to high rice prices. Rice is Liberia's staple food. These similar figures were recorded in October, followed by gas at 20%, fuel at 20%, ago oil at 18%, Red oil at 16%, and others at 4%. 20% of our monitors reported **YES** to high gas and fuel price with no difference compared to October. A hike in the price of rice exposes a huge challenge to many Liberians to going to bed hungry least to mention the observance of a proper diet for healthy living.



## Section 2.4: Drugs activities

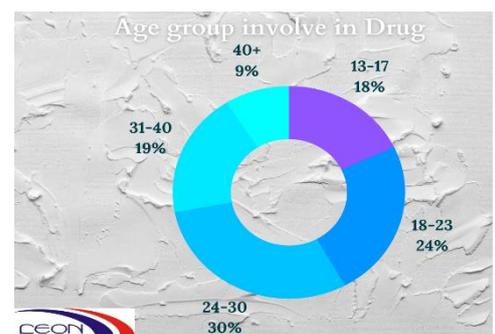


Compare to October and November both of which 95% of our monitors reported **YES** to drug activities; December presented a declining trend where 87% of LEON's monitors reported YES indicating an 8% decline. Even though an 8% decline is welcoming, drug intake and related activities remain dangerous society problem. Drug availability and accessibility in most communities is responsible for young people's acute desire for the drug. And is causing the exponential rise in the population of disadvantaged youths

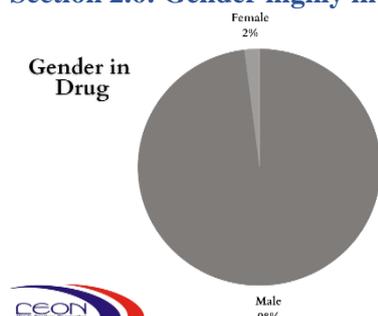
known as (Zogos) is as the result of the alarming drug activities across Liberia.

## Section 2.5: Age group involved in drug

Drug intake has become a daily habit, routine or life style of many Liberian youths. People of all ages are doing drug our findings have reveal but young people are leading. In October and November 30% of our monitors reported that more youth between 24-30 years of age are mostly involved. December reported similar percentage showing no increase or decrease in drug intake by this age group. In December like October and November, 24% of LEON's monitors reported the ages 17-23 second in line, followed by 31-40 at 19%. Between these three months these recurring percentages shows that persons between (18-30) years of age are deeply tangled in drug across Liberia.



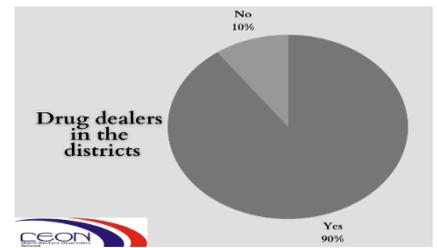
## Section 2.6: Gender highly involved in drug



As was reported in November, 98% of our monitors reported in December male dominance in drugs. Between the two months, there were rise or fall in male dominance in drug related activities. Although both genders are involved, our monitoring shows that drug victims are more male compared to females as shown by past and current figures. Across Liberia, most disadvantaged youth are generally male due to male dominance in drug-related activities.

### Section 2.7: Drugs Dealers Living in the District

In December, 90% of our monitors reported YES to drug dealers living in their districts. Similar percentage was reported in November reflects no increase or decrease. Our monitors have repeatedly observed and reported that the sale of drugs is carried out by members of communities across Liberia. One leading factor responsible for the high rise in drug intake among Liberians (mostly youth) is the point that people who deal in drugs live within the communities making availability and accessibility a no-problem issue.



### Section 2.8: NEC office giving information to citizens



Percentage of NO in the month of December was 90% form 76% in November. This show a 14% increase compare to the previous month. These figures show decline in NEC information sharing between November and December.

### Section 2.9: Lawmakers Activities

Questions	% YES	% NO
Does the lawmaker visit the district?	47%	53%
Did the lawmaker have meeting with his/her constituents?	80%	20%
Is lawmaker reporting back to the district?	40%	60%
Is lawmaker implementing legislative project in your dist.	20%	80%

Compare to November where 53% of our monitors reported NO to lawmakers' visits to districts, December reported 53%, reflecting a 1% decline. As was reported in November, in December, 81% reported YES to lawmaker meeting with their constituents any time they visited their district. On the issue of lawmakers reporting back to their districts, 58% of our monitors reported NO in November but December reported 60% revealing a 2% increase

between November and December. Lastly, 80% reported NO to lawmakers implementing a legislative project in your districts in December compare to November which reported 75%. There was 5% increase reported in December compared to November.

These figures show limited legislative engagements, projects, and interactions enentough there are still projects pending or in progress which are as follow: (**School project:** Rivergee dist.1, Bong dist. 2 and Gbapolu dist. 1, **Bridges:** Mont dist. 14, Sinoe dist. 1 and Grand Bassa dist. 4&5, **Road connectivity:** Bong dist. 2, Mont dist. 14&13, and Nimba dist. 2, **Market:** Nimba dist. 7 and Mont dist. 9, **Providing Light:** Gbapolu dist. 2 and Bong dist. 2, **Hand Pump:** Nimba dist. 7, **Youth Center:** Gbapolu dist.3 and **Radio Station:** Grand Gedeh dist. 3.

### Section 2.10: Health related Issues

Question	YES%	NO%	Total%
Is there a health center in your district?	90%	10%	100%
Are citizen accessing the government health center?	91%	9%	100%
Does the government give medical supplies to the health center regularly?	85%	15%	100%
Is government helping health center?	90%	10%	100
Is the drug/equipment use for citizen?	98%	2%	100

In December, 90% of LEON's monitors reported **YES** to health care centers in the districts, a 1% decline compare to November at 91%, 91% of our monitors **YES** reported to citizens access to government health facilities, indicating a 3% increase compared to November at 88%, Like was reported in November, in December, 85% reported that the government gives out medical supplies to a health center in the districts, additionally, Compare to November at 88%, 90% disclosed that government is helping health facilities reviling a 2% rise, and 97% reported use of drugs/equipment for citizens in November and 98% in December, indicating an 1% rise.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

During the year, based on information and data received on trending social economic issues, it can be supposed that there has been no mega shift regarding these recurring trending issues that keeps deepening the social economic hardship for Liberian.

Throughout the year, road accessibility was reported as a challenged even though in some months there were little progress reported mostly during the dry season. Although the year, like past ones, Liberians decry difficult roads conditions.

Infliction across Liberia was reported high all through the year resulting to indescribable social economic hardship for most Liberians particularly in rural areas. Continuous rise in the prices if independent commodities like gas and fuel was often reported. Most importantly, rice which is Liberia's stable food and source of past conflicts in Liberia was at the center of infliction throughout the year.

Looking through out the year, drug intake was reported to be a daily habit, routine or life style of many Liberian youths. People of all ages were doing drug monthly findings reveal but young people were leading throughout. Drug intake and related activities remain rampant across Liberia and throughout the year proved to be the root cause of the continued rise in the population of disadvantaged youths known as (Zogos). Substance use disorder

during the year shows to have affected many Liberians mostly youth attitude and brain. Addiction, a complex disorder, affects a person's brain and conduct in a way that they lose the capability to counterattack the wish to use drugs which many Liberian youths are victims of.. Drugs availability and accessibility in most communities was reported alarmingly during the year.

During the year form our observation, one leading factor responsible for the high rise in drug intake among Liberians (mostly youth) has to do with drug dealing within communities. Drugs dealers are living within the communities making availability and accessibility a no-problem. The age group (8-30) during the entire year was reported to be heavily involved in drug intake and related activities across the country most of whom are generally male due to male dominance in drug-related developments in communities.