



United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Fostering Innovative Sanitation and Hygiene in Monrovia | Liberia

Since the civil war ended in Liberia in 2003, many areas of the capital of Monrovia still have damaged sewer infrastructure. Fecal sludge in latrines is left untreated, which is causing health problems and emitting methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. *Fostering Innovative Sanitation and Hygiene (FISH)* is the first initiative by the Liberian government, since the civil war, to provide fecal sludge management services to unsewered poor areas of Liberia, reducing greenhouse gas emissions while providing new or improved access to sanitation for 800,000 people.

The problem

Liberia's civil war (1989-2003) resulted in limited infrastructure maintenance and development, particularly in the sanitation and water sectors. The government of Liberia has not provided fecal sludge sewer management services in Monrovia's informal settlements, where 70 per cent of the population has lived since the end of the civil war in 2003. The long-standing conflict put a halt to infrastructure maintenance and development, particularly in the areas of water (access to adequate water supply is at 27 per cent) and safe sanitation (7 per cent). More than 800,000 people in Monrovia lack access to sewer systems. Accumulated and untreated fecal sludge from existing latrines already causes methane emissions (with 25 times more greenhouse impact than CO₂).

The solution

FISH is the first initiative by the government of Liberia to provide fecal sludge management services to unsewered poor areas of Liberia since the end of the civil war in 2003. This activity enhances capacity for sustainable city-wide fecal sludge management through a community-driven approach. It is doing so by improving the toilet facilities of households, by rehabilitating the sewerage system, by implementing communal toilet facilities for dense settlements and by providing public toilet facilities in market places.

The Monrovia City Corporation of the Government of Liberia received a EURO 1.2 million grant from the African Water Facility hosted by the African Development Bank to finance the FISH Project.

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