Liberia is a small nation on the Western coast of Africa that has a population of around 4.19 million citizens. The nation suffered from 14-year long civil war that was resolved in 2003 and has since began to place an emphasis on the health and wellbeing of its people. A new government was established in 2005 that began to place an emphasis on the treatment of NCDs through a very unstructured healthcare system. During the civil war, however, 90 percent of the health officials fled from the country and left the healthcare system vulnerable to the Ebola outbreak in early 2014.[[1]](#footnote-1) The Ebola outbreak further destabilized the healthcare system of the government and many NCDs were left untreated. NCDs also have a strong influence in Liberia due to the fact that half of the population lives in rural areas with little access to healthcare options. According to WHO, NCDs account for 34% of all mortalities in Liberia and cause around 21% of deaths for those under the age of 70.[[2]](#footnote-2) This is significantly less than the levels of other low- and middle-income countries, which implies that NCDs are not as much of an issue in Liberia. This could possibly be affected by the extreme poverty in Liberia. This study also concluded that only around 10% and 4.7% of Liberia’s population respectively smoked tobacco and consumed alcohol. Liberia’s GDP is a low $414 per person per day and may explain the lack of NCD-related mortalities because many of its citizens are unable to afford such luxuries.[[3]](#footnote-3) Liberia also does not have any legislation or ministries that deal with the effects of NCDs, partially because of the unstable healthcare and also due to the diminished effects of NCDs on those under 70. The healthcare system in Liberia is a much larger issue than NCDs. Due to the fact that a majority of its citizens live in hard to reach and rural areas, the healthcare has been ineffective at treating the population. While Liberia does not have a stable sanitation system, with only 18.2% of the systems being effective and up-to-date, Liberia does have reputable water cleanliness, with the water having around 89% cleanliness according to UNICEF.[[4]](#footnote-4) This does imply that the living conditions will be improving over the coming years. If we receive funding for restructuring our healthcare systems, we could also implement restrictions that will restrict the causes of NCDs in the future. In this conference, we intend to haggle for funding for the restructuring of our healthcare systems and to implement other legislation that will limit the effects of NCDs in the future. This could include bans on tobacco sales as well as the increased awareness of health officials of the symptoms of obesity and higher blood pressure.

1. http://ncdsynergies.org/country\_profile/liberia/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/lbr\_en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://ncdsynergies.org/country\_profile/liberia/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/liberia\_statistics.html#115 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)