

WPI

There's No Handbook for Motherhood

Louisa King (ME), Emily Lurier (BME), Sarah Thayer (MA), Rachel Warden (BME)
Advisors: Jill Rulfs, Helen Vassallo

Need: To reduce the high infant mortality rate in Liberia

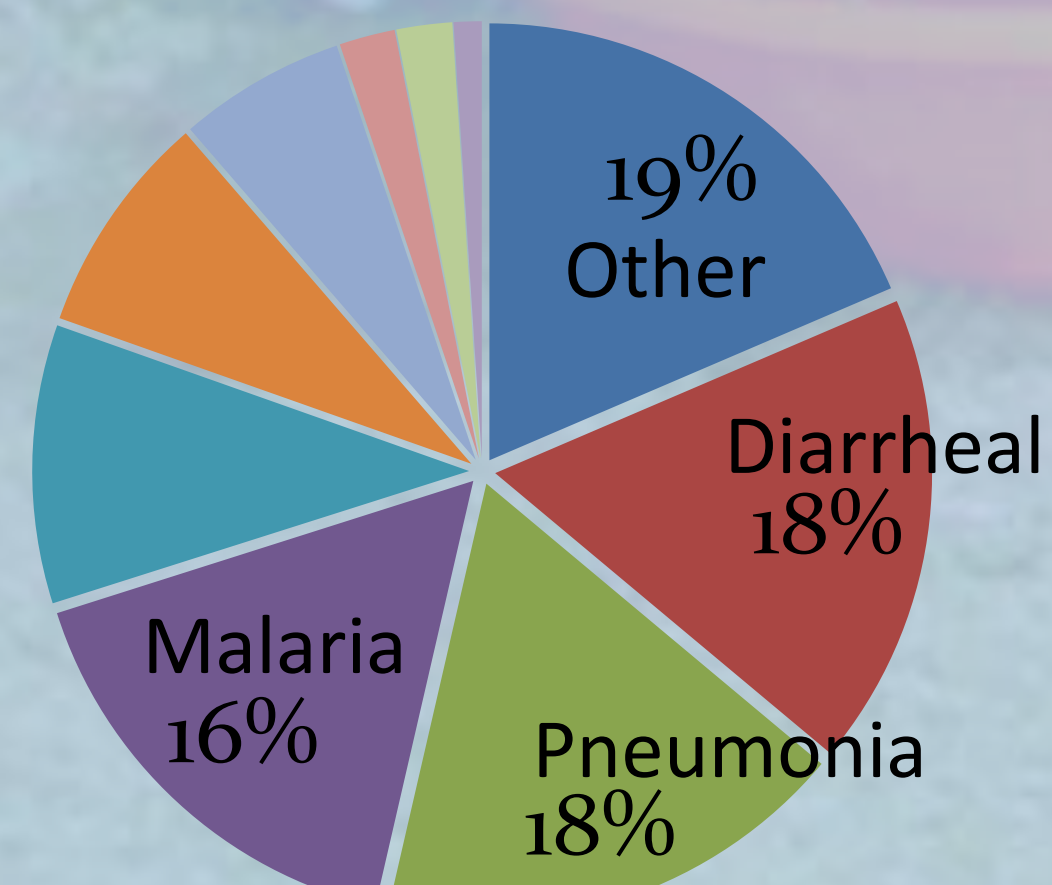
Approach: Instituting an education plan for mothers

Liberia



- Fifth highest infant mortality rate
- 43,000 infant deaths per year
- 70% of births occur in rural areas
- Little education on infant healthcare

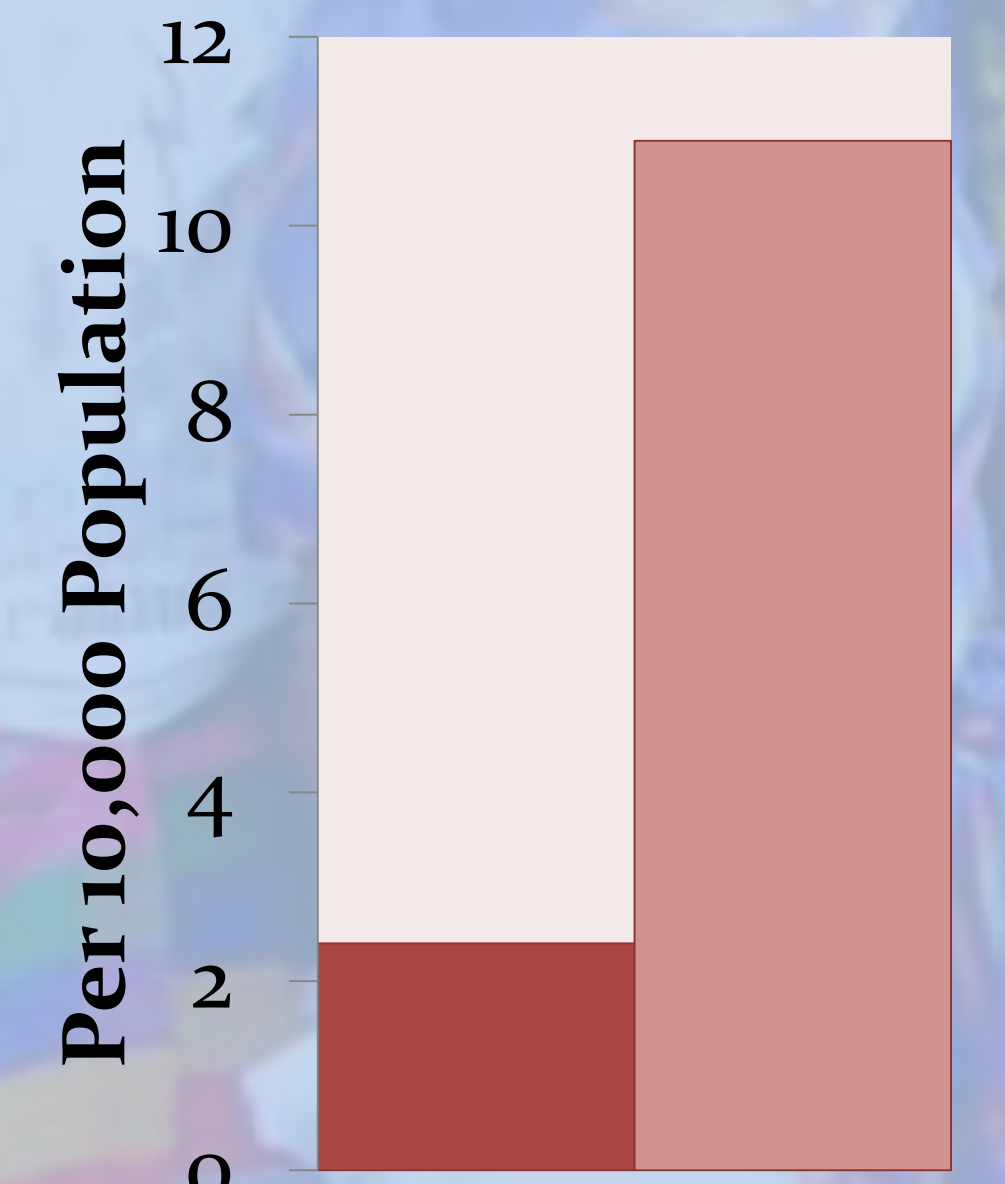
Causes of Infant Mortality Under 5



Midwives

- 63% of births occur outside of hospitals

Health Workforce



- Trained midwives educate traditional midwives
- Highly respected



- Distribute pamphlets with basic health information to midwives:

- Exclusive breastfeeding
- Symptoms of illnesses
- Nutrition
- Mother/child connection

- Easy and economical

Plan of Action

1. Create pamphlets for midwives
2. Set up network of midwives in rural areas
3. UNICEF distributes pamphlets to midwives
4. Midwives teach mothers basic healthcare skills

Goals



- Midwives have access to pamphlets
- Educate mothers on infant healthcare
- **ULTIMATELY:** Reduce the infant mortality rate



References:

"At a Glance: Liberia." *UNICEF*. Web. 7 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/liberia.html>>.
 "Picture 1." Web. 07 Dec. 2010. <<http://extras.denverpost.com/archive/captured.html>>.
 "Picture 2." *Scoop - New Zealand News*. Web. 07 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1002/S00446.htm>>.
 "USAID Telling Our Story: Liberia - Trained Traditional Midwives Save Lives." *U.S. Agency for International Development*. Web. 07 Dec. 2010. <http://www.usaid.gov/stories/liberia/ss_lbr_midwife.html>.
 "WHO | Liberia." *World Health Organization*. WHO. Web. 07 Dec. 2010. <<http://www.who.int/countries/lbr/en/>>.