

FBA in Liberia



The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) is commissioned by the Swedish government to work for peace, security and development in conflict-affected countries, as part of Sweden's development aid. One of the countries where FBA has the task of operating in is Liberia.

FBA's Mission

In accordance with the Swedish strategy for development cooperation with Liberia 2021-2025, FBA is tasked with contributing to the rule of law and sustainable peace. FBA's work in Liberia focuses on two areas.

Rule of law

FBA provides support in the areas of rule of law, professional ethics, transparency and accountability for Liberian civil servants. The Liberian government agency, Civil Service Agency, is a crucial partner to FBA, alongside a number of important Liberian civil society organizations. Cooperation on the rule of law between state and civil society actors is emphasized in FBA's activities as a way of fostering trust between the state and its citizens.

Weak institutions and widespread corruption have contributed to public mistrust in state authorities, particularly among the rural population, where state functions and services are often absent. A decentralization process is underway to ensure better public service for all citizens.

Dialogue and peace mediation

FBA in collaboration with Liberian partners, has trained young peace leaders from all 15 counties, equipping them with knowledge and skills to prevent, manage and resolve conflict in their communities. This Conflict Prevention and Leadership Program (CPLP) started in 2018. Through mentorship, tailored advice and accompaniment, FBA supports teams of young peace leaders in designing and implementing county peace dialogue processes.

Approximately 75 percent of Liberia's population is under the age of 35. Despite this, many young women and men face exclusion from political decision-making, socio-economic opportunities, and limitations imposed by stereotypical and gendered narratives that portray young people as either potential perpetrators of violence or passive victims. Young people's leadership is a particularly important force in preventing conflict and building peace.

In addition to the CPLP program, FBA supports the Liberian government and its Peacebuilding Office in formulating policies for ongoing reconciliation.

FBA in Brief

The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) is the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development. FBA supports international peace operations and international development cooperation. The agency conducts training, research and method development in order to strengthen peacebuilding and state-building in conflict and post-conflict countries. We also recruit civilian personnel and expertise for peace operations and election observation missions led by the EU, UN and OSCE. The agency is named after Count Folke Bernadotte, the first UN mediator. FBA is under the authority of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.