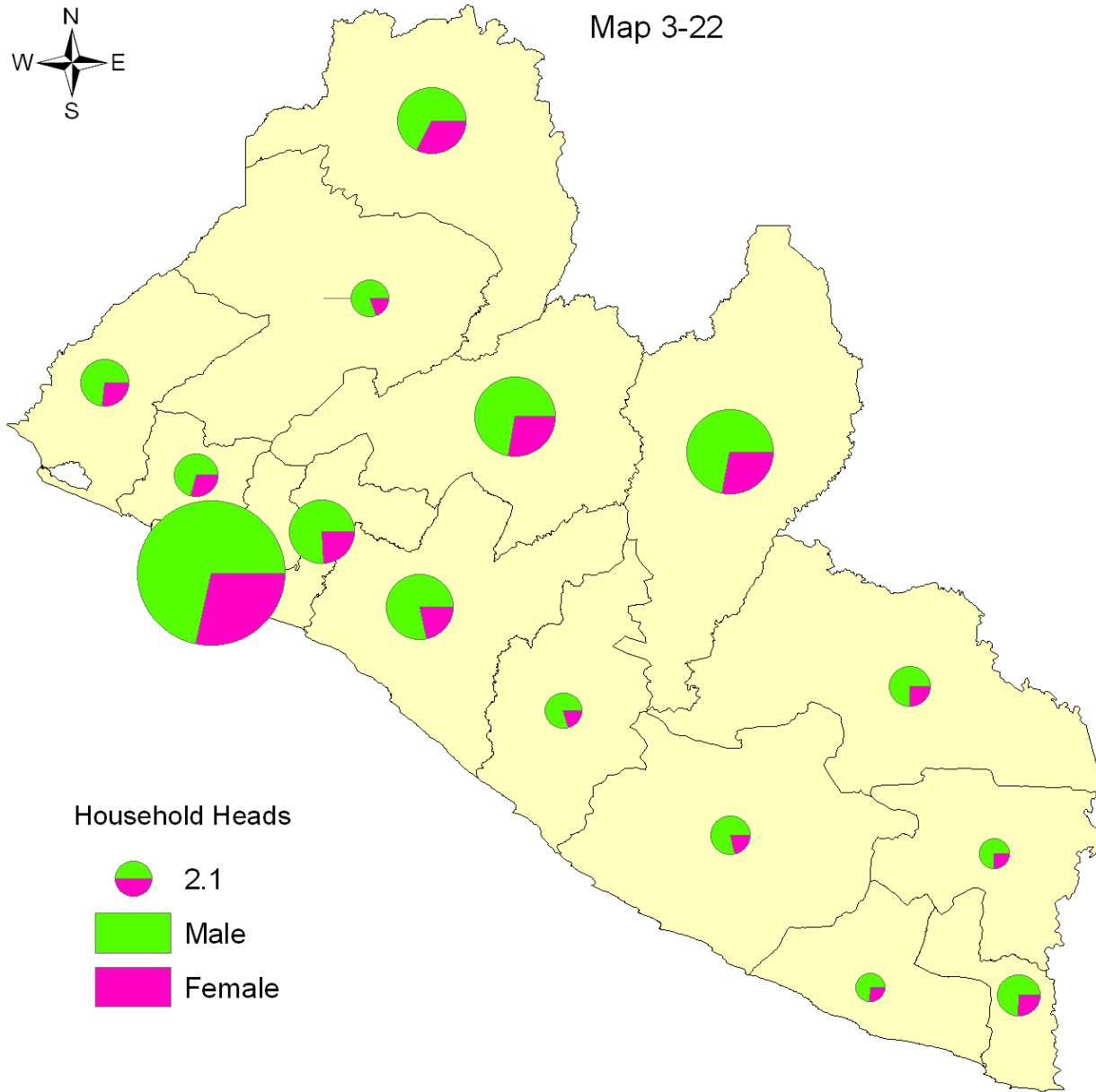


CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

Map 3-22

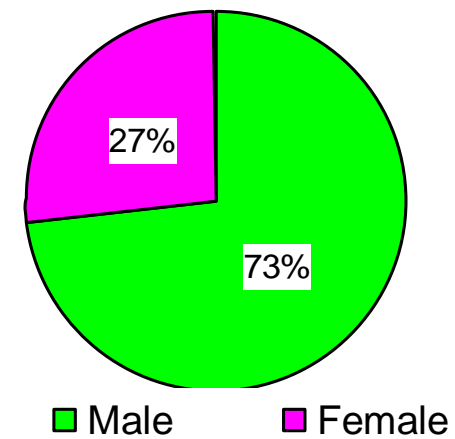


Household Headship by Female in 2008

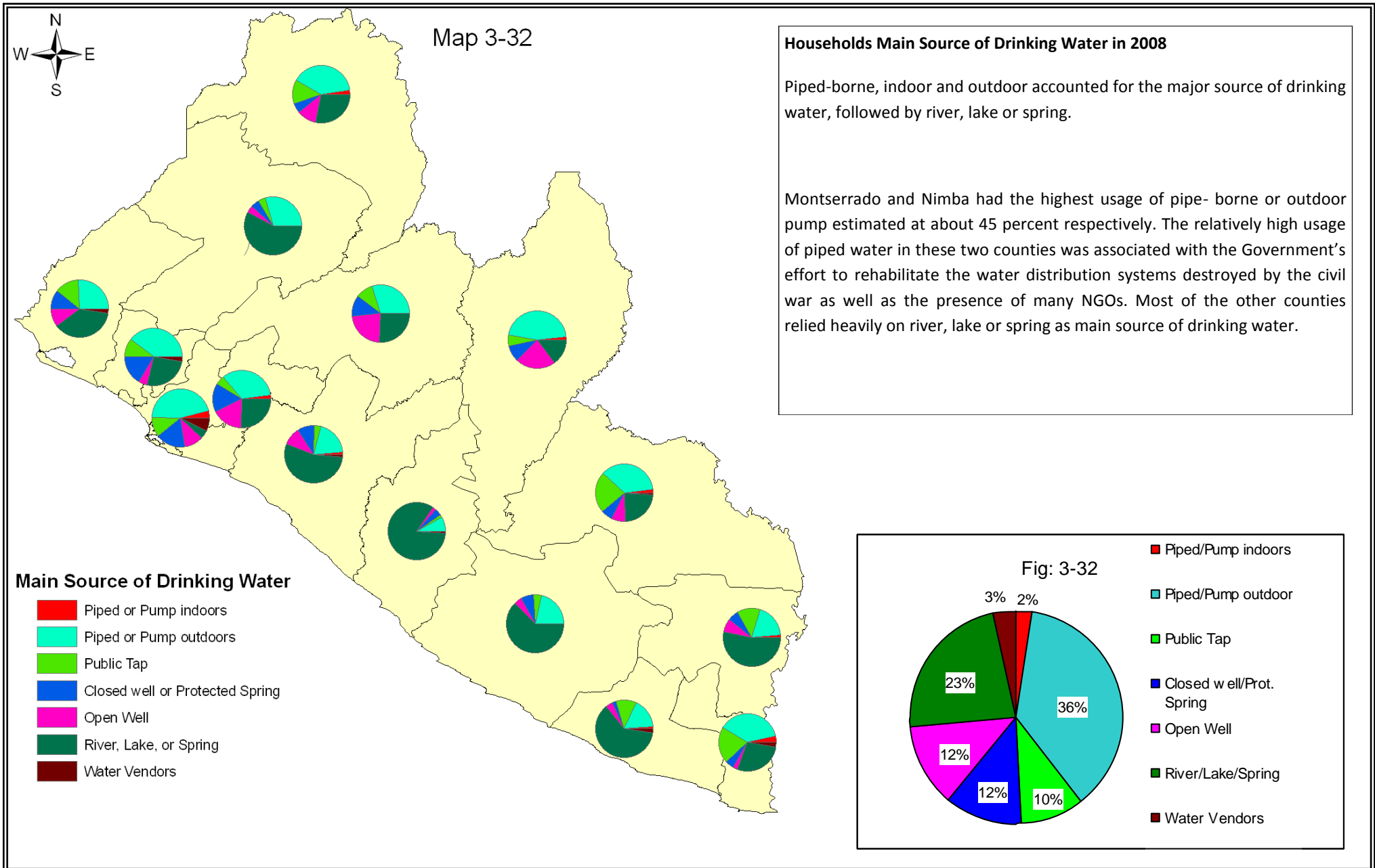
In 2008, one in every four households in Liberia was headed by a female. Nationwide; every county had small percentage of households headed by female.

Lofa, Bomi, Montserrado, Nimba and Bong counties have significant representation of female household headship. This could be one of the factors attributed amidst many factors, to the impact of the Civil War especially in these counties where combat was more prevalent.

Fig: 3-22

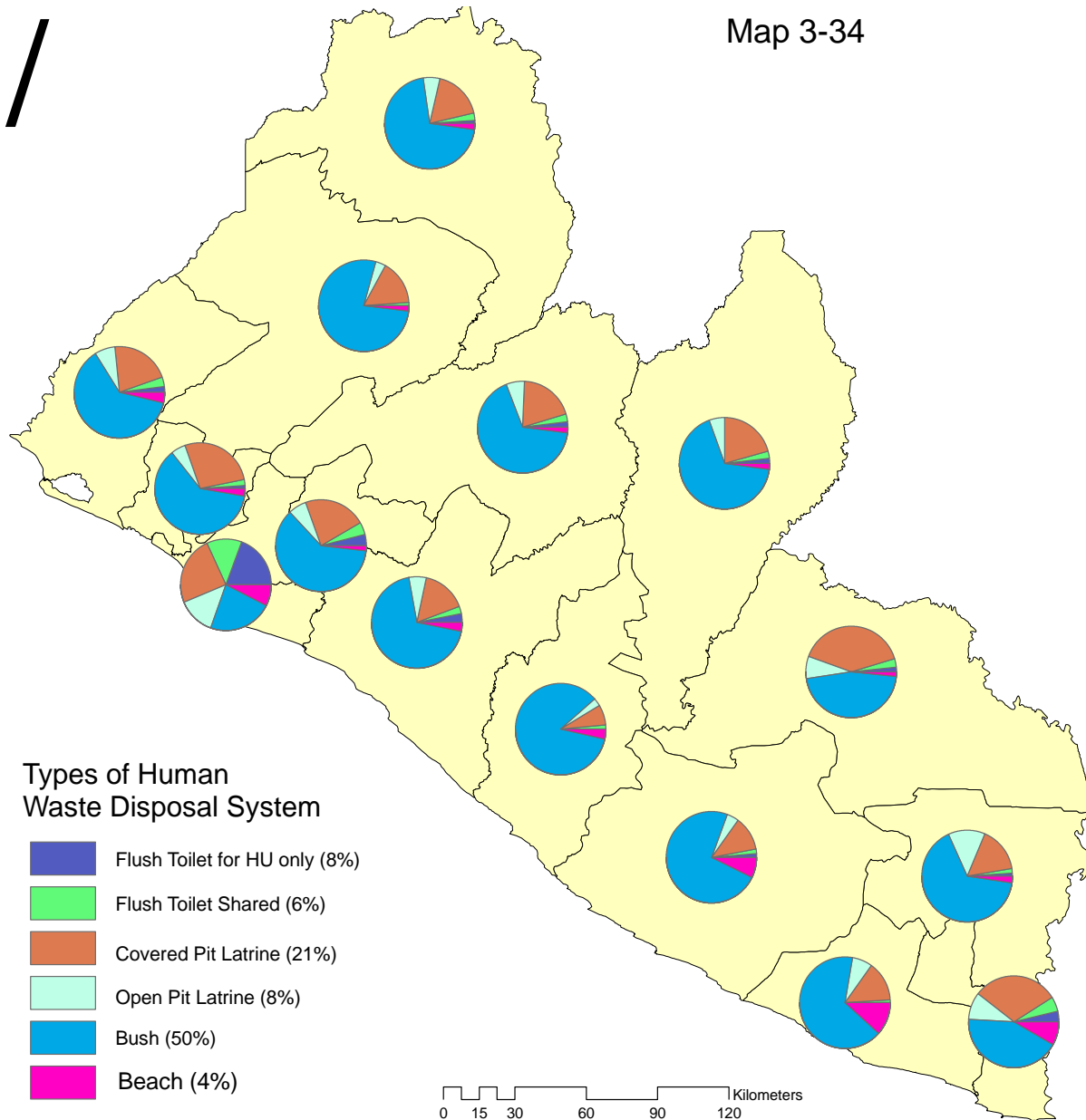


CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

Map 3-34

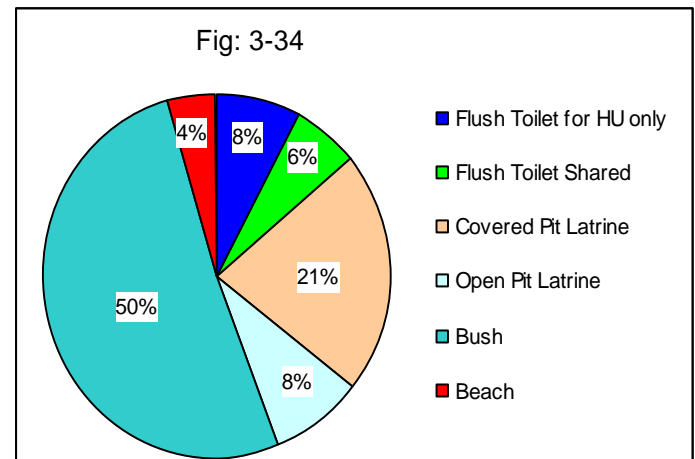


Distribution of Households by Type of Human Waste disposal system in 2008

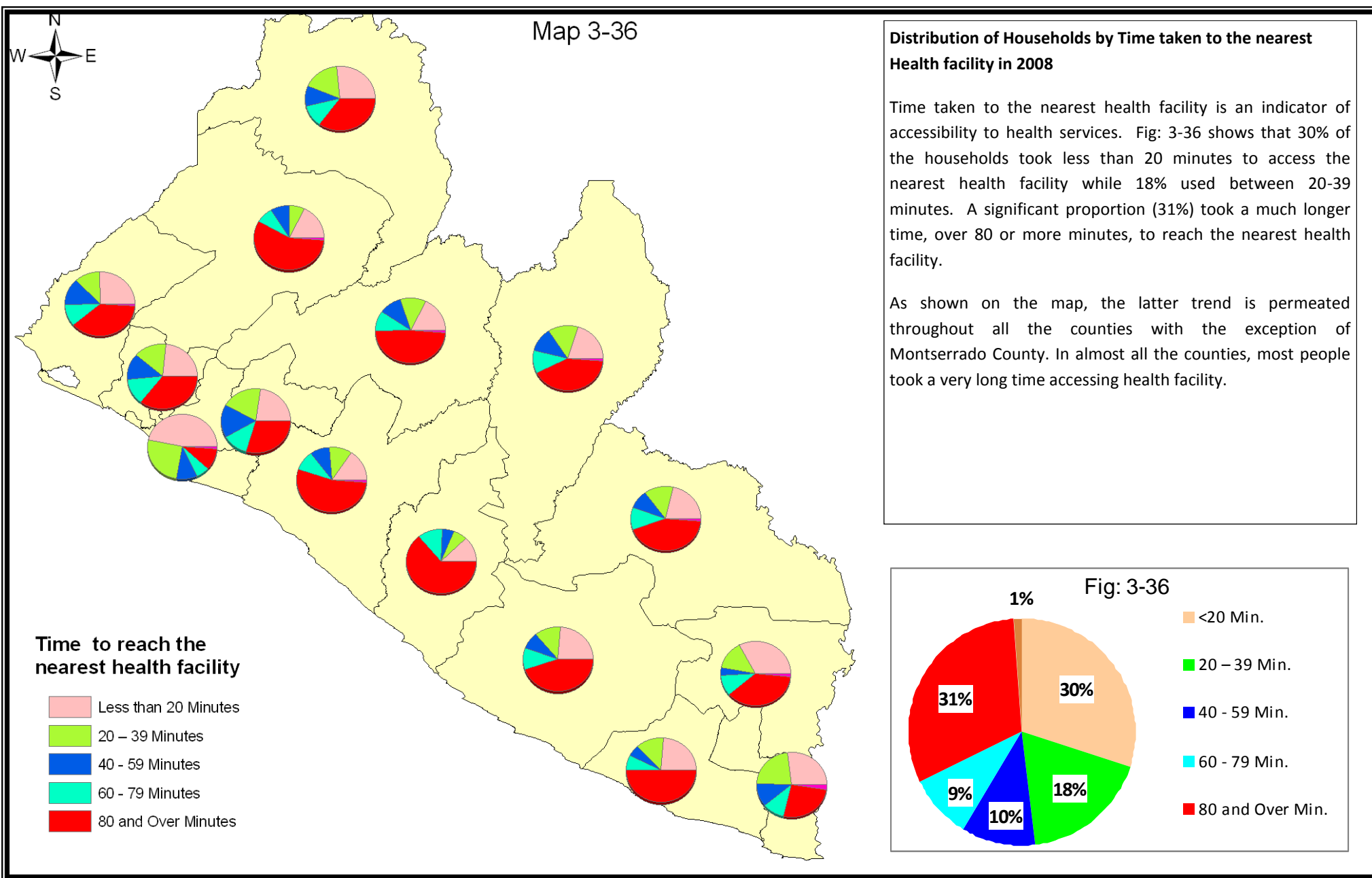
In 2008, about one in every ten households in Liberia had access to flush toilet while six percent of households shared flush toilet facility. As reflected on the map, Montserrado County which contains the capital city, Monrovia, had the highest proportion of flush toilets (18%) and shared flush toilets (12%).

The use of bush was widespread throughout all the counties. About 50% of all households relied on bush for human waste disposal. Only 21% of households used covered pit latrine.

Fig: 3-34

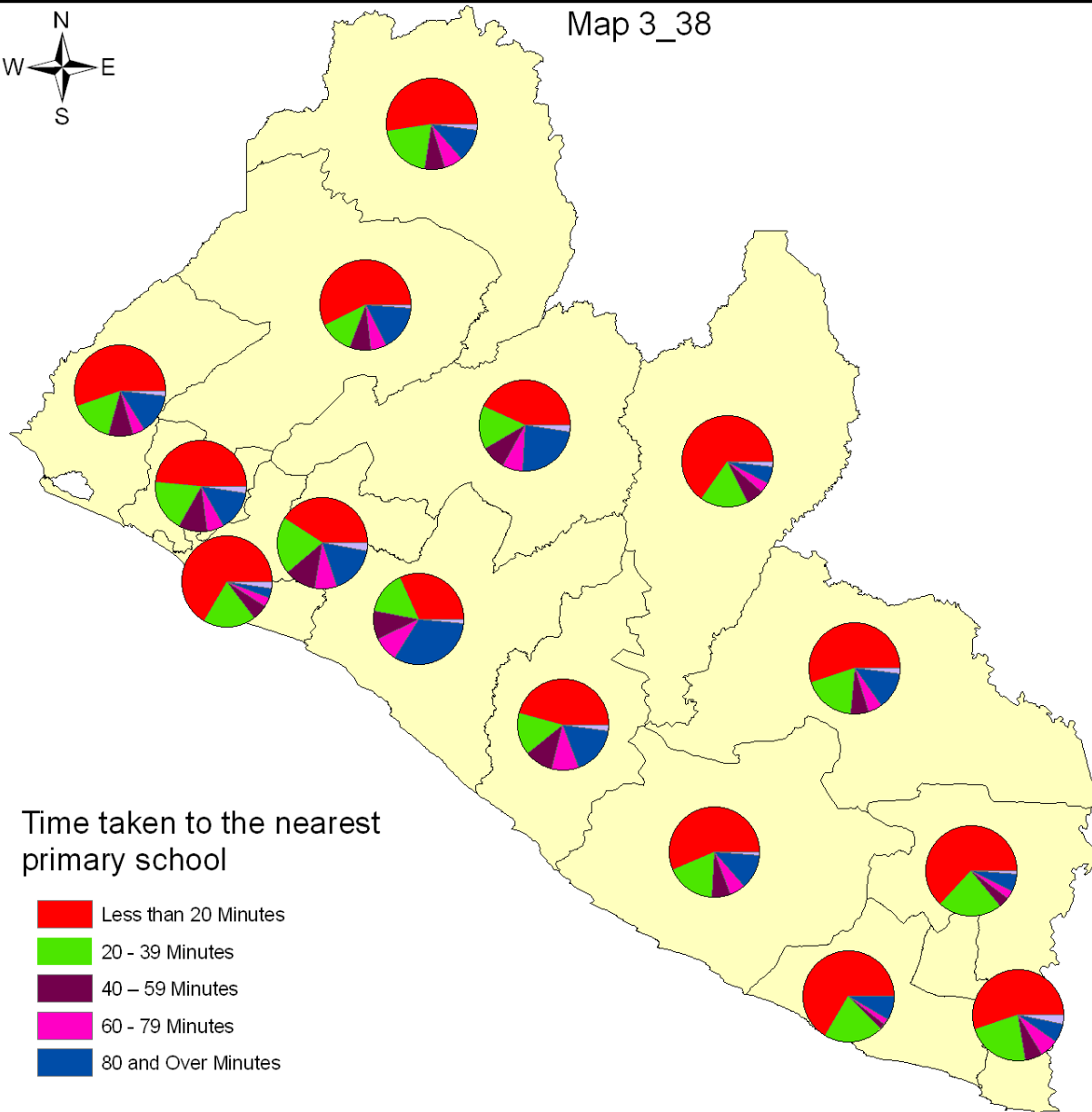


CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

Map 3_38



Time taken to the nearest primary school

- Less than 20 Minutes
- 20 - 39 Minutes
- 40 - 59 Minutes
- 60 - 79 Minutes
- 80 and Over Minutes

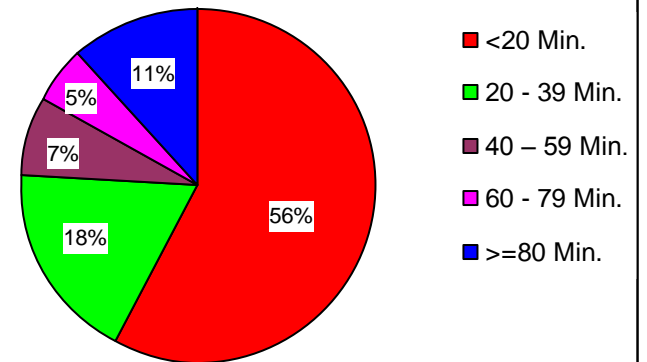
Distribution of Households by Time taken to the nearest Primary School in 2008

Nationwide in 2008, access to primary school could be considered as fairly good, as majority of the households (56%) took less than 20 minutes to get to the nearest primary school.

This trend is uniform throughout the fifteen counties. The proportion is even higher for Montserrado County. Overall, only 11% of households took more than an hour to get to the nearest primary school.

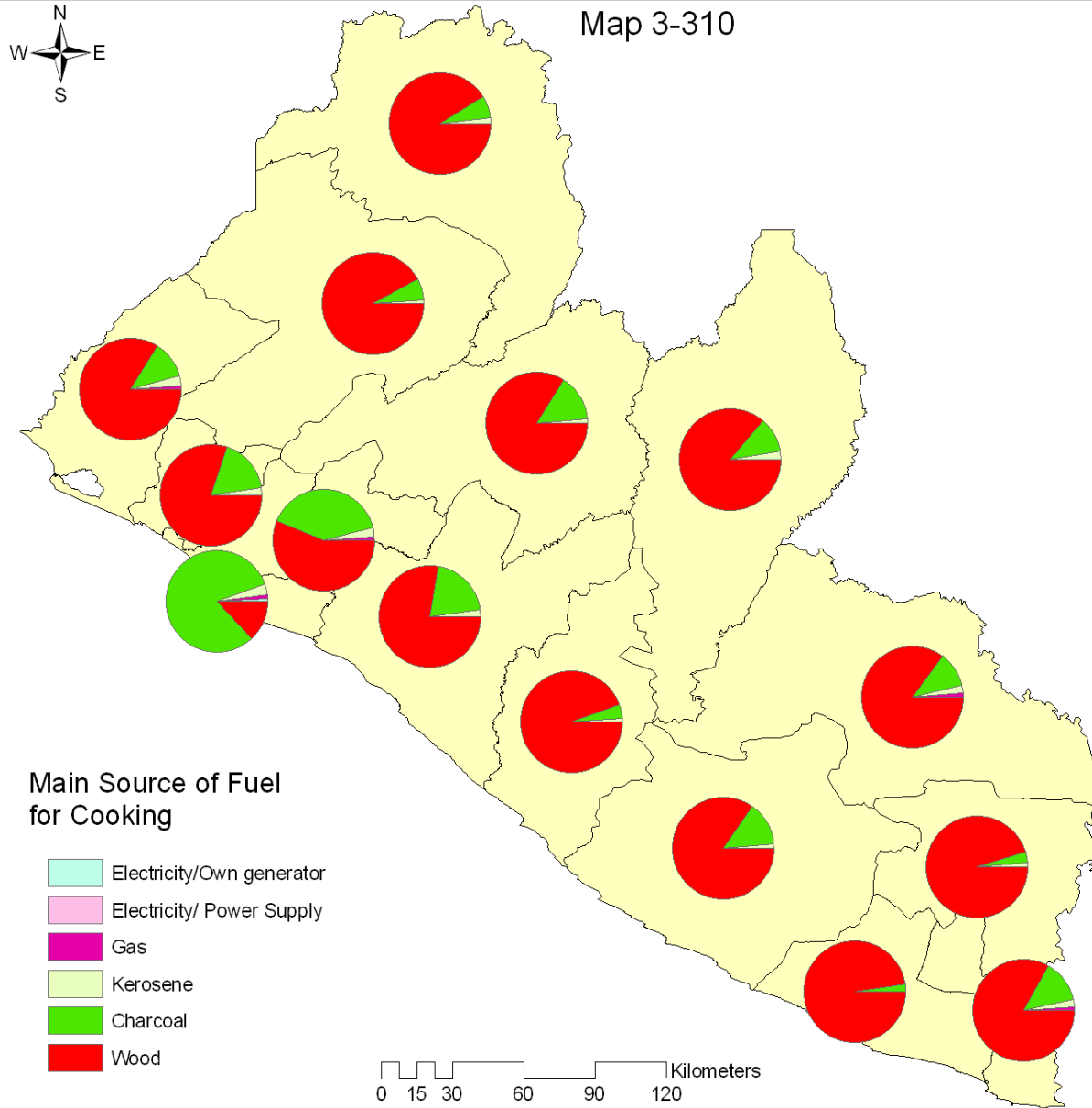
The improved access to primary school can be explained by the Government's efforts to meet the MDG targets as well as the support from international partners.

Fig: 3-38



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

Map 3-310

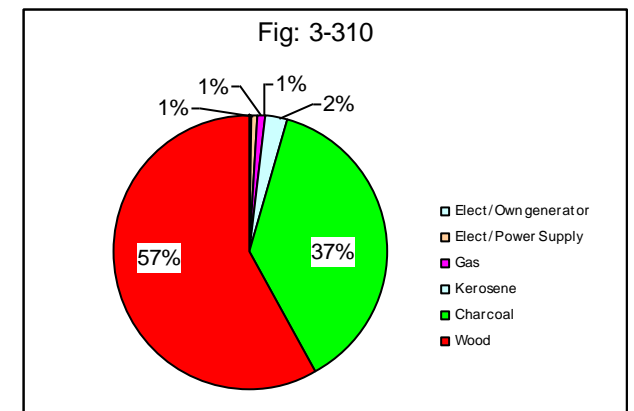


Distribution of Households by Main Source of Fuel for Cooking in 2008

Fifty-seven percent of all households used wood as the main source of cooking fuel. The use of charcoal which is also a derivative of wood comes next at 37%. Other main sources of fuel included kerosene (2%); gas and electricity were used by about one percent of the households respectively.

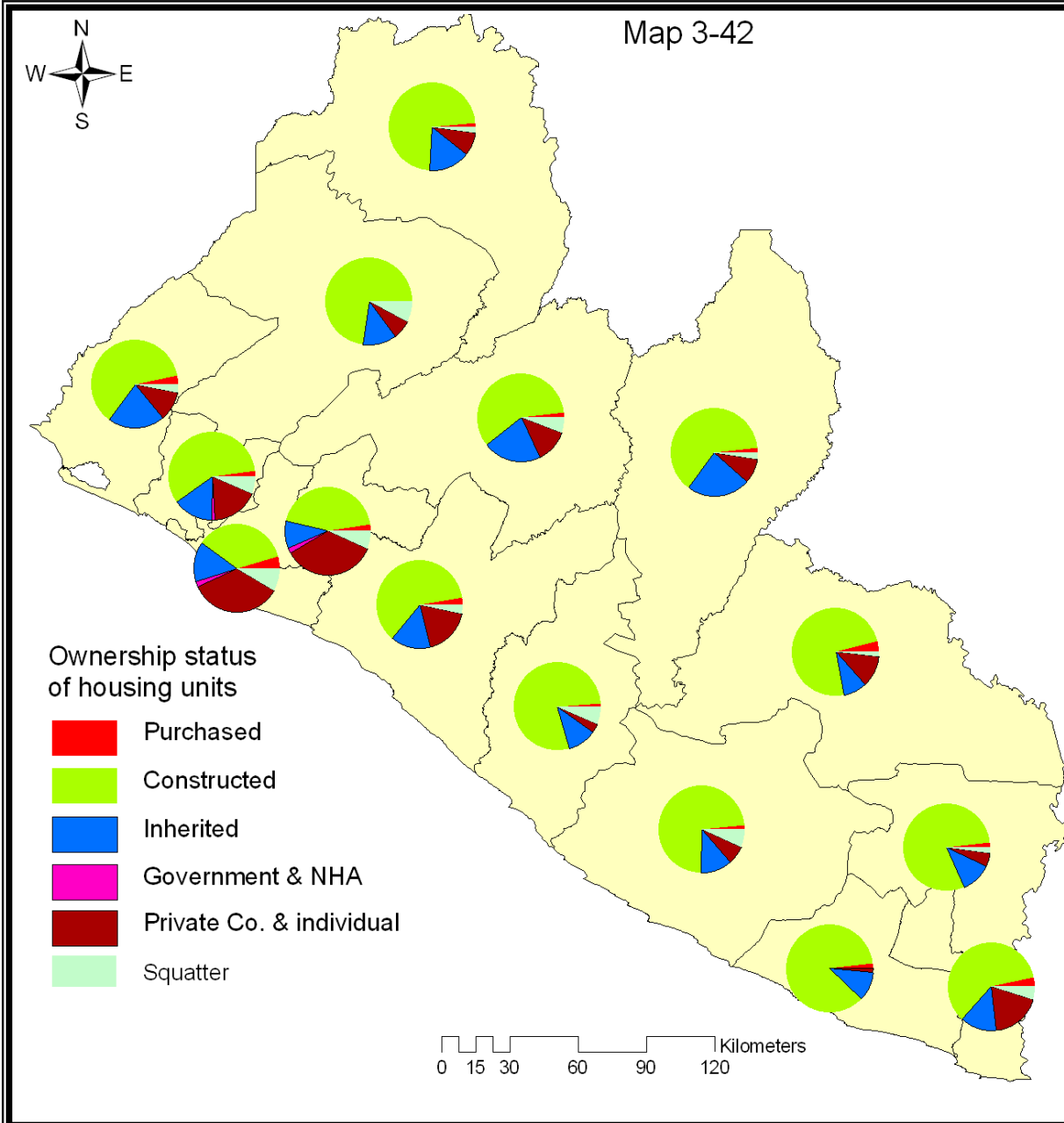
The map also shows the dominant use of wood in all the counties except for Montserrado County where majority of the households used charcoal. The heavy dependence on wood and charcoal poses health and environmental threat with serious implication for the well being of the nation.

Fig: 3-310



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

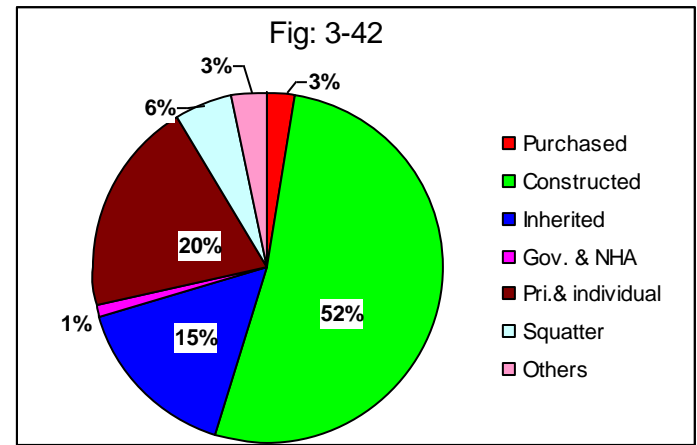
Map 3-42



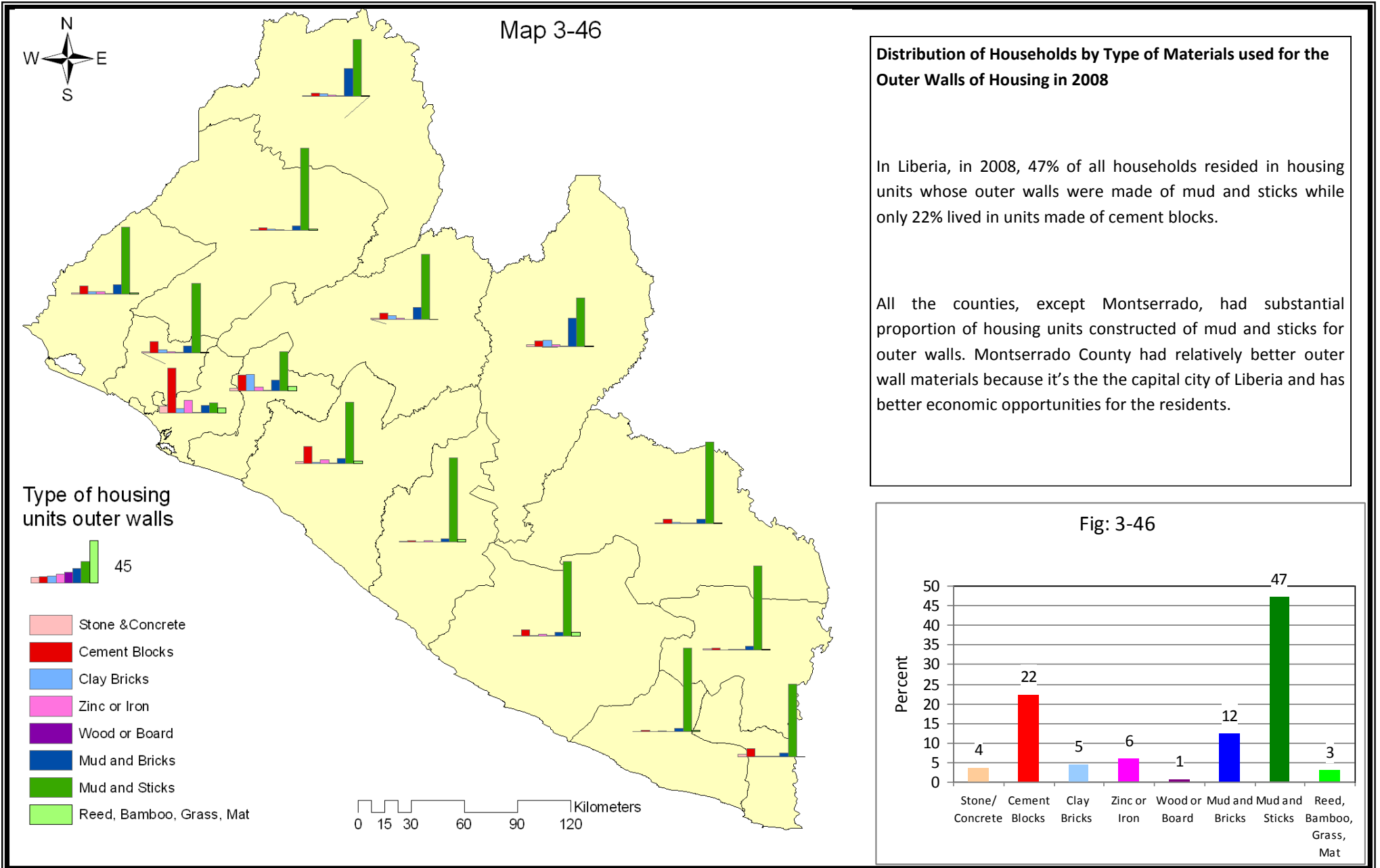
Distribution of Households by Ownership Status in 2008

In 2008, more than half (52%) of the households in Liberia were living in self-constructed housing units. Inherited housing units also constituted a sizable proportion (15%). Provision of public housing was limited, Government housing units accounted for only 0.8 percent while the National Housing Authority (NHA) accounted for 0.4 percent.

A high proportion of households in all the counties lived in self-constructed housing units except for Montserrado County which exhibited the lowest (34%). As shown on the map, many of the houses in Montserrado, Bomi and Margibi counties were provided by private owners. Provision of public housing across the counties was very low.

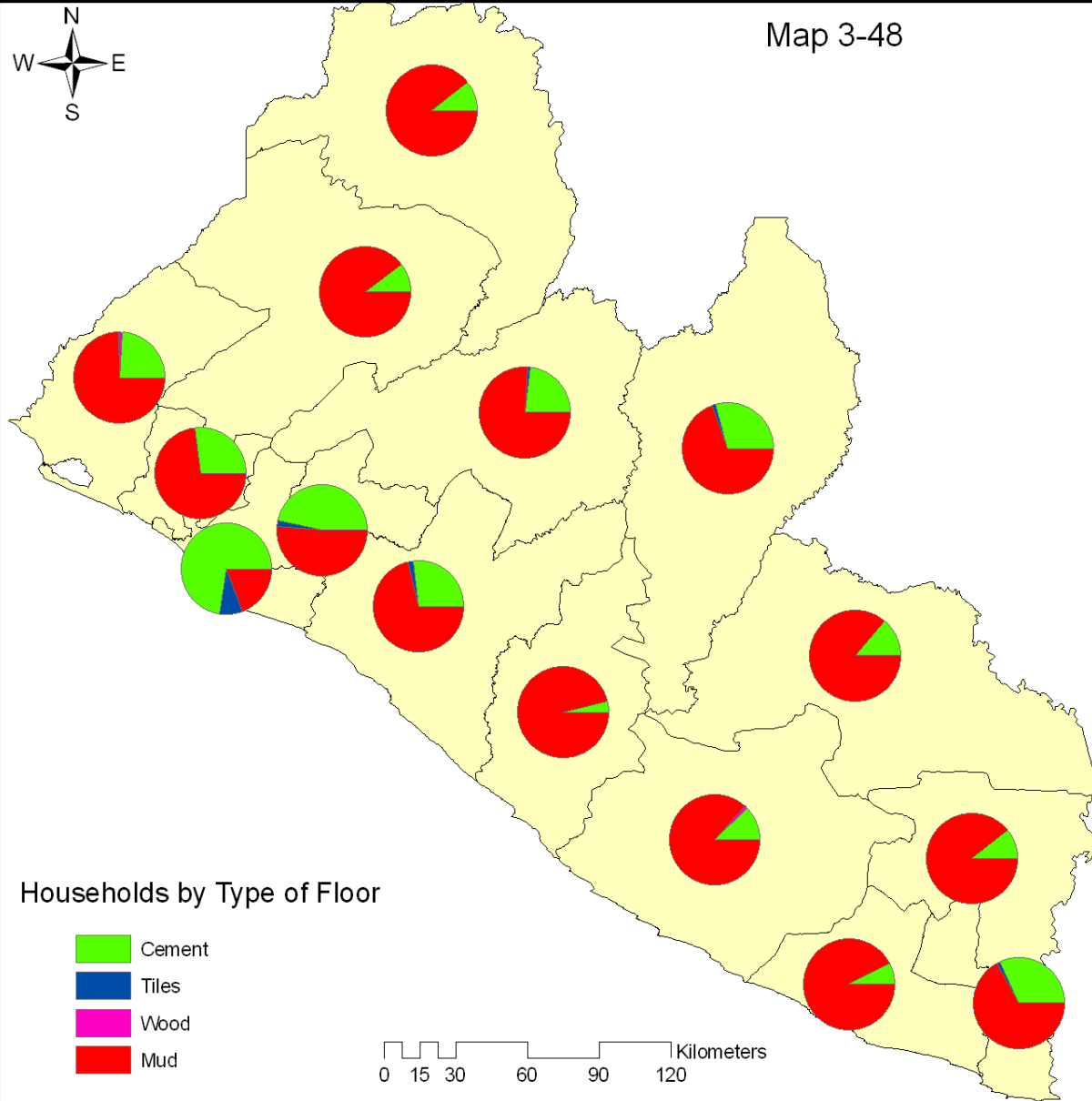


CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

Map 3-48

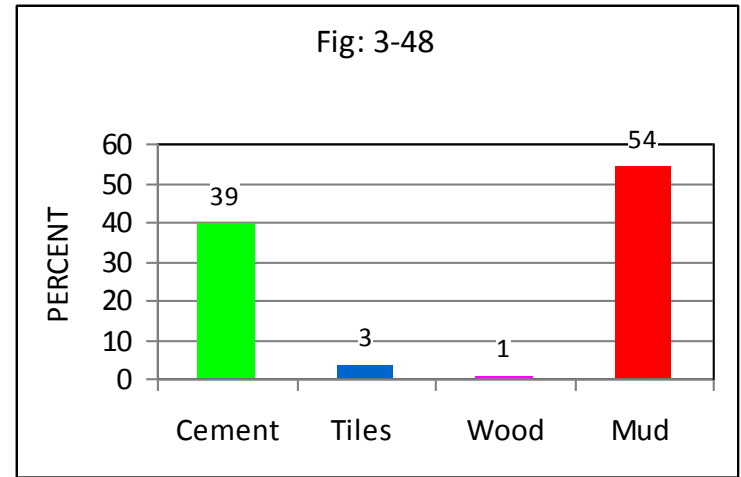


Distribution of Households by Type of Floor in 2008

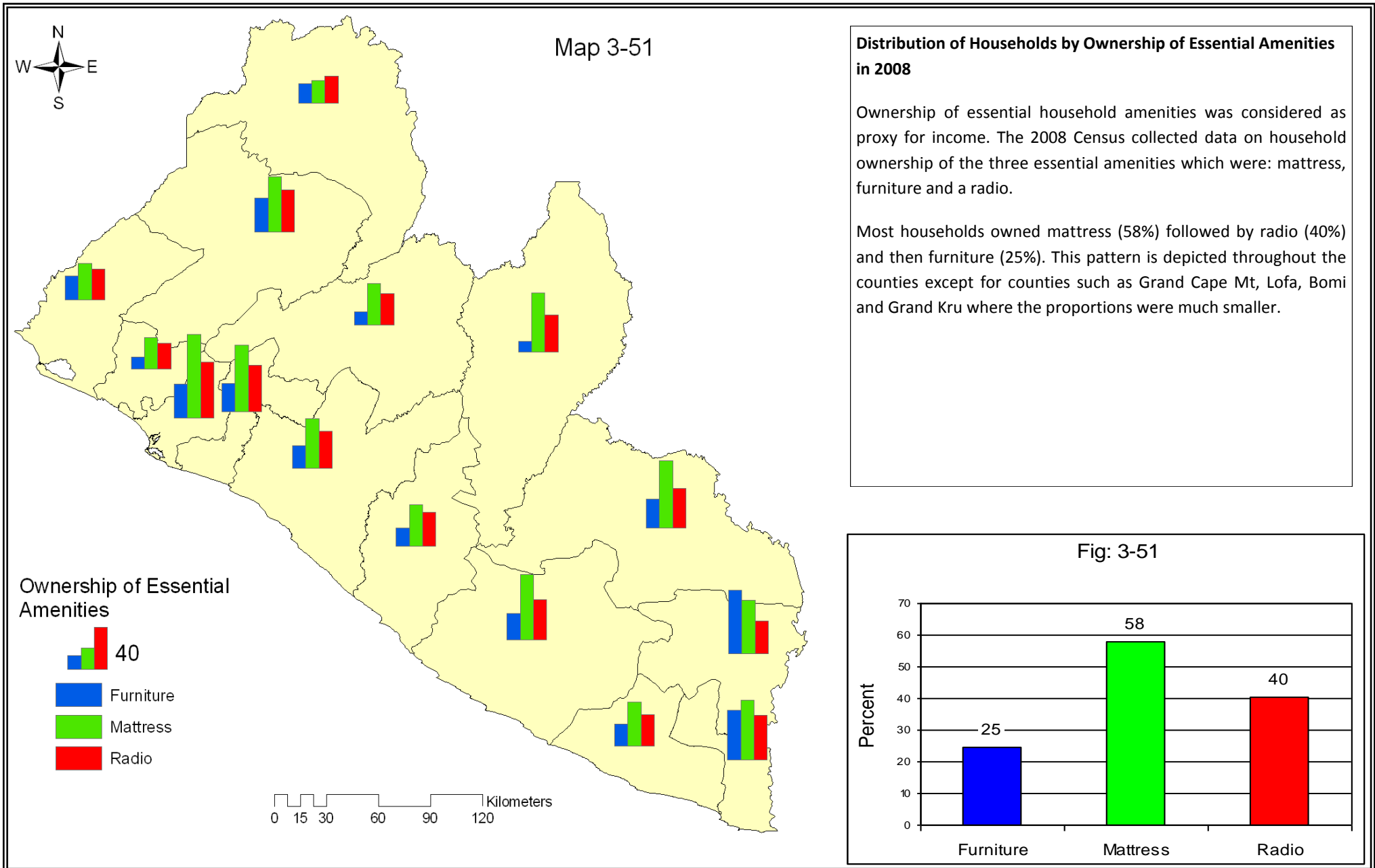
The most common floor type in Liberia was mud (54%), followed by cement (39%). The use of tiles and wood stood at 3.4% and 0.6% respectively.

Mud floors accounted for over 50 percent in all the counties except Montserrado County where it accounted for only 18 percent. Most of the households in Montserrado resided in units made of cement floors (70%).

Fig: 3-48

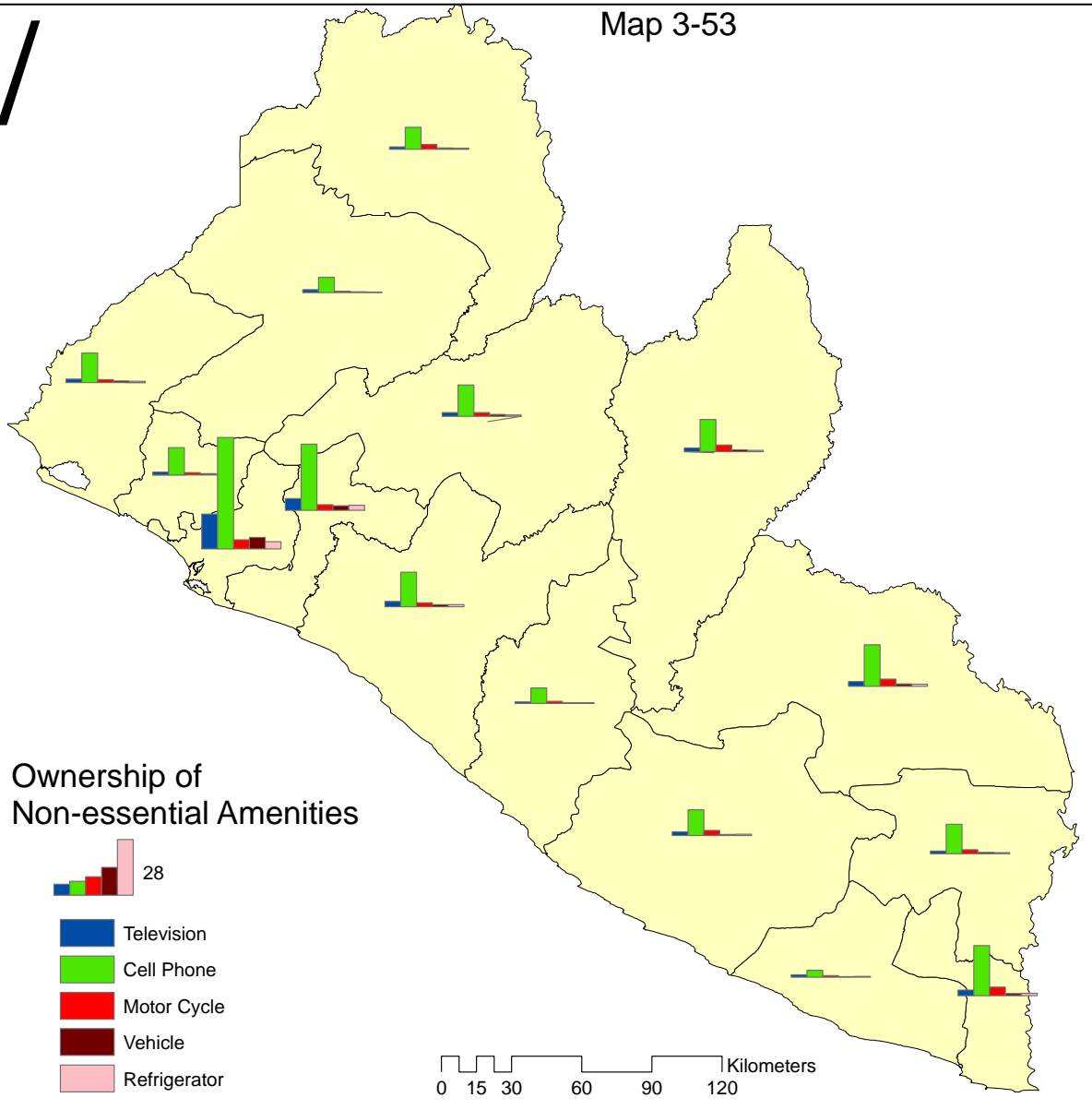


CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS

Map 3-53



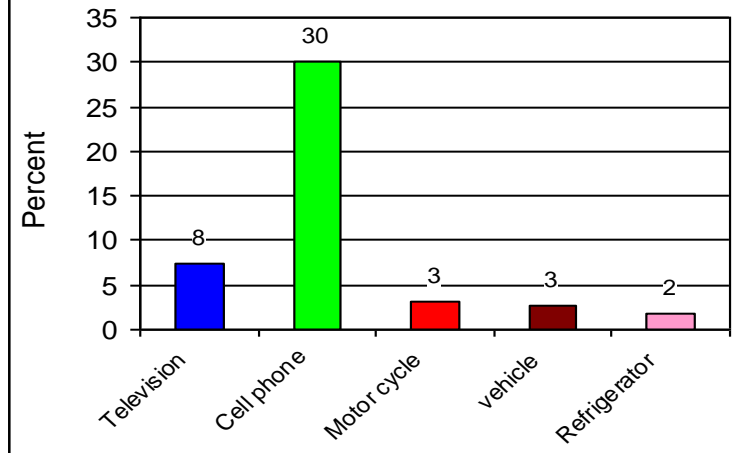
Distribution of Households by Ownership of Non-Essential Amenities in 2008

During the Census operations, non-essential amenities were composed of television, cell phone, motor cycle, vehicle and refrigerator. These items were considered important for news and communication as well as transportation. These household amenities were vital for the comfort of the members of the households; however, they were quite expensive for an average household.

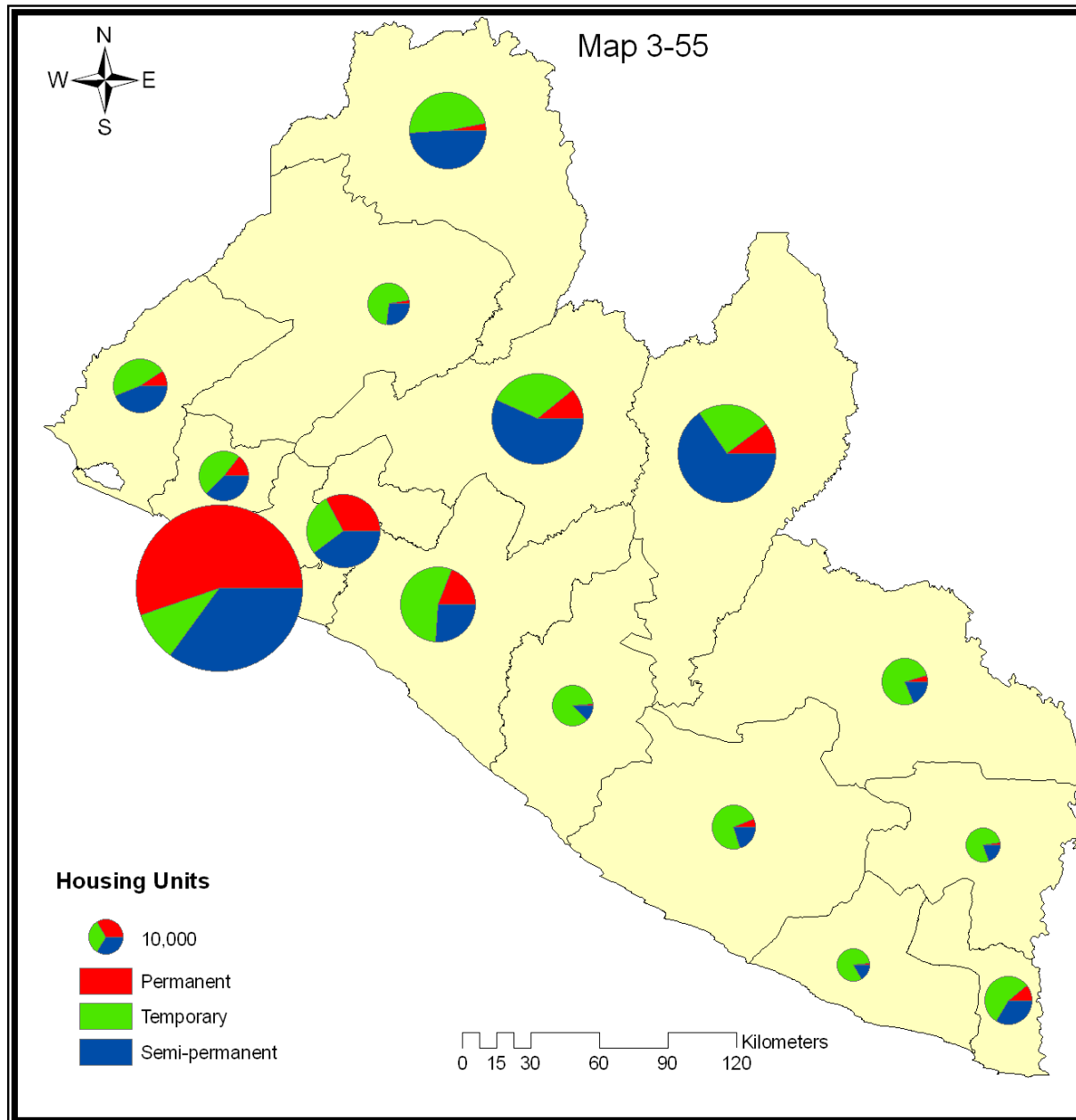
Overall, about 30% of households owned cell phone and less than 10% owned television. The rest of the amenities were far above the reach of the average household.

The map also shows that ownership of cell phone was widespread in all the counties in 2008.

Fig: 3-53



CHAPTER 3: HOUSING CONDITIONS



Distribution of Households by Quality of Housing Units in 2008

Three broad types of dwelling units were identified during the 2008 census; permanent, semi-permanent and temporary units. Permanent dwelling units were those dwellings constructed with durable materials such as concrete walls, cement floor, concrete roof and tile floor, zinc roof, among others with a life span of at least fifteen years. Temporary structures were those built of inferior construction materials such as outer walls made of zinc or sticks and mud; roof with bamboo leaves; they often last for at most three years. Semi-permanent structures were those units that were built with a mixture of permanent and temporary materials.

Forty-percent of all households resided in semi-permanent houses, 33% lived in temporary structures while only 27% resided in permanent structures. The map shows that throughout the fifteen counties, very small proportion of household members resided in permanent structures with the exception of Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa counties. Most households lived in temporary and semi-permanent structures.

