



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**Consolidated Annual Report on Activities Implemented  
under the Joint Programme  
“Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment”  
in Liberia**

**Report of the Administrative Agent  
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2012**

**Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**  
Bureau of Management  
United Nations Development Programme  
<http://mptf.undp.org>

31 May 2013

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



*Empowered lives.  
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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)



United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

## CONTRIBUTORS



Denmark

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## **Executive Summary**

This Consolidated Annual Report under the “Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment” in the Republic of Liberia covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2012. This report is in fulfillment of the reporting requirements set out in the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) concluded with the Contributor. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Participating Organizations, the report is consolidated based on information, data and financial statements submitted by Participating Organizations. It is neither an evaluation of the Joint Programme nor an assessment of the performance of the Participating Organizations. The report provides the Steering Committee with a comprehensive overview of achievements and challenges associated with the Joint Programme, enabling it to make strategic decisions and take corrective measures, where applicable.

In 2012, the Joint Programme for Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment made significant strides to advance gender equality and to empower women in Liberia. Mechanisms for the accountability of Government to gender equality commitments were strengthened through the training and expansion of a civil society network on gender responsive budgeting, piloting of gender responsive budgeting and planning at the decentralized level of Grand Bassa County, and through capacity building initiatives with key sector line ministries. Capacity of the Ministry of Gender and Development was strengthened for the implementation and monitoring of gender equality programmes across all of Liberia’s fifteen counties, as well as for the Ministry’s communication outreach on its priorities, policies and programming.

Economic empowerment programmes for women were implemented in all fifteen counties, including an expansion of activities to 6 counties that were not reached in 2011. Some 1,754 women graduated from Level 1 literacy classes in 39 communities across 10 counties; 1,389 market women from 38 markets in 6 counties graduated from business and financial literacy skills classes; 600 women in cross border trade graduated from literacy and business classes in 5 counties; and 4,946 rural women accessed financial services through newly established Savings and Loan Associations. The Association of Women in Cross Border Trade (AWICBT) held its first General Assembly with support from the Programme, adopted its Constitution, and was supported with the construction of two warehouses at key border points (fully owned and managed by the AWICBT). Overall, the Joint Programme has reached 20,403 women and girls with economic empowerment interventions since the start of activities in 2009.

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serves as the Administrative Agent of the Joint Programme. The MPTF Office receives, administers and manages contributions from the Contributor, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations in accordance with the decisions of the Steering Committee. UN Women serves as the lead agency for the Joint Programme, coordinating and managing its overall implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

This report is presented in two parts. Part I is the Annual Narrative Report and Part II is the Annual Financial Report. Part I is presented in five sections. Section 1 provides a purpose of the Joint Programme; Section 2 presents an overview of resources; Section 3 highlights the

implementation and monitoring arrangements; Section 4 provides an overview of the achievement of the Joint Programme and the challenges and Section 5 draws on Future work plan.



## PART I: ANNUAL NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

### Programme Title & Number

- Programme Title: Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment
- MPTF Office Project Reference Number  
*00067650*

### Country and Thematic Area(s)

The Republic of Liberia  
Gender equality and women's empowerment

### Participating Organization(s)

*UNDP, UN WOMEN, UNESCO, UNOPS and ILO*

### Implementing Partners

- Government: Ministry of Gender and Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Education, Central Bank;
- NGOs: Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, National Rural Women's Structure, NAEAL, LEAP, CLAP, Liberty Finance, CEAL, Educare Inc, Think Inc., DEN L, UEM, We4Self, Care Intl, LIDS

### Joint Programme Cost (US\$)

Joint Programme funding (Pass-through) from Government of Denmark: US\$ 6,641,017

**TOTAL:** US\$ 6,641,017

### Programme Duration (months)

Overall Duration

Start Date                      June 2009  
End Date or Revised      April 30, 2013  
End Date,  
(if applicable)  
Operational Closure      April 30, 2013  
Date  
Expected Financial      2014  
Closure Date

### Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation

Assessment Completed

Yes  No    Date: June 2012

Mid-Evaluation Report

Yes  No    Date:

### Submitted By

- Name: Emily Stanger
- Title: Programme Manager, JP GEWEE
- Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women
- Email address: emily.stanger@unwomen.org

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AA	Administrative Agent
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GFP	Gender Focal Point
GoL	Government of Liberia
IAPT	Inter-Agency Programming Team
ILO	International Labour Organization
JP	Joint Programme
JP GEWEE	Joint Programme for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment
JPSC	Joint Programme Steering Committee
LISGIS	Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-services Information
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MPTF Office	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MFI	Micro Finance Institutions
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoGD	Ministry of Gender and Development
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
PRS –	Poverty Reduction Strategy
TA	Technical Assistance
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

## 1. Purpose

**The Joint Programme for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment (JP GEWEE)** provides significant and strategic support to the Government of Liberia in furtherance of its public sector reforms and economic development efforts to achieve the following outcomes: (1) institute gender sensitive policies and coordination mechanisms, (2) strengthen its capacity to implement gender sensitive policies and development programmes and (3) implement priority and strategic economic empowerment initiatives for women and girls.

The programme includes nine strategic outputs:

1. Policy coordination mechanisms enhanced for gender equality and women's empowerment
2. Mechanisms strengthened for policy dialogue and accountability
3. Gender equality mainstreamed into sector policies, national plans and at local government level
4. Capacity of civil society to network and advocate for gender equality strengthened
5. Women's participation in the formal economy increased and women entrepreneurs' ability to capitalize on trade markets enhanced
6. Vocational, entrepreneurial and marketing skills among women enhanced and transformed from subsistence/informal to formal and sustainable business
7. Rural women's access to sustainable micro finance services improved to support their engagement in economic activities
8. Women and girls are more informed and knowledgeable through increased literacy and access to appropriate learning and information
9. 600 young girls have access to secondary education as a result of the provision of lodging facilities in the proximity of schools

In line with the United Nations core principles and strategies for Multi-Partner Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment:

- Supports reconstruction and development priorities that are identified and led by the Government of Liberia through its national Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Involves all relevant stakeholders including multiple Government Ministries, international donors and participating UN Organizations in the planning and decision-making process, led by the Joint Programme Steering Committee.
- Builds on ongoing Government frameworks and strategies including the National Steering Committee on MDG3, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the (draft) National Gender Policy.

- Strengthens aid effectiveness through coordination and harmonization of cross-cutting gender interventions under the oversight of one Steering Committee.
- Ensures that the funding, operations and implementation modalities provide for full transparency and accountability, involving an active Steering Committee and including the submission of reports to Liberia’s Aid Management Unit.

## 2. Resources

### 2.1 Financial Resources<sup>1</sup>:

The Government of Denmark, through the MPTF Office, was the primary funder for 2012 activities of the Joint Program for Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment. In 2012, \$ 2,386,277 (two million three hundred eighty six thousand two hundred seventy seven United States Dollars) was transferred to agencies for the implementation of programme activities as follows:

UN Women:	\$719,217;
UNDP:	\$1,132,060;
UNOPS:	\$535,000.

A total of US\$ 6,537,183 has been transferred to UN Women, UNDP, UNOPS and UNESCO for the implementation of JP GEWEE activities since its start in 2009.

Implementation of these funds followed the 2012 work plan and budget, pre-approved by the Government of Denmark and the Steering Committee in June 2011.

### 2.2 Human Resources:

Four United Nations staff members received financial support through the 2012 Joint Programme funding. The Joint Programme’s implementation is also supported by multiple other programme, operations, and administrative staff within the participating agencies (although these personnel are not supported by Joint Programme funds).

JP GEWEE-supported staff are:

- National Staff:
  - Programme Officer, UN Women
  - Programme Assistant, UNDP
  - Driver, UN Women
- International Staff:
  - Programme Manager, UN Women

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed information on the sources and uses of these funds is provided in the financial section of the report (Part II).

In addition to the human resources supported at the United Nations, a Programme Coordinator and a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer are supported with JP GEWEE resources as full time employees of the Ministry of Gender and Development.

### **3. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

#### *3.1. Programme Planning and Management*

Overall responsibility for strategic leadership and oversight of the Joint Programme lies with the government and for this JP specifically, with the Ministry of Gender and Development. The Minister of Gender and Development and the UN Resident Coordinator (DSRSG/RC) co-chair the Joint Programme Steering Committee (JPSC) with representatives from key ministries, including Commerce and Industry, Education; participating UN agencies; and donor representatives. This body guides the programme on strategic matters, exercising oversight of the programme's progress and responsibility for the re-allocation of funds within the programme to different outputs, as may be needed. Decisions of the Steering Committee are made through consensus.

UN WOMEN serves as the lead agency and is responsible for overall coordination of the programme, including supporting MoGD in its capacity as the lead Ministry. UN WOMEN also supports the Joint Programme Manager and ensures the smooth running of the programme. The day-to-day technical coordination of the overall programme is the responsibility of the Programme Manager, who reports to UN WOMEN (as lead agency) and sits in the MoGD.

Output level implementation is planned and coordinated by a Technical Committee comprising focal points from all agencies on the Steering Committee, as well as implementing partners, as deemed necessary. The Joint Programme Manager chairs the Technical Committee.

Individual outputs remain the responsibility of the individual UN organizations as identified in the annual work plans. The coordination of components, shared outputs and overall Joint Programme is the responsibility of UN WOMEN as lead agency.

#### *3.2. Programme Procurement*

The responsibility for procurement of goods and services rests with each individual UN organization and all procurement must follow the appropriate standards and regulations. In the event of procuring services or hiring personnel, selection committees comprise of both UN and Government of Liberia representatives.

### *3.3. Programme Monitoring System*

As mentioned in the Programme document, monitoring occurs throughout the year by individual agencies / participating Ministries, leading to an annual review of the Joint Programme. The monitoring activities and evaluations of the Joint Programme follow UNDAF procedures and form part of the UNDAF M&E plan as aligned to the national PRS M&E plan. As is adopted in other Joint Programmes, participating UN organizations undertake joint field visits when possible, while remaining cognizant of the demands on key government officials. The Programme Manager produces annual reports to the JPSC on progress towards each of the indicators and outputs. Special reviews and assessments are undertaken as required by the JPSC.

The individual project implementing agencies are responsible for data collection and reporting from the activity level. Reports and updates of activity-level implementation are provided at bimonthly Technical Committee meetings. The Programme Manager has the overall responsibility for M&E reporting to the JPSC, including the overall tracking of key outcomes and output indicators.

The Programme Manager ensures that the Technical Committee addresses implementation challenges, promotes coordination and identifies lessons learned across the various activities and outputs on a regular basis. These lessons are shared with the Joint Programme Steering Committee, as well as with other Liberia Joint Programmes.

A Joint Monitoring trip was conducted in May 2012 with the participation of three Government institutions and two UN agencies. The executive summary of the final report for the monitoring trip is included in Annex 1.

Given the Programme's June 2009 start date, Annual Reviews of the Joint Programme have been conducted in June of 2010, 2011 and 2012.

In 2012, the Joint Programme Annual Review included the participation of four UN Agencies (UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, and UN Women) and three participating Government Ministries (Ministry of Gender and Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

### *3.4. The Administrative Agent*

Participating Organizations have appointed the UNDP MPTF Office to serve as their Administrative Agent (AA) for this Joint Programme. The AA is responsible for a range of fund management services, including: (a) receipt, administration and management of donor contributions; (b) transfer of funds approved by this Joint Programme to Participating Organizations; (c) Consolidation of statements and reports, based on submissions provided to the AA by each Participating UN Organization; (d) synthesis and consolidation of the individual annual narrative and financial progress reports submitted by each Participating Organization for submission to donors through the Steering Committee. Transparency and accountability of this Joint Programme operation is made available through the Joint

#### **4. Results**

Implementation of activities followed the 2012 work plan and budget, pre approved by the Government of Denmark and the Steering Committee in June 2011. Results achieved in the 2012 calendar year under each output are highlighted below:

*1. Policy coordination mechanisms enhanced for gender equality and women's empowerment*

- Conducted awareness on National Gender Policy in three counties, including townhall meetings with a total of 443 community leaders, students, youth groups, women's groups and traditional leaders;
- Held radio talk show in three rural counties covering a population of over 300,000;
- Printed 1,000 copies of the Abridged Version of the National Gender Policy for distribution in rural counties;
- Conducted a three-day capacity building workshop for Gender Focal Points and technical staff in five key line ministries (Agriculture, Education , Energy , Health and Justice).

*2. Mechanisms strengthened for policy dialogue and accountability*

- Launched Coalition of CSOs for gender responsive budgeting;
- Gender report card for 2011 budget developed and launched by CSO Coalition;
- Representatives from five line ministries trained during five-day course on gender-responsive budgeting;
- Bi-weekly radio talk show, "The Gender Spotlight", developed and launched to inform the public about Government's efforts and achievements in promoting gender equality.

*3. Gender equality mainstreamed into sector policies, national plans and at local government level*

- Conducted a three-day capacity building workshop for Gender Focal Points and technical staff in five key line ministries (Agriculture, Education , Energy , Health and Justice);
- Sector specific training held with National Elections Commission on gender;
- As part of the programme's Institutional Strengthening component for the Ministry of Gender and Development, the capacity of MoGD strengthened in order to implement national plans through support for Monitoring and Evaluation, an Internal Auditing Unit, and a Communications specialist; Internet system in MoGD reactivated with new control mechanism for regulating access to information; MoGD official website updated and active;

- Gender mainstreamed into the priorities of the new National Development Plan, the Agenda for Transformation, through active participation of MoGD technical focal points and Gender Focal Points in key line ministries.

4. *Capacity of civil society to network and advocate for gender equality strengthened*

- Roundtable workshop held with thirty women's CSOs to strengthen coordination and partnership with MoGD;
- Ten women-focused NGOs and thirty representatives from the National Rural Women's Structure and Association of Women in Cross Border Trade trained in savings and loan association methodology to strengthen their capacity to implement access to finance programming and to build linkages with the Central Bank of Liberia to promote the expansion of financial service opportunities for underserved women.

5. *Women's participation in the formal economy increased and women entrepreneurs' ability to capitalize on trade markets enhanced*

- Association of Women in Cross Border Trade membership rose to over 3,000 members in fifteen counties;
- First General Assembly of the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade held, culminating in the adoption of AWICBT Constitution, including membership policies and financial regulations;
- Leadership coaching conducted with leaders of the AWICBT;
- AWICBT established strong linkages with the Central Bank's Loan Facility to increase members' access to capital and financial services;
- Consultations held between Ministry of Commerce and Industry and AWICBT to incorporate concerns and demand of women informal traders in the development of the National Trade Policy (also supported with funding from UN Women);
- 1,250 cross border traders graduated from three-month training courses in business and literacy;
- Two warehouses constructed at key border points and turned over to the management of the AWICBT for operations (also supported with funding from UN Women).

6. *Vocational, entrepreneurial and marketing skills among women enhanced and transformed from subsistence/informal to formal and sustainable business*

- Thirty eight markets in six counties equipped for hosting Next Level Business Programme in their markets;
- Forty trainers and forty market facilitators trained on curriculum for implementation;
- 2,600 market women trained in three-month Next Level Business Programme curriculum including basic business and life skills;
- Childcare services provided to an estimated 350 children through thirty-eight childcare providers.

7. *Rural women's access to sustainable micro finance services improved to support their engagement in economic activities*

- 4,946 women trained in Savings and Loan Association methodology and formed into 198 new Savings and Loan Associations to increase their access to facilities for savings, social insurance and loans;
- Central Bank of Liberia Loan Facility programme extended to sixty seven eligible Village Savings and Loan Associations providing low interest loans to Associations for onlending to women.

8. *Women and girls are more informed and knowledgeable through increased literacy and access to appropriate learning and information*

- 1,754 women completed Level One Literacy classes from thirty nine communities.

9. *600 young girls have access to secondary education as a result of the provision of lodging facilities in the proximity of schools*

- Dormitory rehabilitated at Ricks Institute to provide lodging and support scholarships for underprivileged girls to attend secondary school;
- Facilities at Bromley Institute renovated to extend scholarship opportunities for underprivileged girls to board at and attend secondary school.

For all outputs, the GoL representatives worked closely with relevant UN Organizations to ensure national ownership and participation in implementation. In 2012, the Technical Committee successfully completed a joint monitoring exercise for the Joint Programme.

The Joint Programme works closely with Civil Society and local implementing partners, both to ensure community ownership and to ensure sustainability beyond the Programme's implementation. The National Rural Women's Structure, a community-level women's structure, is active at community level for the implementation of outputs one, four, five, six, seven and eight. Under output one, the Joint Programme works closely with local leadership structures and cultural troupes. Output five is implemented in coordination with the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, an independent organization representing cross border traders. Output six is implemented through the Ministry of Gender and Development with administrative support by two local NGOs: Think and Educare. Access to financial services, output seven, is implemented by four local NGOs and one international NGO in close collaboration with local women's community based organizations. Literacy classes (Output eight) are implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the National Association for Adult Education, a local NGO, to ensure the success of these classes.

The Joint Programme for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment works with other Joint Programmes in Liberia to ensure close collaboration, particularly regarding

the outputs on adult literacy and microfinance. As emphasized by the donor (Government of Denmark) and the Government of Liberia, these services complement the activities of other Joint Programs (namely Food Security and Nutrition, Youth Empowerment and Employment, and the Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence) and the JP GEWEE plans its implementation with consideration of the efforts of these Joint Programmes.

## **5. Future Work Plan**

The Joint Programme will come to an operational closure by April 30, 2013. The implementation of the key Joint Programme activities concluded in December 31, 2012. During the first quarter of 2013, final administrative activities will be carried out with implementing partners to ensure exit strategies are in place and the appropriate closure of their contracts.

UNOPS will continue the monitoring of construction activities for the two educational institutes through the closure of the programme in 2013.

As lead agency, UN Women will facilitate an independent evaluation of the Joint Programme's first phase and organize national consultations to consider priorities for the second phase of the Joint Programme.

**PART II: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

## 2012 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This chapter presents financial data<sup>2</sup> and analysis of the Joint Programme as of 31 December 2012. Financial information is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/JLR10>.

### 1. Sources and Uses of Funds

As of 31 December 2012, the Government of Denmark has deposited US\$ 6,641,017 and US\$ 58,484 has been earned in interest, bringing the cumulative source of funds to US\$ 6,699,500. Of this amount, US\$ 6,537,183 has been transferred to four Participating Organizations of which US\$ 5,707,800 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 66,410. Table 1.1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Joint Programme funds as of 31 December 2012.

**Table 1.1. Financial Overview (in US Dollars)**

	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-11	Current Year Jan-Dec 2012	TOTAL
<b>Sources of Funds</b>			
Gross Contributions	4,771,040	1,869,977	6,641,017
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	24,914	5,612	30,526
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	19,532	8,425	27,957
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-	-
Other Revenues	-	-	-
<b>Total: Sources of Funds</b>	<b>4,815,486</b>	<b>1,884,014</b>	<b>6,699,500</b>
<b>Uses of Funds</b>			
Transfer to Participating Organizations	4,150,906	2,386,277	6,537,183
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	-	-	-
<b>Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations</b>	<b>4,150,906</b>	<b>2,386,277</b>	<b>6,537,183</b>
Administrative Agent Fees	47,710	18,700	66,410
Direct Costs (Steering Committee, Secretariat...)	-	-	-
Bank Charges	36	63	99
Other Expenditures	-	-	-
<b>Total: Uses of Funds</b>	<b>4,198,653</b>	<b>2,405,039</b>	<b>6,603,692</b>
<b>Balance of Funds Available with Administrative Agent</b>	<b>616,833</b>	<b>(521,025)</b>	<b>95,808</b>
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	4,150,906	2,386,277	6,537,183
Participating Organizations' Expenditure	3,287,583	2,420,217	5,707,800
<b>Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations</b>	<b>863,323</b>	<b>(33,940)</b>	<b>829,384</b>

<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, total in the tables may not add up.

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent ('Fund earned interest'), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations ('Agency earned interest') where their Financial Regulations and Rules do not prohibit the return of interest. As of 31 December 2012, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 30,526 and interest received from Participating Organizations (UNDP, UNESCO and UN WOMEN) amounts to US\$ 27,957, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ 58,484. Details are shown in the table below.

**Table 1.2. Sources of Interest and Investment Income (in US dollars)**

	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-11	Current Year Jan-Dec 2012	TOTAL
<b>Administrative Agent</b>			
Fund Earned and Investment Interest Income	24,914	5,612	30,526
<b>Total: Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income</b>	<b>24,914</b>	<b>5,612</b>	<b>30,526</b>
<b>Participating Organization (PO) Earned Interest Income</b>			
UNDP	16,287	7,752	24,039
UNESCO	343	673	1,016
UNOPS	-	-	-
UN WOMEN	2,902	-	2,902
<b>Total: Interest Income received from PO</b>	<b>19,532</b>	<b>8,425</b>	<b>27,957</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,446</b>	<b>14,037</b>	<b>58,484</b>

## 2. Contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from the Government of Denmark as at 31 December 2012.

**Table 2. Contributions (in US dollars)**

Contributor	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-11	Current Year Jan-Dec 2012	TOTAL
Government of Denmark	4,771,040	1,869,977	6,641,017
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,771,040</b>	<b>1,869,977</b>	<b>6,641,017</b>

### 3. Transfer of Funds

Allocations to the JP Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent (AA). The AA has transferred US\$ 6,537,183 to four Participating Organizations (UNDP, UNESCO, UNOPS and UN WOMEN) as of 31 December 2012. Table 3 provides information on the cumulative amount transferred to each Participating Organization.

**Table 3. Transfers by Participating Organization (in US dollars)**

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-11	Current Year Jan-Dec 2012	TOTAL
	Transferred Amount	Transferred Amount	Transferred Amount
UNDP	2,670,649	1,132,060	3,802,709
UNESCO	376,377	-	376,377
UNOPS	-	535,000	535,000
UN WOMEN	1,103,880	719,217	1,823,097
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,150,906</b>	<b>2,386,277</b>	<b>6,537,183</b>

### 4. Overall Expenditure and Financial Delivery Rates

All expenditures reported for the year 2012 were submitted by the Headquarters' of the Participating Organizations via the MPTF Office Reporting Portal. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

#### 4.1 Expenditure Reported by Participating Organization

As shown in table 4.1, cumulative transfers amount to US\$ 6,537,183 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 5,707,800. This equates to an expenditure delivery rate of 87%.

**Table 4.1. Cumulative Expenditure of Participating Organizations and Financial Delivery Rate (in US dollars)**

Participating Organization	Transferred Amount	Total Expenditure	Delivery Rate Percentage
UNDP	3,802,709	3,791,101	99.69
UNESCO	376,377	331,620	88.11
UNOPS	535,000	56,414	10.54
UN WOMEN	1,823,097	1,528,665	83.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,537,183</b>	<b>5,707,800</b>	<b>87.31</b>

## 4.2. Total Expenditure Reported by Category

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for harmonized inter-agency reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) set six categories against which UN entities must report project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. The old and new categories are noted below.

### 2012 CEB Expense Categories

1. Staff and personnel costs
2. Supplies, commodities and materials
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation
4. Contractual services
5. Travel
6. Transfers and grants
7. General operating expenses
8. Indirect costs

### 2006 UNDG Expense Categories

1. Supplies
2. Personnel
3. Training
4. Contracts
5. Other direct costs
6. Indirect costs

Table 4.2 reflects expenditure as of 31 December 2012. All expenditures reported up to 31 December 2011 are presented in the previous six categories, and all expenditures reported from 1 January 2012 are presented in the new eight categories.

In 2012, the highest expenditure was reported on Supplies, commodities and materials with an amount of US\$ 1,348,563 followed by Contractual services with an amount of US\$ 365,842. Indirect support costs exceed slightly the 7% range due to the fact that some agencies charge indirect support costs up-front.

**Table 4.2. Total Expenditure by Category (in US dollars)**

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-11	Current Year Jan-Dec 2012	TOTAL	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	166,683	-	166,683	3.13
Personnel (Old)	1,011,525	-	1,011,525	19.01
Training of Counterparts (Old)	476,340	-	476,340	8.95
Contracts (Old)	574,490	-	574,490	10.80
Other direct costs (Old)	825,985	-	825,985	15.53
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	-	177,494	177,494	3.34
Suppl, Comm, Materials (New)	-	1,348,563	1,348,563	25.35
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn (New)	-	(26,493)	(26,493)	(0.50)
Contractual Services (New)	-	365,842	365,842	6.88
Travel (New)	-	121,748	121,748	2.29
Transfers and Grants (New)	-	181,710	181,710	3.42
General Operating (New)	-	96,298	96,298	1.81
<b>Programme Costs Total</b>	<b>3,055,022</b>	<b>2,265,162</b>	<b>5,320,184</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Indirect Support Costs Total	232,561	155,054	387,615	7.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,287,583</b>	<b>2,420,217</b>	<b>5,707,800</b>	

## 5. Transparency and accountability

The MPTF Office continued to provide information on its GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>) a knowledge platform providing real-time data, with a maximum two-hour refresh, on financial information from the MPTF Office accounting system on contributions, programme budgets and transfers to Participating Organizations. All narrative reports are published on the MPTF Office GATEWAY which provides easy access to nearly 9,600 relevant reports and documents, with tools and tables displaying financial and programme data. By providing easy access to the growing number of progress reports and related documents uploaded by users in the field, it facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations. It is designed to provide transparent, accountable fund-management services to the UN system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency. The MPTF Office GATEWAY has been recognized as a 'standard setter' by peers and partners.

## Annex 1: Joint Monitoring Field Report JP GEWEE, May 2012

Joint Programme for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment

### **TEAM:**

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**“One UN, One Goal”**

***United for peace and  
development in Liberia***

**UNITED NATIONS IN LIBERIA**

A report of the joint monitoring trip conducted in May 2012 of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment (JP GEWEE) activities in eight counties (Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Montserrado).

## **Executive Summary (Overall Recommendations)**

Three monitoring teams of Government of Liberia and United Nations representatives visited eight counties to monitor the implementation of the GoL / UN Joint Programme for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment. They monitored four different programme outputs and gave special concern to overall programme concerns of joint implementation, exit strategies, and community ownership.

The summary of findings and recommendations are included in this report by county and separated by output / area of implementation. Following the complete mission and compilation of data for all counties, the Team gathered to prepare the overall summary of recommendations for immediate attention and future planning.

## **Overall Coordination and Implementation**

### ***KEY OBSERVATIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS:***

- MoGD County Coordinators are actively participating in the implementation and monitoring of all activities in the counties; ongoing support to MoGD county offices in terms of monitoring and logistical support should be prioritized.
- Strong results are being achieved in the field, particularly when building on the synergies of various forms of support (VSLA+literacy, FSN+literacy, Literacy & Business Classes+AWICBT, JP SGBV+AWICBT, etc.) and good practices should be well documented;
- Greater publicity, at UN, national and community level, would help boost the morale of the women and build wider appreciation for the programming; and
- The joint monitoring methodology with mixed GOL / UN teams and uniform monitoring tools worked well for building on each other's areas of expertise, increased accountability, and creating more will for joint planning.

## **Association of Women in Cross Border Trade**

### ***KEY OBSERVATIONS:***

- The Association leadership is dedicated to the process of supporting the implementation of the Literacy + Business project for cross border traders including other related projects in targeted;
- Members of the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade are anxious to receive membership cards and the national leadership might need additional coaching and support to move forward with this process for their membership;
- Key concerns for the women in cross border trade include: loans, warehousing and harassment at the borders.

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS:***

- Loans should be made available for the AWICBT through the organization of credit unions / lending structures / or VSLAs;
- Customs and border procedures should be posted on billboards at key border crossings;
- Strong coaching should be done with the AWICBT leadership for the management of the new warehouses;

- Another round of literacy + business training should be provided for cross border traders in targeted counties;
- Support should be given to the Association leadership to facilitate the process of providing ID cards for members;
- Free movement does not exist and in the long term, GoL needs to look at domestication and implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol; and
- There are specific leadership concerns in Cape Mount regarding elected leaders and these should be addressed urgently by MoGD / UN Women.

## **VSLA**

### ***KEY OBSERVATIONS:***

- Women are appreciative of the VSLA initiative, commenting that it causes them less pressure than microfinance;
- VSLAs from 2010 continue to be active and are very appreciative of the recent support from the Central Bank through the LEAF programme; however, the loans are still small and CB should look at the possibility of increasing the loan sizes for these groups in the second round of LEAF;
- There is strong local ownership of the VSLAs.

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS:***

- Extension of VSLA to other communities should be prioritized in GEWEE implementation and expansion;
- Greater supervision / local monitoring mechanisms should be put in place to strengthen the women's capacity and ensure greater sustainability of the VSLAs;
- GEWEE 2012 plan should include strategies to link the VSLAs to formal financial institutions; and
- VSLA training in GEWEE 2012 should include rural and urban lending, looking at VSLA as a model for market women, farmers, cross border traders and community women.
- 

## **Next Level Business Programme for Market Women**

### ***KEY OBSERVATIONS:***

- After six weeks of intervention in both Montserrado and the rural counties, the impact of the classes is clearly expressed by learners;
- The utilization of market women as facilitators is greatly appreciated and an effect model for instruction;
- Market classes are well organized, with dedicated trainers and facilitators and students who are anxious to learn;
- There has been a challenge with some of the learner manuals that were printed out of order, additionally, some of the calculators are malfunctioning; and
- LMA is active and supportive of the classes.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- There is a need for MoGD to address the issue of incomplete workbooks distributed to learners before Next Level classes commenced in April 2012. Workbooks need to be correctly reprinted and compiled for distribution to learners;
- Next Level should be extended to other major market centers Lofa, Maryland, Grand Geedeh and Cape Mount;
- Literacy interventions in markets should be organized to feed into the Next Level programme (see model of EPAG); and
- Next Level should be closely linked to VSLA opportunities under JP GEWEE in the future.

## **Literacy Classes**

### **KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

- Women are greatly appreciative of the opportunity to learn and there is a tremendous impact on women's self-confidence when they are able to write their name and read numbers (enabling them to use a cell phone);
- Many of the women are pushing through challenges and are willing to prioritize learning;
- There is still great unmet demand for literacy classes in most (if not all) the communities visited;
- Implementing VSLA along with the literacy classes has been successful because it provides an economic support to learners;
- Literacy class attendance is much lower in communities where there is no other economic interventions (JP FSN, business classes, and/or VSLA);
- The link with JP FSN farmers has brought enthusiasm for learning, but lighting is necessary to appropriately target farmers.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Literacy classes should be resumed in the literacy communities visited;
- In the future, material distribution should be uniform (all classes should receive the same supplies and enough supplies) and sufficient for all students;
- Numbers need to be considered in the next round of training (not all communities will graduate the same number of students to the next Level) and materials should be distributed based on these exact numbers;
- A decentralized mechanism for distribution of teachers' allowances must be prioritized during the course of the new literacy program that is scheduled to commence;
- All classrooms should have adequate lighting available, under the responsibility of the community chairlady (if she doesn't participate in the class, an alternative can be developed on a community by community basis);
- Refresher training for teachers should be prioritized before the resumption of literacy classes in the communities;
- UN Women and the Ministry of Gender and Development should consider adding more teachers in communities with a higher demand for literacy classes; and
- JP GEWEE should work on the model of offering literacy classes in conjunction with VSLA training or other economic empowerment programming (JP FSN).