# CORDAID-SIERRA LEONE FINAL PROJECT EVALUATION

### **INCLUSIVE CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING PROJECT – 00126042**

### FINAL EVALUATION REPORT DECEMBER 2022



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## ACRONYMS

CBDR CBO CSO DCs FGD	Community-Based Dispute Resolution Community Based Organization Civil Society Organizations District Councils Focused Group Discussions
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
KAP	Knowledge Attitude and Practice
KII	Key informant interviews
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoGCA MOYA NGO ONS PRSP SDGs SLP TOC ToR UNPBF YPPD	Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs Ministry of Youth Affairs Non-Governmental Organization Office of National Security Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Sustainable Development Goals Sierra Leone Police Theory of Change Terms of Reference United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Youth Partnership for Peace and Development

## **1. SECTION ONE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project was funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) and implemented by Cordaid in partnership with Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD). Other key partners include the Ministry of Youth Affairs (MOYA), Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MoGCA), District Councils (DCs) and Youth/Women-Lead Civil Societies (CSOs) in the districts. The project budget was a total of US\$1,359,999.96, which was disbursed in three (3) tranches.

The project was implemented in 23 communities across three districts of Pujehun (South), Tonkolili (North), and Western Area Rural (Western Area). The overall goal of the project is to provide a direct response to the root causes of conflict in Sierra Leone identified in the conflict analysis, such as the general systematic exclusion of rural and peri-urban youth; and the specific exclusion of rural and peri-urban youth; and resolve conflicts through existing CBDR mechanisms, and to contribute to conflict prevention at national level.

The purpose of this final evaluation to provide a platform for accountability and organizational learning by providing insight in the main results (outcomes) and the key learnings of the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project implemented in 2021/2022, as well as recommendations on sustainability and replication. The evaluation is designed to cover the entire 18-month period of the project from February 2021 to August 2022.

The objectives of this final evaluation include the following:

- To provide a good insight in the relevance and effectiveness of the results (outcomes) of the period with regards to the project objectives and the peacebuilding needs in the targeted communities.
- To assess results achieved to date in comparison with the performance indicators outlined in the project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework.
- To assess the project on gender sensitivity and inclusivity of females in Community-Based Dispute Resolution (CBDR) structures
- To identify good practices and innovations from the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project implementation
- To draw lessons and make recommendations for enhancing project implementation and performance.

#### 1.1 Approach and Methods

The OECD/DAC framework for development programme evaluation was used to guide this evaluation and answer the evaluation questions related to the project's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability. This scope, therefore, covered all activities undertaken and compared planned outputs/outcomes to the achievements and assessed the actual results to determine their contribution to the attainment of the project outcomes. A mixed methods data collection and analysis approach was used, which was participatory and inclusive. Project activities and performance outcomes across the project communities were assessed using document review, interviews with project staff, implementing partners and stakeholders at national, district and community levels.

Primary data collection involved the use of structured questionnaires to interview 105 direct household project beneficiaries in selected communities as well as the use of checklists to conduct 28 key informant interviews (KII), 30 focus group discussions (FGD) with 287 participants. In addition, direct observations were made to identify possible impacts of the project on CBDR activities and youth/women empowerment in the communities. The targeted population of this final evaluation

constitutes the young people (male/female), CBDR Service providers and Women/Youth-led CBOs/NGOs.

The structured questionnaires were programmed into the computer-aided personal interviews (CAPI). A CAPI-based program was developed using kobocollect facilities, which is software. Data cleaning was done concurrently during the fieldwork. Data analysis covered both qualitative and qualitative data sources, which are triangulated, and the finding presented in this report.

#### **1.2 Key Findings**

#### Relevance

The evaluation found out that the project and its activities were regarded as highly relevant throughout the communities targeted and interviewed. It was implemented taking into account the culture and traditions of the project communities. At household level the priority accorded to improved access to CBDR structures, gender sensitivity, youth accountability remains, extremely high. The proportion of survey respondents for the strong response of the project to issues ranged from 88.6 per cent (gender sensitivity), followed by 83.8 percent (youth accessibility to CBDR mechanisms), to 76.2% conflict sensitivity and 68.6% youth accountability.

In fact, that **FGD participants in** *Bumbuna community* coined the relevance of the project this way: *"Before now, youth and women were rarely allowed in the chief barray to sit with the chiefs during settlements of disputes as well as the discussion of community matters including the sharing of royalty payments".* 

This underscored the need for the project intervention, which worked on bridging the gap between women/youth and CBDR providers in the chiefdom

Also, the literature review shows that the project was fully aligned with the government policies and priorities on youth and women's empowerment, social cohesion, peacebuilding and conflict resolution as defined in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2019-2023), the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion Act, 2021, and specific conflict resolution and social cohesion policies including SDG #16, 'UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) and UNSC Resolution 1820 (2008). Furthermore, this project was aligned with the mandate of Cordaid and YPPD as implementing partners, given their broader focus on youth, community development, women's empowerment, and peacebuilding.

The project was aligned with the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) mandate to promote peace and dialogue, hence funded the project. In addition, the literature review revealed that a needs assessment was conduct, which informed the project design and implementation strategies. A baseline survey as well as the Rapid assessment conducted at the launch of the project contributed to the settling up of project indicator sheet in the M&E framework

#### Efficiency

The project duration was eighteen (18) months from February 2021 to July 2022. This period was not extended, which indicates better time management of project activities. Also, the project was run on budget with no adjustment to the approved amount, which was paid in three tranches (35%, 35% & 30%). More than half the amount (53.5%) was allocated to gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE). The support from all partners and stakeholders ensured that activities were implemented within the project timeframe and budget.

The quality of project management in general was good. The roles and responsibilities for project management arrangements and the lines of communication among implementing partners (IPs) were defined. Regular monthly planning and review exercises were conducted with the IPs and the plans formalized in agreements with the partners. Project level coordination generally worked well, with good collaboration with partners and CSOs supporting the implementation in the community. This type of collaboration among NGOs ensured that duplication and overlap tendencies were overcome; hence providing a strong basis for value for money. The partners knew their roles well and implemented their activities without undue delays. Also, there is evidence that partners prepared and submitted report for every activity implemented and concluded

There are indications that M&E systems contributed to informed decision-making and project management. The IPs jointly conducted M&E activities, visiting project communities to assess progress and challenges. IPS held regular coordination meetings to discuss planned activities, reports of completed activities, and challenges. In addition, a midterm review meeting was organized, which brought together donors, implementing partners, local council authorities. It discussed issues such as lessons learned, risk and risk mitigation, and project sustainability. However, some of the indicators in the logical frame are qualitative indicators, which can be assessed only using observations and ordinal ranking.

The evaluation shows that 60.9 per cent and 26.5 per cent of the household respondents were satisfied and very satisfied, respectively with the project outcomes and outputs achieved. Both women and men were satisfied with the project, although women (27.2%) were more likely than men 25.7%) to be "very satisfied" with the project activities and outcomes. This is because they were involved in the project implementation and delivery of outputs and results through various means such as consultations, discussions, and organizing community-driven activities such as football matches and storytelling.

#### Effectiveness

Effectiveness measures the extent to which PBF's activities have attained its outcomes.

## Outcome 1: Young women and men, working intergenerationally, are equipped and mobilized to identify and take action on key drivers of conflict, insecurity, and injustice in their communities.

The evaluation shows that the project made significant efforts in ensuring young people (women and men) are mobilized and equipped to take both individual and group actions on drivers of conflict, insecurity, and injustice. The evaluation results show that outcome 1 indicator targets were achieved. For example, 87 per cent of respondents perceived an improvement in young people's knowledge and skills in relation to conflict resolution and peacebuilding compared to 70 percent target. Young people have become more creative in promoting and sustaining peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in their communities.

There were many strategies implemented to achieve this outcome. In the three project districts 24 youth-led organizations were identified, screened, and selected to participate in a co-creation and story collection exercises. The youth-led organizations were trained on project, organizational and financial management and provided with financial and technical support to implement activities on the inclusion of young men and women into community structures with specific focus on advancing peacebuilding mechanisms in their respective project communities. Furthermore, staff from these youth-led organizations were engaged to collect stories focusing on young people to understand local context and insights on the dynamics of conflict, insecurity, and injustice.

The project trained 360 young women and young men on specific skills related to personal and organizational leadership, organizing, advocacy, engaging young men as allies in defending women's rights, gender equality and gender transformative approaches and public communication skills.

In Tonkolili, young people facilitated a mediation process consisting of a series of meetings and dialogue sessions between the local Police, a local mining company, the office of national security and the paramount chief. This mediation process ultimately led to the peaceful resolution of the conflict between the mining company and the local police. Whereas in Pujehun young people project supported activities improved the collaboration between young people and stakeholders regarding the community center project at Peje-Futa.

The project provided relatively young or new organizations with the opportunity to be represented at district coordination meetings and to be a part of district civil society organization platforms. This strengthened CSO network, in turn, increased peacebuilding interventions led by young people in the districts.

## Outcome 2: CBDR mechanisms adopt more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and conflict sensitive practices, with specific focus on addressing needs of young women

The evaluation team observed that the approach of the PBF project to facilitate democratic dialogue seemed very effective. All stakeholders involved in the project, authorities, and citizens alike, show **enthusiasm for the participatory approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention**. Well maintained participation has led to constructive collaboration between population and authorities.

The inclusion of women and youth positively influence the rapprochement and the legitimacy of security authorities. Youth is often active, and authorities like to work with them, because of their crucial role in community conflict. Women's 'voice' has improved, but still, women are less involved in the activities in solving problems or in peace dialogues in their communities. Secrete society bushes are still being used as platform to women marginalization and discrimination and matters some critical matters relating to the communities are often discussed there.

This outcome was achieved in various ways. Twenty-four (24) youth/women led CSOs, and CBOs participated in the co-creation workshop, which is in line with the project requirements. As part of the co-creation workshop, palaver engagements and other trainings facilitated by the project has helped the youth-led groups have become more confident in developing grassroots level initiatives that demand inclusivity and gender sensitivity from CBDR providers. Also, 23 CBDR structures were supported to improve their advocacy initiatives and become gender-and conflict-sensitive in their discharge of duties.

The evaluation found out that young women and youth are generally more respected now in the communities and included in key decision-making bodies than ever before. In some communities such as Gboyama and Futa in Pujehun District, for example, a decision was taken that all development committees must have at all 50 percent women and youth to decide on community matters. The chiefs and local courts in Tonkolili and Pujehun Districts have recognized the need to have women and youth sited as part of the jury to decide on sensitive cases, especially those related to women and youth in the communities; while in Western Area Rural District, women have been given a permanent seat in all the tribal chief's court barrays in the Tombo community.

**A KII respondent** said that the project "has created a platform for women and young people to take ownership of peace and development efforts and frameworks in their various communities"

A total of 15 community action plans were developed and implemented. Such plans ensured that views of young women and youth are more respected and included in key decision-making bodies in the three operational districts. One key action plan implemented, for example, was the formation of a community Dialogue committee that would facilitate women and youth participation and protection into decision-making, which was achieved in Tonkolili and Pujehun Districts. In the Western Area Rural, youths agreed to set of structure, which are now being consulted whenever a decision needed to be taken to represent their interests. Furthermore, the target to train 238 (Male-152, Female -86) community-based dispute resolution service providers (CBDR) was met; they were trained to be more conflict sensitive, gender sensitive and on the inclusion and participation of young women and youths into these dispute resolution structures in their communities. As a result of the training, there has been a systemic change, whereby the CBDR providers modified their practices to make it more inclusive of women and youths. For, example, in Western Area Rural, matters or decisions (such as schedule for the use of the local sporting field) that used to be taken by the elders have been fully transferred to the youth leaders; similarly, the youth are now in fully in charge of running the community center at Futa community in Pujehun District. Also, it is now mandatory for at least 2 women must sit in the chief's barray during cases in Tonkolili and Pujehun project communities.

The training organized led to the recognition of women's role of the in CBDR processes and strengthening of referral processes, which allows cases of GBV and others to be reported and actually followed up on. The training further led to the formation of a women's accountability group in Futa Peje chiefdom, consisting of intergenerational women (youth and non-youth).

The evaluation findings also show that 79 percent and 13.3 percent of the household respondents agreed that the project was responsive to a very large extent and to some extent, respectively to the youth/women needs and peacebuilding needs in the project communities, which is above the target of 60 percent. Women were more likely to agree then men.

**Stakeholders interviewed** believed that: "the project output was of good quality, especially the youth/women empowerment training, the grant and dialogue with CBDR stakeholders which ensured peaceful co-existence in the community"

This was achieved because, broadly, the targeted communities, youth, women and CBDR structures were reached within the project districts by involving community residents as volunteers in the implementation process.

It became apparent that effective conflict advocacy embedded in a well working CBDR mechanism is essential and improves the efficiency of the UNPBF programme.

## Outcome 3: Young women and men, working intergenerationally, take a leading role in advocating for evidence-based conflict prevention policy and practice, and build trust with key conflict prevention stakeholders.

Documents reviewed show outcome 3 was largely achieved given the high-level indicators measured. The evaluation findings show 64 percent of respondents perceived an increase in youth and women participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the communities compared to the 44 percent target. The evaluation results show that the project engaged 122 relevant civil society actors, of which 57 males and 65 females. These CSOs also included well-established and well known CSOs and activists, as well as community leaders in the three project districts.

The project supported the process of creating a platform for young people to take an active role in national advocacy. For example, young people in Pujehun were funded during the International Youth Day to engage stakeholders in peacebuilding advocacy, which led to the development of the "Pujehun

Youth Peace and Security strategy" that was officially launched and validated by key district stakeholders including the District Officer on the 12th of August 2021. The project also supported young people in Western Area and Tonkolili to organize a national youth summit at the house of parliament. These efforts resulted in enhanced capacity and skills of young people, critical to building the confidence of young people and women to mobilize and take necessary action that will change/improve their situations. The events also increased their understanding of inclusion, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding matters in their communities; and were used by young people as a platform to lobby and advocate for their communities. This is demonstrated by the number of successful local structures such as community youth councils and district youth councils (DYCs) established in Western Area Rural Communities such as in Tombo during the project period.

#### 1.2.1 Impact

Impact measures the positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This involves the main impacts and effects resulting from the activity on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators. The examination should be concerned with both intended and unintended results and must also include the positive and negative impact of external factors.

The most widely recognized positive change to be attributed to PBF project is rapprochement, the narrowing of the gap between CBDR service providers and their subjects, in community meetings, in community court tribunals and in community forums (police). In practice this means more dialogue and collaboration between population and the CBDR structure and administration. There are some positive signs of impact in the field of CBDR service delivery: increased collaboration with the population in terms of joint surveillance, denouncement of criminals and helpful preparation of conflict compromises. CBDR providers and justice have become more professional in the handling of cases.

It is also observed that signs of impact are diverse and differ per district. In Tonkolili District, however, respondents claim intensive improved peace and stability, even in the August 10 riot due to the collaboration between CBDR and youth with the supported CBOs.

#### 1.2.2 Contribute to youth/women's empowerment

Of course, some women have benefitted from project trainings. And for a certain number of them this has had an impressive 'awakening' effect: "We were not even allowed to speak in front of the men", several young women explained to us in Mabonto (Tonkolili) and in Peje (Pujehun). (In many rural places this is still the case) Yet, in Makali, some women show ambition and have expressed willingness to play a more strategic role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, for instance in the approach on prevention of gender-based violence, or on land inheritance rights.

Inclusion and participation of women has been achieved to a certain extent, however women's

#### **PBF's emancipatory effect**

Sometimes the PBF project is seen as more than an instrument for the improvement of the security situation, but rather as a vehicle for women's advancement: "First we would never speak in front of men, let alone in front of authorities as we were never involved or called upon. Now we have learned that we can make them listen. It is a gain that will not disappear with the termination of the project." Both CBDR providers and the youth and women leaders themselves see women and youth as crucial strategic partners in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The young male and female leaders see their role in sensitisation in combination with a bottom-up peacebuilding as proposed by the PBF project. They see the combination as an opportunity that is unique to Peacebuilding. Sensitisation, by the grassroots CBOs/CSOs, by the radio, by educations and training is a crucial part of this.

Source: Interviews with youth and women led organizations, Pujehun 6.9.2022

'voice', level of activity and even number of women still need strengthening within local security management. Certain women are highly motivated and once trained, found good mechanisms to participate and acquired courage to speak out. The project had an important emancipatory effect on female participants, a result that could have strategic value for the increased inclusion of women. Legitimacy of security authorities has increased by the increased inclusion of women.

The evaluation results show that efforts were made to include youth and women groups, in the project implementation. Of the 491 CBDR providers trained, 48.3 percent were female while of the 360 young people trained 40.8 percent were female. And of the 78 co-creation workshop attendants, 57.7 percent were female. This

full picture of the extent to which women were involved was made possible by data disaggregated by gender by the project team in line with the project document. The evaluation results show that 85 percent of survey beneficiaries believed that the project to a very large extent contributed to promoting women's empowerment and reducing the gender gap in CBDR structures.

**FGD participants** in Pujehun Districts for example believe that: "There were more women in the chief's barry presiding over disputes and matters of the community now than before"

The gathering of insights from communities through story collection with a gender sensitive approach conducted by youth led CSOs discovered the continued marginalization of women and girls in their communities and raised such issues affecting women and girls (such as GBV and early marriage) to stakeholders in the communities, this is a key strategy for the achievement of the project outcomes. Having identified these issues, some of the youth led CSOs decided to act by designing and ultimately implementing programmes targeting marginalized women and girls with activities such as career counselling for women and mentorship services for young girls in the various communities.

Notwithstanding, the evaluation findings show that project stakeholders did not adequately pursue the participation of other vulnerable groups such as people living with disability (PLWD) through any coherent means. Although there is evidence that at least 2 disable youth benefited from the youth grant in Tonkolili, there was no active effect made to have them included as a group.

Also, the evaluation found that during the dialogue sessions, women and youth leaders were able to express their concerns about the feeling that they were not sufficiently included in the CBDR meetings. In turn, CBDR providers became more aware and sensitized to these issues and took specific action to facilitate increased inclusion and influence of women and youth. In addition, the intergenerational and gender sensitive approach to the engagements was also key in facilitating an opportunity to establish mutual understanding between the youth and their non-youth counterparts.

The KII and FGD also show that the project has contributed to long term conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the community. For example, in the Makali Community in Tonkolili District, the

project was able to resolve many disputes, which the chiefs were unable to resolve due to lack of trust, which the project was able to build across sections of the community.

There were unintended benefits the project contributed:

- Gender-Based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancy and early or child marriage awareness campaigns benefited from the project- 'Hand of our girls' campaigns were scaled up during project meetings and community engagements
- Several meetings were organized between community people especially young women and men, and some of the CBDR providers such as the community chiefs, and a line of understanding was establishment in most communities between the parties involved.

#### 1.2.3 Sustainability

#### Scaling up

There were examples of project interventions influencing or being taken up by other agencies. From the survey of IPs 48% reported that the projects or approaches had been replicated by other actors in the communities. For example, in Sahr-Malen Chiefdom, local council recognized the work of the project in resolving deputes relating to royalty payment. This approach of creating a dialogue is also reported as being taken up by Council and Chiefdom authorities to dialogue with the Socffin Company in the chiefdom. The MP in the area was reported to have planned a similar meeting to bring together Socffin Company and members of his constituency in order to dialogue and resolve disputes and misunderstandings between the company and community people.

Despite these examples of success in continuing some of the project interventions, the evaluation found no evidence of a clear strategy across the project districts for influencing others to scale up conflict resolution and peacebuilding effort, especially so when we are approaching the general elections is less than a year. Within the KII survey, only 24% agreed or agreed strongly that Cordaid and partners had a plan for scale up or extension of project activities. Cordaid confirmed that although there have been high level discussions around scale-up or extension, no funding has been secured to continue the field implementation of project activities in the communities.

#### 1.2.4 Sustainability Strategy

The beneficiary CBOs were able to identify specific security issues through community story collection in Tonkolili, Pujehun and Western Area Rural districts and acted, initially without project funds. This approach has more potential for the development of a sense of ownership, maintenance and use of the new structures and their sustainability.

The mediation of community conflicts seems to have a lasting stabilizing effect. Youth led CBOs and CBDR structure will continue to need external funds to respond to conflict issues especially in hard-

to-reach communities. The work of Cordaid on CBDR and CBOs service delivery in conflict sensitivity, gender sensitivity, organizational leadership, conflict prevention and peacebuilding are neither finished nor ready for full sustainability. As some respondents mentioned: 'we are still like a baby learning to walk'. It needs more time.

CSO partners equated sustainability the empowerment with of communities to demand services and the increased capacity of their delivery Capacity partners. building undertaken in some of the project districts included organizational strengthening of CSOs and CBDR structures in areas such as governance, dialogue, and staff capacity, organizational and financial systems. The project empowered young people to assume and own up to their responsibilities to themselves and their communities, which drive them

#### **PBF's emancipatory effect**

The PBF project contributed directly to addressing harmful gender norms in communities throughout the project cycle. For instance, by stressing the role of young men as allies in combating SGBV during training activities and ensuring that space is made for young women to be heard on security policy and advocating for policy changes that have a direct effect on gender-related injustices.

"The men in this community were very brutal towards their wives. No single day would pass without either quarrelling or fighting. This has gradually become a norm; as those that were supposed to stop the anomalies seemed not interested to do that because of lack of understanding and other religious beliefs. However, after participating in the Kolhat barray youth leadership training and youth palaver workshops, I was able to positively impact the mindset of the men through continuous advocacy against GBV and promoting peaceful coexistence among fellow youths. Today I am proud that the men living in my community are one of the most peaceful ones and there has been drastic reduction of GBV cases". The youth leader believe that his advocacy and conflict mediation will continue even after the project ends.

Source: Interview with youth leader from Malemo Community, Kunike Barina chiefdom Tonkolili.

to continue carrying out project activities related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in their communities. In the KII survey, 68% of CSOs partners stated that they agreed or mostly agreed they had received meaningful capacity development from the project. However, they anticipated further engagement with Cordaid and partners in the near future in the area of institutional strengthening through additional trainings.

#### 1.2.5 Exit strategy

The evaluation found that only a few community stakeholders attended the exit meetings held in the project communities. As a result, majority of project target groups were still hopeful and expectant that the project would continue in the communities.

Where such expectations persist there is the possibility that they will undermine the sustainability effort as communities rather than take action on some of the activities, they continue to look forward to the project staff to return to the communities to conduct project activities.

**A CSO Representative in Magburaka**, Tokolili District for example summarized it thus: "*The community people are still calling some of us to ask for the project and when we would return to continue the implementation*".

#### **1.3 Recommendation**

The evaluation has shown that the Kolhat Barray project was very relevant and well aligned with strategies of donors, implementing partners, government priorities and community's culture and

tradition. The project achieved majority of its outcome indicator targets, which underscores good success in project management and implementation.

However, the following recommendations are to guide future interventions:

#### Relevance

- ➤ Working closely with community structures and stakeholders improves the relevance and targeting of potential project beneficiaries. However, there is a need to manage their expectations, otherwise could pose a problem to the sustainability of project outputs. The project should be more sensitive to persons living with disabilities (PLWD) in future designs.
- Awareness of realized and planned improvements of CBDR providers and youth led CBOs is not sufficiently raised. This does not concern the propagation of the visibility of PBF project itself, for which ample material has been produced.
- Sensitization: It is recommended to improve sensitization and involve more people in it. Strengthen it, continue to support with local radio broadcasts and by consultation of Local CSOs and the CBDR structures for more efficient work in this regard. A follow-up of service delivery by CBDR providers especially on their gender-sensitivity and inclusivity is needed.
- Future project should target the disable more explicitly to ensure that they were not missed given their importance in inclusive peace and sustainable development.

#### Effectiveness

- The evaluation findings show that the project made notable progress and remarkable achievements of its output over the 18-month period of implementation. However, additional strategies recommended to improve effectiveness include ensuring that indicators are quantitatively defined for activities, and that we improve the targeting of the disabled as a separate group because in many conflict situations they are the worst hit, and largely form the "marginalized group within the marginalized"
- It is recommended to strengthen coordination and collaboration with other PBF project partners (UNDP etc.) in country, try to benefit from their (potentially) effective approaches and search for complementarity. The existence of different approaches within aligned agencies can be a learning opportunity. An example could be the finding of supplements for, or improvement of, youths in the UNDP youth at risk project.
- Cordaid PBF Internal coordination: one may consider the separation of M&E and Coordination and Strategic tasks in two functions. Experience so far shows that it is not necessarily the lead, or YPPD, that must take strategic lead position. Narrower collaboration between partners is required for good integration of CBDR and local civil society organizations in the execution of the PBF is crucial for success. It is important to find an alternative implementing partner for the support of CBDR service providers, especially in the three project sites.

#### Sustainability

- The sustainability of project outcome and output was achieved through the capacity-building of youth/women-led CSOs and CBDR providers and training of youth and women. However, funding for outright scale-up or extension has not been secured as at now. Therefore, engagement with implementing partner CSOs in the districts, government functionaries and local councils, should continue in order to influence their activities towards strengthening CBDR structures and empowering youth/women in their operation communities and promoting peacebuilding and conflict prevention in their operation areas.
- Lobby for political acceptance and legalization of the standard operating procedures for CBDR service providers, community-based verification system (for young people, especially young

women, to monitor change in CBDR activities and outcomes), policy briefs and proposed conflict management methods: The participatory conflict management methodology is, through the PBF project's national lobby, accepted as a governmental tool to be used at the provincial level. However, it is not clear if the sustainability of the method is guaranteed and if those in the government (the district councils, ONS) that have learnt the use of the methodology will continue to use it.

## **2. SECTION TWO: INTRODUCTION**

#### 2.1 BACKGROUND

The Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project was implemented in 23 communities across three districts of Pujehun (South), Tonolili (North), and Western Area Rural (Western Area). The overall goal of the project is to provide a direct response to the root causes of conflict in Sierra Leone identified in the conflict analysis, such as:

- the general systematic exclusion of rural and peri-urban youth especially women.
- the specific exclusion of rural and peri-urban youth from opportunities to defend their rights and resolve conflicts through existing CBDR mechanisms, and to contribute to conflict prevention at national level.

The project has three outcomes such as: equip and mobilize young people to identify and act on key drivers of conflict, insecurity and injustice in their communities; support and influence CBDR mechanisms to adopt more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and conflict-sensitive practices, with specific focus on addressing needs of young women; and enable young people, working intergenerational, to advocate for evidence-based conflict prevention policy and practice, and build trust with key conflict prevention stakeholders.

TABLE 1: LEVELS OF OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS				
Outcome/Output	Description			
Outcome 1:	Young women and men, working intergenerationally, are equipped and mobilized to identify and take action on key drivers of conflict, insecurity and injustice in their communities.			
Output 1.1:	Policy-relevant research on key drivers of conflict conducted by young women and men			
Output 1.2:	Strengthened youth leadership capacities consistent with principles of active citizenship			
Outcome 2:	CBDR mechanisms adopt more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and conflict- sensitive practices, with specific focus on addressing needs of young women.			
Output 2.1:	Youth-led advocacy actions demand and advise on improved CBDR inclusivity, gender-sensitivity, conflict-sensitivity, and accountability, based on local contexts.			
Output 2.2:	CBDR providers trained, advised on adoption of inclusive, gender- sensitive, conflict-sensitive practices.			
Outcome 3:	Young women and men, working intergenerationally, take a leading role in advocating for evidence-based conflict prevention policy and practice, and build trust with key conflict prevention stakeholders.			

The project outcomes and output are summarised in Table 1 below

Output 3.1:	Youth-led groups supported to network and share knowledge on conflict prevention at national level.
Output 3.2:	Evidence on local-level CBDR actions used to inform national-level advocacy on conflict prevention.

The project design is consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations, especially those articles relevant to youth participation and gender equality; as well as the country's efforts to meet its obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250. The project builds on the premise of UNSCR 2250 which recognizes the positive role young people play in contributing to solutions for peace. Young people were placed at the center of project activities in a people-centered and bottom-up approach to ensure that their needs were addressed.

The Project was a partnership between Cordaid-SL and Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD). Cordaid-SL as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) has been working to strengthen the health systems and private sector development in the country. It has also been providing platforms to facilitate constructive engagement among people and communities to promote peace and social cohesion. The Youth Partnership for Peace and Development (YPPD) on the other hand, is a voluntary and non-profit youth-led development organization working actively to promote youth empowerment and participation in development across countries. The project was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF).

The direct project beneficiaries were 360 young people (young women and men) who are between 15-35 years old in the various communities, and 240 community-based dispute resolution (CBDR) providers

#### 2.2 PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

This final evaluation seeks to provide a platform for accountability and organizational learning. In area of accountability, the evaluation provides an opportunity to ensure accountability to partner organizations, donors, and other stakeholders on performance against targets. In terms of organizational learning, the evaluation documents good practices, challenges, and lessons learned from the implementation of the project to inform decision-making on scaling-up the approaches adopted during implementation and to formulate new strategies (or improve existing strategies). Therefore, this final evaluation will provide insight in the main results (outcomes) and the key learnings of the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project implemented in 2021/2022, as well as recommendations on sustainability and replication.

The findings of this evaluation will inform Cordaid, implementing partners (IPs), donors and other stakeholders the processes implemented, output achieved, and progress made in strengthening CBDR structure, promoting the rights of women and youth as they come in conflict with the law at the community level.

#### 2.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

The specific objectives of this evaluation derived from the terms of reference are:

- I. To provide a good insight in the relevance and effectiveness of the results (outcomes) of the inclusive conflict prevention and peacebuilding project in the period 19th February 2021 to 18th August 2022 with regards to the project objectives and the peacebuilding needs in the targeted communities.
- II. To assess results achieved to date in comparison with the performance indicators outlined in the project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework.
- III. To assess the project on gender sensitivity and inclusivity of females in CBDR structures

- IV. To identify good practices and innovations from the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project implementation
- V. To draw lessons and make recommendations for enhancing project implementation and performance.

#### 2.4 FINAL EVALUATION DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

The deliverables of the evaluation emphasize timely completion of the assignment and provision of data that will serve as a reference point for assessing progress made on indicators and outputs as articulated in the results framework of the project and identifying critical factors for project success and/or constraints to achieving the expected project results as shown in Table 2 below.

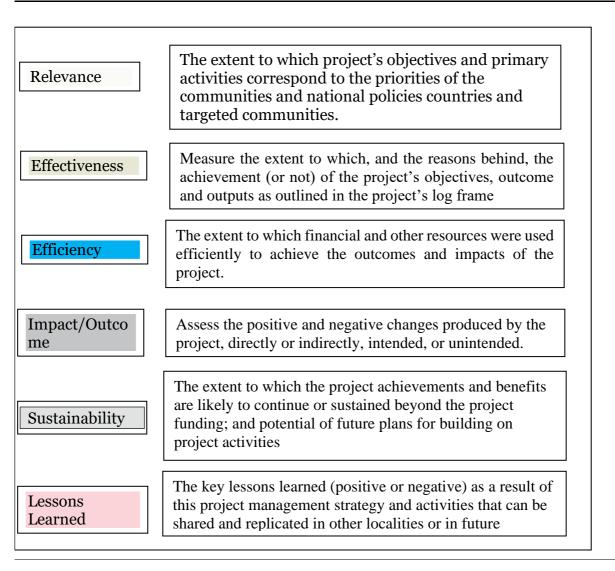
TABLE 2: TIMELINES AND DELIVERABLES FOR FINAL EVALUATION				
Activity/Tasks	Responsible Persons/Orgaization	Date		
Awarding of Contract	Cordaid/Consultant	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2022		
Desk Review	Consultant	15 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2022		
The inception report: including data collection tools, evaluation matrix, approved evaluation work plan etc. (Maximum 8 pages excl. annexes)	Consultant	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2022		
Review of Inception Report by Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)	Cordaid	23rd - 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2022		
Data collection (field visits, meetings, FDGs etc.)	Consultant	25 <sup>th</sup> August – 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022		
Submission of draft evaluation report	Consultant	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2022		
Review of Draft evaluation report	Cordaid	19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2022		
The final evaluation report incl. the findings, conclusions, recommendations and an executive summary. The final report (including executive summary but excluding annexes) should not exceed 40 pages.	Consultant	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022		

#### 2.5 SCOPE AND APPROACH

The OECD/DAC framework for development programme evaluation has been used to guide this evaluation and answer the evaluation questions related to the project's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability (see Figure 1). This scope, therefore, covered all activities undertaken and compared planned outputs/outcomes to the achievements and assessed the actual results to determine their contribution to the attainment of the project outcomes. A mixed methods data collection and analysis approach was used, which was participatory and inclusive. Project activities and performance across the project communities were assessed using document review, interviews with project staff, implementing partners and stakeholders at national, district and community levels. Primary data collection involved the use of structured questionnaires to interview direct household project beneficiaries in selected communities as well as the use of checklists to conduct key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGD), community meetings, and observation. The

evaluation was conducted following the 2017 UNEG<sup>1</sup> <u>Norms and Standards</u>; and the 2020 <u>Ethical</u> <u>Guidelines</u> for Evaluation, which guided the procedural and ethical consideration of the exercise.

#### FIGURE 1 » ADAPTED OECD/DAC FRAMEWORK USED FOR THE EVALUATION



SOURCE: 1 United Nations Evaluation Group

The evaluation covered the project's 18-month lifespan between February 2021 and August 2022.

#### 2.6 COVID-19 MEASURES

All field activities were conducted in full compliance with the Covid-19 regulations. Provision of Covid-19 related supplies-all personnel involved in the team were provided with face masks, hand sanitizers and were reminded of the Covid-19 prevention. Social distancing protocol was observed during the face-to-face interviews and FGD gatherings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations Evaluation Group

#### 2.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

This Evaluation exercise adhered to all the ethical considerations required for such activities. The field staff introduced themselves and the purpose of the evaluation and obtained the informed consent of respondents and FGD group participants before commencing the interviews. We ensured that respondents were allowed to ask questions about the evaluation and were satisfied with the process before we commenced the interview. Participation in the survey was voluntary, and no one was forced to say or do anything against their will. The interview was flexible to allow participants to express themselves; participants/respondents were encouraged to provide their candid opinions/perceptions on the issues raised freely without being forced. When ending the interview or discussion, the evaluation staff extended their gratitude to participants/respondents for the time spent on responding to the study. Also, they were assured of the strict confidentiality of the data and protection of their privacy.

## 3. SECTION THREE: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Evaluation involved collecting both secondary and primary data, which were analyzed and triangulated in this report as part of the findings of the evaluation. These findings are linked to the deliverables of the exercise as well as the activities, outcomes of the project, as well as to the OECD evaluation thematic criteria. The methodological stages are discussed below.

#### 3.2 STATEGE1: EVALUATION PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES AND TOOLS DESIGN

The preparatory activities of the exercised involved client engagement to discuss the terms of reference (ToR) and to review documents and secondary data. At least two meetings were held with relevant Project Managers and staff as part of the client engagement process to clarify timelines of the assignment, and as well as to have access to reverent project and other documents. The desk review of project documents forms the basis for the mapping of stakeholders and the drafting of the data collection tools.

#### 3.2.1 Tools Development

The Final Evaluation made use of structured questionnaire as part of the quantitative techniques, and checklist as part of the qualitative data collection technique. These two instruments were designed in line with the evaluation thematic areas to collect relevant information from selected respondents and stakeholders. The structured questionnaire was administered on a face-to-face basis to the selected household direct beneficiaries of the project in the chosen communities. The main themes of the questionnaire included perceptions of households in relation to the OCED thematic areas of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, suitability, and impacts of the project activities and output.

This checklist was developed to collect data from the selected key informants and focus group discussion (FGD) participants in the different project communities and at districts and national levels. This checklist contains questions on project management strategy, inputs, outputs, and possible impacts. These are discussion points that solicited a variety of responses in other to assess the perceptions of stakeholders with regard to project success and challenges. FGD checklist was accompanied by an attendance list for each group containing key demographics such as name, age, educational level, and occupation.

The structured questionnaires were programmed into the computer-aided personal interviews (CAPI). A CAPI-based program was developed using kobocollect software facilities. The app was installed on phones or tablets of the enumerators. The instruments and CAPI were pre-tested and used for the training and filed teams

#### 3.2.2 Selection of Communities and Respondents

The sampling strategy was a multi-stage sample design which determined the sample using the sampling technique developed by Taro Yamane  $(1967)^2$  as follows: $n = N/(1 + N(e^d), -----eq1;$  where: n is the sample size, N is the total number of communities of the project (23), e is the level of precision (95% confidence level or 0.05 error margin), and the power d=1 is the design effect or deviational factor.

This produced a sample size of 10 project communities, which were selected for the evaluation, as shown in Table 3 below

TABLE 3: SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION BY PROJECT LOCAL COUNCIL AREA							
District	Total communities	Selected Communities	FGD Quantitative Survey				
			Total	Youth Male only	Youth Female Only	Stakeholder	
WAR	4	2	6	2	2	2	20
Tonkolili	9	4	12	4	4	4	40
Pujehun	10	4	12	4	4	4	40
Total	23	10	30	10	10	10	100

According to this design, one FGD was organized for each category: male youth, female youth, and stakeholders in each community. This means that 3 FGD were organized in each community selected for the evaluation. About 6-10 participants will be in each of the FGD sessions. In addition, 100 household respondents (10 from each community) were targeted for this exercise

KII interviews were not conducted at the community level since the quantitative survey surfaced in capturing their responses in a face-to-face interview. However, the KIIs were conducted at the national and district levels. The stakeholder mapping exercise revealed the potential number of stakeholders in the district, which could serve as key informants for this evaluation (see Annex 3). It is clear that a maximum of 6 key informant interviews (KII) were targeted in each district. A list of key informants and institutions such as the Local council leaders, districts leaders, MDAs, women/youth-led CSOs leaders, the security sector etc. was followed in the field for the interviews.

#### **Selection of Respondents**

A systematic sampling procedure was followed to select 10 household respondents allocated to each community: 5 male and 5 female respondents. The systematic sampling procedure is where any nth value of the sub-strata is selected and included in the sample. The selection of households for the evaluation was done in the field. The supervisors led the selection process through the segmentation of project beneficiaries and stakeholders; the team interviewed each household respondent chosen using the structured questionnaire.

<sup>2</sup> Yamane, Taro (1967) Statistics an Introductory Analysis. 2nd Edition, New York, Harper and Row

In the case of the KII, it is the institution that is selected in the first instance based on the role the organization is playing in the project and the community in relation to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Within such institutions, the KII participants are selected using the 'purposively' method, which is based on their perceived:

- Knowledge of the communities, and the project activities
- Life-experience and professional duties at national or district levels
- Particular characteristics or role they are playing in the district's dispute resolution mechanisms

A list of key informants and institutions was developed from the literature review, as well as from expert knowledge. This was updated in the field following discussions with some of the stakeholders.

The participants for the FGD were selected using the following criteria:

Age: Participants will be at least 15-35 years-these were responsible, and knowledgeable youth, and adult stakeholders

**Gender**: to allow male and female to freely participate and share their experiences, we will have 2 groups:

- Male only groups
- Female only groups
- Adult Stakeholder groups (male/female)

#### Social status: The participants would come from all categories of status including:

- Chiefs/leaders
- Bike riders
- Businesspeople/traders
- Students/Teachers
- Gainfully employed
- Unemployed
- Married/unmarried
- Elders/youth

This disaggregation of the FGD is applied to have a comprehensive view of the respondents around the key evaluation questions and thematic areas

The Teams worked with partners and stakeholders to purposefully select the venue suitable for FGD group discussions. We selected the venue using the following criteria:

- The conduciveness of the environment to hold discussions-heavily business concentrated areas will be avoided
- Easily accessible –it is quick to find and easy to get to
- Private, and quiet-free from interruptions and distractions from non-participants.
- Participants can see each other and hear each other easily

In most cases, the court barrays, chief's compound, open-air places, and private homes/compound were selected as suitable venues to hold the discussions. The selected participants will be directed to the venue selected for the discussions

#### 3.2.3 Training of Field Staff

Eight (8) Enumerators and 2 Supervisors with experience in data collection and field management, will be selected from our database base of staff for the training. The training of field staff/teams is a

very critical part of the successful conduction of the evaluation. Data collectors or Enumerators and Supervisors will be trained for 3 days.

The training will introduce the evaluation and its methodology and will specifically focus on the data collection approaches and interview techniques (such as how to administrate structured questionnaires, Key informant interviews, and focused group discussions) that will be used for the evaluation. The training will also thoroughly go through electronic data collection skills using kobocollect.

The training was an in-depth interactive training on the techniques of conducting quantitative and qualitative assessments. The sessions were participatory and interactive and involved role-plays, quizzes, mock interviews, and case studies conducted to test trainees' abilities in the practice and use of the tools using both paper questionnaires and the tablet mask; many demonstrations and scenarios were created as part of going through the questionnaire on a question by question basis, and all trainees were actively involved to ensure that they understand the instruments very well and able to apply it in practice. The first two days was focused on structured questionnaires and checklists review.

The last day of the training was focused on practical field practice to pre-test the structured and semistructured questionnaires. The pre-test was carried out to test the appropriateness of the questions and to some extent, the implementation plan as well to identify possible challenges. All aspects of the study such as the transportation and field arrangements were tested to determine their suitability for the exercise. The pre-test helped to review our questionnaires as well as our implementation plan to maybe increase the response rate and minimize errors in the main exercise.

The fieldwork arrangement was discussed with the field staff during the last day of training. The field arrangement included the logistics, payment of field allowance, uploading of the finalized version of the programme into tablets, and deployment of teams in the field

#### 3.3 STAGE 2: FIELDWORK DATA COLLECTION

The fieldwork was conducted in the selected communities and at district level and organized in 2 teams of 5 members comprising a supervisor, moderator, note-taker, and 2 interviewers to undertake data collection including conducting the KII and FGD interviews in the field. The supervisor is the head of the team and will support the moderator in organizing the FGD sessions in the communities. The Teams conducting focus group discussions had a moderator and note-taker to help record the responses from the groups' discussions in a notepad. The responses were specific to each question and capture the views of all members of the group. The Note-taker is to support the conduct of the FGD by taking notes as required by the checklist. The Interviewers were responsible for the administration of the structured questionnaires to the household respondents as well as to conduct the KII interviews with key stakeholders in the districts and communities.

The field staff were deployed for data collection across the city immediately after training. Furthermore:

- The data collection period was for7 days
- The workload was distributed almost fairly equally among the 2 teams, the 2 teams worked in Western Area Rural first before proceeding to the provinces
- That Field Teams will be given logistics to be able to move from locality to locality to conduct the face-to-face interviews and the focus group discussions

The structured interviews data was uploaded to the kobocollect dashboard.

#### 3.3.1 Data Quality Monitoring

Team supervisors were responsible for the daily monitoring of the fieldwork. The supervisors observed the interviewers' skills and performance especially during the first day of the data collection as well as for regular spot checks. During the fieldwork period, each team was visited multiple times by the Lead Consultant and other partners to monitor their progress as well as to perform quality control checks.

Throughout the fieldwork, remote monitoring of the uploaded data was done and Field Check Tables (FCT), were produced daily for analysis and action with field teams. The virtual monitoring of the data through the kobocollect dashboard will ensure that supervisors will be prompted to follow up with issues arising and get them corrected.

In addition, a WhatsApp Group was created for the evaluation Team, such that at the end of each day, the supervisor will send SMS updates including the number of interviews completed by the team, showing a breakdown of categories of settlements and facilities, and KII and FGD. The IT Team kept track of the received SMS on a separate file and submitted it to the Lead Consultant for review regularly.

#### 3.4 STAGE 3: DATA ANALYSIS, AND REPORTING

Data cleaning was done concurrently during the fieldwork, as well as at the end of the fieldwork. A data analysis plan was developed in line with the deliverables. Data analysis was done based on the analysis plan, and this captured both data from the dashboard for the structured questionnaires and those recorded in the template for the KII and FGDs interviews.

Regarding the qualitative analysis, it was a content analysis of the information and data collected. This covered descriptive data from individual and group interviews according to the following method:

- extraction for each theme of key information as expressed by stakeholders.
- the prioritization of this information according to their frequency of occurrence in each type of interview and the whole.
- comparison between sources of information to identify divergences and convergences; and
- the illustration of key lessons and messages that reflect as much as possible the perception expressed by the structures and persons met, the partners, and potential beneficiaries of the implementation of the project actions.

In terms of quantitative analysis, SPSS Statistical package was used to generate descriptive statistics such as frequency tables, charts, etc. The data was cross tabulated with geographical variables such as community/district against demographic characteristics of the household respondents such as sex, age, and level of education.

In addition, the baseline and end-line data were compared, and depending on the adequacy of both data, a difference in difference analysis was adopted to measure the counterfactual changes (using **BEFORE-AFTER** analysis framework) that can be assigned to the project interventions.

The report was drafted using the data and charts obtained from the field from all sources. These findings were synthesized into clear, evidence-based conclusions, which will generate policy action recommendations. The final report incorporated the comments and inputs from Cordaid and partners.

## 4. SECTION FOUR: EVALUATION FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

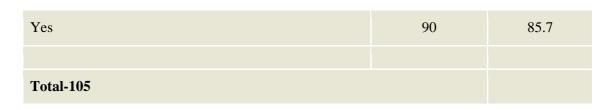
#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the evaluation results obtained from the evaluation quantitative assessment and qualitative including the key informant interviews (KII) and the focus group discussion (FGD). The data presentation includes tables and charts and percentages used to draw inferences from the data, in line with the objectives set for this assessment.

#### 4.2 PROFILE OF THE BENEFICIARY RESPONDENTS

A total of 105 household respondents were successfully interviewed in the target project communities as part of the structure interviews, which also covered the key informant interviews. The results in Table 4 below show that majority of the respondents interviewed were female (51.4%) compared to males (41.6%). Also, 59 percent were young people (15-35 years); 29.5 per cent have never been to school, compared to 39.0 percent who had attained secondary school level. Also, 85.7 percent were members of community-based dispute resolution (CBDR) structures.

TABLE 4: BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS				
Gender	Frequency	Percent (%)		
Female	54	51.4		
Male	51	48.6		
Age				
15-35 years	62	59.0		
36+ years	43	41.0		
Educational Level Attained				
No Education	31	29.5		
Primary Level	17	16.2		
Secondary Level	41	39.0		
Diploma/TC/HTC	11	10.5		
First Degree/higher	5	4.8		
Are you a member of any supported CBDR Group				
No	15	14.3		



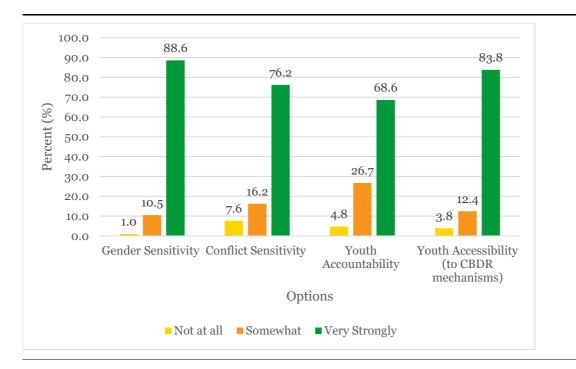
Furthermore, the evaluation conducted 30 focus group discussions in 10 communities with 287 participants. The participants were young people and adult stakeholders; most of these participants (62.5%) were members of CBDR groups and engaged in agriculture and business activities. In addition, a total of 28 key informant interviews were also conducted covering government officials, CSO partners, and key community stakeholders not covered in household survey and the focus group discussions

#### 4.3 RELEVANCE

This section of the evaluation will focus on the project's alignment with UNPBF, national and beneficiary needs of the project country and targeted communities.

#### 4.3.1 Relevance for target people and communities

The evaluation found out that the project and its activities were regarded as highly relevant throughout the communities targeted, as confirmed by all target respondents, communities and stakeholders as indicated during the interviews and FGDs conducted by the consultant. At household level the priority accorded to improved access to CBDR structures, gender sensitivity, youth accountability remains, extremely high. The proportion of survey respondents for the strong response of the project to issues ranged from 88.6 per cent (gender sensitivity), followed by 83.8 percent (youth accessibility to CBDR mechanisms), to 76.2% conflict sensitivity and 68.6% youth accountability.



#### FIGURE 1: PERCEPTION OF KOLHAT BARRAY PROJECT'S RESPONDED TO THE NEEDS OF THIS COMMUNITY

**SOURCE**: Kolhat barray evaluation team

The different capacity-building interventions for both youth and stakeholders remain highly relevant and necessary for all the categories of beneficiaries and in the communities as expressed by FGD participants. Women (90.1%) are more likely to strongly agree than men (84.9%) that the Kolhat Barray responded to the needs of the people in the communities

"before the project a very few youth and women were and allowed in the chief barry during settlements of disputes as well as the discussion of community matters including the sharing of royalty payments" ----- FGD participants in Bumbuna, Tonkolili

From the document review, FGD data analysis and interviews the evaluation assesses that the project has a good balance of focus between interventions aimed at addressing issues for large numbers of vulnerable populations (such as women and youth) and the powerbrokers such as the chiefs, police and formal court structures as CBDR providers. The project reached youth, women, and stakeholder groups in the communities, and this included the vulnerable s in the communities. Women participants constituted about 50% of all project's organized workshops and community engagement meetings.

The FGD participants noted that" "The project did not discriminate at all, everyone was part of it including the chiefs, youth, women and religious leaders"-FGD Participants at Makali

The household interviews show that 99 per cent of respondents believed that youth and women were largely involved in the implementation of the project activities in the communities. They were involved using various strategies such as community engagement, workshops, town hall meetings, focus group discussions, social activities (such as football matches), and storytelling.

#### 4.3.2 Alignment with government priorities

The literature review shows that the project was fully aligned with the government policies and priorities on youth and women's empowerment, social cohesion, peacebuilding and conflict resolution as defined in the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP 2019-2023) and specific conflict resolution and social cohesion policies. The Medium-Term Development Plan (2019-2023)<sup>3</sup>, currently in the fourth year of implementation, incorporated the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially those bordering on human capital development (education, health and food security), promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, youth empowerment, as well as promoting peace and inclusive development across all sectors of society. The project also embodies the aspirations of SDG Goal #16 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels', which supports women as well as young people to be at the center of development activities as a means to prevent conflict and consolidate peace.

Peacebuilding, youth and women's participation in development, and social cohesion in general, are given high priority in the following national and international documents as shown in Table 5:

TABLE 5: FRAMEWORKS FOR INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT		
Framework	Inclusion of women/youth	

<sup>3</sup> Sierra Leone Medium Term Development Plan-Education for Development (2019-2023), Vol.1, 2019

UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000)	Reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,
UNSC Resolution 1820 (2008)	Reaffirms the obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and urging states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them,
UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015)	Affirming the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,
National Development Plan (2019-2023): clusters 5 and 6	Calls for promoting the overall empowerment of women in the political, social, economic, and cultural spheres (cluster 5) Call for the support to youth to undertake viable and innovative business activities through start-up protects and to promote collaboration among them by taking advantage of their ingenuity for job creation. It is also to ensure the enforcement of labour laws for the benefit of youth in employment and business (Cluster 6).
The Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion Act, 2021	It is the platform to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts; to build, promote and maintain sustainable peace in Sierra Leone; and to provide for other related matters
The African Youth Charter's Article 11	States that every young person (defined as persons between 15-35 years) has the right to participate in all spheres of society; and that the state is obliged to guarantee youth participation in parliament; local, national, regional, and continental levels of governance; and ensure equal access to young men and young women to participate in decision-making and in fulfilling civic duties.
SDG #5 and #16	Calls for an end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (SDG#5) Call for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG#16)
CEDAW, 1979	Calls for the end of all forms of discrimination against women.
Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)	Adopted in December 1993, the Declaration focuses specifically on VAW (as a form of GBV), providing a definition for VAW and examples of forms it takes, and recommends actions states can (and should) take to eliminate VAW "without delay"

This shows that the project design and activities were fully in line with government policies on the project thematic areas.

#### 4.3.3 Alignment with funders' country strategies and objectives

This project was aligned with the mandate Cordaid and YPPD as implementing partners, given their broader focus on youth, community development, women's empowerment and peacebuilding. Cordaid-SL focus as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and a development partner of the government, has been working to strengthen the health systems and private sector development in the country. They have also been providing platforms to facilitate constructive engagement among people and communities to promote peace and social cohesion. The Youth Partnership for Peace and

Development (YPPD) on the other hand, is a voluntary and non-profit youth-led development organization working actively to promote youth empowerment and participation in development across countries. The project was aligned with the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) mandate to promote peace and dialogue, hence funded the project.

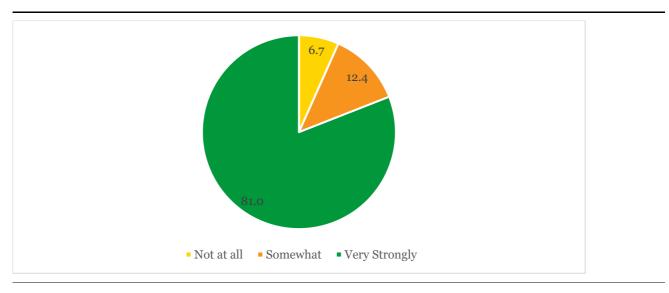
#### 4.3.4 Quality of project design

The literature review revealed that a needs assessment was conducted, which informed the project design and implementation strategies. A baseline survey as well as the Rapid assessment conducted at the launch of the project contributed to the settling up of project indicator sheet in the M&E framework.

Figure 3 shows that the majority (81%) of household respondents strongly perceived the project to be generally well designed, which took into account the cultural and social context of the people and communities targeted.

FGD participants in all communities confirmed that *"the project staff were respectful and did not interfere with our culture and tradition, this why we cooperated with them fully"* 

#### FIGURE 2: PERCEPTION OF APPROPRIATE PROJECT DESIGN



#### SOURCE: Kolhat barray evaluation team

The review of documents revealed that the project has an M&E system, project staff, and clear intervention logic, expressed in the theory of change underpinning the project's design, which assumes that the project interventions will lead to changes in the conflict factors identified in the conflict analysis given the existence of certain conditions. Commendable activities include the involvement of youth/women-led civil society organizations in the implementation process. These CSOs supported project advocacy activities in the communities as well as CBDR structures capacity-building drive. The Logical framework was largely well-designed, with all the elements necessary for it to serve as the basis for planning and monitoring activities and outcomes.

The assumptions in the TOC were assessed to be relevant and well formulated at the appropriate levels. However, they are mostly broad in focus, and some of them have not held completely in relation to time, hence may have affected the project results. For example, maintaining peace and social cohesion in a community is a collective effort and responsibility of all that goes beyond the

efforts of one project; other efforts must have contributed as well. Nevertheless, the project supported the appropriate CBDR structures and youth/women-led organizations such as Mammy Queen, Women's Leader, and Youth Leader (District, Chiefdom, and Community levels).

#### **4.4 EFFICIENCY**

The efficiency with which the project was implemented was high in most aspects. The aspects covered were planning, budgeting, monitoring and management, human and other resources.

#### 4.4.1 Implementation against budget and work plans

The project duration was eight months from February 2021 to July 2022. This period was not extended, which indicates better time management of project activities. It also underlined the fact that IPs had the capacity in both human and materials to carry out the project activities. Also, the project was largely run-on budget, which amounted to US\$ 1,359,999.96, which was paid in three tranches (35%, 35% & 30%). More than half the amount (53.5%) was allocated to gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE). The project procumbent plan has been implemented, and the project awaits final auditing.

#### 4.4.2 Quality of project management

The quality of project management in general was good. The roles and responsibilities for project management arrangements and the lines of communication among implementing partners (IPs) were defined. Regular monthly planning and review exercises were conducted with the IPs and the plans formalized in agreements with the partners. The IPs received funding tranches as needed after reporting on activities undertaken and accounting for the previous tranche. The monitoring and quality control system was well designed and seems to have been implemented effectively. An M&E Unit was established, based on the need to follow through on the logical-frame indicators. A Needs Assessment for Community Based Dispute Resolution Service Providers, baseline survey, Pre-Screening and Identification of 240 Local Community Based Dispute Resolution Service Providers, the Rapid Assessment for the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project in Sierra Leone were conducted to establish baseline values for the indicators. Regular monitoring and reporting was ensured. Quality assurance was ensured by means of technical supervision by project officials and consultants.

#### 4.4.3 M&E and decision-making

There is some indication that M&E systems contributed to informed decision-making and project management. Systems for planning and monitoring contributed through project implementation meetings. The IPs jointly conducted M&E activities, visiting project communities to assess progress and challenges. There were coordination meetings that were organized to discuss project activities and challenges. In addition, a mid-term review was conducted, which included key stakeholders of the project, including UN agencies, Government, the media, Local Authorities, beneficiaries from the project operational district, civil society actors, and youth-led organizations. The meetings assessed progress towards meeting the project's objectives; limiting factors; lessons learned, risk and risk mitigation, and project sustainability. Feedback on including disability, more youth empowerment, and extending to other districts were discussed and noted to foster quality and sustainable implementation and future engagement with partners. The logical frame of indicators shared has many activity indicators, which are qualitative in nature and hence no quantitative estimates could be compiled on such indicators without baseline, mid-term and target data, which limits the evaluation process. There is a clarity in the Theory of Change (TOC) which directly link the activities and outputs to the intended results (outcomes and impact) expressed in the results framework. However,

some of the indicators at the activity level were qualitative and hence definitions for measuring achievements and progress were not obvious from the data compiled in the M&E framework. For example, Activity 2.1.1: "Young women and men actively monitor change in CBDR activities and outcomes and provide regular feedback to CBDR providers on inclusivity, gender-sensitivity and conflict sensitivity" need clarification as to how to be measured in the M&E framework.

#### 4.4.4 Quality of products

The households surveyed and FGD participants believed that the project achieved a lot in the communities in the area of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. They confirmed the significant efforts the project made in ensuring young women and men were mobilized and equipped to take both individual and group actions on drivers of conflict, insecurity, and injustice. In the three project locations, 25 youth-led organizations were identified, screened, and selected to participate in co-creation and story-collection exercises. The project was able to train 23 youth-led organizations trained on project, organizational and financial management and provided with financial and technical support to implement activities on the inclusion of young men and women into community structures with a specific focus on advancing peacebuilding mechanisms in their respective project communities. Women were involved at all stages of the implementation exercise.

One of the community stakeholders interviewed noted that: "The project wasted no time in engaging youths to reduce tensions among themselves as well as between them and the chiefs in many communities". This underscores the value community stakeholder placed on the quality of work achieved in the project communities".

Furthermore, the evaluation shows that the integration of youth/women in CBDR committees in most of the communities is a good indication of the quality of facilitation and dialogue strategies brought to bear on the processes during the project implementation in the different communities

Similarly, a KII respondent in Maguraka in Tonkolili District said that "I believe the project output was of good quality, especially the small grant, which was given to support their businesses, the training given was very precise and educative about business and peaceful co-existence in the community"

However, evaluation respondents wished that as peacebuilding was a process and not a one-off event, the construction of a youth center for recreational activities could be given due consideration in future interventions so as to promote networking with youth and stakeholders in the communities.

#### 4.4.5 Perception of Quality of the output

The evaluation findings show that the household beneficiaries were very satisfied with the project output, especially the sharing of training on civic rights and responsibility, conflict sensitive dialogue and youth empowerment.

TABLE 6: SATISFACTION WITH THE PROJECT OUTPUT					
Response/Options	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)		
Very Satisfied	25.7	27.2	26.5		

Satisfied	62.3	59.5	60.9
Not sure	10.2	10.1	10.1
Dissatisfied	1.8	3.2	2.5
Total	100	100	100

Table 6 shows that 60.9 percent and 26.5 percent of the household respondents were satisfied and very satisfied, respectively with the project outputs. Both women and men were satisfied with the project, although women (27.2%) were more likely than men 25.7%) to be "very satisfied" with the project activities and outcomes. This is due to the active role women were allowed to play in the implementation and integrated into CBDR structures.

In a summary, the evaluation results show that 41% of CBDR providers are more gender sensitive, 53% more conflict sensitive, 51% are more youth sensitive. Furthermore, 56% of youths are satisfied with the responsiveness of the CBDR structures and 69% are not satisfied with the accountability of the CBDR structure. 46% of youth perceive that the CBDR structures are gender sensitive. 56% are of the perception that they are accessible to youth but 66% thinks they are not accountable to the youth. This is because there is no feedback or check and balances between them and the CBDR providers that are mostly adults. Fifty-four percent (54%) of women perceived CBDR providers to have acquired improved knowledge about their personal leadership as well as the need to integrate women in those structures, These CBDR providers respond to complaints and resolves conflict quickly, especially those concerning women and girls in the communities This is a result of their knowledge in conflict mitigation, response, and analysis and gender equality in leadership positions

FGD participants had this to say in this regard:

"I am stratified with the project output, especially with the small grant and human rights awareness"....Youth FGD Participant at Mansobiri

"I believe the dialogue among youth/women was very successful, peace has returned among them".....Stakeholder **FGD participant at Tombo** 

It is clear that, broadly, the targeted groups were reached within the communities through the involvement of stakeholders serving as volunteers.

#### 4.4.6 Internal and External factors

A major unforeseen barrier was the poor road infrastructure in the project areas that were perpetually difficult to use, especially during the rainy season. The rainy season usually limited operations for 2-3 months. The disruptions were in part mitigated by recruiting community CSOs/CBOs in the districts with the strong community-based operation to conduct the activities of dialogue and peacebuilding in the different communities.

"We planned before the rainy season, and we worked with our community contacts to mobilize the communities, and we reduced unnecessary travels"...KII IP CSO respondent in Tonkolili

It seems evident that the IPs did address the challenges effectively.

#### 4.4.7 Partnerships with implementing NGOs

In general, the approach of implementing in partnership with other NGOs who in turn partnered with target communities organized by them, was vindicated in this project. In all project districts and communities visited we confirmed the advantages of the approach, which included the following. One main advantage documented is the high level of ownership of the process and of the responsibility for CBDR operations in the communities. In addition, the combination of youth/women led and culturally sensitive NGOs/CSOs and proactive community leadership ensured that, in most cases, the complex and potentially disruptive issues of leadership of and access to CBDR structures were negotiated without undue delays and struggles. The project also supported general civic education, and human rights advocacy, including gender-based violence sensitizations.

#### 4.4.8 Coordination with other projects

Project level coordination generally worked well, with good collaboration with partners, Ministry of Youth Affairs (MOYA), Ministry of Gender and children's Affairs (MoGCA), District Councils (DCs), Office of National Security (ONS), Legal Aid Board, the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), and CSOs supporting the implementation in the districts and communities. This type of collaboration among NGOs ensured that duplication and overlap tendencies were overcome; hence providing a strong basis for value for money. However, the collaboration became weaker towards the end of the project as field activities were completed, and meetings became less frequent.

The activities of the project were effectively coordinated with those of other projects with the IPs portfolio at both national and district levels. This was ensured right from the design phase of the project, during which the identification of target districts and communities was made in such a way as to avoid overlap with other activities. Effective synergies were achieved among the partners. For strategic matters there were consultations between Cordaid and the Ministries and local councils. These mainly take place in the steering committee meetings, held once quarterly, where officials of the ministries and local councils are represented. The coordination of activities contributed to the success of the project

#### 4.4.9 Risk management

Most of the risks associated with external factors preventing the project from achieving its planned outputs, having implemented the planned activities and delivered the required products, were anticipated in the log frame. In this regard, the most significant external risk (not included in the log frame) was the inability to influence government decision-making time frames, including policy formulation and enactment of laws in favor of increased participation of youth/women in complicit resolution processes and development in at the community and chiefdom levels. Even though IP organizations have influence and leverage with the government in line with their mandates, they were not able to significantly influence these processes during the lifespan of the project. Another unforeseen risk was the poor road infrastructure in the project areas that were difficult to use, especially during the rainy season. This was more obvious in Tonkolili Districts, where the rainy season almost some roads impassable. Other risks, such as COVID-19, procurement and disbursement delays appeared to have been competently managed

#### 4.4.10 effectiveness of the implementation strategies

The project implementation strategy was very appropriate to achieve the desired goal of the project. The CSO partners and community stakeholders confirmed that the implementation arrangements ensured inclusiveness of all stakeholders including CBDR, youth and women groups in the districts. Women and youth were included in all implementation committees and integrated into CBDR structures. Overall, the local contribution to creating enabling environment for the project activities in the communities was appreciated by project staff and IPs but was not documented.

### 4.5 EFFECTIVENESS

This section describes the progress made in the three main outcomes and cross cutting themes related to project effectiveness.

# 4.5.1 OUTCOME 1:

# [Young women and men, working intergenerationally are equipped and mobilized to identify and take action on key drivers of conflict, insecurity and injustice in their communities]

The evaluation shows that the project made significant efforts in ensuring young people (women and men) are mobilized and equipped to take both individual and group actions on drivers of conflict, insecurity, and injustice. The data in Table 7 shows that outcome 1 indicator targets were achieved. For example, 87 per cent of respondents perceived an improvement in young people's knowledge and skills in relation to conflict resolution and peacebuilding compared to 70 percent target

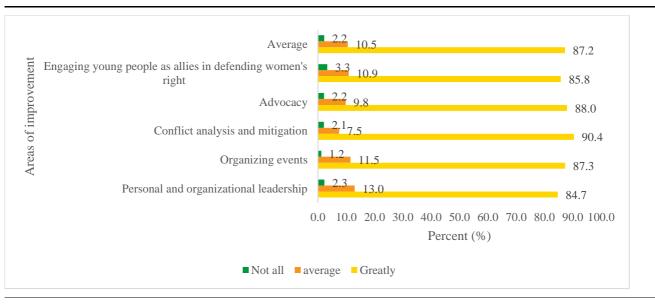
There were many strategies implemented to able to achieve this outcome. In the three project districts 24 youth-led organizations were identified, screened, and selected to participate in a co-creation and story collection exercises.

TABLE 7: PROJECT C	TABLE 7: PROJECT OUTCOME LEVEL INDICATORS								
Level	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	End of project M&E Data	Final project Evaluation				
Outcome 1: Young women and men, working intergenerationally are equipped and mobilized to identify and take action on key drivers of conflict, insecurity and injustice in their communities	Indicator 1.1: % of young women and men with Improved knowledge, attitudes and skills related to personal and organizational leadership, organizing, conflict analysis and mitigation, advocacy, and engaging young men as allies in defending women's right	20%	70%		87%				
communities	Indicator 1.2: % of young women and men with Improve perception of the space for their engagement and willingness of decision-makers to respond to their demands	29%	50%		68%				

These youth-led organizations were trained on project, organizational and financial management and provided with financial and technical support to implement activities on the inclusion of young men and women into community structures with specific focus on advancing peacebuilding mechanisms in their respective project communities. Furthermore, staff from these youth-led organizations were engaged to collect stories focusing on young people to understand local context and insights on the dynamics of conflict, insecurity, and injustice. The exercise helped these youth-led organizations to become more aware about the actual issues and key drivers of conflict at community level. Some of these drivers of conflict were included into the proposals funded by the project from these youth-led organizations. In addition, community and district stakeholders' validations were conducted to get their perspectives and further mapped the way forward on the various issues identified across the targeted communities in the three project locations. More than half of the workshop participants were women, which has enhanced the skills of women to have a voice in their communities. Women now play active roles in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in their different location as a result of the project intervention. A KII respondent interviewed in Tonkolili believed that

"Women now have the ability to inquire into the causes and potential direction of a conflict and can now better seek to identify opportunities for managing or resolving disputes without recourse to violent action"—**KII Respondents in Tonkolili District.** 

The evaluation shows that 84 percent of women and 70 percent of men rate them self as having positive attitude towards conflict resolution analysis and peacebuilding efforts in their community. The data in Figure 4 shows a disaggregation of respondents according to the good perception they hold regarding the contribution of the project to improved skills of young people and women in the various fields.



### FIGURE 4: THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROJECT IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

#### SOURCE: Kolhat barray evaluation team

The project trained 360 young women and young men on specific skills related to personal and organizational leadership, organizing, advocacy, engaging young men as allies in defending women's rights, gender equality and gender transformative approaches and public communication skills.

In Tonkolili, for example, young people facilitated a mediation process consisting of a series of meetings and dialogue sessions between the local Police, a local mining company, the office of national security and the paramount chief. This mediation process 5 ultimately led to the peaceful resolution of the conflict between the mining company and the local police. Whereas in Pujehun young people supported by this project improved collaboration between young and older civil society organizations. Evaluation respondents summarized this as follows:

"The 3 days of events organized by the project (through the small grants to youth-led CSOs) in Futa including cultural shows, dance and football matches brought together the youth and stakeholders of Pejeh Chiefdom and hence consolidated the peace in that chiefdom"---KII CSO Staff

"We are happy with Kolaht Barray project because the 4-year old conflict between the youth and the stakeholders over the construction of a court barray during the past regime was settled during the 3 days of events the project organized"---FGD Participant Futa Community

The project also supported 3 youth groups to implement peace-related activities, which focused on advocacy engagements with key stakeholders and other young people in the three project locations on international youth day. These youth groups derived from the various engagements action-oriented position papers and strategies to address conflict, insecurity and injustice and inclusion of young women and men into decision-making structures at community and district levels.

# 4.5.2 Outcome 2:

# [CBDR mechanisms adopt more inclusive, gender sensitive and conflict sensitive practices, with specific focus on addressing the needs of young women]

The literature review and the evaluation data show that the following structures were screened and supported in the different project communities, which are grouped under four sub-headings, as shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8: CATEGORIZATION OF THE CBDR STRUCTURES SUPPORTED							
Formal	Traditional/Customary	Community Elder	Women-run structures				
Police/FSU	Chief/Barray	Religious Leaders	Chair lady				
Legal Aid Board	Local Native Court	Youth Structure	Women's leader				
Local Police Partnership Board (LPPB)	Chiefdom Police Administration	Family/Community Elders	Mammy Queen				
Office of National Security (ONS)							

FGD data shows that formal CBDR structures are those recognized by the government to perform such roles in dispute resolution and could have been established in law by an Act of Parliament. The traditional or customary are those based on inheritance and hence guided by customs and traditions passed on from generation to generation. The community elder structure is one built on the trust of

the people due to age, education, and good moral standing, while the Women-sensitive structures are those exclusively run by women, although such structures are also supervised by men acting as Chiefs or Chairmen of the organization or the community.

### 4.5.2.1 Outcome 2 Indicators

In line with the target set, the project screened and selected 24 organizations from youth led CSOs and CBOs to participate in the co-creation workshop. All 24 were trained based on the capacity gap identified. As part of the co-creation workshop, palaver engagements and other training facilitated by the project helped the youth-led groups gain confidence in developing grassroots-level initiatives that demand inclusivity and gender sensitivity from CBDR providers. 23 of these organizations got their advocacy initiatives approved and received funding (small grants) for implementation across the three operational districts.

### Small Grant to CBOs/CSOs

With funds received from the small grant, Children Advocacy Forum (CAF-SL) in Pujehun district were able to train 30 community peace ambassadors who are residents of the five sections which includes Jakiema, Bundor, Dabeni, Mallah, Kemokai, in peri chiefdom. In addition, they were also able to mediate a land dispute between Gbanahun and Bomie which left dozens displaced and hospitalized.

"Prior to our intervention, there was a deep grudge which existed for several years between the two neighbouring villages (Gbanahun and Bomie), and it was due to the horrifying battle they had over a piece of land that left dozens hospitalized and displaced. With our intervention which was solidly supported by the Regent Chief and other chiefdom stakeholders, the conflict between Gbanahun and Bomie has been peacefully resolved. Residents of the two villages are now interacting on the disputed land named Kansa city and the entire villages without any fear of attack or insecurity" – CAF-SL narrative report.

Table 9: Outcome 2 Indicators							
Level	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	End of project M&E Data	Final project Evaluation		
Outcome 2: CBDR mechanisms adopt more inclusive, gender sensitive and conflict sensitive practices, with specific focus on addressing the	Indicator 2.1: % youth with improved perception of CBDR provider performance in four areas (inclusiveness, especially accessibility and accountability toward youth; gender-sensitive; conflict-sensitivity)	25	70		75%		

Furthermore, CSOs formed networks with each other to strengthen partnerships. As a result, there has been an increase of intervention activities in the project districts such as in Pujehun district.

needs of young women	Indicator 2.2: Improved self-assessment of CBDR providers in inclusiveness in three areas (inclusiveness, especially accessibility and accountability toward youth; gender-sensitivity)	25%	70%		65%
	Indicator 2.3: % youth satisfaction with responsiveness and accountability of CBDR providers	29	50	44	57%

Two-thirds of the outcome indicators was met. This success is due to the fact that the approach adopted led community members to hear concerns that are of threat to peace and proffer solutions together by developing strategies and action plans to prevent potential conflict. Also, a total of 15 community action plans were developed and implemented young women and youth views are more respected and included in key decision-making bodies in the three operational districts. Furthermore, 238 (Male-152, Female -86) community-based dispute resolution service providers (CBDR) have been trained to be more conflict sensitive, gender-sensitive and on the inclusion and participation of young women and youths into these dispute resolution structures in their communities. As a result of the training, there has been a systemic change, whereby the CBDR providers modified their practices to make it more inclusive of women and youths.

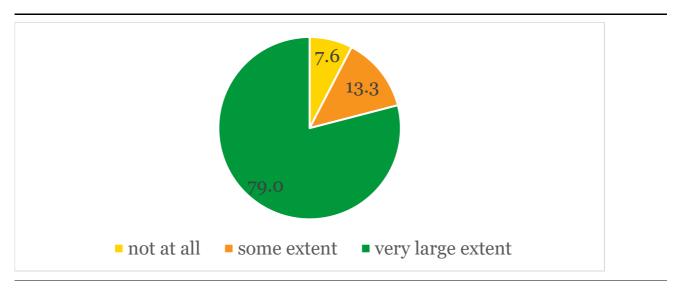
FGD discussions revealed that the training led to the recognition of women's role in CBDR processes and the strengthening of referral processes, which allows cases of GBV and others to be reported and actually followed up on. The training further led to the formation of a women's accountability group in Futa Peje Chiefdom, consisting of intergenerational women (youth and non-youth). The objective of the women's accountability group was to hold community duty bearers accountable to their obligation to respect, promote and realize women's rights and entitlements in their community.

The indicator that was slightly missed could be due to the limitation of community people to assess their abilities even after initial capacity-building

### 4.5.2.2 Perception on the quality of outputs

The evaluation asks respondents how satisfied they were with the project output achieved, especially with regards the responsiveness of CBDR providers to issues pertaining to women and youth in their community as well as peace and reconciliation in the communities. The findings shown in Figure indicate that the household beneficiaries were very satisfied with the project output,

### FIGURE 5: THE EXTENT OF THE PROJECT MEETING OUTCOME TARGETS



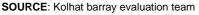


Figure shows that 79 percent and 13.3 percent of the household respondents agreed that the project responsive to a very large extent and to some extent, respectively to the youth/women needs and peacebuilding needs in the project communities.

FGD participants at Futa, Peje Chiefdom in Pujehun District, expressed their satisfaction with the project outcomes as "we are satisfied with the project outcomes, especially with the peace carnival and reconciliation football matches; this time round all stakeholders were involved in the peace talks"

These activities were conducted from the small grant provided to the youth-led organizations.

Similarly, a KII respondent in Maguraka in Tonkolili District said that "I believe the project output was of good quality, especially the small grant, which was given to support their businesses, the training given was very precise and educative about business and peaceful co-existence in the community".

This is because broadly, the targeted communities, youth, women and CBDR structures were reached within the project districts by involving community residents as implementing partners. The project data provided shows that a total of 238 CBDR providers, of which 37 percent were female, were trained to be conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive and on the inclusion and participation of young women and youths into these dispute resolution structures in their communities. This training has made it possible for the integration of women into CBDR structures.

"Here in Pujehun a decision was taken to ensure that the leaders of all CBDR structures if the Leader is male, the deputy will be female, with the exception of a few such as secrete society or chieftaincy related CBDR"....KII Participant in Pujehun Town

# 4.5.3 Outcome 3:

[Young women and men, working intergenerationally, take a leading role in advocating for evidence-based conflict prevention policy and practice, and build trust with key conflict prevention stakeholders]

Documents reviewed show output 3 was largely achieved given the high-level indicators measures. The evaluation findings show 64 percent of respondents perceived an increase in youth and women

participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the communities compared to the 44 percent target.

The evaluation that the project engaged 122 relevant civil society actors, of which 57 males and 65 females. These CSOs also included well-established and well known CSOs and activists, as well as community leaders in the three project districts. These sessions provided the youth-led groups with the opportunity to effectively engage community-based structures on the critical role of civil society activists working in the interest of communities and young people and creating space for their participation especially women.

TABLE 10: OUTCOME 3 INDICATORS									
Level	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	End of project M&E Data	Final project Evaluatio n				
Outcome 3: Young women and men, working intergenerationally, take a leading role in advocating for evidence-based conflict prevention	Indicator 3.1: Increase in perception of participation and influence in conflict prevention policy processes among young leaders engaged in the project	35%	60%	44%	64%				
policy and practice, and build trust with key conflict prevention stakeholders	Indicator 3.2: Inclusiveness of youths and women in key policy processes increased	36	61	48	70				

The project outcome 3 shown in Table 10 met its two indicators. The project supported the process of creating a platform for young people to take an active role in national advocacy. For example, young people in Pujehun were funded during the International Youth Day to engage stakeholders in peacebuilding advocacy, which led to the development of the "Pujehun Youth Peace and Security strategy" that was officially launched and validated by key district stakeholders including the District Officer on the 12th of August 2021.

The project also supported young people in Western Area and Tonkolili to organize a national youth summit at the house of parliament. One position paper on increase in budget allocation for the 'youth development fund' was developed for government and other stakeholders' action. In addition to the discrete advocacy actions at district and national levels, the project has conducted a national stakeholders meeting including key national development partners and critical stakeholders. The meeting assessed the extent to which the project's objective has been met so far with implementation; challenges; project learnings and best practices was shared especially with government stakeholders like the Office of national security, the Ministry of Gender etc., and project sustainability plan. Feedback from the meeting includes the project to consider disability in its peacebuilding approach, attention to be given to other emerging security issues like human trafficking, political violence as

we approach the elections, disputes between farmers and cattle rearers, and extending to other districts among others was well noted and will be shared with donors.

# 4.6 IMPACT

### 4.6.1 Contribution to Gender Equality and women's empowerment

The evaluation results show that efforts were made to include youth and women groups, in the project implementation. A full picture of the extent to which women were involved was made possible by data disaggregated by gender as shown in the box below.

NO	Activity	Male	Female	Total	%female
	Foster improved dialogue between				
1	youth, CBDR providers	254	<b>23</b> 7	491	48.3
	Facilitate networking of youth-led				
2	groups with other	<b>5</b> 7	65	122	53.3
	Co-creation workshop for youth-				
3	led CBOs and CSOs	33	45	78	57.7
	Pre-test and TOT on Leadership				
4	Manual	11	4	15	26.7
	Training of 360 young people using				
5	training curricula	213	147	360	40.8

The data shown in Box 1 suggests that IP's strategy was inclusive in line with project requirement to include women in the project. This was probably guided by a "leave no one behind" ethos of the SDGs. The community mobilization strategies ensured that all women's groups within the community, including the "Women Leader", the "Mammy Queen", the "Chairlady", and the "Elder Mammy or Granma" were targeted and reached. Focus-group discussions and engagement with the various groups, ensured that marginalized women in the community were given a platform to express their needs and explain the barriers they faced.

Women groups and IPs mentioned that enjoyments with male dominated CBDR providers in the different communities was a measure for protecting women and girls, since they no longer had to risk take excuse from husbands or fathers to serve in the community development committees. In Tonkolili and Pujehun, for example, women had to seek the permission of their husbands or male elder one in the household before they could server in public committees such as Development Committee, but the project was able to change this approach by engaging the communities.

### 4.6.2 Training of Community CBDR Providers

The project provided the training and technical support, which focused on issues that enhance protection of women and strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms with specific focus on the following:

- in-depth understanding of the life circumstances, concerns, and priorities of stakeholders
- Identification of gaps in community governance and generate solutions
- Promoting participation and ongoing involvement of women and youth into CBDR structures
- Health seeking behaviors for conflict prevention and peacebuilding
- The roles of traditional leaders as defined in the Local Government Act

Participants were drawn from all set of CBDR service providers in the project chiefdoms and communities including Paramount Chiefs, Sierra Leone Police, Local Police Partnership Board, Ministry of Gender and Children Affairs, District and Chiefdom Youth Councils, Customary authorities, Office of National Security, and Legal Aid Board

TABLE 11:	TABLE 11: PARTICIPANTS OF CBDR TRAINING WORKSHOP								
Western Rural	Area	Area Tonkolili Pujehun		Area Tonkolili		Total		Percent (%)	
Male	53	Male	51	Male	48	Male	152	63.9	
Female	21	Female	21	Female	44	Female	86	36.1	
Total	74	Total	72	Total	92	Total	238	100.0	

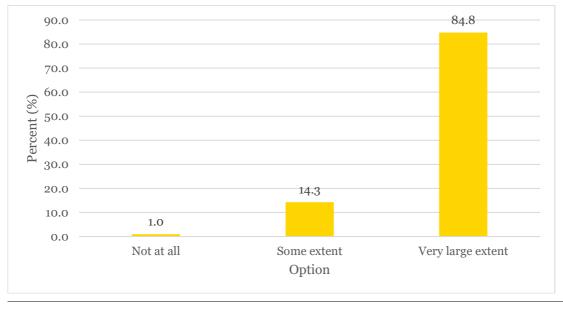
A total of 238 participants attended the training workshops and 36.1 Percent were women. The training ensured that the fear of women to access CBDR services because of fear of injustice was addressed. By the time of the evaluation, Legal Aid Board in Tonkolili has seen a 20% increase in cases brought by women involving gender-based violence (GBV) from their partners, including child-support cases. The project engagement is believed to have contributed to this increase in the number of women accessing CBDR services

In addition, the project facilitated the establishment of new or strengthened existing networks among stakeholders at the district level to enhance efforts to prevent conflict and respond to GBV and issues affecting women and girls. Local Council and traditional leaders played critical role in enabling women and youths' participation in conflict prevention and dispute resolution in communities. The evaluation found out that at least 2 women Representatives are allowed in most project communities to sit in the Chief's Barray during cases in all the project districts. The project indeed supported local governance and traditional structures to be able to know their mandates and created a network among stakeholders in fighting the issues of GBV and increasing the prevention of conflicts. These networks became platforms for shared knowledge among members at within the district as the coordinate to address issues of GBV, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. At Waterloo, for example, the police reported that 40 percent of GBV related cases were charged to court during the period compared to only 18% in 2020. This increase is partly attributed to the project activities in the Western Area Rural District.

### 4.6.3 Women's participation in decision-making

The Kol-hat Barray Project promoted women's participation in decision-making in all CBDR structures the project communities. It used traditional approaches to address women's participation – for instance, in Chief's Barray, the "Development Committee" identified in each community ensured representation of women, and similarly, women's representation was ensured in the discussion of debt matters and family matters that are reported to the chiefs.

### FIGURE 6: THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTION TO PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING





The evaluation results shown in Figure 6 that 85 percent of survey beneficiaries believed that the project to a very large extent contributed to promoting women's empowerment and reducing the gender gap in CBDR structures. FGD participants confirmed in Pujehun and Tonkolili that there were:

# "More women in the chief's barray presiding over disputes and matters of the community, royalty payments and other issues than before"

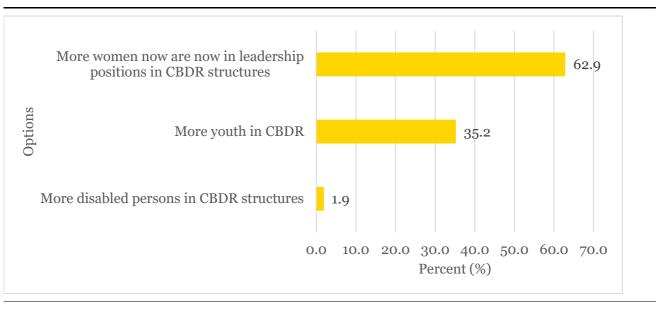
The evaluation data show that women (91.6%) were more likely than men (78.5%) to say that the Kolhat Barray Project to a "very large extent" promoted women's participation in decision-making committees in the communities

In some communities in Western Area Rural and Pujehun Districts, women form at least 40 percent of the chief's barray compared to about 15 percent in the past. Also, all youth-led groups have been mandated to ensure gender equality for all executive position-where the chairman is a male, the deputy chairman or Secretary General will be a female

The gathering of insights from communities through story collection with a gender sensitive approach conducted by youth led CSOs discovered the continued marginalization of women and girls in their communities and "opened the eyes of youth leaders" to the specific issues affecting women and girls (such as GBV and early marriage). Now having identified these issues, some of the youth led CSOs decided to act by designing and ultimately implementing project targeting marginalized women and girls with activities such as career counselling for women and mentorship services for young girls.

Notwithstanding, the evaluation shows that chiefs continue to provide overall leadership, particularly with in matters of land and royalty payments and donations from governments and philanthropists. All communities, secret societies continued to be used at the disadvantage of women as some positions are still to be led by men and some matters are decided in the secret society bush.

# FIGURE 7: THE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT ON GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHT?



**SOURCE**: Kolhat barray evaluation team

Figure 7 shows that most respondents are convinced that the project has contributed to more women and youth being in leadership positions in the CBDR structures. More women (70.2%) than men (65.9%) believed that there were more women integrated into CBDR structures compared to the past.

The evaluation found that during the dialogue sessions, women and youth leaders were able to express their concerns about the feeling that they were not sufficiently included in the CBDR meetings. In turn, CBDR providers became more aware and sensitized to these issues and took specific action to facilitate increased inclusion and influence of women and youth. In addition, the intergenerational and gender sensitive approach to the engagements was also key in facilitating an opportunity to establish mutual understanding between the youth and their non-youth counterparts.

The KII and FGD also show that the project has contributed to long-term conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the community. Evaluation respondents in the different communities summarized the status of conflicts resolved in their communities:

"We use to have many disputes and misunderstandings which the chiefs were unable to resolve but all these we resolved during the project activities in the community" ---FGD participant Makali, Tonkolili

"The conflict between the chiefs and youths over the construction of the court barray was at last resolved during the 3-day peace carnival and peace football matches" ---FGD participants Futa-Peje, Pujehun

The respondents openly expressed their opinion with regard to the contribution of the project to improving their lives and their communities through the peacebuilding effort and dialogue between groups and families.

All IPs clearly followed the minimum standards, by ensuring at least half (50%) of the volunteer staff were female and half of the workshop participants females. During the workshops females were made either a chair or secretary of the discussion groups. Efforts were made to ensure women were heard during workshops and engagement meetings, with IPs encouraging more women to join to reduce

male dominance. Women were also consulted in the selection of future project activity days in their different communities

There were unintended benefits the project contributed:

- Gender-Based violence (GBV), teenage pregnancy and early or child marriage awareness campaigns benefited from the project- 'Hands of our girls' campaigns were scaled up during project meetings and community engagements
- Rare meetings were organized between the police and some of the CBDR structure such as the community chiefs, and a line of understanding was establishment in most communities

### 4.6.4 Changes in equity gaps

The evaluation findings show that the project did not adequately pursue the participation of other vulnerable groups such as people living with disability (PLWD) through any means. Although there is evidence that at least 2 females disable youth benefited from the youth grant in Tonkolili, there was no active effort made to have them included as a group. This was an apparent oversight right from the project proposal development and this was also identified by other development partners in one of the project's briefing sessions with national and international partners.

Also, the national equity gap between urban and rural areas remains and has even grown on some conflict related parameters. The Kol-hat Barray focus was on rural communities with one peri-urban community (Waterloo), although districts headquarter towns were covered in a limited way. This means the project achievements on improved peacebuilding and conflict prevention mechanisms would therefore not reflect on closing the rural/ urban equity gap in this regard.

### **4.7 SUSTAINABILITY**

### 4.7.1 Scaling up

There were examples of project interventions influencing or being taken up by other agencies. From the KII responses, 48 percent reported that project approaches had been replicated by other actors in the communities. For example, in Sahn-Malen chiefdom, local council recognized the work of the project in resolving deputes relating to royalty payment and this approach of creating a dialogue is also reported as being taken up by Council and Chiefdom authorities to dialogue with the Socffin Company in the chiefdom. The Member of Parliament for the constituency was reported to have planned a similar meeting to bring together Socffin Company and members of his constituency in order to dialogue and resolve disputes and misunderstandings between the company and community people.

In Tonkolili Youth chiefs have been given integrated into the more powerful Chief/Elders council responsible for presiding over disputes and other development matters

Despite these examples of success in scaling up particular interventions, the evaluation team found no evidence of a clear strategy across the project districts for influencing others to scale up conflict resolution and peacebuilding effort, especially so when we are approaching the general elections in less than a year. Within the KII survey, only 24% agreed or agreed strongly that Cordaid and its partners had a plan for scale-up or extension of project activities.

"Best practice in development identifies that if scaling up is to happen it needs to be considered from the start in the design of the intervention and requires considerable effort even when being achieved through other actors" -----KII CSO Staff Tonkolili

It is means that although the project is largely successful, simply demonstrating a successful intervention is not usually enough to stimulate a scale up or an extension of that project, such should have been planned either from the design or earlier on in the implementation process

### 4.7.2 Sustainability strategy

CSO partners equated sustainability with the empowerment of communities to demand services and the increased capacity of their delivery partners.

"Empowerment is the only way to get change sustained over time in the various communities, especially as the elections are around the Conner."---KII CSO in Waterloo

Capacity building undertaken in some of the project districts included organizational strengthening of CBDR structures in areas such as governance, dialogue, staff capacity, organizational and financial systems.

In the KII survey 68% of CSOs partners stated that they agreed or mostly agreed they had received meaningful capacity development from the project. However, a future increase in institutional strengthening or support to obtain diversified funding were not highly prioritized by delivery partners in the survey.

Take up by government and dissemination of policies were also seen as being a route to sustainability. Some initiatives were seen as still being in their infancy and required further support before they would be sustainable. For example, in Waterloo the women's rights committees were seen as not yet being accepted enough across the community to sustain without external support, despite funding for them having ceased.

"They are not yet strong enough to claim their rights as they cannot stand on their own feet yet" --Focus group beneficiaries Waterloo

Other challenges to sustainability were identified including structural issues, national and local politics, and high staff turnover in government. For example, the policy LUC and Partnership Board Directors have all being changed in the past 12 months in waterloo, Tonkoili and Pujehun. This affect continuous engagement with such important bodies

### 4.7.3 Exit and evolution strategies

The evaluation found out that no exit meetings were held in the project communities. As a result, project target groups were still hops full that the project will continue in due course.

"We are expecting Cordaid to come, but for the past one month we have not seen them, and we don't know why"....FGD Tombo, Western Area Rural

Although there were close-out meetings held in the different communities, it appears many community members were not part of such meetings, and as such, they were not informed. As a result, community people continue to live in constant expectation that the project activities will resume soon or later. Such expectations could undermine the sustainability effort, as communities, rather than take action on most of the activities, could decide to wait for IPs to come in the communities and drive the project forward.

For example, a KII respondent in Magburaka expressed such concerns as "they were still receiving calls from project communities enquiring when we would return to the communities to continue the implementation"

# 5. SECTION FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# **5.1 CONCLUSION**

The evaluation has shown that the Kolaht Barray project was very relevant and well aligned with strategies of Cordaid, implementing partners and country's priorities in the area of peacebuilding and social cohesion and conflict resolution. The project benefited from the skills and experience of highly dedicated staff working in partnership with creative and passionate implementing partners and community stakeholders.

The project achieved majority of its outcome indicator targets, which underscores good success in project management and implementation. However, lack of consideration of ethnic dynamics was a flaw in the project design, especially in the treatment and inclusion of ethnicities and people living with disability.

The relevance of PBF project to the various types of conflict in its conflict analyses is satisfactory as well as in its mobilisation of conflict stakeholders and the improvement of their behaviour. Yet, in the more complex conflict areas, there is a gap in PBF relevance in terms of action. An example could be the complex situation in Malen chiefdom in Pujehun district - the land conflict between the Socfin Agricultural Company and the chiefdom people. The government (Vice President) was solely responsible for mediating this conflict. The project had to work through some chiefs and youths in other communities leaving the chiefdom headquarter town as it was a 'no go area' for peacebuilding activities in order contribute to deescalating the tension in the chiefdom.

There were examples of project interventions influencing or being taken up by other agencies.

# Namati's Peacebuilding Intervention in Tonkolili:

" Some white people approached us and leased some of our reserved lands for plantations. But according to their agreement with our community stakeholders, they were supposed to build schools, football fields, community halls as part of their corporate social responsibilities. Unfortunately, none of the promised was fulfilled and that leads to the intervention of Namati, who fought for our rights and demanded the company to immediately work towards their agreement in exploring those social corporate responsibilities.

Failing to do the needful, they were later asked out from the community and that's how we secured back our lands from them.

The involvement of Namati and the chief helped prevent possible conflict and we secured back our reserve land.

Source: A youth leader from Makankisa Community, Yele chiefdom – story collection exercise in Tonkolili.

CBDR platforms does not only depend on the

Funding for project's scale-up and extension had not been secured by the time of the evaluation. Nevertheless, the communities and youth/women-led CSOs hopped that the project will be continued due to its impact on peace and social cohesion in the communities

CSO partners equated sustainability with the empowerment of communities to demand services and the increased capacity of their delivery partners. In the KII survey 68% of CSOs partners stated that they agreed or mostly agreed had received meaningful capacity they development from the project. However, they needed continued support in institutional strengthening and training to enable them to continue the engagement with project communities in the area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Participation of young people and women in

willingness of authorities to listen, be open to criticism and collaborate, it also depends on the survival potential of the youth and women leaders, involved civil society organisations and their level of activity. In Pujehun and Tonkolili there is a chance that the revived Chiefdom Security Committees (CHISECs) will continue if stimulated by the e.g., the district council or their own communities. This is a vast and omni present structure that can go to 'sleep' for a while and then, if need be, be woken up again. Stimulation remains a necessity, however. Also, the conflict mediation method of working together with the CBDR providers may keep a social need alive and if members are well capacitated there is a chance that this work will continue without too much outside support. The community will continue to control the diversity of participation in the CBDR mechanism, although without external monitoring the quality of female presence and that of youths may diminish. Participation in chiefdom security committees will depend on possibilities for transport.

The evaluation found out that not many community stakeholders were part of the exit meetings held in the project communities. As a result, majority of project target groups were still hopeful and expectant that the project will continue in the communities.

# **5.2 RECOMMENDATION**

# Relevance

Working closely with community structures and stakeholders improves the relevance and targeting of potential project beneficiaries. However, there is a need to manage their expectations, otherwise could pose a problem to the sustainability of project outputs. The project should be more sensitive to persons living with disabilities (PLWD) in future designs.

Sensitization: It is recommended to improve sensitization and involve more people in it. Strengthen it, continue to support with local radio broadcasts and by consultation of Local CSOs and the CBDR structures for more efficient work in this regard. A follow-up of service delivery by CBDR providers especially on their gender-sensitivity and inclusivity is needed.

Future project should target the disable more explicitly to ensure that they were not missed given their importance in inclusive peace and sustainable development.

### Effectiveness

The evaluation findings show that the project made notable progress and remarkable achievements of its outcome and output targets over the 18-month period of implementation. However, additional strategies are recommended to improve on effectiveness including targeting the disabled separately from the public in the implementation of project activities

It is recommended to strengthen coordination and collaboration with other PBF project partners (UNDP etc.) in country, try to benefit from their (potentially) effective approaches and search for complementarity. The existence of different approaches within aligned agencies can be a learning opportunity. An example could be the finding of supplements for, or improvement of, youths in the UNDP youth at risk project.

Cordaid PBF Internal coordination: one may consider the separation of M&E and Coordination and Strategic tasks in two functions. Experience so far shows that it is not necessarily the lead, or YPPD, that must take strategic lead position. Narrower collaboration between partners is required for good integration of CBDR and local civil society organizations in the execution of the PBF is crucial for

success. It is important to find an alternative implementing partner for the support of CBDR service providers, especially in the three project sites.

### Sustainability

The sustainability strategy indicated in the project proposal is clear, and it's achieved through capacity city building of youth/women led CSOs and as well as CBDR providers. However, the funding for outright scale-up or extension has not been secured. Therefore, it is recommended that Cordaid continues the engagement with CSOs and government functionaries and local councils in a bid to influence their operation and ensure that engagement with communities in the area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention becomes part of their operations.

Lobby for political acceptance and legalization of the standard operating procedures for CBDR service providers, community-based verification system (for young people, especially young women, to monitor change in CBDR activities and outcomes), policy briefs and proposed conflict management methods: The participatory conflict management methodology is, through the PBF project's national lobby, accepted as a governmental tool to be used at the provincial level. However, it is not clear if the sustainability of the method is guaranteed and if those in the government (the district councils, ONS) that have learnt the use of the methodology will continue to use it.

# ANNEX

# Annex Table 1: Evaluation Questionnaire for Household Direct Beneficiaries

#### CORDAID-SIERRA LEONE INCLUSIVE CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING PROJECT FINAL EVALUATION HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

### Introduction

My name is..... I am working with Cordaid to conduct this assessment to understand the perceptions and opinions of the households and key stakeholders regarding the activities of the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project implemented in collaboration with YPPD

I would like to ask you some questions relating to the project. Your responses will assist Cordaid and partners to have a better understanding of the scale of the activities implemented in the community. This, in turn, will support future project design and implementation strategies of similar interventions.

Please be assured that all your answers will be kept confidential and will be used for this study only. As a result, the report will not refer to you as an individual but will provide aggregate estimates only.

This interview will last approximately 30 minutes. Therefore, we encourage you to participate and support the work of Cordaid and its partners. Please note that participation is voluntary and that you are free to answer or not to answer any questions in this questionnaire.

Do I have your consent to proceed (Yes/No).....

Thank you for your time and support

Date of Interview------

	EVA	ALUATION QUES	ΓΙΟΝΝΑIRE			
	SE	CCTION A: IDENT	FICATION			
A1	District	A7	Name of Respondent			
A2	Chiefdom	A8	Sex 1 male 2 female			
A3	Name of Community	A9	Age of Respondent (in the rage of years)         1       under 18         2       18-25         3       26-50         4       51+			
A4	Ward No.	A10	Educational level of Respondent:1No education2Primary Level3Secondary Level4Tertiary level –Diploma/TE/HTC5Tertiary level –First Degree/high			
A5	Constituency number	A11	Contact Number of Respondent			
A6	Name of Interviewer	A12	Are you a member of any supported CBDR Group? 1 Yes 2 No			
	SECTIO	ON B: RELEVANC	E Co	mments		
B1	How strongly do you think the Ko community with regard to the follo	• •	ct responded to the needs of this			

			1 very strong		2 Strongly	3 some hat	W	4 no all	t at			
	a. Ge	ender Sensitivity									ļ	
	b. Co	onflict Sensitivity				<u> </u>				-	P	
	с. Үои	uth Accountability				<u> </u>			<u>†</u> _	1	P	
	d. You	outh Accessibility (to CBDR	2						1	1	,	
		nanisms)						<u> </u>				
B2		at extent the project design ad									ľ	
		cial context of the people and extent 3 limited extent 4 not		es? 1	very I	arge exter	nt 2	2			ļ	
B3	CBDR a	volved were the youth in the implem activities in this community? gly involved 2 somewhat involved		_	-	this commu	nity a	and				
B4	How inv strongly	volved were the women in the imple v involved 2 somewhat involved 3	lementation of 3 not at all invo	f the pi olved	project an							
B5	CBDR	do you think the project wa providers with regards to ring areas?										
	No			Lar	rgely	Somew	hat	m	iinimal	.1		mproved
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ĺ	a b	Personal and organizational lead Organizing events	ership	+				-+	+		+-'	<u> </u>
	c	Conflict analysis and mitigation		+					+		+	
	d	Advocacy										
	e	Engaging young people as allies women's right	in defending									
B6	Can you	a name those CBDR structures supp	ported by this	projec	et in this	community	/? (lis		Ţ		-	
	SECTI(	ON C: EFFECTIVENESS							+			1
C1	To what	t extent would you agree that the ex gard to the following?	spected results	; of the			achie	eved		 		
C2			0.	2 Stron agree	ngly S	3 somewha agreed		4 not all agr				
		Gender Sensitivity					$\perp$		$\downarrow$		ŀ	
		Conflict Sensitivity	_				$\square$				,	
		outh Accountability					4			]	ļ	
		outh Accessibility (to							T	1	P	
		OR mechanisms)					$\rightarrow$		<u> </u>		P	
		clusiveness							<u> </u>		<sup> </sup>	
C3		at extent would you say the C					~• ,				,	
		unities have adopted more inc									ļ	
		ve practices focus on addressi unities? 1 Totally 2 Par	0		• •	people in	the				ļ	ļ
		unities? 1 Totally 2 Par as the progr contributed to im	<u>rtially 3 nc</u>			and knor	1	-1~0	+		'	4
		rticipation of community peo						Ige			ŀ	
C4	How has	s the project contributed to improve numunities in the following areas?						ciaries	+			
											!	]

				-	-						
	No		1 Greatly	2 average	3	4 Not all					
			_	-	Somewhat						
	а	Personal and organizational									
		leadership									
	b	Organizing									
	С	Conflict analysis and mitigation		-							
	d	Advocacy									
	е	Engaging young men as allies in									
		defending women's right	_	-							
		Participating in policy debate									
		Participating in local and national politics									
C6		satisfied are you with the responsing to women and youth in your		-	ers to issues						
	-	ery satisfied	community.	[							
		tisfied									
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C7			ot anno at - 1	wouth and	iomon to m1	,					
C/		hat extent would you say the proje				/					
		in advocating for evidence-based									
	-	ce and building trust with CBDR	providers	l very large e	extent 2						
CO		extent 3 not at all	1 1.11	11 1 1	CDDD						
C8		as the project contributed to improvement res members to deliver their services?	it in the skills a	ind knowledge	of CBDR						
	1 Great										
C9		fective do you think the project manager	s partnered an	d collaborated	with community	7					
	people during the implementation of the project in this community?										
	1 very effective 2 effective 3 somewhat effective 4 ineffective										
	SECTI	ON D: EFFICIENCY									
D1	implen	at extent would you agree that material re- nentation of the project?1 very adequate	2 Adec	juate 3 In	adequate						
D2		at extent did the project identify and build chanisms? a lot 2 somewhat 3 not at all	d on existing lo	ocal and comm	unity structures						
D3	In your	opinion, what aspects of the project acti	vities were do	ne well? (list.	)						
D4	In your	opinion, what aspect of the project do y	ou think could	have been don	e better?list						
D5		opinion, do you think the project was m 2 no 3 Don't know	anaged well ac	ecording to you	r expectations?						
D6	-	problems you believe affected the smooth	n implementati	on of the							
	SECT	ON E: GENDER AND HUMAN RIG	HTS								
E1		t extent did the project contribute to proj		's empowerme	nt, bridging the						
		gap at the CBDR structures, local and na	ational levels?								
		rge extent									
	Some e Not at a										
E2		all at extent do you think the project was ger	der-responsive	e and sensitive	to the						
112		tion of sexual exploitation and abuse with			to the						
	Very la	rge extent									
	Some e										
<b>F</b> 2	Not at a		C (1		. 11						
E3	What w right?	yould you say were the positive effects o	t the project or	n gender equalit	ty and human						

	1 More women in CBDR structures	
	2 More women are now in leadership positions in CBDR structures	
	3 More disabled persons in CBDR structures	
	SECTION F: SUSTAINABILITY	
F1	Are the CBDR structures still carrying out the same quality of activities they used to provide under the project? 1 yes 2 no 3 Don't know	
F2	Are the youth still engaged in productive economic activities as during the project implementation? 1 yes 2 no 3 Don't know	
F3	To what extent did the project identify and build on existing local capacities, structures and mechanisms for dispute resolution and peacebuilding including CBDR structures? 1 Quite a lot 2 somewhat 3 not at all	
F4	To what extent would you say the project achievements would be sustained after the initial funding ends?	
F5	To what extent would you say the project ensured local and community ownership of the project activities? Were there project implementation committees established in the communities? 1 very large extent 2 some extent 3 not at all used	
F6	Are there people, projects or organizations in this community who have been inspired to continue the provision of the same services the project used to provide? 1 yes 2 no 3 Don't know	
F7	To what extent would you say that project interventions did overlap with, or duplicate similar interventions funded by other agencies? 1 very large extent 2 some extent 3 not at all used	
F8	What do you think will cause the activities of the project to cease in the community after the project is closed?         1       Lack of funds         2       Infight within the CBDR members         3       Lack of support from the chief and other leaders         4       Other	
	SECTION G: IMPACT/OUTCOME	
G1	To what extent do you think the project has contributed to the capacity of youth to engage in productive activities and reduce conflict in the community?         1 a large extent       2 some extent       3 not at all	
G2	To what extent do you think the project has contributed to the status of women in CBDR structures to hand deputies? 1 a large extent 2 some extent 3 not at all	
G3	To what extent do you think the project has contributed to peacebuilding in the community?1 a large extent2 some extent3 not at all	
G4	Is there any lasting change that could be identified in the lives and wellbeing of women and youth targeted by the Project in this community? 1 Yes 2 no Don't know	
G5	To what extent have the project contributed to changes in the knowledge and practices of households towards conflict in the target communities? 1 a large extent 2 some extent 3 not at all	
G6	How satisfied are you regarding the overall performance of the project results and outcome 1. Very Satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Dissatisfied	
	SECTION H: LESSONS LEARNED	
H1	What are some of the key lessons learned (positive) as a result of this project that can be shared and replicated for future intervention? List any 3	
H2	What are some of the key lessons learned (negative) as a result of this project that can be avoided for future intervention? List any 3	

# Annex Table 2: Evaluation Checklist for Implementing Partners and Other Stakeholders

# CORDAID SIERRA LEONE-FINAL EVALUATION INCLUSIVE CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PCEBUILDING PROJECT FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION AND KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW CHECKLIST

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Thank you for your time and support.** This checklist is for the project managers, implementing Partners and donors of the Inclusive Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Project implemented by Cordaid and YPPD

# **SECTION A: BASIC INFORMATION**

A1	Name of Respondent
A2	Organization
A3	Designation
A4	Address of Organization
A5	Sex: 1 Male 2 Female
A6	Contact Number
A7	Name of Interviewer
A8	Date of interview

# **B: DETAILED DISCUSSION POINTS**

NO	QUESTIONS	RESPONSES
	Relevance	
1	How were you involved in this project and at what stage	
	of the project?	
2	How responsive would you say has this Kolhat Barrafact	
	the t project been to the needs of the targeted communities	
	with regards to:	
	• resolving conflict and building peace in an inclusive	
	manner,	
	Gender-sensitive issues and	
	Conflict-sensitive issues?	
3	To what extent the project design adequately took into	
	account the cultural and social context of the people and	
	communities?	
	Effectiveness	
4	To what extent have the expected results of the project	
	been achieved with regards to equipping and mobilizing	
	youth to identify and take action on key drivers of	
	conflict, insecurity and injustice?	
5	To what extent would you say the CBDR structures in the	
	project communities have adopted more inclusive,	
	gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive practices focus on	
	addressing the needs of young people in the communities?	
6	To what extent would you say the project supported youth	
	and women to play a role in advocating for evidence-	

Irust with CBDR providers         7       What are the intended an unitended results in terms of social cohesion, peacebuilding, and inclusive conflict resolutions among the targeted youth, women and communities?         8       What internal factors to Cordaid (including the project monitoring and evaluation mechanisms) contributed to or hindered the successful attainment of the expected results? Which factors were the most important?         9       What external factors to Cordaid (e.g. political, emergency or socio-cultural barriers) contributed to or hindered the successful attainment of the expected results? Which factors were the most important?         10       To what extent have human, financial and material resources been adequate and of sufficient quality and made available in a timely manner for the implementation of the project? Where there any extension to the project's initial period and budget?         11       Were there any delays in the disbursement of funds and supply of materials and were there any budget adjustment, how were such delays and/or adjustments affected the efficient delivery of the project results?         12       How strong was the partnership with implementing partners and stakeholders, and how did such partnerships and coordination mechanism contribute to or hindered the efficient delivery of project results?         13       To what extent did the project interventions respond to issues of gender and age differentials within key CBDR provider groups in the target communities?         14       Is there any lasting change that could be identified in the well-being of youth, women and communities as a result of inclusiveness in the way disputes are resolved and confl		1	1
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from the design ?		Was there any scale-up or sustainable plan envisaged	
		from the design?	

19	To what extent would you say the project ensured local and community ownership of the project activities? Were there project implementation committees established in the communities?	
20	In your view, what new capacities or mechanisms were established or restored at the individual youth/women and community levels, which will continue to be utilized?	

# THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION END

# Annex Table 3: KII List of Participants

	YOUTH PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT							
	GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATUS							
No	District	Name of Organization	Head of Organization/Contact	Email contact				
1		Rural Agency for Community Action Programme	SAMUEL KAMARA 7 Kanneh Street Pujehun 079555307/034909645   samuelkamara2018@gmail.com	samuelkamara2018@gmail.com				
2		Action for Community Tasks	Madam Sadiatu Leigh Cell phone076924362 Kadiatu M. Mansaray Manjana Layout +23278313157	kadiatumansaray@yahoo.co				
3		Youth In Action for Development	Abdulai J. Sillah 078316845/077590065	yiadsierraleone@gmail.com				
4		Concerned Mothers	ISATA SIDIBAY 17 Fenton Road, Bo +232 76 662 235 / +232 34 317 007	concernedmothers1998@gmail.co m or isidibay98@gmail.com				
5	Pujehun	Network of Youth for Development Sierra Leone	Eric koroma +23299997379 erickoroma96@g mail.com	networkofyouth4development@g mail.com				
6		Children Advocacy Forum Sierra Leone (CAF-SL)	Abdul K. D.Swaray 076590929,030135709,079550848	cafsl2020@gmail.com				
7		KYDO	Julius George Kamara. 37 Old District Council Road, Pujehun Tel: +232 – 76 – 607658 / +232 – 78 – 104443	mkfofanah@yahoo.com or kydopuj@gmail.com				
8		Fambul Initiative Network for Equality, Sierra Leone	OSEPH ABRAHAM LAHAI 107 WILKINSON ROAD FREETOWN Tel: +23276618319	finesierraleone@gmail.com or lahaijoseph@gmail.com				
10		Young Peace Builders - YPB	EMMANUEL GEORGE BANGURA +232-78-611-300 / +232-77-242-444	info@youngpeacebuilders.org or Emmanuelb@youngpeacebuilders .org 1992egb@gmail.com				
11		Unique Ladies	42 Makeni Kono Highway, Magburaka Phone: +232 78602387 Email: jallohbinta087@gmail.com	uniqueladies026gmail.com				
12		Advocacy for Human Rights and Justice-Sierra Leone	Alhaji Kargbo Kargboalhaji7171@gmail.com/kargboalhajigibri 188@gmail.com	adhrjustsl@yahoo.com				
13		(ADHRJUST) Yonians With Positivity Organization	+23277822026/+23279669494 BASHIR KOROMA Cell: +23288862121   bashirkoroma6@gmail.com	yonianswithpositivityorg@gmail. com				
14		Save the Earth	FOFANAH Moses Fans 1 BRIONI STREET, BATHMORIE- MAGBURAKA · +23276689503/+23288794905 Email: fans391@gmail.com ·	joseph.juana@yahoo.com				
15		Youth Empowerment and Development Organization	Benjamin John Tholley Permanent Address: 7 Conteh Street, Magburaka. Mobile: +23277 881793/+23277 831793	arunalarkoh@yahoo.com				

16		Volunteer Initiatives for Community Empowerment (VOICE)	Idrissa Cole Cell: +23278147049/+23277347885 Email: voicesierraleone@gmail.com/icole8@yahoo.co m/idirssacole200@gmail.com	voicesalone4@gmail.com/ icole84yahoo.com
17		Pleasant Foundation Sierra Leone	Marian Pleasant Kargbo CEO/FOUNDER. +23279188197F28/ F29 Bayconfield Ferguson Street/14 Peter Lane Rokel Village Phone Numbers +232 79-18-81-97/ 077 52-99- 01 E-mail: Pleasantfoundation2014@gmail.com	pleasantfoundation2014@gmail.c om
19		Youth and Children's Advocacy Panel	Sulaiman Mansaray nylsummit.sierraleone@gmail.com W:www.nylsummit2020.weebly.com C:+23288511458	yacapsl@gmail.com
20		Youth and Child Advocacy Network (YACAN)	ALPHA BAKARR BARRIE +232 78 824251 Address: 54 John Drive, Kossoh Town, Freetown E-Mail: pkakbarie@gmail.co	pkakbarie@gmail.co
21	Western Area Rural	Civic Questioners	Amara Kargbo 241 FREETOWN-WATERLOO HIGHWAY, YAMS FARM, WESTERN AREA RURAL DISTRICT, SIERRA LEONE TEL: +232-30569747 / +232-31245995 EMAIL: civic_questioners@yahoo.com	civic_questioners@yahoo.com
24	District	Centre for Partnership Initiative Sierra Leone	Jane Taylor Western Area, Sierra Leone 21 Smart Farm, Off Wilkinson Road +23278-801-026/ +23288-241-490	cpisl2017@mail.com
22		Women in Development and Environment	MICHAEL JAMES mykeljam1@gmail.com, fotec2010@yahoo.com +232 - 76 - 635 - 937 +232 - 30 - 143 - 173	feedsl2017@gmail.com
23		Youth In Action for ICT and Transformation (YAICTT)	JESSICA BRIMA SESAY 7maxwell street wellington Freetown (+232)76803578\+232)88-500509 Email:jessicasesay54@gmail.com	infoyaictt111@gmail.com
24		West Africa Youth Network for Peace Education and Economic Development	Abdul Rahman Kays nafayakays@yahoo.co.uk 1 Sawaneh Drive Regent/Grafton Highway Freetown Sierra Leone +232-78-452-339 +232-32-040-375	waynpeedsl@gmail.com

# Annex Table 4: Logical Frame Indicators

Level	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Final project Evaluation
Outcome 1: Young women and men, working intergenerationally are equipped and mobilized to identify and take action on key drivers of conflict,	Indicator 1.1: % of young women and men with Improved knowledge, attitudes and skills related to personal and organizational leadership, organizing, conflict analysis and mitigation, advocacy, and engaging young men as allies in defending women's right	20%	70%	87%
insecurity and injustice in their communities	Indicator 1.2: % of young women and men with Improve perception of the space for their engagement and willingness of decision-makers to respond to their demands	29%	50%	68%
	Indicator 1.1.1: # of Gender- Sensitive youth profiling exercises conducted at 3 sites	0	3 youth profiling exercises available, 50% of respondents female	4
Output 1.1: Policy -relevant research on key drivers of conflict conducted by young women and men	Indicator 1.1.2: Data collection strategies implemented, stories documented; joint analysis workshops with community members designed and implemented	0	23 community- level data available	48 community level data available. CommCare was used in the collection of stories at community

[	Indicator 1.1.3:			
	Key issues on conflict, insecurity and injustice focusing on young people, especially young women, identified; analysis and recommendations available and disseminated	0	Joint analysis and recommendations	A joint analysis and recommendation were conducted. A policy brief was developed and submitted for government consideration.
Output 1.2: Strengthened youth leadership capacities consistent with principles of active citizenship	Indicator 1.2.1: Production of training curricula and training of young leaders in leadership, organizing, conflict analysis and mitigation, advocacy, and engaging young men as allies in defending women's rights	0	1 curriculum to be replicated for used in the entire training in all training locations	1 curriculum was developed and replicated for all the trainings. Young leaders were provided with copies for future use even after the project ends.
citizenship	Indicator 1.2.2: No. youth leaders identified, screened and selected	0	360 (50% female)	360 (40.8% female)
	Indicator 1.2.3: Training curricula implemented	0	1	1 training curricula implemented
Outcome 2: CBDR mechanisms adopt more inclusive, gender sensitive and conflict sensitive practices, with specific focus on addressing the needs of young	Indicator 2.1: % youth with improved perception of CBDR provider performance in four areas (inclusiveness, especially accessibility and accountability toward youth; gender-sensitive; conflict- sensitivity)	25	70	75%
women	Indicator 2.2: Improved self- assessment of CBDR providers in inclusiveness in three areas	25%	70%	65%

		1		1
	(inclusiveness, especially accessibility and accountability toward youth; gender- sensitivity) Indicator 2.3: % youth satisfaction with			
	responsiveness and accountability of CBDR providers	29	50	57%
Output 2.1: Youth -Led advocacy actions demand and advise on improved CBDR	Indicator 2.1.1: Implementation, evaluation of 9 sub-granted projects aimed to improve inclusiveness, gender sensitivity and conflict- sensitivity of CBDR	0	9	23 projects implemented and evaluated.
inclusivity, gender sensitive, conflict sensitive, and accountability, based on local contexts	Indicator 2.1.2: Young women and men actively monitor change in CBDR activities and outcomes and provide regular feedback to CBDR providers on inclusivity, gender-sensitivity and conflict sensitivity	0	active monitoring of CBDR by young people via community- based verification system	Achieved
Output 2.2: CBDR providers trained, advised on	Indicator 2.2.1: Needs of 240 CBDR providers (min. 60 female) assessed and plan for provision of training and technical advice and developed	0	Needs of 240 CBDR providers (min. 60 female) assessed and planned for	238 (Male-152, Female -86) CBDR providers assessed and trained
adoption of inclusive conflict sensitive practices	Indicator 2.2.2: SOPs, protocols, and other relevant documents, agreements, commitments etc. adopted and publicly disseminated	0	40 relevant SOPs, protocols, etc. publicly disseminated	44 relevant SOPs developed and shared with the Ministry of Local Government for approval and validation.

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	Indicator 2.2.3: Implementation of community dialogues between youth and CBDR providers	0	30 youth palavers implemented	30 youth palavers implemented
Outcome 3: Young women and men, working intergenerationally, take a leading role in advocating for evidence-based conflict prevention policy and	Indicator 3.1: Increase in perception of participation and influence in conflict prevention policy processes among young leaders engaged in the project	35%	60%	64%
practice, and build trust with key conflict prevention stakeholders	Indicator 3.2: Inclusiveness of youths and women in key policy processes increased	36	61	70%
	Indicator 3.1.1: No of web-based dialogues and networking	0	10 web-based dialogues and 1 national	3 web-based dialogues conducted.
Output 3.1: Youth- led groups supported to network and share knowledge on conflict prevention at national level	Indicator 3.1.2: National knowledge- sharing amongst youth and between youth and key stakeholders on conflict prevention security and justices via national event	0	2 national events	2 National events conducted (1 national youth summit and 1 national youth palaver)
Output 3.2: Evidence on local- level CBDR actions used to inform national level advocacy on conflict prevention	Indicator 3.2.1: No. of briefings with duty-bearers and powerholders at national level, including ONS, SLP, NCPC, LAB, Office of the President and Chief Minister, relevant line ministries (MLGRD, MoGCA, etc.), relevant parliamentary	0	Min. 20 briefings	15 briefings conducted with key duty bearers

committees, HRCSL etc.			
Indicator 3.2.2: No. of briefings conducted with key international stakeholders such as UN Country Team and key diplomatic missions (esp. major donor partners)	0	min. 10 briefings	2 briefings conducted
Indicator 3.2.3: Policy impact tracked and documented by partners	0	1	2 policies supported

### Annex Table 5: FGD ATTENDANCE LIST

### CORDAID-SL FINAL EVALUATION INCLUSIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING PROJECT FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD)

FGD	FGD Num: Name of						
Comr	nunity/town:		•••••	••••••	••••		
Name	e of Moderator:.		•••••	Ward No	•••••	•••••	
Date.	•••••						
No.	Name of	Gender	Age	Educational	Occupation	Contact	Sign
	Participant			level		Number:	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

# ANNEX 6: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS AND KII SCHEDULE

# **A. District Representatives**

- 1. Local Council Officials/Councilors
- 2. Members of Parliament (MPs)
- 3. District Officer
- 4. District Youth Leader
- 5. ONS
- 6. Community Policy Partnership Board
- 7. Legal Aid Board
- 8. Local Unity Commander or AIG
- 9. Paramount Chief
- 10. Market Traders Associations/Leaders

# **B.** Chiefdom/Community Level Representative

- 1. Chiefs
- 2. Chiefdom/Community Youth Leaders
- 3. Bike Riders Leader
- 4. Local Court Chairman/Clerk
- 5. Mamie Queen/Women Leader
- 6. Chiefdom Development Committee
- 7. Ward Development Committee
- 8. Chiefdom Security Committee
- 9. Chiefdom Police
- 10. Religious leaders

# **C.** Civil Society Organizations

- 1. Youth-based CSO/support group
- 2. Women-based Advocacy CSO/support group

# **Annex 7: Final Evaluation: Selected Communities**

Western Area Rural Tombo Masorie

Tonkolili Chiefdom: Dansogoia Bumbuna Chiefdom: Simira Mabonto Chiefdom: Tane Mathoronka Chiefdom: Kunike Barina Makali Town

**Pujehun District Chiefdom-Sanh Malan** Gandorhun Town **Chiefdom: Peje** Futa Massa **Chiefdom: Bari** Poturu

# ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is based in the Netherlands and has country offices in 11 countries. It has been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflictstricken area's for a century. It delivers innovative solutions to complex problems by emphasizing sustainability and performance in projects that tackle security and justice, health and economic opportunity. Cordaid is deeply rooted in the Dutch society with more than 300,000 private donors. Cordaid is a

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