

**Spotlight  
Initiative**

# FINAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT

PROGRAMME TITLE:

**LIBERIA SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE**

REPORTING PERIOD:

**01 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2023**





## Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Liberia Spotlight Initiative  
MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00112285

## Recipient Organization(s)



## Programme Cost (US\$)

Total Phase I budget, and (where OSC approved)  
Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD:

Phase I: 15,844,000 USD

Phase II: 6,790,286 USD

## Phase I and (where OSC approved) Phase II Spotlight funding

22,634,286 USD (EU Contribution)

## RUNO's Contribution

3,586,637 USD

## Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency

Name of RUNO	EU Contribution Phase I (+II, where OSC approved USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	\$4,615,415	\$1,339,844
UNFPA	\$6,208,800	\$722,328
UNICEF	\$2,470,807	\$714,423
UN WOMEN	\$7,917,460	\$311,985
OHCHR	\$1,421,804	\$498,057
<b>Total</b>	<b>26, 220,923 USD</b>	

## Key Partners

Government of Liberia partners:

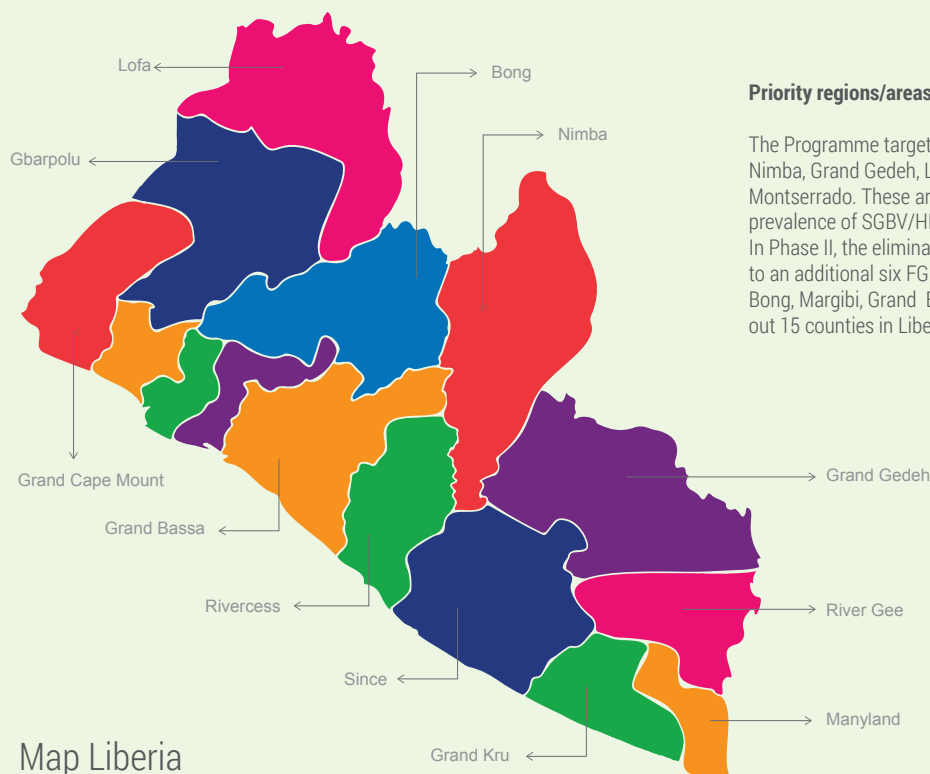
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP); Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP); Ministry of Education (MOE); Ministry of Health (MOH); Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Youth and Sport (MOYS), Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT); Law Reform Commission (LRC); Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), Liberian Board of Midwives and Nurses (LBMN), and National Council of Chiefs and Elders (NACCEL). Programme partnered with civil society organizations, including national and local/grassroots organizations, and women's rights organizations.

## Programme Start and End Dates

Start Date: 01.01.2019.

End Date: 31.12.2023\*.

\*The National Steering Committee held 08 December 2022 approved a no-cost extension up to 31 December 2023



## Priority regions/areas/localities for the programme

The Programme targeted five out of fifteen counties in Liberia: Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, and Montserrado. These are prioritized because of the high prevalence of SGBV/HPs and fewer SRHRs.

In Phase II, the elimination of the FGM component is expanded to an additional six FGM practicing counties: Bomi, Gbarpolu, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and River Cess covering now 11 out 15 counties in Liberia.

Map Liberia

1. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the MPTF Office GATEWAY.







Acronym List	7
Executive Summary	11
Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status	14
Programme Governance and Coordination	16
National Steering Committee.....	16
Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) .....	17
Inter-Agency Coordination, Technical Committees, and Other Governance Mechanisms.....	18
Use of UN Reform Inter-Agency Tools.....	18
Programme Partnerships	20
Results: Broadening Transformations Across Outcomes	25
Reporting on the Implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (P-MER).....	26
Capturing Change at the Outcome Level	28
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework .....	28
Outcome 2: Institutions .....	29
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norms Change.....	31
Outcome 4: Quality Services .....	37
Outcome 5: Data .....	43
Outcome 6: Women’s Movement.....	45
Reporting on SRHR	48
Rights Holders (Spotlight Programme “Beneficiaries”)	50
Challenges and Mitigating Measures	52
Lessons Learned and New Opportunities	54
a Lessons Learned .....	54
b New Opportunities .....	55
Innovative, Promising, or Good Practices: Enhancing the Capacities of Women’s Rights Advocates	56
Communications and Visibility	58
a Messages.....	58

# Contents

# Contents

b	Media and Visibility Events.....	59
c	Campaigns .....	60
d	Human Interest Stories.....	62
	Story 1: One Man’s Life-Changing Moment as a Husband and Father .....	62
	Story 2: Empowerment Strengthens Women’s Agency and Provides Them a Chance to be Heard. ....	63
	Story 3: Girls’ Knowledge of SGBV Adds Power to Prevention .....	64
	Story 4: White Cane Gives Hope to a Person with Vision Impairment. Momo Kamara Narrates.....	65
	Story 5: From HIV/AIDS Survivor to A Change Agent & Ambassador .....	66
	Story 6: Traditional Leaders Changed Mindsets and Beliefs in Kolahun, Lofa County.....	67
	Testimonials .....	69
e	Photos .....	70
f	Videos .....	78
	<b>Sustainability</b> .....	<b>79</b>
	<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>81</b>
	<b>ANNEXES</b> .....	<b>82</b>
	Annex A: Results Framework .....	82
	Annex B: Risk Matrix.....	82
	Annex C: CSO Engagement Report .....	82
	Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template .....	82
	Annex E: Annual Work Plan .....	82
	Annex F: Assets / Equipment / Major supplies .....	82

## Acronym List

ACHEM	Action for Community Health Empowerment	GBV-IMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
AFELL	Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia	GOL	Government of Liberia
b	boys	GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
BCR	Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation	GRPB	Gender-responsive planning and budgeting
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	GTG	Gender Theme Group
CBO	Community-based organization	HPs	Harmful Practices
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	HRGC	Human Rights and Gender checklist
CGEP	Country Gender Equality Profile	HVTC	Heritage and Vocational Training Center
CHES	Community Health Education and Social Services	IAPT	Inter-Agency Programming Team
CPD	Country Programme Document	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CPS	Comprehensive Prevention Strategy	IREDD	Institute for Research and Democratic Development
CS-NRG	Civil Society National Reference Group	INHCR	Independent National Commission on Human Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organization	LCP	Liberia Crusaders for Peace
DCI	Defense for Children International	LGBTQIA	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/ questioning (ones' s sexual or gender identity), intersex, and asexual/ aromantic/ agender persons
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance	LIBTELC	Liberia Telecommunication Corporation
DSG	Deputy Secretary General	LIPA	Liberia Institute for Public Administration
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey	LNCRF	Liberian National Children's Representative Forum
ECA	European Court of Auditors	LNOB	Leaving No-One Behind
EU	European Union	LNFS	Liberia National Fire Service
EUDEL	European Union Delegation to Liberia	LNP	Liberia National Police
EVAWG	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls	LRC	Law Reform Commission
f	female	LSI	Liberia Spotlight Initiative
FeJAL	Female Journalists Association of Liberia	LTA	Long-Term Agreement
FGM	Female genital mutilation	m	male
FIND	Foundation for International Dignity		
g	girls		
GBV	Gender-based violence		

ML	Medica Liberia	SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs	SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
MICAT	Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism	SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health rights
MOE	Ministry of Education	TBD	To be determined
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning	UN	United Nations
MOH	Ministry of Health	UFDUM	United Funding and Development for Underage Mothers
MCH	Maternal and child health	UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
MOJ	Ministry of Justice	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
NACCEL	National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations.	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
NUOD	National Union of Disabled	UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
OMT	Operations Management Team	VAWG	Violence Against Women Grant
OSC	One-stop Centre	VHC	Vocational and Heritage Centre
PMCU	Program Management and Coordination Unit	VSLA	Village savings and loans associations
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal	WA	Work Area
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
PYCOSI	Progressive Youth for Community Safety Initiative	WACPS	Women and Child Protection Services
RC	Resident Coordinator	WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office	WODYEC	Women Development and Youth Center
RICCE	Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment		
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations		











# I Executive Summary

The Liberia Spotlight Initiative was implemented in five counties<sup>1</sup> (Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Gedeh) by five Recipient UN Organizations (UNDP, UNICEF, UNOHCHR, UNFPA, and UN Women), with funding from the European Union and contribution from the five RUNOs, from January 2019 to December 2023. As a joint UN Programme to reduce the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices and increase women's and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Spotlight has built strong synergies among UN, Government, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other actors in the journey to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The relevance of the Spotlight Initiative to the national development agenda is reflected in its six pillars/outcomes with priorities aligned to the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018–2023, and integrated into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020–2024.

During the five-year implementation period, the Spotlight Initiative has focused on strategically positioning the elimination of violence against women and girls and harmful practices on the national agenda as a matter of accountability for the Government of Liberia to citizens and the international community. Dialogues, advocacy actions, and engagements with high-level authorities of the country, representatives of traditional leaders at the national, county, and community levels, and various line institutions were leveraged across the six pillars of the Programme to advance and sustain the gains in closing major gaps that continued to impede the elimination of violence and harmful practices against women and girls, as well as the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Notable changes were recorded as reflected in the below achievements:

- Legislative and policy environment supporting actions to end violence and harmful practices

against women and girls in Liberia was remarkably enhanced to meet international standards. Based on preliminary work to demand the criminalization of domestic violence and intensive advocacy actions of the Spotlight Initiative, the Domestic Violence Act was adopted.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, the Rape Law, the Domestic Relation law, and the Inheritance law were revised and simplified for ease of understanding by ordinary citizens. A draft Bill to outlaw female genital mutilation (FGM) was also submitted to the Legislature. Additional policy instruments and tools availed include a Human Rights and Gender Checklist to gauge the compliance of laws and policies to international standards before the adoption, a draft Human Rights Defenders' Protection Policy, a draft Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy, and a five-year (2022-2026) strategic plan for the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) and a human rights

1 In Phase II of the Programme, six additional counties practicing FGM were included for support with alternative economic opportunities to practitioners abandoning the FGM practice. These include: Bomi, Gbarpolou, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties.

2 Efforts to adopt the Domestic Violence Act started before the beginning of the Spotlight Initiative but were concluded with intensive advocacy conducted at the beginning of the Spotlight Initiative.



advocacy strategy on the prevention and response to gender-based violence to guide long-term advocacy for laws, policies, and strategies that promote gender equality and inclusively protect human rights. Functional structures like the Human rights and Gender Desk established at Law Reform Commission (LRC) for mainstreaming gender and human rights into law reform processes, and the Human Rights and Gender Working Team (HRGWT) of trained staff in gender and human rights underscore Liberia's commitment to integrating gender and human rights into law reform processes and upholding Liberia's compliance with international gender equality and human rights standards.

- Capacity and institutional accountability to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG) were enhanced. National budget allocation to gender issues was introduced in 2020 with a pledge of USD 2 Million to fund priorities of the anti-sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) Roadmap and the number of line ministries piloting the enhancement of gender equality, elimination of violence against women, and promotion of sexual reproductive health raised from zero to twelve during the Spotlight implementation. An accountability framework document was produced to enhance the collective implementation of commitments and policies, track resources, and ensure the sustainability of GBV prevention and response services. In addition, a platform of 512 criminal justice chain actors from various Government institutions, CSOs, traditional leaders, and law enforcement officers was established to facilitate the timely delivery of justice and police services to survivors of GBV through sharing timely information. Up to 200 grassroots women's rights advocates and defenders and 71 grassroots community-based

organizations (CBOs) (including youth and rural women's groups) are engaged in advocacy with local authorities in the five Spotlight Initiative counties to increase SGBV response and prevention funding in future fiscal years.

- Changes in sociocultural acceptability of domestic violence, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and FGM are currently reflected in various media and public addresses to denounce them, the adoption of alternative livelihoods to replace FGM as a source of income, and the integration of alternative rites of passage into womanhood that exclude FGM. These changes are linked to the Spotlight's investment in a wide dissemination of a Comprehensive Prevention Strategy (CPS) and a Board of County Commissioners (BCC) strategy to over 110 communities, 50 schools, and various media outlets; a wide campaign to demand the ban on FGM and the replacement of bush schools where FGM was practiced by modern vocational and heritage centers to promote positive norms in the process to abolish FGM from practicing communities.
- Availability and accessibility of integrated, rights-based, and survivor-centered multisectoral essential services to women and girl survivors of violence have tremendously improved through the five years of the Spotlight Initiative implementation. Overall, services were accessed by 207,005 individuals from January 2019 to December 2023 and covered healthcare services, psychosocial services, legal services, protection services, and community engagement and empowerment services. The improvement in SGBV service delivery is also linked to the Spotlight Initiative contribution which allowed the production of tools that are currently guiding service providers in managing relevant cases (including a Case Management Policy, a National SOP on case management,

and the Integrated Essential service package for SGBV and SRHR); the availability of safe infrastructure (including 12 newly constructed and 10 rehabilitated Women and Children Protection Services (WACPS) facilities, a National Forensic Pathologist Laboratory furnished and equipped, 4 SGBV/SRH Centers, 2 SGBV Specialized Courts, 5 One-Stop Centers, and 3 Safe Homes); equipment for evidence promotion in service delivery (DNA machines); and the recruitment, training, and deployment of a multidisciplinary team including 121 LNP/WACPS officers to provide these services in Spotlight counties.

- Liberia made remarkable strides in addressing gaps in GBV data and strengthening the coordination between data producers (MGCSP, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure uniformity, coherence, and use of standardized reporting tools. A unified mechanism Gender-based violence (GBV-IMS system) was developed and is

guiding the harmonization of data collection, analysis, and dissemination of reports on GBV. The system is coordinated at the MGCSP and is run and fed by a pool of more than 126 staff from different institutions whose capacities were strengthened to produce data on the incidence of violence against women and girls, harmful practices, and sexual reproductive health and rights at the national and county levels. The availability of GBV data is helping to analyze and understand trends and the impact of GBV on women and girls in Liberia to a large extent. The process to digitalize the GBV IMS to replace the manual Kobo Collect was in progress at the end of the project.

- CSOs and women's rights organizations in Liberia are now better coordinated and jointly advocate for EAWG/HP and SRHR. Thirty-four (34) recommendations jointly submitted by CSOs to address 23 key issues of concern to SGBV/HPs.

## I Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

Positive developments in the Liberian legislative environment provided hope for the future of women and girls' safety. In addition to the passage of the Domestic Violence Law and the amendment of the Inheritance Law, the Rape Law and the Domestic Relations Law under the LSI, a draft gender and human rights-sensitive legal Aid Act for Liberia was produced and validated. This Act governs all matters related to access to justice and legal aid in criminal, civil and administrative cases for needy persons, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups including women, persons living in remote rural areas, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, and persons adversely affected by the Liberian Civil War. Furthermore, the Government of Liberia made commitments on two Generation Equality Action Coalitions (Gender Based Violence and Economic Rights and Justice) during the 2021 global Generation Equality Forum where the country was represented by the President of the Republic, His Excellency George Weah. Partners are using these commitments to demand accelerated Government action for ending FGM, including through legislation.

Further to the outbreak of COVID-19 and heightened rates of SGBV reported in the lockdown period, Liberia adopted several measures to address the twin pandemic of COVID-19 and SGBV. In October 2020, President George Weah declared rape a national emergency for the next two years (2020–2022) and called on multiple stakeholders to develop a National Road Map to end SGBV in Liberia.<sup>3</sup> The Anti-SGBV Road Map guided future investment on addressing rape and other forms of SGBV and seeks to change the current dynamics of 'business as usual'.

Despite repeated lockdowns and restrictions in public gatherings to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the LSI attained most of its planned goals thanks to coping measures adopted to keep the implementation of activities on track. These included remote monitoring of activities, online meetings, and the use of radio campaigns to raise awareness on SGBV prevention. However, an

extension of the project was granted to ensure full implementation of all activities.

A strong political will continued to build around securing an environment free from violence and harmful practices for women and girls. Furthermore, a full ban on FGM was declared by Chief Zanzan Karwor, the Chairperson of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia on 06 February 2023 as a bold step to end the harmful practice against women and girls in Liberian practicing communities. The declaration of a ban on FGM called for Liberia to embrace the concept of 'Initiation without Mutilation', whereby young girls can undergo the cultural rites of passage into womanhood without being subjected to FGM. The declaration also led to an increased demand to outlaw FGM through the passage of the anti-FGM Bill, and a demand for accountability to all stakeholders to act against FGM within respective mandates. As part of the anti-FGM campaign, stakeholders are progressively

3 See: <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20200913-liberia-president-weah-declares-rape-a-national-emergency-after-protests-sexual-assault-gender-based-violence>; [https://www.emansion.gov.lr/2press.php?news\\_id=5191&related=7&pg=sp](https://www.emansion.gov.lr/2press.php?news_id=5191&related=7&pg=sp).



investing in community engagements to enforce the ban at the grassroots level.

A key milestone in the journey to end violence against women and girls included a critical increase in development partners' funding for ending gender-based violence in Liberia. The country received from the World Bank a financing package of USD 44,6 million (\$17.80 million grant and \$26.80 million concessional credit) to implement the Liberia Women Empowerment Project, greatly inspired by the Spotlight Initiative and numerous inputs from the Spotlight team. Furthermore, Liberia will implement the next generation of the Spotlight Initiative which is expected to sustain and advance the gains made in the first iteration of the programme.

Liberia experienced a transition period between the outgoing and the incoming Government between the end of elections in November 2023 and the inauguration of the new administration in January 2024. This transition, which followed a long political season which started in August 2023 with electoral campaigns, has created a temporary decline in the involvement of Government actors in the closure activities of the LSI. This is also more likely going to affect the transition period between the two generations of the Spotlight Initiative. To mitigate the risk of a disconnect, the UN Resident Coordinator is engaging with the EU Ambassador on the possibility to engage the EU and UN technical teams in preliminary processes for the design of a new programme and engage the new Government upon investiture..



*A service provider informs beneficiaries of the available family planning services during an outreach campaign in Lofa County (Credit, UNFPA Liberia).*

# I Programme Governance and Coordination

The LSI was governed and managed through different structures including the National Steering Committee (NSC), the Technical Working Group (TWG), and pillar working groups.

## National Steering Committee

The Spotlight Liberia National Steering Committee (NSC) is co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, and comprises seventeen voting members and nine observers. LSI NSC voting members included the Head of the EU Delegation, the UN Resident Coordinator, five Recipient United Nations Organizations<sup>4</sup> (RUNOs), seven Government of Liberia ministries,<sup>5</sup> and three CS-NRG co-chairs. The nine observers include two associated UN Agencies (IOM and UNHCR), Government Institutions (the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia, the Liberia Board of Midwives and Nurses, the Law Reform Commission, and the National Independent Human Rights Commission), four EU member states (Germany, France, Ireland, and Sweden), and other development partners (World Bank, African Development Bank Group (AfDB) with programs on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The NSC continued to guide and oversee the program's implementation while ensuring accountability of partners and expanding partnerships for dialogue on issues affecting the rights of women and girls in Liberia. Several meetings of the LSI Steering Committee were attended by representatives of non-member organizations,

including the World Bank and African Development Bank. This reaffirmed development partners' and the GOL's determination to prioritize women's rights and the elimination of SGBV as a backbone of the country's development alongside Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other economic growth aspects. Furthermore, the Steering Committee's guidance to the Spotlight Initiative Technical Committee led to improvements in reporting to internal and external audiences and solutions, including on challenging aspects of implementation such as the purchase and running of DNA machines for evidence generation, delays in the construction of Cultural and Heritage Centers for traditional practitioners, and documentation of the Spotlight Program's impact on communities.

Key decisions taken by the NSC included the approval of the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) allocations to Liberia to complement LSI geographic coverage and partners' engagement, and the no-cost extension of the Spotlight Programme up to December 31, 2023. The committee held 12 meetings throughout the LSI implementation period.

Seven months after the Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MOGCSP) convened high-level consultations on LSI coordination (a modus operandi titled "Framework for Success"),

<sup>4</sup> UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCHR and UN Women.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Gender, children and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism.

a non-legally binding “Joint Statement for Strengthening Development Cooperation” was signed by the Government of Liberia (GOL), development partners (DPs), CSOs, and the private sector in Monrovia on April 14, 2022. This document spells out the commitment of all parties to strengthen coordination, increase alignment, improve results, and promote mutual accountability in development coordination. This contributed to enhancing the coordination of LSI structures as most signatories of this joint statement were also part of the various LSI coordination structures.

### Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG)

The CS-NRG was managed by the Spotlight Coordinator at the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) until August 2023 when the remaining activities of this group transitioned to UN Women until the end of the program. The reference group started with 16 members and retained 12 members until the end of the Spotlight Programme in line with the newly adopted CS-NRG standard operating procedures, the existing code of conduct, and terms of reference of the Group. The Liberia CS-NRG comprises experts on women’s rights, elimination of VAWG and harmful practices, and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) from prominent feminist, women’s rights, and women-led CSOs, grassroots women’s networks, national women’s peacebuilding umbrella organizations, rural women, young women and youth activists, faith-based organizations, HeForShe champions’ networks, and groups representing marginalized persons, including persons with disabilities and LGBTIQI+.

The work of the Liberia CS-NRG was guided by an approved costed workplan which also included financial compensation for CS-NRG members in line with agreed-upon deliverables as per feminist

organizations’ recommendations and the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) guidelines. In line with the established accountability systems, the CS-NRG conducted field monitoring visits to Spotlight counties and produced recommendations which were later translated into deliverables (including the LSI Scorecard Analysis Report, the CSO capacity assessment report, the leave no one behind (LNOB) report, and CS-NRG reports to the GBV Prevention Taskforce with recommendations on working with grassroots organizations) and policy documents (including CS-NRG SOPs, Advocacy Strategy, and Code of Conduct) to enable (LNOB) policy localization, the practical implementation of inclusive funding, and work with grassroots and women’s rights community-based organizations, CSOs, and NGOs in Liberia, and advocacy for women’s rights at the grassroots level. Other tools produced and used to support the work of the Liberia CS-NRG activities included a monitoring scorecard, the CS-NRG terms of reference (TORs), a programme monitoring plan, and an advocacy strategy. Besides monitoring, the CS-NRG held press conferences to advocate for and demand Government action to address issues of concern, including cases of FGM.

Further engagements of the CS-NRG in advocacy, campaigns, and key events to raise public awareness and demand duty-bearers’ accountability on SGBV and harmful practices attracted the interest of non-traditional allies in the cause, including religious and traditional leaders who are currently talking about SGBV and FGM issues openly. More importantly, CS-NRG reports and recommendations submitted to the NSC stirred action and pledges from the Government of Liberia and National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL) to initiate the monitoring of activities for raising awareness of traditional communities on the three-year moratorium on FGM and enhance the ban’s implementation in counties that are still practicing FGM in Liberia. Additionally, the Liberia



CS-NRG has prepared twelve recommendations for improving engagements with women's grassroots organizations in the prevention of and response to SGBV and a report with recommendations on 'Leaving No-One Behind' which focuses on the protection of LGBTQI+ persons and the need for their equal access to opportunities. Furthermore, the Liberian CS-NRG was highly visible in global and regional levels exchange initiatives. CS-NRG representatives widely participated in global and regional SI surveys and forums where they often facilitated sessions and presented key needs of LGBTQI populations and those of women's organizations working at the national and grassroots levels.

The involvement of the CS-NRG in the Spotlight activities' monitoring is a great milestone in the process of ensuring the sustainability of gains made by the program. CSOs members of the CS-NRG have embedded SGBV prevention in their respective organizational activities in preparation for the phase-out of the Spotlight Initiative. Members of the group have also acquired requisite capacity to advocate for gender-based issues affecting women and girls, including in the media. The remaining period of the project will be used to support the group in designing a stronger sustainability plan to ensure that the group outlives the project.

### **Inter-Agency Coordination, Technical Committees, and Other Governance Mechanisms**

The Spotlight Programme continued to play a strategic role in demonstrating the UN's commitment and action to fast track the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda. This role was ensured through the membership of PMCU staff in several UNCT working groups all of which are mechanisms related to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework: Interagency Programming Team (IAPT), Gender-Theme Group (GTG), One

UN M&E Working Group, One UN Communication Working Group. In addition, as a tool for UN Reform, the Spotlight Initiative was part of the SDG Lab exercise initiated to stir UN reforms and the UNCT work in Liberia. Through this participation, the Spotlight Initiative coordination worked closely with the UN Country Team (UNCT) working groups in the process to implement the gender mainstreaming strategy of the UNCT.

Moreover, the LSI RUNOs continued to support the Women, Children, and Girls Pillar of the National Response Plan of Liberia by providing timely, substantive inputs to standard operating procedures, work plans, and budget. The Women, Children, and Girls Pillar is a National Response Pillar for COVID-19 which met on a weekly basis to brief and strategize on how to address SGBV and other gender issues during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **Use of UN Reform Inter-Agency Tools**

The Spotlight Initiative continuously used common services through the RCO's MoU with the UNCT to provide common services including office space, water, power, cleaning and other common services, Information Technology, medical services through the One UN Dispensary/Clinic and security advisory services UNOSSC to all UN Agencies. To the extent possible, the Spotlight Initiative used the One UN or agency's Long Terms Agreements (LTA) for the procurement of goods and services. The LTA approach enables the UN to negotiate discounts and lower prices for fuel, vehicle maintenance and repair, car wash, internet, and enables harmonized transaction costs for projects including daily subsistence allowance (DSA) and transportation rates for local participants and beneficiaries. In addition, the UNCT provided access to the most critical information and tools to facilitate the work of the team in contributing to the impact of the programme coherence, planning, and implementation.



*Spotlight Programme Managers at ECOWAS Radio speaking on issues of investing to prevent violence against women and girls, 27 November 2023 Photo Credit: UN Women.*

## I Programme Partnerships

### Government

To ensure the success, ownership, and sustainability of the Spotlight Initiative, the Programme has forged strong partnerships with the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the government lead and coordinator of all activities related to addressing SGBV, harmful practices, and SRHR. Seven other ministries were engaged in the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative as line institutions with comparative advantages in one or more pillars of the Spotlight Programme. The Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, and the Prison Fellowship (a CSO working on justice for children) remained key partners of the Spotlight Initiative

in fostering child justice across the country with technical support and guidance from LSI RUNOs. The Spotlight Initiative also partnered with the Liberia National Police (LNP) through the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) and the SGBV Crimes Unit at the Ministry of Justice on issues of security and justice for SGBV survivors. Particularly, the MGCSP was instrumental in the process for monitoring the dissemination of the Comprehensive SGBV Prevention Strategy for Liberia in five counties, establishing a functional Toll-free Call Center which operates with a toll-free number (116), and ensuring GBV data harmonization through the use of the manual GBV-IMS. Concerted efforts by MGCSP, supported by the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), resulted in the President signing the Anti-SGBV Road Map and the declaration of rape as a national emergency.



*(right) H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, the President of the Republic of Liberia, signing the "I am #WithHer" T-Shirt of the Spotlight Initiative, 24 Oct 2022 Photo Credit: UNRCO Liberia.*



The LSI partnership with the Law Reform Commission and the Legislature has contributed to strengthened capacities of the legislative human rights staff who are currently working to ensure that human rights and gender are mainstreamed in law reform processes. To improve the Spotlight partnership strategy with the Government of Liberia, an inter-ministerial meeting was held with the United Nations in 2021 to discuss programme progress, an inter-ministerial “Framework for Success” was prepared to inform the multiple issues related to coordination, designate who does what, and when. This engagement helped provide a multi-sectoral platform for engagement with the Government on the LSI’s strategic direction, implementation, and contributed to increased buy-in of the programme by Government actors. To sustain multisectoral, targeted, gender-sensitive interventions, Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRP) was piloted in MoJ, MoH, and MGCSP. This work has increasingly contributed to ensuring gender-inclusive sector plans reflected in these ministries’ annual planning and budgeting, despite budget challenges. For the first time, USD \$200,000 was allocated for gender interventions in the FY 2020/21 annual government budget as a result of the GRPB efforts. Expenditures on gender initiatives from the national budget had reached US \$350,000 in 2023. Partnerships with high-level government institutions, including the Office of the President and Office of the Vice President were created to secure political buy-in and commitment of high-level influential authorities on the Spotlight Initiative Programme focus areas. At the UN Day celebration in October 2022 and in the President’s address to the UN General Assembly in September 2022, the partnership between the GOL and the Spotlight Initiative was acknowledged by the President of Liberia as a backbone for fighting SGBV and HPs as well as promoting SRHR in Liberia, referring to gender equality and women’s empowerment as a top priority of his government. Similarly, the Vice-President of Liberia frequently

engaged with the programme on topics considered the most sensitive in Liberian society. She attended the event for the promotion of the Policy Statement signed by traditional leaders in Gbarnga, Bong County, on 04 February 2022, to temporarily suspend Sande practices in Liberia and the 2022 launch event of the 16 Days of Activism in Sonkay Town, Montserrado County, where traditional leaders agreed to hand over their “cutting tools” and traditional schools’ registration certificates. Her presence and position on FGM abolition served as a reminder that eliminating FGM is a priority and a responsibility for everyone, including those involved in the practice.



*H.E. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor, the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, at the dedication of the vocational and heritage center in Sonkay Town, 25 November 2022 Photo Credit: UN Women.*

## Civil Society

The LSI forged and strengthened strategic partnerships with key civil society organizations for improving advocacy, accountability, and service delivery to SGBV survivors. Through partnerships with grassroots civil society organizations in the Spotlight target communities, the Programme was able to scale up interventions to prevent and respond to SGBV/SEA and HPs perpetrated against children, especially adolescent girls, strengthen local and national child protection systems and community-based structures such as GBV Observatories, Child Welfare Committees, and GBV taskforces, and work in collaboration with the MGCSP to cultivate partnerships and engagements with professional associations (National Social Work Board and the Association of Liberian Social Workers) for the implementation of recommendations from the Social Service Workforce Assessment. The LSI also established five CSO Secretariats in five

counties of Liberia. These CSO Secretariats helped to expand the Programme's reach to groups more vulnerable to SGBV, harmful practices, and SRHR violations, including persons living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQI+ persons, women in the sex industry, and persons with disabilities. RUNOs reports indicate that 71 groups have received grants from the Spotlight Initiative and have built a strong women's movement expected to sustain the work initiated by the Spotlight Programme.

## European Union Delegation

The Delegation of the European Union to Liberia (EUDEL) continued to be a reliable partner deeply engaged in dialogue and guidance around programme implementation, initiating solutions around identified challenges and supporting programme events and CS-NRG advocacy efforts throughout the implementation period.



*Joint Radio Show<sup>6</sup>, 10 October 2022, Monrovia.*

6 FEJAL, Female Journalists' Association of Liberia, organized a series of Radio talk Shows as a part of the media campaign for the abolishment of FGM, promotion of women's rights and elimination of Liberia (FEJAL). From left to right: EUDEL, Head of Governance, Mr. Jyrki Torni, EUDEL Programme Officer for Gender, Youth, Civil Society and Communication, Ms. Simona Camillini, UNRCO Programme Coordinator, Ms. Milica Turnic, and CS-NRG Co-Chair, Mr. Tamba J. F. Johnson. Photo Credit: UN RCO Liberia.

Besides the EUDEL's active engagement in the programme through high-level coordination and dialogue in the NSC, the technical level partnership was strengthened with the arrival of the new EUDEL Spotlight Technical Focal Point, and the visit of the European Court of Auditors to Liberia. The EUDEL monthly (or bi-monthly) regular participation in technical meetings of the Programme contributed to the improvement of the Spotlight Programme updates, plans, and implementation. The EUDEL has also participated in several media activities

including radio talk shows and the press conference of the CS-NRG around identified priorities. The EUDEL has now confirmed the possibility of a Spotlight 2.0<sup>7</sup> programme to sustain the partnership with the UN on addressing SGBV issues. While the new programme's scope might slightly differ from the scope of the Spotlight Programme, it is expected to build on gains made by the ongoing programme in preventing and responding to SGBV, harmful practices, and promoting SRHR.



*CS-NRG Press Conference 8 26 October 2022, attended by the EU Ambassador H.E. Laurent Delahousse, Monrovia.*

### Cooperation with other (non-RUNO) UN agencies

Cooperation with non-RUNO agencies was organized around several One UN platforms such as Executive Management Meetings, UN Country Team Meetings as well as within other One UN Platforms including Gender-Theme Group, One UN

Monitoring and Evaluation Working groups, One UN Communication Working Group, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Taskforce. These internal coordination meetings served as platforms for internal information sharing, addressing emerging issues, and advisory to the technical team on day-to-day implementation of

<sup>7</sup> Details on the content, processes and funding envelope will be communicated by the EUDEL in a meeting taking place on 25 October 2023.

<sup>8</sup> The CS-NRG organized a press Conference calling for the government to protect women and girls against FGM after a 11-year-old girl was kidnaped and forcefully mutilated, and almost bled to death in Margibi, a non-Spotlight County. Photo Credit: UN RCO Liberia.



the Programme. The Programme capitalized on the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s expertise in working with individual entrepreneurs and providing capacity building and start-up finance and engaged the ILO for technical input in testing the SDG Lab prototype on community engagement for ending FGM through alternative sources of income.

### Other Partners and Resource Mobilization

Achievements of the Spotlight Programme in Liberia were greatly backed by the support from the Government of Sweden through its regular funding to RUNOs. Under this support, the UN is supporting traditional leaders to conduct community engagements and traditional events for retrieving licenses to run bush schools. The campaign built

on previous endeavors of the Spotlight Programme, including the progressive closure of bush schools in 5 FGM-practicing counties, the construction of vocational and heritage centers in 4 counties, and community awareness on FGM as a harmful practice. As a step for exiting the programme and building the sustainability of its results, a mapping of current GEWE programming was conducted in the country. The mapping report is expected to provide entry points for the UN to collaborate and partner with major actors on GEWE, as well as consolidate the gains for more impactful results. The UNCT and Private Sector Round Table led by the Liberian Chamber of Commerce has equally identified several private sector partnerships for potential future collaboration.



*A traditional birth attendant and mid-wife working hand-in-hand at the Maternal Waiting Home constructed by Spotlight Initiative in Bahn Nimba County \_Helen Mayelle\_Spotlight Initiative Liberia.*

## Results: Broadening Transformations Across Outcomes

The Spotlight Programme in Liberia has embraced an integrated approach to tackle Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), historically considered a taboo subject in the country. Coordinated by the technical coherence lead agency of the Spotlight Initiative, a working group comprising Deputy Representatives of Spotlight Initiative UN Agencies, was formed. This group focused on deliberating and aligning significant interventions across various pillars. It provided a platform for mapping, harmonizing, and leading all efforts aimed at preventing FGM, including through legislation, policy advocacy, public awareness, service provision, and community-based prevention initiatives. This collaborative effort resulted in a more potent advocacy campaign to eradicate FGM in Liberia.

A novel concept, “Initiation without Mutilation,” was introduced and received unanimous support from all stakeholders, notably traditional leaders. This strategy promotes the positive cultural heritage and traditions of communities in initiating young girls into womanhood while eliminating FGM and other detrimental practices. This initiative led to Chief Zanzan Karwor, Chairperson of the National

Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL), publicly declaring a complete prohibition on FGM in Liberia in February 2023. This declaration was accompanied by the closure of “bush schools” in four counties and a public denunciation of FGM by a Muslim community in Monrovia, articulated by their head ‘zoe.’



Chief Zanzan Karwor (center), Head of NACCEL, promising to abolish FGM in Liberia in a courtesy visit paid by the UN Women Goodwill Ambassador in November 2022. Photo Credit: @UN Women.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional methods of promoting SRHR and responding to SGBV were challenged by lockdowns and social distancing measures. Nonetheless, the urgency of addressing SRHR and SGBV increased in 2020. The LSI engaged closely with the mental health and psychosocial support pillars, enhancing mental health and trauma counseling services. It also worked with the Women, Children, and Girls Pillar to facilitate the reactivation of a 24/7 call center/hotline. Despite these challenges, innovative and targeted interventions continued, including psychosocial support, counseling, referrals, fistula repairs, and family planning, alongside other survivor response services such as case management, access to justice, and economic empowerment. By the end of 2023, these efforts had fostered a sustainable integration of SRHR/GBV services across 28 service delivery points.

The LSI prioritized the empowerment and leadership of key national institutions in the programme's execution, encompassing government departments, agencies, and institutions like the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), MoJ, Ministry of Health (MoH), Liberia Refugee Commission (LRC), Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS), and the Legislature, with technical support from Recipient UN Agencies. The goal was to foster and strengthen national ownership of the programme's processes and outcomes, ensuring its long-term sustainability. National institutions significantly influenced the Government of Liberia's (GoL) commitments and actions, including signing as a commitment maker on the Generation Equality Action Coalitions on GBV and Human Rights, declaring rape a national emergency, allocating a national budget for SGBV issues, and persuading traditional leaders to ban FGM during the LSI's implementation phase. With the institutional capacity developed through the LSI, national stakeholders are anticipated to follow the accountability framework set forth by

the Programme, maintaining the momentum for continued political commitment and accountability in eradicating VAWG, including through decisive actions to invest national resources in providing essential services to GBV survivors.

### **Reporting on the Implementation of Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (P-MER)**

Participatory monitoring and evaluation of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative (LSI) were facilitated by the Programme's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist, Community-Supported Natural Resource Governance (CS-NRG) members, and a field team deployed across five counties.

In terms of monitoring tools, we introduced two straightforward web-based questionnaires via Kobo Toolbox, a free online platform for data collection, to enhance PMER in Liberia. These forms allowed smartphone users, even in remote rural areas lacking internet or telephone connectivity, to document various activities. Users could record events, workshops, meetings, conferences, statements, and photos of beneficiaries, alongside attendance lists. They were also able to log GPS coordinates and sex-disaggregated data on participant numbers, and articulate in simple terms what aspects were successful, identify the beneficiaries, gauge beneficiaries' opinions on the effectiveness and efficiency of activities, and note their challenges and recommendations.

The use of Kobo Toolbox is considered a promising practice that has proven to reduce the burden of reporting. It provides valuable evidence on events and interactions with communities and grassroots actors. Due to budget constraints, it was not possible to adopt the participatory monitoring, evaluation, and reporting model recommended by the PMER Guidance. Alternative approaches were sought



to maximize participation in Spotlight activities, including regular virtual meetings and the creation of several WhatsApp groups. This approach facilitated

a dynamic exchange of information, which helped to fast-track and enhance implementation.



*CS-NRG monitoring mission and ECOWAS Journalist's: meeting with CSO Secretariat representative in Salayea, Lofa County. November 2022: Photo credit UNRCO.*

The CS-NRG's independent monitoring remained a crucial platform for building program links with all categories of persons/groups in communities. It recommended independent and objective actions to address issues affecting the lives of women and girls. The monitoring activities of this group enabled the identification of cases for advocacy, especially those related to the forceful mutilation of young girls, and reported them to duty bearers for action, including via the media.

"We now have fewer cases of GBV and domestic violence in our August term of court compared to the March term. The reduction is based on the awareness and mentoring of males to exhibit positive behavior, which is now being considered by many of our male colleagues. However, there is a need to continue male engagement for more positive outcomes," stated a Circuit Court clerk in Voinjama, Lofa County, quoting from the CS-NRG monitoring visit report of September 2023.

"The sensitization sessions conducted by the Spotlight Initiative helped me change my behavior from being violent to becoming a changed husband. Whenever my wife left to visit her friends or relatives, I would question her, force her to have sex, and even escalate to fighting. But today, I am glad to be a changed person due to the program. Thanks to the program, my wife and I live in peace," shared Abu Dassen, a 29-year-old from Mambo Town, Tewor District #3, Cape Mount County, quoting from the CS-NRG monitoring visit report of November 2022.

# I Capturing Change at the Outcome Level

## Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

The legal and policy environment in Liberia, supporting actions to end GBV and harmful practices against women and girls, has seen significant enhancements to align with international standards, courtesy of the Spotlight Initiative implementation from 2019 to 2023. Key improvements include:

- The legislative framework to criminalize VAWG has been strengthened through efforts culminating in the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act. This law addresses various forms of domestic violence, including dowry-related violence, harassment, abuse (physical, psychological, sexual, and verbal), and neglect. Additionally, amendments to the Inheritance Law (2003), Rape Law (2005), and Domestic Relation (2019) have been made to safeguard the rights of women and girls and to ensure perpetrators are held accountable by the criminal justice system.
- Gender and human rights have been prioritized in law reforms, significantly due to the establishment of a gender and human rights desk at the Law Reform Commission (LRC). This desk supports women and girls' initiatives, integrates human rights principles into legal processes, and has developed a gender and human rights checklist for the Human Rights and Judiciary Committee at the Liberia Legislature. This checklist serves as a vital tool for reviewing bills and highlights the importance of mainstreaming gender and human rights in parliamentary activities.
- The capacity of 75 women's human rights defenders (WHRDs) from five Spotlight counties has been enhanced, empowering them to contribute to policy and legislation drafting at various levels. With newfound knowledge, WHRDs are better equipped to protect themselves and advocate for the rights of women and girls.
- A draft Human Rights Defenders' Protection Policy was created through consultative stakeholder engagements to address the challenges faced by human rights advocates in Liberia. This policy, once validated, will offer crucial support to defenders, particularly those working on sensitive issues like FGM, rape, and LGBTQI+ rights.
- The Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) has developed a 5-year strategic plan (2022-2026) to direct its advocacy for law and policy amendments, aiming to enhance the protection and advancement of rights for women, children, and marginalized groups.
- Advocacy efforts have led to the submission of a bill, "An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation 2022," to the House of Representatives, marking a significant step towards outlawing FGM. Ongoing advocacy seeks to bolster legislative support for this critical issue.
- The establishment of a Human Rights and Gender Working Team (HRGWT) has aimed to integrate gender and human rights standards into law reform processes, addressing the gap in national and local capacities to promote

policies and legislations against SGBV and harmful practices.

- Public awareness of legal and policy frameworks for protecting women and girls from GBV has been increased through the simplification and dissemination of critical laws in five Spotlight counties. Sensitization workshops have further empowered vulnerable groups to advocate for their rights.
- Enhanced capacities among staff and human rights monitors of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and partners have led to improved documentation and reporting on human rights violations related to SRHR and SGBV.
- Initiatives to recognize and protect the rights of the LGBTIQ community have been introduced, with the INCHR and LGBTIQ community holding sessions to enhance awareness and collaboration on protection mechanisms, marking a significant step towards inclusive human rights advocacy in Liberia.

These efforts collectively contribute to a more inclusive, fair, and rights-respecting legal and policy environment in Liberia, signaling a positive shift towards the eradication of gender-based violence and harmful practices.

## Outcome 2: Institutions

The Liberia Spotlight Initiative has made significant progress in enhancing the capacity of both institutions and individuals to implement multisectoral programming approaches effectively. These approaches are critical for planning, implementing, and monitoring interventions aimed at preventing and responding to SGBV, HPs, and

SRHR-related issues at national and subnational levels.

The GoL has notably advanced in incorporating a gender perspective into its budgeting process, with the support of the Spotlight Initiative. The national budget allocation for gender issues rose from zero in 2020 to USD 380,000 in 2021, and further to USD 500,000 in 2022. Additionally, the GoL expanded the number of line ministries piloting initiatives for enhancing gender equality and the elimination of violence against women and sexual reproductive health to twelve during the Spotlight Initiative's implementation. This expansion was significantly influenced by the establishment of Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) units within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the MGCSP, and the MoJ. These units support the institutionalization of GRPB through coordination, planning, and monitoring the national budget's responsiveness to gender and women's rights issues. Moreover, 40 legislators and 40 CSOs that participated in the Spotlight Programme's advocacy and knowledge enhancement interventions focused on budget planning and monitoring. Their efforts have greatly contributed to adopting a gender-responsive approach to national budgets. It is anticipated that both the number of ministries involved and the funds allocated to SGBV issues will continue to increase in the coming budget years.

Integrated support for institutional and organizational capacity building within justice and security sector institutions has remained a priority of the LSI. This is to address identified challenges in coordination and limited capacity that have hindered timely access to justice for SGBV survivors, as shown in the data from the GBV Information Management System (GBV-IMS), managed by the MGCSP in coordination with justice sector institutions. The LSI has ensured that actors within the security chain (including prosecutors,



human rights officers, social workers, police officers, nurses/health workers, CSOs, traditional and religious leaders) receive customized training and skill-building. Specific national and subnational institutions were targeted to design and implement policies, programs, and activities aimed at preventing and responding to all forms of VAWG, due to their crucial role in translating laws and policies into practice and ensuring that no one is left behind in eliminating VAWG. Targeted institutions include the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR), the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), the Liberia National Fire Service, the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), the Ministry of National Defense, the MoJ, and the judiciary. The capacities of these institutions were assessed under the LSI implementation in five counties. Staff from these institutions, especially those in key positions, are actively engaged in providing improved services for the prevention of SGBV, protection of women and girls from SGBV, and response services to survivors. The in-service training curricula of the LIS, LDEA, AFL, and BCR were also reviewed, revised, and validated to mainstream gender and address SGBV.

A Criminal Justice Chain Actors' Forum established in five counties serves as a platform for networking, information sharing, and the timely delivery of justice and police services in response to cases of SGBV and HPs. The forum unites 512 criminal justice chain actors (226 females, 286 males), with approximately 102 members per county, from various institutions. These actors have improved coordination in delivering justice and police services to SGBV survivors following their training on effective responses to SGBV and harmful practices. The platform has proven to be an effective space for networking on SGBV issues and facilitating coordination through information sharing.

Eleven government institutions, led by the MGCSP, have significantly enhanced their gender analysis capacity through various capacity-building initiatives implemented by the Spotlight Initiative. A total of 119 participants (65 males and 54 females), including 14 Gender Ministry County Coordinators, 100 officials from selected national institutions, and five CSO staff, have acquired knowledge and understanding of VAWG, including the root causes, triggers, and risk factors for domestic violence, GBV data analysis and documentation, as well as coordination and rapid reporting skills. These institutions are now better equipped to lead legal and protection, health, psychosocial, and coordination platforms to exchange information, propose solutions, and demand accountability on GBV issues, as well as provide reports in quarterly GBV taskforce meetings.

Through purposeful advocacy actions, a cohort of 200 grassroots women's rights advocates and women's human rights defenders, whose advocacy skills were enhanced through the LSI, are spearheading transformative discussions on SGBV, harmful practices, and SRHR. They are contributing to the integration of these issues into county planning and resource allocation across the 5 program target counties. This integration is a promising indicator of potential future funding and implementation of relevant programs within the overall context of county development plans.

A transformative two-day National Colloquium on SGBV prevention and response provided an opportunity to identify pressing challenges within the SGBV prevention and response landscape, such as delayed trials and limited youth-friendly services at SGBV one-stop centers. It also allowed for discussions on accountability issues and the identification of best practices and forward-looking recommendations for effective SGBV response. The 387 participants (158 males and 229 females) from various sectors participated in the colloquium

and engaged in discussions on how to enhance coordination, networking, and information sharing mechanisms to improve SGBV survivors' access to legal services, expedite trials, case adjudication, and hold SGBV perpetrators accountable.

An accountability framework document was produced to enhance the SGBV data collection approach and information flow among relevant government institutions. This tool outlines a framework for responsibilities, funding, monitoring, and reporting on GBV issues across all sectors at the national level. Coupled with a synchronized data collection strategy at the MGCSP, this framework marks a decisive step towards eradicating violence against women and girls by establishing a system that ensures accountability, funding, monitoring, reporting, and feedback mechanisms on GBV issues across all sectors. The accountability framework,

a result of a multi-partner review, validation, and launch process, sets a precedent for seamless rollout and practical application.

Partnerships and collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including community-based organizations, civil society groups, and representatives from marginalized communities, were crucial to ensure inclusive institutional capacity building. This approach facilitated co-designing interventions, ensuring accessibility, and amplifying the voices of groups most at risk of violence and discrimination. During the program implementation, the Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network (DCFENETWORK) was successfully recruited to represent the needs of persons with disabilities in various interventions, highlighting the program's commitment to inclusivity.



Former FGM practitioners engaging in alternative agriculture activities. Credit: UN Women.

### Outcome 3: Prevention and Norms Change

Attitudes toward SGBV and harmful practices are undergoing a significant transformation, as reflected in the recent declaration of a ban on FGM in Liberia by traditional leaders. Previously, FGM

was considered a taboo topic and a cultural pride for practicing communities, and was licensed to be practiced in 11 out of 15 counties. Liberia is currently embracing the concept of 'Initiation without Mutilation,' whereby young girls can undergo the cultural rites of passage into womanhood without

being subjected to FGM. Calls for outlawing FGM in Liberia through the passage of the FGM Bill have been made on several occasions, including at convenings with legislators, to ensure legal protection for women and girls and perpetrators' accountability. The anti-FGM campaign has also provided an opportunity for women's rights advocates, youth advocates, media practitioners, traditional leaders, religious leaders, grassroots organizations, and the international community to understand their roles in ending FGM. The full ban on FGM in Liberia followed several attempts to suspend the harmful practice, including unimplemented one-year and three-year suspensions by traditional leaders respectively in 2019 and 2022. Community engagements to implement the FGM ban have already been completed in four counties and will continue beyond the life span of the LSI. A change in mindsets of FGM practitioners is gradually materializing through a shift from practicing FGM as a source of income to embracing alternative sources of income in Liberia. Throughout the Spotlight Initiative implementation period, 800 traditional practitioners from 11 counties have committed to ending the FGM practice and have enrolled in VSLA groups, climate-smart agriculture interventions, and other income-generating activities. Additionally, these women have engaged in business development, literacy, and vocational skills training to broaden their opportunities for alternative sources of income.

A culturally appropriate approach to preventing FGM was promoted and accepted by traditional communities where the FGM practice was deeply entrenched, around the model vocational and heritage centers constructed to replace four bush schools in Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, and Lofa counties. The vocational and heritage

centers have facilitated the introduction of the 'initiation without mutilation' concept, aiming to preserve cultural and traditional rites of passage except for FGM. Facilities at the four heritage centers are expected to be used as hubs for skills learning and cultural exchange in line with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed to guide the centers' management, oversight, and operations. SOPs also define the roles and responsibilities of respective government institutions and other stakeholders (such as MGCSP, MIA, MoA, County Administration, NACCEL, CSOs, and former FGM practitioners) in sustaining the gains made in preventing FGM through sustaining operations at the heritage centers and reinforcing ownership of the facilities at all levels, starting from the end users who are former FGM practitioners.

Efforts to eradicate FGM through alternative livelihood support to practitioners and the promotion of alternative rites of passage to adulthood were informed by a preliminary inventory of all FGM practitioners in Liberia. An extensive and comprehensive inventory of traditional groves and zoes<sup>9</sup> was completed in 62 administrative and statutory districts in the eleven FGM-practicing counties.<sup>10</sup> Findings from the inventory showed that 1,344 traditional practitioners and zoes were licensed to perform FGM.

The change in harmful gender norms is associated with a massive campaign to implement the Social Behavioral Change Communication Strategy and the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy developed under the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in Liberia in 2021. Through this campaign, the Spotlight Initiative in Liberia achieved the following:

9 A grove is an establishment of traditional settlements constructed at least 25 kilometers away from a town to be used by traditional leaders and zoes in conducting the Poro and Sande secret schools. Zoes are female traditional leaders either trained or who have inherited the practice of a Sande secret school.

10 Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Rivercess Counties.



4,602 community members (2,093 women; 426 girls; 1,684 men; and 399 boys) from 110 communities in Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh Counties, whose capacities were initially built on the content of the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Document (CPS) and the development of community action plans to address SGBV and harmful practices, have been involved in the dissemination of this strategy through the use of the simplified version of this document produced by the Spotlight and supporting other communities in developing action plans for the prevention of

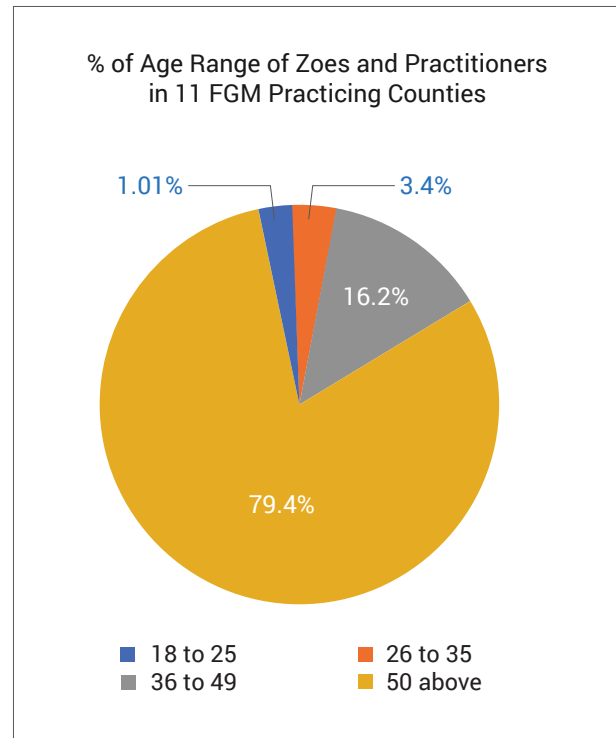
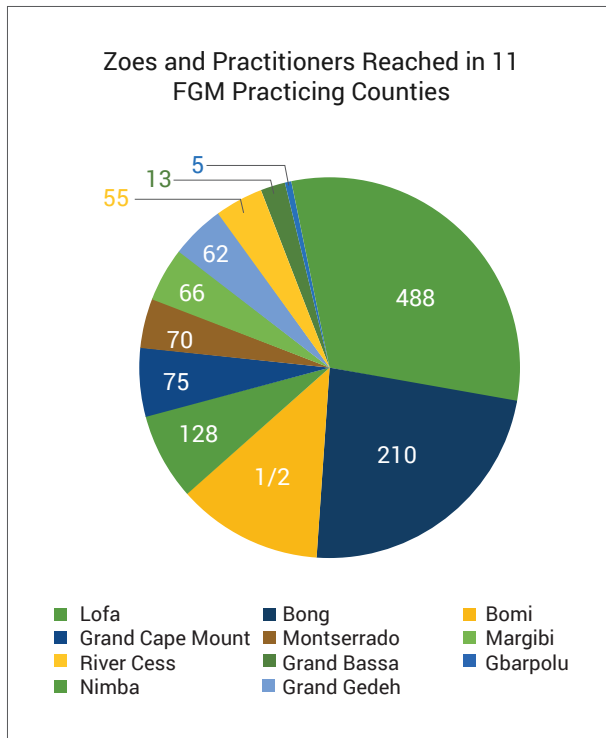
SGBV and harmful traditional practices, as well as referring SGBV cases to service providers. These beneficiaries are enrolled in the 110 Community Action Groups to conduct awareness-raising and sensitization activities, as well as work closely with the 20 Community SGBV Taskforces created to receive and report SGBV and HP cases to local authorities and service providers. Additionally, 10 community schools are using the simplified version of the CPS to ensure that younger generations grow up with changed mindsets that promote power balance between men and women.



*Photo of the vocational and heritage center in Sonkay Town, Montserrado County.*



*From left to right: Chief Zanzan Karwor (Chairperson of NACCCEL), Hon. Williametta Saydee Tarr (Minister at MGCSP), Jaha Dukureh (UN Women Goodwill Ambassador on ending FGM), Comfort Lamptey (UN Women Representative), and Chief Dr. Taylor Howard (Vice President of Liberia) at the inauguration of the vocational and heritage center in Sonkay Town, November 2022. Credit: UN Women.*



Trust in women's leadership has started to build in communities where awareness interventions of the Spotlight Programme on the promotion of women and girls' rights to protection from all forms of violence, especially SGBV, were implemented and reached out to 62,436 (37,425 F / 25,011 M) community members in Nimba, Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Lofa, and Grand Gedeh. Three communities (Zolowee, Gowee, and Neegbein) in Nimba County are now led by women as their chairpersons due to an increase in awareness and sensitization on the prevention of negative social norms, harmful practices, and other social and gender inequalities against women, girls, and persons from marginalized groups, including LGBTQIs. These women leaders are actively involved in the protection of fellow women's and girls' rights, including the right to protection from SGBV, by conducting awareness-raising sessions aimed at promoting the empowerment of more

women and girls and fighting against gender-based violence and harmful practices.

Community dialogues, public information, and advocacy campaigns conducted by community platforms set up by the Spotlight Initiative are increasingly contributing to the promotion of gender-equitable norms, attitudes, and behaviors. The work of 33 male networks established by the Spotlight Programme is constantly contributing to community awareness for the elimination of violence and harmful practices against women and girls, as well as the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Montserrado, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, and Nimba counties. The awareness created by these networks in 21 communities and 28 schools has contributed to the identification of male champions who are serving as agents of change and raising awareness among other community members. These networks have directly reached out to 39,065 community

residents (11,716 women, 13,408 men, 5,851 girls, and 8,090 boys) and indirectly<sup>11</sup> to over 10,600 community members with key SGBV prevention and positive masculinity messages through mass gatherings and radio shows. Through these platforms, messages to raise community awareness on various laws (Rape Law, Domestic Violence Law, and Inheritance Law) were also disseminated. Additionally, 1,250 community-based structures

(GBV Observatories, Child Welfare Committees/ Children’s clubs, young men and boys’ groups, peer educators, key influencers, and women’s groups) from 50 communities in the five Spotlight counties are now leading awareness discussions on the prevention of SGBV and other forms of violence against women and girls, as a result of skills and knowledge acquired from the Spotlight implementation.



*FGM Practitioners in Gbaota lining up to surrender implements in a public event, Gbaota Town, Bong City, October 2023. Credit: UN Women.*

Decision-makers, including those from non-state institutions, are actively engaging in advocating for change in negative social norms and promoting positive social norms affecting the lives of women. In this regard, over 446 traditional leaders have gradually contributed to the process of changing

community mindsets on the FGM practice until the full ban was declared. The adoption of the first and second policy statements suspending the practice of FGM throughout Liberia, respectively for the period of one year from 2019 and three years from February 2022, by 150 traditional leaders initially

<sup>11</sup> Estimated in line with population projections of the 2008 Population and Housing Census as published by the national statistics office



led to the closure of 65 bush schools and to the firm abandonment of the FGM practice by 800 traditional zoes who opted to shift to alternative sources of income, utilizing the skills and knowledge acquired from the Spotlight Programme interventions. Traditional leaders are currently championing community engagements to implement the FGM ban in all 11 practicing counties, including the retrieval of licenses and implements to practice FGM, and have completed these engagements in 4 counties. Moreover, engagements with key influential persons

including members of the national GBV task force, legislators, the Inter-religious Council, and members of the traditional council whose understanding of the key SBCC Strategy components was enhanced through the Spotlight Programme led to major advocacy commitments by legislators to amplify the need to pass and enforce the implementation of laws and policies that promote gender equality and protect the rights of women and girls against social inequalities, harmful practices (including FGM), and gender-based discrimination.



*Cross section of adolescent girls and young women and girls survivors and those at risk of SGBV graduating from skills training initiatives. Credit: UNICEF/DCIV.*

Endorsement of SGBV<sup>12</sup> recorded a decrease in Grand Cape Mount County from 2.5 in 2016 and 1.1 in 2018 to 1.0 in 2021. Significantly, a rise in girls' enrollment in school for the academic year 2022-2023 was observed, attributed in large part to the Spotlight Initiative, especially through the broad-based positive parenting intervention, which has reached 1,457 parents and caregivers. According to a report of a field monitoring visit conducted in 2022, a 50% increase in girls' enrollment in school

was recorded at the Sinje Public School alone. Adolescent girls are increasingly participating both in school and out-of-school peer-to-peer support activities on SRHR. The increased engagement is attributed to a boost in self-esteem developed during time spent at safe spaces and economic opportunities, which helped them cope with SRHR-related challenges. So far, 36,625 adolescent girls have enhanced decision-making competencies on issues affecting their well-being owing to life skills

12 See Endorsement of SGBV indicator values for Grand Cape Mount and other Liberia counties at [www.scoreforpeace.org](http://www.scoreforpeace.org)

training, peer-to-peer services, and other multi-faceted interventions implemented by the LSI to prevent and address child marriage. With guidance from the MGCSP, these peer educators were able to reach 3,750 people including 3,005 adults (1,781 women and 1,224 men) and 745 children (393 girls and 352 boys) from the Liberia Children's Forum awareness on access to services for responding to GBV incidents. Additionally, 445 adolescent girls benefited (as part of the 1,505 victims of SGBV and at-risk adolescents) from social and economic empowerment opportunities and life skills training that helped them cope with the adverse effects of COVID-19 and enhanced their ability to make informed SRHR choices.

Media reporting on the prevention of gender-based violence and the promotion of positive social norms has improved. Media institutions have played a critical role in broadcasting messages, jingles, and stories to raise public awareness about various forms of violence against women and girls, as well as existing reporting mechanisms. The improvement in media reporting on gender issues is mostly attributed to a capacity-building intervention targeting 240 media practitioners and 23 media managers/executives on gender-sensitive reporting and reporting on SGBV incidents. With the knowledge acquired, 19 media institutions represented in the training have published over 956 media stories on gender and SGBV after extensive scrutiny. Furthermore, 15 gender desks established in various media institutions are contributing to the improvement in media reporting of GBV cases. The work of these institutions is further guided by ethical and gender policy guidance developed by the LSI. Implementation of interventions to prevent school-related gender-based violence and promote SRHR knowledge for younger generations is gradually contributing to girls' confidence to engage in SRHR promotion and SGBV prevention platforms, where they also benefit from SRHR information and services aimed at promoting girls' retention in

schools. Up to 800 girls participating in 325 Buddy Clubs across 50 public schools in Liberia received menstrual hygiene management kits as a way of promoting equity in school retention. Similarly, peer education was promoted as a critical approach to engage adolescents in self and peer protection from all forms of SGBV. A total of 260 peer educators (222 girls, 38 boys) were trained, mentored, and deployed into communities to implement peer-to-peer support activities on SGBV prevention and response with fellow adolescents.

#### Outcome 4: Quality Services

The availability and accessibility of essential rights-based and survivor-centered services for women and girl survivors of violence, including those from marginalized groups and communities, were tremendously improved through the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative. SGBV response services covered different sectors and included healthcare services (clinical management of rape and other reproductive health interventions, including fistula repair surgeries, maternal healthcare, family planning, and sexuality education for adolescents), psychosocial services (mental healthcare and referral, psychosocial counseling, trauma healing, and rehabilitation), legal services (capacity building and provision of logistics for adequate investigation, documentation, case file preparation, as well as enhancing prosecution), protection services (safe home), and community engagement and empowerment services (capacity building and provision of logistical support to women peace huts, rape observatory, religious and traditional leaders, women, and youth engagements). The Initiative also invested in strengthening the capacity of service providers to address forms of violence and ensured services are of high quality for all women and girls, including those traditionally left behind.

Notable changes realized in the 5 years of the Spotlight Initiative include:

- Standardization of case management services for SGBV survivors through the development of Standard Operating Procedures to guide case management operations. Social workers, supervisors, paraprofessionals, and

community-based child protection actors from different structures, including CWC and GBV Observatory Group, who were trained as trainers in case management, are contributing to ensuring that the management of SGBV cases is implemented to meet the minimum standards included in SOPs.



*Community based Women peace hut, training on SGBV prevention, identification, and referral. -2021\_Plan International*

- Improvement in multi-sectoral capacity to strengthen service delivery to SGBV survivors: 115 government service providers (23 males, 92 females) improved their knowledge and skills in clinical management of rape and the delivery of integrated essential SGBV response services for women and girls, survivors of SGBV. Moreover, 112 magistrates, probation officers, and social workers (42 females, 70 males) gained in-depth knowledge on handling, investigating, and adjudicating cases involving

children who come into conflict or contact with the law as victims, witnesses, or perpetrators at the conclusion of a training on justice for children and the Juvenile Procedure Code of Liberia conducted by the Spotlight Initiative in collaboration with the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Training Institute. Participants in these capacity-building activities have improved the administration of justice for children by using diversionary and restorative justice measures rather than retributive justice measures at the

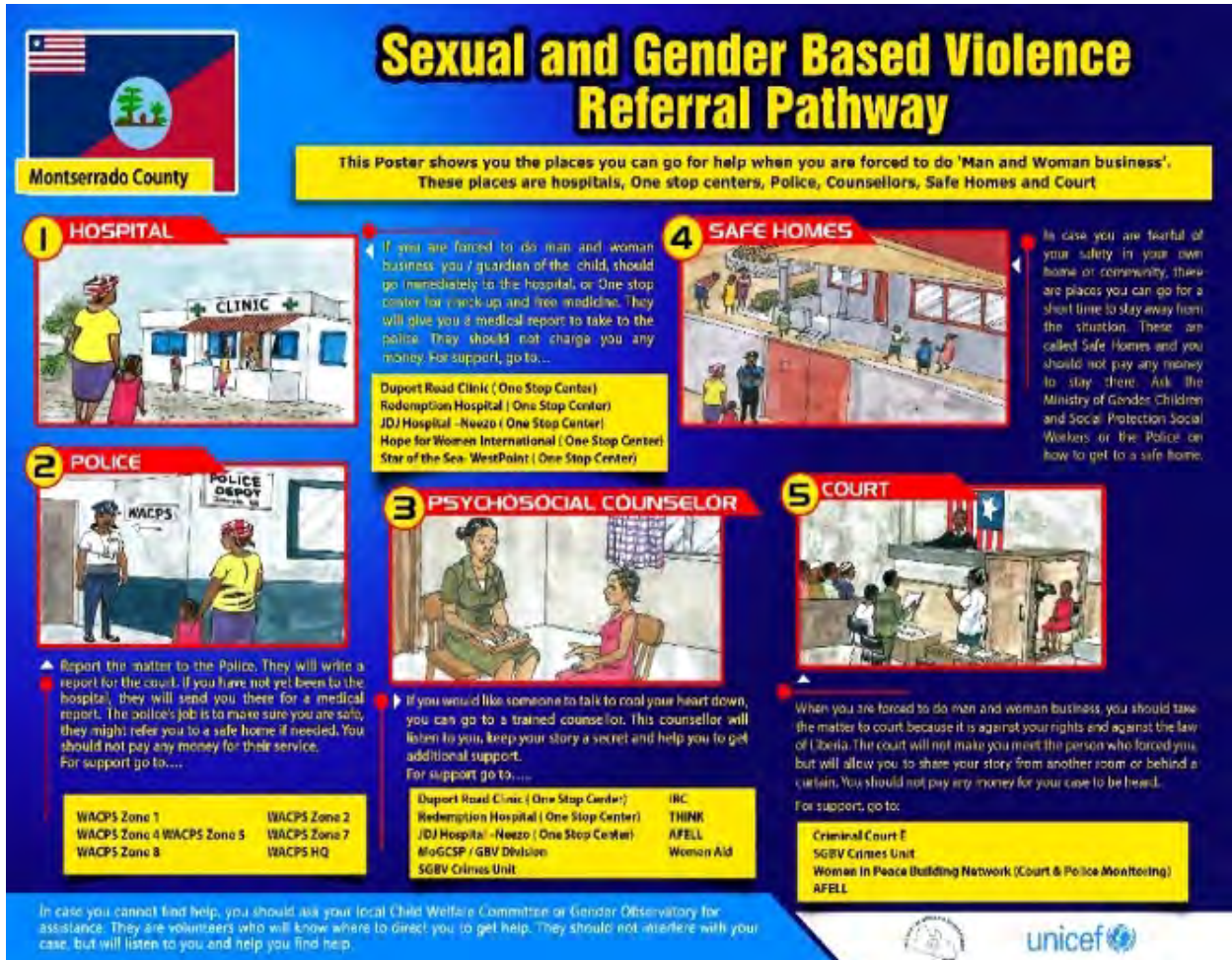


level of the magisterial courts. This has led to a reduction in the number of children sent to prison/detention from 176 (166 males, 10 females) to 154 (131 males, 23 females) by November 2022 compared to December 2021.

- Improvement in access, availability, and awareness of multi-sectoral integrated services was achieved through the roll-out and implementation of the Integrated Essential Service Package. This initiative led to an increase in the number of service users: 207,005 direct beneficiaries (75,603 women, 110,736 girls, 6,356 men, 14,310 boys) who accessed multi-sectoral services at various service provision levels. These services included psychosocial support, counseling, referrals, family planning, and survivor services (case management, counseling, access to justice, and economic empowerment).
- Additionally, 967 children (552 female, 415 male) who came into contact with the law benefited from care services provided at WACPS short-stay facilities, which were renovated in 2021. These children included survivors of SGBV, offenders, and lost and found children. As a result of the interventions at the care facilities, 424 children were reunited with their parents or caregivers, while the remaining 543 were referred to other services, including safe homes and rehabilitation programs.
- Services for offenders were supplemented by the completion of a Social Coping Center built in Grand Cape Mount County prison compound. This center aimed to provide pre-trial detainees and convicted inmates of violence against women with alternative livelihood skills upon their release into the communities. Additionally, in 2022, 25 shelters were constructed in Bahn Refugee Resettlement Camp in Nimba County, of which 15 were handed over to local authorities.
- Access to quality multi-sectoral case management for child survivors of SGBV and other forms of violence also increased. Reports indicate that 2,859 child survivors (2,832 girls and 27 boys) of SGBV received at least one form of multi-sectoral case management services. Integrated case management support was initiated through One-Stop Centers, with referrals to additional services provided by the Women and Children Protection Section of the LNP and the MoGCSP. Through these services, 32 high-risk cases of child survivors received extensive follow-up and additional long-term recovery support, facilitating their gradual reintegration into communities and return to schools. Additional psychosocial support is continuously provided to enhance survivors' long-term recovery. Among the 2,859 child survivors, cases involving 598 female and four male victims were reported to the MoJ, SGBV Crime Unit for legal assistance. A total of 76 cases were processed, resulting in 13 convictions, 8 acquittals (due to inadequate evidence), 18 hung jury outcomes, and 57 pending trials. The Spotlight Initiative ensured that both SGBV survivors and witnesses were provided access to justice and other psychosocial support through the Victim Assistance Officers of the Sex Crime Unit. Case management interventions also included reunification packages, psychosocial counseling, and relocation.
- Overall, justice for SGBV survivors improved through a robust investigative journey undertaken by the Sexual and Gender-based Violence Crimes Unit (SGBV-CU) at the Ministry of Justice. Across the five Spotlight counties in Liberia, 217 cases were meticulously investigated by police and referred to court,

including 199 instances of statutory rape, 11 cases of gang rape, and 7 cases of adult rape. Victims also received counseling services from Victim Support Officers (VSOs), including

follow-up visits to survivors' homes and safe houses. The submission of 55 rape cases to the Grand Jury led to 53 indictments.



**Sexual and Gender Based Violence Referral Pathway**

This Poster shows you the places you can go for help when you are forced to do 'Man and Woman business'. These places are hospitals, One stop centers, Police, Counsellors, Safe Homes and Court

**1 HOSPITAL**

If you are forced to do man and woman business you / guardian of the child, should go immediately to the hospital, or One stop center for check up and free medicine. They will give you a medical report to take to the police. They should not charge you any money. For support, go to...

Duport Road Clinic ( One Stop Center)  
Redemption Hospital ( One Stop Center)  
JDJ Hospital -Neezo ( One Stop Center)  
Hope for Women International ( One Stop Center)  
Star of the Sea- WestPoint ( One Stop Center)

**2 POLICE**

Report the matter to the Police. They will write a report for the court. If you have not yet been to the hospital, they will send you there for a medical report. The police's job is to make sure you are safe, they might refer you to a safe home if needed. You should not pay any money for their service. For support go to....

WACPS Zone 1 WACPS Zone 2  
WACPS Zone 4 WACPS Zone 5 WACPS Zone 7  
WACPS Zone 8 WACPS HQ

**3 PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELOR**

If you would like someone to talk to cool your heart down, you can go to a trained counsellor. This counsellor will listen to you, keep your story a secret and help you to get additional support. For support go to....

Duport Road Clinic ( One Stop Center) IRC  
Redemption Hospital ( One Stop Center) THINK  
JDJ Hospital -Neezo ( One Stop Center) AFELL  
MoGCSF / GBV Division Women Aid  
SGBV Crimes Unit

**4 SAFE HOMES**

In case you are fearful of your safety in your own home or community, there are places you can go for a short time to stay away from the situation. These are called Safe Homes and you should not pay any money to stay there. Ask the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Social Workers or the Police on how to get to a safe home.

**5 COURT**

When you are forced to do man and woman business, you should take the matter to court because it is against your rights and against the law of Liberia. The court will not make you meet the person who forced you, but will allow you to share your story from another room or behind a curtain. You should not pay any money for your case to be heard. For support, go to:

Criminal Court E  
SGBV Crimes Unit  
Women In Peace Building Network (Court & Police Monitoring)  
AFELL

In case you cannot find help, you should ask your local Child Welfare Committee or Gender Observatory for assistance. They are volunteers who will know where to direct you to get help. They should not interfere with your case, but will listen to you and help you find help.




Figure 1. Referral Pathway to provide integrated essential services for SGBV survivors.

- Reporting of SGBV cases improved in schools, with 500 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) reported and referred to competent authorities. Increased reporting was a result of the production and rollout of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Manual in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The manual was utilized to build and strengthen the capacities

of school health clubs and mentors in four school health rooms. Additionally, the four schools were refurbished and are now hosting peer-to-peer mentorship and coaching on SGBV prevention, response, and SRHR awareness, benefiting over 95,000 adolescent students from the 5 Spotlight Counties.

- In 2022, a decrease of 11.3% was recorded in repeat offenders. Initiatives to improve social coping, rehabilitation, and economic livelihood of perpetrators of violence against women and girls were implemented by the Spotlight Programme in prison facilities. These initiatives aimed to equip perpetrators with skills in tailoring, soap making, bead making, art and craft. Through this intervention, offenders who completed their sentences have been easily reintegrated into their communities and are utilizing the skills gained to generate income.
- An early warning response mechanism to help detect, prevent, and respond to SGBV and (HPs, as well as promote SRHR information and services, was established and institutionalized in nine (9) Women Peace Huts. Forty (40) Peace Hut Women also gained economic and sustainable domestic livelihood empowerment skills and are now engaged in multiple productions including tie and dye, soap making, village savings and loans, and agriculture. This training has been scaled down to other Peace Hut members. Peace Hut engagements are contributing to changes in norms, attitudes, and practices pertaining to SGBV prevention and reporting at individual and community levels using income from the livelihood support.
- Community awareness of a wide range of essential information on referral pathways has significantly increased. The services provided, coupled with this heightened awareness, have fostered greater trust and confidence among survivors. Consequently, they feel more empowered to engage with the police and judiciary, facilitating the prosecution of perpetrators. A total of 62,436 community members, including survivors of SGBV, now possess knowledge of how and where to access SGBV response services and can also refer others, as evidenced by the rise in reported cases.
- These services are accessible across various care facilities, including two that have been refurbished under the Spotlight Initiative— THINK Inc and Her Voice. These facilities are equipped with age-appropriate and gender-sensitive hygiene learning materials. Additionally, child survivors of SGBV are provided temporary shelter at Safe Homes on a case-by-case basis.
- Substantial improvements have been observed in the harmonization of court proceedings. Fifty-five judicial actors, comprising Court Clerks, Bailiffs/Sheriffs of the Circuit Court, Magistrates, Officers from the Women and Children’s Protection Section of the Liberian National Police, and members of Civil Society Organizations, have been better harmonizing court proceedings for SGBV cases in Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties. This improvement stems from capacity enhancement and awareness-raising initiatives of the Spotlight Initiative. The involvement of various stakeholders, including criminal justice chain actors and traditional leaders, has prompted communities to take proactive measures and respond promptly to SGBV issues. In some communities, awareness efforts have led to the imposition of fines/ penalties for perpetrators of domestic violence, particularly spousal abuse, which had been increasing in rural areas. These penalties, coupled with the fear of legal consequences, have acted as deterrents for perpetrators.
- Victim protection rooms at the Circuit Courts in Lofa and Grand Gedeh counties have been furnished with appropriate furniture and ICT equipment to efficiently provide timely justice services to women and children victims of SGBV.



- One hundred twenty-one officers from the Liberian National Police and Women and Children's Protection Sections (WACPS) Investigators, including 77 females and 44 males, from all five Spotlight counties have enhanced investigative capacity through

relevant training conducted by the Spotlight Initiative. Equipped with new skills and knowledge, these investigators are delivering improved services in the investigation and handling of SGBV cases and other offenses involving women and children.



*Pictorial view of equipment in the DNA/Forensic Laboratory.*

- Gaps in the accessibility of essential services for survivors of GBV and child abuse have been narrowed through the provision of survivor- and child-friendly safe infrastructure. Notably, a WACPS facility has been constructed in Grand Gedeh County to address accessibility gaps for SGBV survivors. To accommodate GBV and child abuse survivors, three state-of-the-art facilities have been completed in Zone 4 Base Police in Montserrado, Robertsport in Grand Cape Mount, and Zwedru in Grand Gedeh Counties. Furthermore, four WACPS offices in Mount Barclay in Montserrado, Tienii in Grand Cape Mount, Zorzor in Lofa, and Sanniquellie in Nimba Counties have been renovated, furnished, and equipped with

essential ICT equipment to enhance public trust in law enforcement offices and their ability to provide survivors and children with spacious and private, friendly spaces.

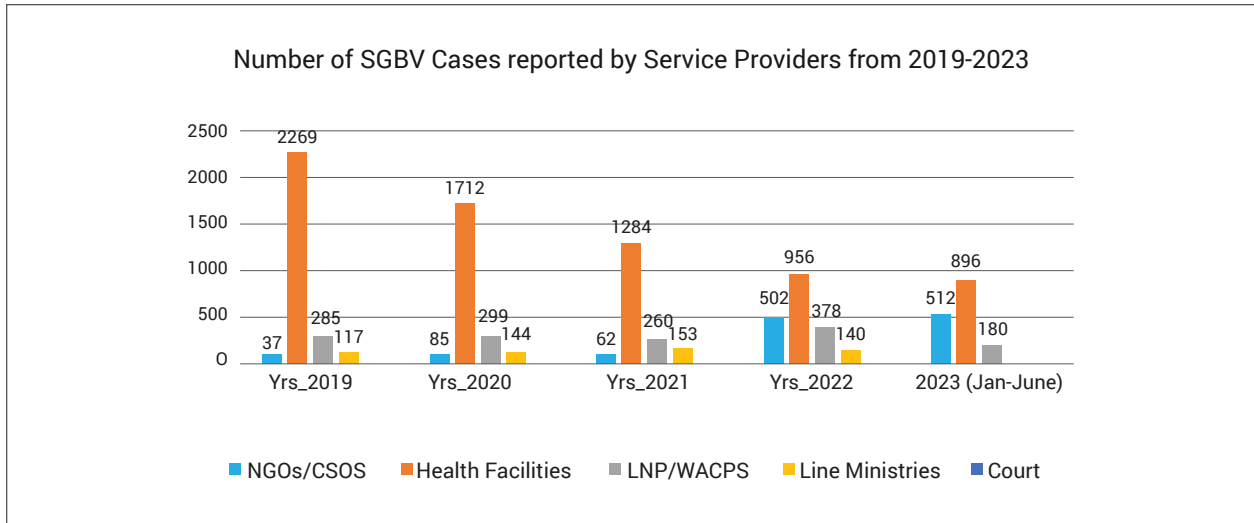
- WACPS Units in Liberia have received 1,356 cases, including 677 sexual cases (rape and gang rape), and 469 cases of domestic violence. Of the sexual violence cases, 340 are currently undergoing court proceedings, 128 await trial, 83 remain under further investigation, and 103 suspects are at large.
- The utilization of empirical evidence in promoting objective, timely, and reliable investigations of SGBV cases through the

establishment of a well-equipped forensic diagnostic system at the National Pathologist Laboratory at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital has significantly contributed to Liberia's reduced dependency on external forensic services. The country continues to benefit from the services offered by two trained forensic pathologists, ensuring survivors can access timely medical forensic services and evidence collection critical for securing justice. Moreover, the unit has received a vehicle to enable mobile services, along with assorted forensic diagnostic and autopsy equipment, to support the Ministry of Justice in the prosecution of SGBV offenses.

- The Government of Liberia and LSI procured three RAPIDHID Units and one full workflow for the validation of samples. Two out of the three RAPIDHID machines were procured by the Spotlight, along with several other pieces of equipment, in support of the Liberian government's decision to establish a national DNA/Forensic laboratory. A business model, vis-à-vis a sustainability plan, is being developed to explore the possibility of generating independent funding to subsidize government allotments for the smooth running of the laboratory when donor funding runs out. This plan aims to improve service efficiency and effectiveness.
- Despite a slowdown in programmatic activities from 2020 to 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the LSI orchestrated innovative means to continue providing essential response services for survivors and at-risk vulnerable groups of women and girls. The program played a critical role in ensuring that rape was declared an emergency alongside COVID-19.

## Outcome 5: Data

Liberia has made remarkable strides towards addressing gaps in GBV data, enhancing the coordination among data producers (MGCSP, MoJ, and MoH) to ensure uniformity, coherence, and the use of standardized reporting tools. The availability of GBV data has significantly aided in analyzing and understanding trends and the impact of GBV on women and girls in Liberia, including during the COVID-19 pandemic when movements were restricted.



The above graph shows that health facilities continue to be the most sought-after service facilities that provide the needed SGBV services to survivors. Over the last one year, NGOs are buttressing the efforts of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Services as indicated by their emerging presence from 2022 to 2023. This is largely attributed to implementation of the information sharing protocol that allows service providers to share SGBV information for wider usage.

A manual GBV Information Management System was developed, guiding the harmonization of data collection, analysis, and dissemination of reports on GBV. To ensure the system’s functionality, technical expertise and IT equipment (servers, laptops, etc.) were provided to enable the generation of real-time and operational data. A digital GBV-IMS is currently under development.

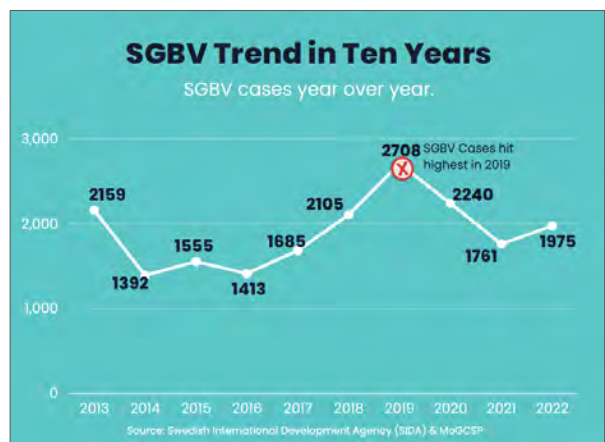
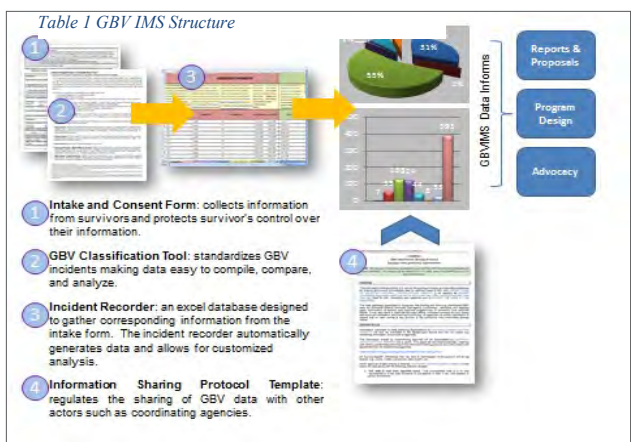


Figure 2. Liberia SGBV Trends<sup>13</sup> (2013-2022), MGCSP Annual Report 2022, Page 4.

13 Liberia suffered two humanitarian shocks: EBOLA Virus Disease (EVD) (2014-2015), and the global COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2022).



The manual GBV-IMS has facilitated the availability and utilization of GBV data in alignment with international human rights standards. The data management process for the three institutions is guided by a standardized GBV Information-Sharing Protocol. Furthermore, one hundred twenty-six service providers (comprising 87 women and 39 men) have enhanced their capacity to produce data on the incidence of violence against women and girls, harmful practices, and sexual reproductive health and rights. The system also supported the analysis and understanding of trends and the impact of GBV on women and girls in Liberia. However, gaps remain in utilizing data for informing policy and decision-making.

## Outcome 6: Women's Movement

The investment in (CSOs) and women's rights groups has led to significant improvements toward the elimination of violence against women and girls in Liberia. These groups identified 23 key issues related to SGBV, HPs, and SRHR, submitting 34 recommendations to the Government of Liberia. Out of these issues, 12 were addressed through the implementation of the anti-SGBV Roadmap, which the Government endorsed to tackle the rise in SGBV cases and related impunity from 2020 onwards. Recommendations included, among others, the decentralization of the criminal E-Court for SGBV cases, the translation of laws and policies into accessible and easy-to-read formats (including local languages and formats for persons living with disabilities), and the enactment of a bill mandating at least a 30% share of women's participation in decision-making processes. These advocacy efforts stem from the enhanced capacities and skills of over 68 women's rights groups and 136 CSOs, developed through the Spotlight Initiative in Liberia.

The Spotlight Initiative has increased opportunities for women's rights groups and CSOs to engage in advocacy for addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) using social accountability tools. Thirty-two women's rights groups and 68 relevant CSOs, whose capacities in accountability mechanisms were enhanced in 2020, are now contributing to the development of shadow reports for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), universal periodic reporting, and Community Score Cards to support their advocacy and influence policy decisions on SGBV issues. A total of 296 individuals (125 females and 171 males) from 100 CSOs who attended Spotlight capacity-building interventions are continuously engaging the Government of Liberia to advocate for an increase in court sessions from two to at least four terms per year. These groups are also pressing for the government to appoint a special judge in each county to adjudicate SGBV cases, aiming to fast-track cases and reduce the backlog.

CSOs that benefited from capacity-building interventions by the Spotlight Initiative established a mentorship platform for knowledge and experience sharing to integrate coalitions and foster deeper networks addressing VAWG. Five CSO Secretariats established by the program adopted a joint resolution<sup>14</sup> on critical SGBV, HTP, and SRHR issues, which was approved by the National Civil Society Council of Liberia and presented to stakeholders for action, informing the SGBV roadmap development and implementation. They also contributed to the rescue of 48 school-age girls being prepared for female genital mutilation (FGM) in target communities and supported the conversion of a head Zoe in Geh District from an FGM practitioner to a supporter in the movement to abolish FGM, well before the traditional leaders in Liberia declared an FGM ban.

14 Link: CSO Resolution - June 2020.pdf

Liberian CSOs have prioritized networking both within the country and internationally to improve collective bargaining positions for successful advocacy and capacity building. A South-South virtual learning exchange<sup>15</sup> saw 40 participants from three countries (Liberia, Nigeria, and Senegal) share good practices in CSO networks/multi-stakeholder platforms to advocate for interventions against multiple and intersecting forms of violence and discrimination in 2020. A follow-up joint CSO review of the strategies/recommendations from the 2020 South-South meeting was conducted in a virtual meeting on 25 September 2023. The webinar brought together 60 representatives from CSOs, government actors from Liberia, and international CSO partners from countries including Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, and Uganda, creating an opportunity for CSOs to explore possibilities for individual and collective advocacy actions in ending violence and discrimination against women and girls. The event also provided a platform for CSOs to discuss sustainability actions for continued implementation in communities after the Spotlight Initiative ends.

Some 63 women's rights groups, 15 youth groups, and 12 marginalized groups have had their capacities enhanced to design, implement, and monitor programs on SGBV, HTPs, and SRHRs through training/workshops. These groups also gained knowledge in developing human resource policies, financial and procurement policies, and gender and social inclusion policies for their institutions. An assessment conducted in 2021 indicated a 50–60% gap in policies across the four areas identified for training and institutional strengthening of these CSOs and WROs. Thanks to policy checklists/templates developed to aid in designing vital institutional policies, these entities are now better equipped to design, implement, and monitor programs on VAWG and on women's and

girls' SRHRs, as evidenced by interventions they are implementing in partnership with the UN in Liberia.

With support from the Spotlight Initiative, 200 grassroots women's rights advocates and women human rights defenders enhanced their capacity in 2022 to integrate efforts to end violence against women and girls into development plans. Seventy-one groups received grants to implement advocacy activities focused on fostering gender-inclusive development processes. These 71 grassroots organizations also improved their ability to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate their programs on SGBV) and harmful practices. They began to collectively engage in raising community awareness and advocating for the end of SGBV and harmful practices in various communities across Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Lofa counties, reaching 278 communities in five counties under the Spotlight Initiative, as illustrated in the following chart:

Sixteen male groups, comprising 275 gender equality champions established in 2022 and organized into three networks, are actively engaged in advocacy for progress in ending SGBV and harmful practices across 28 communities in Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, and Grand Gedeh counties. In collaboration with five existing male networks, these groups have directly reached 3,400 community members (1,120 women, 986 men, 840 girls, and 454 boys) and indirectly over 10,600 residents with key messages on positive masculinity, SGBV prevention, and awareness of existing SGBV prevention laws (the Rape Law, the Domestic Violence Law, and the Inheritance Law) through mass gatherings and radio shows. Additionally, 41 school clubs were established, contributing to the promotion of positive masculinity in schools across the five counties.

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15 (LSI South- South report Final.pdf)

Seventy-one grassroots CSOs and local women's rights groups, along with five CSO Secretariats from the five Spotlight Initiative counties that received seed grants, played a crucial role in addressing the twin pandemics of SGBV and COVID-19 through community engagement and information dissemination. Over 56,021 key stakeholders and community members (18,028 women, 14,410 men, 13,647 girls, and 9,936 boys) from 385 communities were reached by relevant programs, which supported the reporting of SGBV cases through systematic referral to the police and other service providers. To further enhance SGBV reporting during the COVID-19 lockdown, 10 cell phones were dispatched to leaders in 10 communities for community policing of VAWG), supported by 113 community structures established to raise awareness on COVID-19 and SGBV prevention, and to track, report, and refer SGBV cases in the five Spotlight Initiative counties.

Three national CSOs<sup>16</sup> were also supported to raise awareness about prevention and the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, especially regarding violence at the household and community levels. In addition, CSO grantees served as channels for distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) supplies to community leaders and women's/youth groups. CSO actions were complemented by 216 radio talk shows and 18 jingles produced and aired in various dialects on community radio stations in the five Spotlight Initiative counties. These radio shows increased opportunities for information exchange and clarification on SGBV issues, as listeners called in for clarity, especially on the referral pathway. These actions contributed to the increased reporting of SGBV cases to relevant institutions and limited the spread of COVID-19 into communities in the target counties.

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<sup>16</sup> Including Research and Democratic Development, Community Health Education and Social Services, and Foundation for International Dignity.



## | Reporting on SRHR

LSI has played a key role in preventing maternal mortality and improving access to family planning services, especially during the pandemic, as part of its mission to provide essential SRHR services. Mobile family planning outreach services reached 16 communities in Montserrado and four health districts covering 69 communities in Lofa. In Montserrado and Lofa counties, approximately 19,080 and 15,831 clients (32,912 female, 2,199 male) respectively, received family planning commodities.

Timely and safe delivery services are now available in five target counties, as skilled birth attendants in four counties have improved their skills in delivering integrated reproductive, maternal, newborn, child,

and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services through Spotlight interventions. An analysis of pre- and post-natal services revealed a significant difference and impact on the services provided to women following the integrated training of 36 county and district health supervisors (31 females, 5 males) in RMNCAH. Additionally, 75 fistula survivors were identified and benefited from fistula repair surgeries after being mobilized for treatment. For Lofa and Nimba counties, maternal and neonatal health services have improved thanks to the refurbishment of maternity waiting homes, which include labor and delivery clinics. Data shows that about 456 individuals have accessed these facilities before and after deliveries to seek obstetric services.



The delivery of integrated SRHR and SGBV services is currently guided by the Integrated Essential

Services Package, a compendium model developed under LSI to support the Ministries of Health, Justice, and Gender in providing comprehensive care to women and girl survivors of violence. As a result, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence are now well-coordinated and integrated. Relevant institutions continue to use the essential services package as a reference guide while also strengthening the mechanisms for delivering the required services. In 2022 alone, integrated service provision centers supported by LSI helped increase access to SRHR services for SGBV survivors by 26% compared to the previous year.

School settings are gradually serving as models for increasing awareness of SRHR. A total of 250 students (150 girls and 100 boys) from 20 public schools in Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado counties benefited from awareness information on sexual reproductive health and rights. This awareness, especially regarding menstrual hygiene management, is contributing to the retention of girls in school. Additionally, 8,099 adolescent girls and young women participated in life skills activities, which included access to information on SRHR in six safe spaces. More adolescents in targeted communities are building their self-esteem, which is evident in their involvement in both school and out-of-school activities. This includes girls serving as 'Peer Educators' and holding conversations with their peers on SRHR issues in rural Montserrado County.

SRHR school programs under the LSI have targeted 966 (813m, 153f) teachers as SRHR trainers in 331 schools across five Spotlight Counties. These schools also received instructional materials. Furthermore, a total of 10,118 young people (6,854 females and 3,264 males) benefited from essential sexuality education, guiding their future decisions about SRHR. The trained teachers are expected to

sustain the transfer of SRHR knowledge to younger generations in schools.

In collaboration with the Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, the LSI reached a total of 73,148 adolescent girls from 10 counties with Menstrual Hygiene Management and contraception information and services. Of these, 24,000 received reusable sanitary pads, 13,670 received disposable pads, 439 received assorted contraceptives, and 34,939 were reached with awareness and information through street theater and radio outreach. Within the same collaboration, 10 county menstrual hygiene product banks were established in select schools. This initiative has laid a foundation for institutionalizing menstrual hygiene management within the school system and will leverage other ongoing interventions in the country for sustainability and scale-up.



*Hon. Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia (until December 2023).*

## Rights Holders (Spotlight Programme “Beneficiaries”)

Category	Direct	Indirect	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	97,744	459,397	<p>Direct: This includes community women, traditional practitioners and members, media practitioners, women representatives from CSOs and Women Rights Organizations involved in community dialogues, training workshops, climate smart agriculture programs, village saving loans and business development, and skills training programs; Justice and Security institutions officials; number of women reached through mobile outreach activities; women who accessed multisectoral services at county and national levels through innovative and targeted interventions such as psychosocial support, counseling, referrals, fistula campaigns and repairs, family planning and survivor responses (case management) from health centers, one-stop centers, and safe homes; targeted interventions through simplified legislation and policies on rights and responsibilities of women and communities; and women who participated in trainings or engagement with partners.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries were calculated by multiplying the average number of people per household in Liberia according to LISGIS (4.7 persons) by the direct beneficiaries. This includes women reached through awareness-raising engagement which included community outreach, distribution of flyers and posters, and other related activities held in the 5 Spotlight Counties; women benefiting from justice and security training reached through awareness and strengthened capacities, awareness of rights and responsibilities information and communication shared with other women’s rights and advocate groups in the communities; women who accessed multi-sectoral services at different service provision levels: psychosocial support, counseling, referrals, family planning and survivor responses (case management, counseling, access to justice and economic empowerment) capacity building from direct beneficiaries.</p>



Category	Direct	Indirect	Comments / Explanations
Girls (5-17)	145,890	685,683	<p>Direct beneficiaries include girls who formed part of the community engagements, street theater, public awareness activities, economic and social empowerment; child survivors who benefited from multi-sectoral services at different service provision levels including psychosocial support, counseling, referrals, family planning and survivor responses (case management, counseling, access to justice and economic empowerment) capacity building, awareness information on prevention of child marriage, FGM, and other forms of violence against women and girls; also, girls who accessed information on SRHR and the SGBV referral pathway.</p> <p>Direct beneficiaries also account for survivors of rape who received direct services from the SGBV Crimes unit.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries were calculated by multiplying the average number of people per household according to LISGIS (4.7 persons) by the direct beneficiaries.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries include also: Youth who were reached through radio messages, flyers, posters; awareness and provisions of SRHR services awareness and prevention and response campaigns from direct beneficiaries.</p>
Men (18 yrs. and above)	25,756	121,053	<p>Direct beneficiaries include men who were part of the young men and boys' groups, key influential persons, and adult men who participated and benefited from information dissemination on the prevention of negative social norms and harmful practices as part of the SBCC roll out, participants from trainings or engagements with partners. This also includes men reached through the provision of SRHR/SGBV services including psychosocial services and counseling; adult men who benefited from capacity strengthened in SGBV prevention and response.</p> <p>Indirect beneficiaries were calculated by multiplying the average number of people per household according to LISGIS (4.7 persons) by the direct beneficiaries and account for men reached through targeted radio messages, information sharing, and awareness raising.</p>
Boys (5-17 yrs.)	30,935	145,395	<p>Direct: Boys who were part of the young men and boys' groups, male survivors of SGBV, and others who participated and benefited from information dissemination on the prevention of negative social norms and harmful practices as part of the SBCC roll out or who participated in awareness raising on response and prevention of SGBV/HP activities. Boys accessing SRHR/SGBV services.</p> <p>Indirect: calculated by multiplying the average number of people per household according to LISGIS (4.7 persons) by the direct beneficiaries and include youth who were reached through radio messages, flyers, posters; awareness and provisions of SRHR/SGBV services, awareness and prevention campaigns, calculated by multiplying the average number of people per household according to LISGIS (4.7 persons out of whom one or two adult women, one or two adult men and at least two children) by the direct beneficiaries).</p>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300,325</b>	<b>1,411,528</b>	

## I Challenges and Mitigating Measures

Despite efforts by stakeholders in 2022, the implementation of measures to prevent SGBV and ensure the safety of women and girls remained limited. Reports from CSOs and the media continued to signal a rise in cases of SGBV. Additionally, cases of forceful initiation into womanhood targeting young girls have also been reported, with justice for the victims being slow or absent. Moreover, the lack of legislation outlawing FGM has continued to impede prevention and response efforts.

Adopting a specific law that criminalizes FGM and prescribes charges is sensitive due to entrenched cultural and traditional values, and the fact that the general population and other stakeholders still need education on FGM as bodily harm and a violation of women's human rights. The absence of legislation to outlaw FGM has complicated access to justice for survivors of this harmful practice, including cases of serious injury. The few cases that have gone through the justice system have been covered under Section 242 of the Penal Code, which addresses malicious and unlawful injuries towards another person by cutting off or otherwise depriving him or her of any of their body members, finding perpetrators guilty of a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. Advocacy for a law by CSOs and allies multiplied and led to the submission of the Anti-FGM Bill to the Committee for examination.

Addressing the closure of bush schools and their replacement with vocational and heritage centers in 4 out of the 11 FGM-practicing counties has raised expectations among traditional leaders in the remaining counties to have similar facilities. As the demand exceeds available resources, more affordable ways of creating alternative sources of income and promoting cultural and heritage values without FGM are under consideration. The

Spotlight Initiative has also initiated a process to strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizations and CSOs, including their networks, into a strong women's movement to address the limitations in joint advocacy actions on issues affecting women and girls.

Impassable roads during the rainy season in some operational areas (Lofa, rural Nimba, and Southeast) created challenges for the distribution of medical and non-medical supplies to some service provision points, especially those in the southeastern and northern parts of Liberia. To mitigate this challenge, the Spotlight Programme and implementing partners (IPs) have worked out a plan to procure and distribute commodities, drugs, and supplies bi-annually rather than quarterly as previously done. By doing this, supplies are pre-positioned, and stockouts are avoided during the rainy season.

Bureaucratic and operational bottlenecks at government line ministries to process documents for program implementation have most times created delays in the timely delivery of results and reporting. As a mitigation measure, the LSI has continued to advocate with government agencies and line ministries on the need for national ownership of the interventions, since, in fact, these interventions are complementary to the government's effort. There continues to be gradual improvement.

Delays in the establishment of a digital GBV-IMS have created a serious data gap for evidence-based gender advocacy and programming nationally. A Kobo Collect Toolbox platform was designed and rolled out for interim GBV data management. At the end of 2023, service providers were in the process of establishing digital reporting of GBV incident

data as a prelude to the construction and launch of the integrated and comprehensive GBV-IMS system.

The limited reporting capacity of partners (including the submission of reports lacking evidence and focusing on processes rather than changes) affected the quality of reporting. Thus, continuous mentoring and capacity-building in results-based management were conducted to ensure that reports are results-based and capture real change.

Discrimination of LGBTQI+ persons: Despite the mapping of 13 LGBTQI+ groups throughout the country, the program continued to be challenged with advocating for issues affecting LGBTQI+ groups, especially in rural settings. The LGBTQI+ community faces both legal and social challenges, including widespread discrimination, harassment, death threats, and sometimes physical attacks. The Liberian Constitution continues to criminalize

same-sex sexual activity as “voluntary sodomy,” a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison, or a fine of up to L\$1,000, or both. However, the program continues to reach out to the network and provide technical and financial support. Furthermore, discussions continue to be held with the Government of Liberia for the removal of discriminatory laws and policies.

The first generation of the Spotlight Initiative is phasing out. However, the needs for consolidation currently exceed the quantity of resources to address them. In collaboration with stakeholders, the Spotlight team and UN worked on an exit and sustainability strategy which might also require some funding support to be rolled out. The strategy to mobilize additional resources for addressing VAWG, harmful practices, and SRHR is underway, including through the next iteration of the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative.



Head of EU Delegation to Liberia (r) and team receive briefing from UNFPA and UNHCR at the Bahn Housing Units (Credit UNFPA Liberia).



## I Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

### a Lessons Learned

The Spotlight Initiative has demonstrated that the One UN Approach through joint programming is key to delivering better impacts than standalone programs of individual agencies. In Liberia, the Spotlight Initiative created synergies among RUNOs and led them to avoid duplication of activities, efforts, and resources. Having in place a program coordination unit inclusive of all RUNOs' technical staff working on the Program has facilitated the exchange of information and mutual support in delivering specific activities. The Spotlight in Liberia has also received great support and attention from the RC, who considered the Spotlight as a model for Delivering as One. The RC ensured that emerging Spotlight issues were discussed in internal Executive Management Meetings and UNCT. This raised the attention of Heads of RUNOs to give special attention to Spotlight matters in turn. The RC has also led resource mobilization processes with the EU Delegation in Liberia and engagements with the EU Brussels Office to ensure continuity of the EU/UN partnership in support of a successor program. Furthermore, Liberia will implement the next generation of the Spotlight Initiative

Although all partnerships are equally important in the process of preventing and responding to VAWG, the success of ERAW interventions depends much on the level of investments made in engaging Government institutions. In Liberia, partnerships with government institutions played an instrumental role in securing political buy-in and commitment from national authorities, including high-level influential authorities, to invest more efforts and resources into initiatives for ending VAWG in the country. The Government of Liberia, through its line ministries led by the Ministry of

Gender, Children & Social Protection, participated in the development of the Country Programme Outline (CPO), which was later developed into the Country Programme Document, ensuring regular review and checks on the implementation of the program, and implementing some components of the Program in line with respective mandates. This also helped to address institutional capacity gaps, enabled the creation of units to enhance gender equality within line Government institutions (MoJ, MoH), and facilitated the introduction of policies to ban the practice of FGM in Liberia.

Increased engagement and collaboration with grassroots and youth organizations increased the outreach of information and awareness on SGBV Prevention, HPs, and the promotion of SRHRs to hard-to-reach communities. These local grassroots and youth organizations carried out advocacy and lobbied for legal redress of SGBV cases at the local and county level along with the CSO Secretariats and changes in laws and policies to adequately address SGBV. The implementation of interventions focusing on awareness and sensitization of communities on the prevention of negative social norms, harmful practices, and other social and gender inequalities against women, girls, and persons from marginalized groups, including LGBTQIs, was difficult but possible through the work of grassroots organizations. Strengthening existing community structures and setting up new ones in locations where they do not exist is highly recommended for future interventions focusing on a bottom-up approach for a better impact on the lives of women and girls when addressing issues of social norms change.

The process for eliminating FGM is working better in the five counties where alternative livelihood

programs for traditional female leaders were initially implemented. This is linked to the fact that issues of SGBV and HPs are complex and require efforts and resources beyond just the Spotlight Initiative to address the root causes of gender inequalities and deep-rooted detrimental social norms. Interventions targeting women's poverty, low literacy levels, access to essential services, and more community awareness have contributed significantly to convincing female zoes to abandon the FGM practice and need to be sustained for the practice to be completely abolished.

## **b New Opportunities**

The success recorded by the LSI in challenging gendered social norms and traditional harmful practices has provided an entry point for stakeholders to invest in changing adverse social norms at the roots of gender-based inequalities and VAWG. For instance, the Government of Sweden was inspired by the public declaration of a ban on FGM by the NACCEL Chairperson to provide support to community engagements conducted by a taskforce set up to enforce the Chief's promise in four counties. The World Bank has also invested

around USD 45 million in extensive social norms change, following the example of LSI interventions on community education, public awareness, and alternative livelihood support to former practitioners of FGM. The completion of vocational and heritage centers is currently considered another open window for stakeholders to engage with both former FGM practitioners and survivors of FGM in enhancing alternative livelihood support and alternative rites of passage. More importantly, the EU's pledge to fund Spotlight 2.0 provides a unique opportunity to sustain and advance the gains made by the phasing out program.

The LSI unlocked the potential of 250 grassroots women's organizations, including those representing groups at risk of multiple forms of violence, to effectively engage in the prevention of and response to SGBV. With various skills, knowledge, and grants received from the program interventions, these organizations are currently widely contributing to the dissemination of SGBV prevention messages, available services to survivors and how to access them, and advocacy for the protection of women's rights, including through planning and budgeting at the national and county levels.

# Innovative, Promising, or Good Practices: Enhancing the Capacities of Women's Rights Advocates

## **1. Integrating SGBV/HPs/SRHR Prevention and Response into County Development Agendas**

The Spotlight Initiative has been instrumental in enhancing the capacities of women's rights advocates, facilitating their support for the integration of interventions aimed at eradicating VAWG) into county development plans and agendas. This initiative anticipates that the newly trained cohort of gender advocates will be pivotal in effectively incorporating these critical issues into future county plans and budgets. Historically, county development processes have neglected issues related to SGBV, (HPs), and (SRHR), often relegating them to the domain of donor or external partner funding. Policymakers and stakeholders must persist in bolstering the development of women's rights advocates' abilities to influence County Development Plans (CDPs). These plans, in turn, should allocate resources towards advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEWE).

## **2. Integrated Essential Service Package for SGBV and SRHR**

In Liberia, the Spotlight Initiative introduced the Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR. This comprehensive, multi-sectoral case management and service provision package is designed to respond to SGBV and promote SRHR, employing a human rights-based approach. The IESP emphasizes a survivor-centered empowerment approach, ensuring cultural and age-appropriate sensitivity in service delivery while prioritizing

survivor confidentiality, informed consent, and safety, alongside perpetrator accountability.

The provision of integrated services for SGBV and SRHR addresses the shortfall in healthcare services offered by government healthcare facilities, particularly in remote communities where access to basic healthcare and medical facilities is scarce. Health centers now offer integrated services for SGBV survivors, in conjunction with other sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including counseling, treatment, and medical services for women and girls, in the absence of a dedicated one-stop center for SGBV. This program has established a precedent for the government to integrate SRHR and SGBV services in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, significantly enhancing the efficacy of essential services for women and girls. This model is now being replicated in remote and basic health units.

Furthermore, the adoption of the IESP has addressed the issues of poor coordination and fragmentation in the delivery of essential services to SGBV survivors in Liberia. It has also significantly improved data collection and information management. The number of SGBV survivors seeking services has dramatically increased, from 6,289 in 2019 to 80,191 in 2023.

## **3. Strengthening Collaboration Among CSOs and Government Actors to Enhance Law Reforms**

To foster a coordinated approach to legislative reform, the LRC, with support from the Spotlight



Initiative, organized several stakeholder consultation meetings. Key line ministries, including the (the), LRC, MOGCSP), and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), are collaborating with CSOs) to advance the legislative reform process through extensive discussions.

This innovative collaborative strategy is being applied to the revision of critical laws, such as the Rape Law, the Domestic Violence Act, the Inheritance Law, and the Domestic Relations Law. The strategy aims to persist beyond the lifespan of the Spotlight Initiative, ensuring the creation of gender-sensitive and human rights-compliant laws. These laws will include provisions to facilitate the prosecution of offenders. Educating women and girls about these laws will empower them to defend themselves against perpetrators and to utilize the laws effectively.

This approach could also benefit other United Nations teams and be applied to various themes.

#### **4. The Concept of “Initiation Without Mutilation”**

Liberia has adopted the concept of “Initiation without mutilation” as a way to replace Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) with a non-harmful rite of passage for young girls into adulthood. This approach highlights the importance of preserving cultural traditions as part of maintaining national identity while committing to abandon harmful practices. This acknowledges that culture is dynamic and capable of evolution and change. Traditional leaders have welcomed this approach, pledging to lead its implementation starting in Montserrado County and eventually expanding to all counties where FGM is practiced. The initiative is supported by the establishment of four vocational and heritage centers that replace bush schools, promoting alternative rites of passage and providing livelihood opportunities for former FGM practitioners.

#### **5. Promotion of Technology in Implementation and Monitoring**

The implementation of the Spotlight Initiative adapted innovative methods of operation, in consultation with the EU delegation, to overcome disruptions caused by COVID-19 lockdowns. The program utilized virtual platforms for training sessions and webinars, including a South-South learning exchange for CSOs and media training. This strategy effectively mitigated COVID-19 risks and ensured the timely achievement of project objectives. The adoption of information technology for virtual consultations, meetings, and dialogues emerged as a swift method to bridge service provision gaps during movement restrictions. This practice continues to facilitate communication with staff, partners, and community members, especially in hard-to-reach areas, ensuring widespread dissemination of information on integrated services. This includes SGBV referral pathways that direct survivors to One Stop Centers for services addressing SGBV and child abuse.

Moreover, the program supported data collection efforts using Kobo Toolbox for capturing the effectiveness and efficiency of program activities during field monitoring visits conducted by the Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU) and CS-NRG) teams.

## I Communications and Visibility

The visibility of the Spotlight Initiative project was significantly enhanced from its inception through to its conclusion. This enhancement was achieved via a diverse array of media and communication platforms, including mainstream media event coverage, radio talk shows, videos, social media, and articles published on the Spotlight Initiative website. A Liberia Spotlight Newsletter, summarizing results from 2019 to 2021, was produced and disseminated to various stakeholders. This newsletter was also shared on social media platforms, and its contents were communicated to the public through local radio stations.

Through vigorous media engagement activities, the Spotlight Initiative garnered numerous mentions in the media. More than 30 radio talk shows were facilitated throughout the project's duration. Additionally, jingles were produced and disseminated through both mainstream and community radio stations. These jingles, aimed at promoting knowledge and understanding of SGBV (Sexual Gender-Based Violence) prevention and response, targeted residents in remote or hard-to-reach communities. Furthermore, over 30 videos were produced to showcase the impact of Spotlight Initiative interventions, and more than 15 articles were published on the Spotlight website.

Throughout the implementation period, the Spotlight Initiative appeared in the following:

- Over 979 articles
- More than 100 posts on social media
- 7 jingles
- 15 TV appearances
- 30 radio talk shows
- Close to 30 videos
- 15 articles published on the Spotlight website

The audience reached through the aforementioned media activities is estimated to be around 150,000 Liberian citizens.

### a Messages

The Spotlight Initiative mobilized key stakeholders, including the Ministries of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Justice, and Health, as well as the Female Journalist Association of Liberia, among others. This mobilization aimed to brainstorm and identify key issues related to SGBV, teenage pregnancy, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The results from this engagement led to the crafting of messages and the development of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) materials. These materials aimed at general awareness raising with the objective of reducing SGBV and teenage pregnancy and promoting SRHR at both community and national levels.

Spotlight also utilized airtime at KOOL FM in Montserrado and Radio Kegema in Nimba County to strengthen information dissemination on combating/eliminating SGBV at all levels.

The following messages were directed to girls and boys via text messages, stickers and billboards:

### Text Messages

- Teenage pregnancy can delay or stop your progress. Be wise and stay in school.
- Sex for grades and grades for sex will only destroy our future leaders. Please stop it!!
- To all men: please join the fight against sexual and gender-based violence. A potential victim could be your daughter or someone close to you.
- Anyone could be a victim.
- No to violence against women/girls.
- Rape is not a family matter, report it to the police.
- No means no, stop rape now.
- Rape is a crime.
- Bring the perpetrator to justice.
- Women are help mates, not our slaves.

### Stickers

- A sound education or 10 years in jail for rape: the choice is yours.
- Be careful! Rape with familiar people is higher than that with strange people.
- Do not sexually exploit or abuse a girl or a woman because she depends on you.

### Billboards

- Girls! Free money from men is not really free. It could lead to rape.

- Domestic violence will only destroy your family.
- Parents, give your children early sex education.

### b Media and Visibility Events

Several media and visibility events were held throughout the duration of the project. These events included the launch of the Spotlight Initiative project at its inception in 2019. Other significant media and visibility events encompassed the donation and handover of motorbikes to the Ministry of Internal Affairs; media training programs focusing on gender-sensitive reporting on Gender-Based Violence (GBV); the launch of the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) call center, among other initiatives. The Spotlight Initiative was also highlighted during high-level visits. For example, when the former UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director visited Liberia, she toured one of the four vocational and heritage centers established through the Spotlight Initiative. This visit garnered considerable media attention, with the Spotlight Initiative being mentioned more than 20 times in the media from this single event.

Another high-profile visit that attracted significant media coverage was that of the UN Women Goodwill Ambassador on ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. During her inaugural visit to Liberia from 19 to 27 November 2022, Jaha Dukureh, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for Africa on ending FGM and child marriage, conducted several strategic engagement meetings with high-level government officials. Notably, she met with the Vice President of Liberia, Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, and various Government Ministers. She also engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including the UN country team, the diplomatic community, traditional leaders, religious leaders, civil society, women's organizations, youth



activists, and the media, to bolster the country's efforts to advocate for the elimination of FGM.

The Vocational and Heritage Center in Sonkay Town, Montserrado County, was officially handed over to the Government of Liberia and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders (NACCEL). The center is designed to serve as a hub for providing alternative economic livelihood support to former practitioners of FGM and to promote the socio-cultural heritage of traditional communities. This includes advocating for alternative rites of passage that exclude FGM. The handover ceremony took place during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which spans from 25 November to 10 December 2022. The event was marked by a strong commitment from NACCEL to close all "bush schools" and cease the practice of FGM in Montserrado County by January 2023. On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM (6 February 2023), the Chairperson of NACCEL, Chief Zanzan Karwor, publicly declared a full ban on FGM to honor the commitment made during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Sonkay Town, Montserrado County, on 25 November 2022. The subsequent bush closure events in Grand Cape Mount, Nimba, and Bong counties attracted significant media attention and enhanced the visibility of the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative.

### c Campaigns

Several advocacy campaigns were conducted throughout the duration of the project. These campaigns focused on advocating for the termination of the harmful practice of (FGM) and the cessation of violence against women and girls. The Spotlight Initiative played a pivotal role in supporting the Government of Liberia in hosting the annual FGM Day on February 6th, aimed at raising awareness about the urgent need to eliminate FGM.

Furthermore, the Spotlight Initiative collaborated with various projects and stakeholders to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence annually, from November 25th to December 10th, during the lifespan of the project. These campaigns garnered media attention, significantly boosting the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative.

In addition to these efforts, social media campaigns were launched to bolster the advocacy work aimed at eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. These campaigns also served to highlight the impact of the interventions and further increase the visibility of the Spotlight Initiative.



In Liberia, under @GlobalSpotlight, 300 traditional practitioners are engaging in alternative livelihood activities and committed to end their practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

#SpotlightEndViolence  
#GenerationEquality

By @unwomenliberia funded by   
[pic.twitter.com/4kBXj4d0I5](https://pic.twitter.com/4kBXj4d0I5)



Short videos were also produced to showcase the impact of the Spotlight Initiative, enhancing its visibility. These videos were shared through social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

### Links for Some Videos - 2020

- UN Women Liberia Post - 2467937450169893
- UN Women Liberia Post - 2466455653651406
- UN Women Liberia Post - 2465062197124085
- UN Women Liberia Post - 2464326887197616
- UN Women Liberia Post - 2470077659955872

### 16 Days of Activism Videos and Impact Stories – 2023

- UN Women Liberia Video - 1938304003229946
- UN Women Liberia Video - 1008050070283587
- UN Women Liberia Video - 344032888478824
- UN Women Liberia Video - 720756050001368
- UN Women Liberia Video - 650994667233492
- UN Women Liberia Video - 931716225251587
- UN Women Liberia Video - 270655035592077
- UN Women Liberia Video - 713073354106564
- UN Women Liberia Video - 1259287478797020
- UN Women Liberia Video - 1403220797292996

During the 16 Days of Activism Campaigns, partners seized the opportunity to disseminate information on (SRHR), referral pathways, girls' network engagement, and raising awareness about the importance of engaging men and boys through community media platforms. The campaign's messages and speeches culminated in the presentation of proposed actions to national leaders and decision-makers.

The Spotlight Initiative also participated in the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, which saw the attendance of 150 adolescents and youth from the 15 counties. These participants are poised to act as advocates within their communities. They were equipped with essential knowledge and skills, positioning them to significantly bolster the fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in their communities.

## d Human Interest Stories<sup>17</sup>

### Story 1: One Man's Life-Changing Moment as a Husband and Father



*Abu Dassen, (29) interviewed by CS-NRG representative, Bertie Forkpabio, Photo credit: UNRCO.*

Abu Dassen, a 29-year-old man, resides in Mambo Town, Tewor District, Grand Cape Mount County, with his wife and two children, a boy and a girl. Abu has been married to Miatta Kromah, 24 years old, for about eight years. During this time, Abu admits to subjecting his partner, Miatta, to various forms of domestic violence, including rape. He holds himself accountable for his actions as a violent husband and father. Abu made this confession after participating in a series of community sensitization dialogues conducted by Liberia Reintegration Promoters (LIRIP).

"This sensitization has helped me change my behavior from being violent to becoming an agent of change, especially in regards to rape," Abu shared. "I used to be excessively jealous and ignorant, often forcing my wife to engage in sexual activities even when she wasn't willing. I believed she was unfaithful due to my financial struggles."

Abu, despite being employed as a teacher, faced irregularities in his salary. "My job provided income, but the irregularity of my salary caused significant stress. When I couldn't meet the needs of my wife and children at the end of the month, it fueled more violence due to my feelings of shame," Abu explained.

Reflecting on his past behavior towards his wife, Abu expressed deep regret.

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*"When she left to visit friends or relatives for help, I sometimes suspected she was going to see her boyfriend. Upon her return, I would question her, and if she refused to explain, I resorted to forcing her into sex just to confirm if she had gone to see another man who might have given her the items or money she brought home. I might have even ended up joining her in an argument."*

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According to Abu, his change has now come. "Today, I am glad to be a changed person due to the program, learning about what constitutes rape and violence in families." Abu commended the Liberia Reintegration Promoters (LIRIP) for the training that has transformed him. "The program also helped me decide to quit my job, which was not regularly paying me nor helping me support my family. Now, I am more productive, thanks to my wife. Through the program, my wife and I are peaceful and engaged in farming. We cultivate and sell produce to sustain ourselves, which has been

<sup>17</sup> Final stories to include are still under selection process.



very helpful. We are at peace.” One of the common negative social norms and practices is that violence is generally seen as “normal” among Liberian

couples. The grassroots organization received a grant from DEN-L via CSOs Secretariats established in all five Spotlight counties.

## Story 2: Empowerment Strengthens Women’s Agency and Provides Them a Chance to be Heard.



*Evon displaying one of her tie & dye products. Photo credit: UN staff..*

Evon Gbarduo is among several young women whose lives have changed since she got involved with the Spotlight Project Peace Hut sustainability program. She lives in Putu, Tiama town, a community located along the Liberian-Ivorian border. In this part of Liberia, the residents mostly purchase their goods and services from nearby communities in neighboring Ivory Coast, considering the long distances traveling to Monrovia on unsafe and deplorable roads due to rains. These contribute to life challenges as prices of consumables and services are increasing. Evon Gbarduo serves as chairlady of the Tiama Peace Hut-Grand Gedeh county, Southeastern Liberia, and after benefiting from multiple training sessions through the Spotlight Project Peace Hut Sustainability Program, Evon now owns a business that is diversifying and sustaining her and her family. As one of the longest-serving Peace Hut members, she has attended a series of workshops and trainings including Village

Saving Loan Activity (VSLA). Evon is now helping to train other Peace Hut members as well as contributing to fundraising to support community outreach and awareness activities in Tiama Town.

“I have attended many workshops and training sessions, but the recent ones with Plan International Liberia, funded by the Spotlight Initiative, on Tie & Dye and Soap making seem to be the best so far. My skills in tailoring gave me an edge over others because all I needed to do was buy a bale of used clothes bedsheets and dye them for sale. I am already skilled in VSLA and now, with the added skills in Tie & Dye coupled with soap making, these skills have expanded my income-generating capacity, which is making a positive impact in my life already. Now

I have the skills and resources required to produce, I will ensure that the end products are of good quality and affordable to everyone, which will lessen the burden of people traveling far to get these things. I would like to thank the Donors and Implementing Partners for impacting me with these skills that have changed my life.”

The Peace Huts women are involved in the early warning and identification of sexual and

gender-based violence and abuse, referring survivors for needed support, and fighting stigma and discrimination associated with SGBV. They follow up on and ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of other service provisions. Peace Huts women are also involved in raising awareness and disseminating information regarding the availability of SGBV/SRHR services (health – clinical management, legal – access to justice, psychosocial – peer counseling, or economic – small opportunities/skills training) for survivors and the negative effects of delayed access to services.

### Story 3: Girls' Knowledge of SGBV Adds Power to Prevention

My name is Mawata Sanoh, and I am living in Mamie Konedu community, Lofa County.

“I have lived in this community for some years now and I have never seen any group coming here to talk to us about the way men can treat and beat women in this community. In this community, women don't have a voice to speak because our parents find men for us to marry, and we cannot refuse. If we refuse, they will disown us forever. So, that's how I got married to the man standing beside me. I am happy today because this group called PYCOSI came to talk to us about the bad things that can happen to us women. Since the first day, they gave us a small book and showed us how to read. I cannot read because my father refused to send me to school. But with this book, you can understand by looking carefully at the drawings. For example, there is a photo showing a man beating his wife with a big stick, and it is bad.

Because of the book the group gave us, even the men have it, we women have a little freedom now to speak up, and the beatings have decreased a little because they are afraid. They are afraid that if they beat us and the village and town chiefs hear

about it, they will ask for a lot of money before they put the man in jail.

So, I am happy for this project, and we want UN Women to be here for two more years so that we can make even more positive changes. I thank UN Women for this idea, and I want to be part of the group in the community that talks to my other friends, especially the men, to stop doing bad things to the children.”

“This project has done very well, especially for us girls in schools and in our communities. I think if this project were not in my school, I could have been one of the girls who would have done anything for a teacher just to get good grades and make my parents happy. But thank God for UFDUM, PYCOSI, and even the people who helped with money (EU/UN Women). They helped us to say no to sex for grades or getting married early and all the other bad things that happen to girls in schools and communities.”

"I have also taken my own time to talk to some of our teachers about what we learned in the UDFUM/PYCOSI workshop. I can even talk to some of my girlfriends in our community about what we learned. We have talked to many people in groups, in the streets, and even in the market about it. Some agree with me, and some say it's not good to talk about sex at our age. But really, the ideas gained from this project's activities are good protection for girls in school and even those not in school. I have seen some of my friends get married very young. Some have told me about teachers asking them for love and many other things, but none of us used to talk

about it even to each other. With the new ideas from this project, I think we have good ideas that can help us talk about some of those bad things that have caused some of our friends to drop out of school. So, I say many thanks to EU/UN Women, UFDUM/PYCOSI-Liberia for helping girls in schools and communities to say NO to all the bad things that can stop us from going to school or becoming good people for tomorrow."

Selveh Johnson is a female student from Voinjama Public School.

#### Story 4: White Cane Gives Hope to a Person with Vision Impairment. Momo Kamara Narrates

Tarnue Juku, age 62, is a resident of Police Bye-Pass community in Voinjama City, Lofa County, who has been blind for many years. Tarnue recalls that he was not born blind, as he reflected on the incident. "It was in 1972, during the outbreak of Apollo-13 in Liberia, when I started experiencing some itches and pain in my eyes. At first, I thought it was a minor issue, but as time went by, the pain became severe, and then I started experiencing dullness in both eyes, until I noticed that I couldn't see any light anymore.

After realizing that he was totally blind, Tarnue became depressed, disappointed, and frustrated. "I refused to accept the reality that I was blind because I didn't expect that I, a very active and lively child, could go totally blind. For me, I felt it could be handled by some traditional or medical treatment, but all efforts proved worthless, for there was no solution for me to regain my sight." Tarnue continued, "my journey as a blind child, growing up to become an old blind man, was unacceptable to me. I disconnected myself from all social activities, including going to football practices, which I was fully involved in, business places, family, and other public gatherings, as well as carrying out farming

activities, among others. Being blind was a total setback for me, making me believe that a blind person is disabled, incapable, and static. At this stage, Tarnue felt that he was being stigmatized in the community and decided to isolate himself from all activities. Tarnue was unable to do things by himself and had to depend on others. He later dragged his younger son, who could see, to become his eyes by taking him wherever he wanted to go.

Amidst all these circumstances, struggles, and stigma associated with his blindness, Tarnue saw himself as less human and felt uncomfortable with life until one fateful day when he met a friend who introduced him to the EU\UN Spotlight Initiative. "I am so overwhelmed, happy, and feel so much alive and restored, and this is a testimony for me," says Tarnue. "I never knew how to move on my own, I never knew I could be a part of society again, I had no hope of surviving and becoming an abled person as a blind old man. I also had no hope of getting back on my feet and becoming a useful citizen, taking part in decision-making processes, or even participating in activities and enjoying those things I used to enjoy when I had my sight."



Tarnue couldn't walk a distance without someone holding his hand, due to lack of knowledge on the use of the white cane. As a result of the EU\UN Spotlight initiative, Tarnue can now walk through the principal streets of Voinjama, using his white cane without someone directing him.

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*"The relief, joy, peace, free space, freedom, and opportunities I now have came because of the EU\UN Spotlight Initiative and its training on the usage of the White Cane. I can now move by myself with no one leading me. I can go anywhere, even far distances. I feel like a sighted person with my White Cane. I feel so confident in myself*

*that whatever a sighted person can do, I too can do the same. I am so privileged to be a beneficiary of the EU\UN Spotlight Initiative."*

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Tarnue visited the Lofa United Blind Association of Liberia (LUBAL) office alone to appreciate the management team for the EU\UN Spotlight training, which has enabled him to move without the assistance of someone. "So, I stand committed to the EU\UN Spotlight Initiative in becoming an agent of positive change in supporting efforts and creating more awareness about the usage of the White Cane. This, I believe, will help educate and reshape the mindset of others who see blindness as darkness and have lost hope."

## Story 5: From HIV/AIDS Survivor to A Change Agent & Ambassador

Agnes, a 35-year-old mother of three from Gbandu Kenema-Foya District, Lofa County, recalls the moment she was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS five years ago. "I started experiencing high fever with severe cold," she recounts. "I took constant medication but couldn't feel any better." Her husband's concern led her to seek medical help, eventually revealing her diagnosis. Agnes initially refused to accept it, fearing the consequences on her marriage. "I decided to keep my secret to myself because I never wanted my husband or anybody to know," she confides.

Despite her reluctance, Agnes realized the gravity of her situation. "Hiding such news could cause serious harm to my marriage," she admits. Eventually, she mustered the courage to confide in her husband, fearing his reaction. "When I broke the news, I was surprised by his acceptance," she shares. However, this revelation led to more challenges as her husband, too, tested positive for HIV/AIDS. "He

blamed me for his situation, insisting our children undergo testing," Agnes reveals.

Accepting their reality, Agnes and her family faced stigma and discrimination from their community. "People started avoiding us, stopped sharing food, and even ceased visiting us," she recalls sadly. Her husband's inability to cope led him to abandon their family, exacerbating Agnes' despair. "I lost hope and felt like dying," she confesses.

Agnes found solace in her uncle, now an HIV/AIDS counselor, who introduced her to the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative AIDS Awareness Program. "It was like the doors of heaven had opened for me," she exclaims. Through the program, Agnes gained knowledge and support, learning to manage her illness and lead a healthy life. "I am back on my feet, stronger and more energetic," she proudly declares.

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Grateful for the program's impact, Agnes recognizes its role in her transformation. "The EU/UN Spotlight Initiative has given me hope and a new lease on life," she acknowledges. With newfound confidence, Agnes commits to advocating for HIV/AIDS awareness and reducing stigma. "I am free to participate in society and make friends without fear or shame," she affirms.

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Agnes' journey embodies resilience and hope, inspiring others to confront the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS. "Having HIV/AIDS is not the end of life," she emphasizes. Through her advocacy, she aims to empower survivors and eliminate discrimination. "I stand committed to bringing

more HIV survivors into the program," she declares passionately.

Despite the hardships she's faced, Agnes remains determined to create positive change in her community. "I am now an agent of positive change," she asserts proudly. Her story serves as a beacon of hope for those affected by HIV/AIDS, proving that with support and determination, one can overcome even the most daunting challenges.

In Agnes' words, "Thank God I didn't succumb to ignorance, fear, stigma, and all other negative things surrounding HIV/AIDS." Her journey exemplifies the transformative power of resilience and advocacy, offering hope to countless others facing similar struggles.

## Story 6: Traditional Leaders Changed Mindsets and Beliefs in Kolahun, Lofa County

The practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among the Gbandi people can be traced back over 200 years ago. Kolahun District is the home of the Gbandi people, one of five ethnic groups found in Lofa County, Liberia, where the practice of FGM is widespread.

Ma Gboludu is an elderly woman believed to be in her 70s and one of the leaders in the practice of FGM for more than three decades. Ma Gboludu is the Head Zoe of the Gbandi Chiefdom and one of the most respected and talented Zoe/FGM practitioners in the chiefdom. While visiting Kolahun, Ma Gboludu expressed pride in her role as the head Zoe. "We, traditional Zoes, used to teach girls how to conduct themselves in the presence of older people, plait hair, change cotton into different materials, and take good care of their bodies to appear decent."

Ma Gboludu recalls her childhood, during which her parents sent her to school, and she excelled academically, reaching the 11th grade before

dropping out. "I grew up in a poor family deeply rooted in tradition. Eventually, my parents couldn't afford to support me, so I dropped out of high school and became interested in the Sande Society. I was drawn to it because some of my family members were involved, and I wanted to participate in activities surrounding the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). I became well-known for my involvement and introduced many young women and girls to the practice. I believed FGM was beneficial, akin to another form of schooling, where girls could learn and become better citizens contributing to community and societal development. Due to my perspective on the practice, I established and owned several bush schools in Lofa County, where I initiated girls into adulthood through various rituals, including FGM. Ma Gboludu emphasized that she was not alone in this endeavor; she had a network of support over the years.

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“After many years of practicing FGM, I was fortunate to meet a friend named Ma Setta, a traditional leader in Liberia. She introduced me to the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, where I received extensive training. These sessions helped me, as a traditional person, understand the basic needs of women, including the differences in practices between males and females, and how to be a supportive mother or mentor, among other things.”

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Ma Gboludu is now one of the traditional practitioners who have benefited from EU/UN Spotlight trainings and awareness programs on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and girls.

“The time has come for me to change, and I am now a Messenger and an Ambassador for Change. I feel empowered by the opportunity, education, and new perspective to oppose something I have been doing for so many years,” explains Ma Gboludu. “I now understand that I can be part of the effort to eliminate SGBV, including FGM, because I am now aware of the harm associated with the practice. The new ideas, knowledge, and beliefs I have acquired regarding FGM have made me realize that girls’ education does not stem from the Sande Society/ Bush School or through the practice of FGM. Girls can achieve success, build self-esteem, and contribute to development through education in classrooms and other skills acquired through informal education, without undergoing FGM.”

The EU/UN Spotlight Initiative and its awareness on the elimination of SGBV have transformed Ma Gboludu’s life, as she shares her next plan. “I have closed all my bush schools and am now leading one of the largest women’s groups in Gbandi land in Kolahun, Lofa County. Through information and extensive training on the dangers and harmful effects of FGM, my group has decided to cease initiating or introducing girls to FGM. Instead, we

aim to promote girls’ education, raise awareness on women and girls’ rights, and educate on the health implications of FGM. I am committed to working with the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative to advocate for the rights of women, girls, and children and to push for the enactment of the FGM bill into law in Liberia.



## Testimonials

“Our Peace Huts were indebted to Access Bank due to a loan we took to carry out activities for sustainability, but from the acquired skills in Tie Dye and Soap making, we have been able to pay off all debts from materials produced and sold.” -

**Tiama Peace Hut.**

“I spent eight (8) years in prison doing absolutely nothing, but through the introduction of skills training after constructing the social coping center, I was enrolled in the bead-making component and received training. Since my release, these skills have enabled me to provide food for my table while engaging in petty trading business to sustain myself and my family.”

**Bong Prison.**

“By accessing the Safe Home with trained service providers in caregiving and counseling, I was able to overcome the painful incident of rape that was perpetrated against me. Now, I have discovered my potential and know-how, understanding where and when to speak out on the issues women and girls face.”

**Lofa Safe Home.**

“We have participated in workshops and learned about human rights, as well as gender and gender-based violence. However, we have not yet had the opportunity to attend a workshop on integrating human and gender issues into the county agenda. I will share this knowledge with my people. We would like

to invite you to our next County meeting to discuss the same topic. This is important so that everyone can benefit.”

**Lofa County Superintendent.**

“Whenever we review laws, policies, or related documents, we strive to address gender and human rights. However, this is the first time we have had a dedicated office with focal persons focusing on gender and human rights. The gender and human rights checklist is very detailed, but it is a good tool to ensure that gender and human rights are mainstreamed, and that human rights and gender issues are addressed before laws are passed.”

**Law Reform Commission Gender and Human Rights  
Focal Person.**

## e Photos



*Small Grant Management Training for over 30 grassroots organizations: held 29-30 June 2022, Nimba county.*



*Flumpa Township citizens in Nimba attend one-day training, Aug 2022 August 13, 2022, Participants in a one-day training on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Practices (HPs), and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in Flumpa Township, Nimba County, facilitated by Mr Bob Gleatee and his team from the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Nimba Office. During the training, the town chief of Flumpa emphasized the need to continue fighting for women's rights using a grassroots approach, as ACHEM<sup>18</sup> is doing.*

<sup>18</sup> ACHEM changed its brand and name to Center for Reform and Development on Feb 23, 2023



*Cross-section of partners from key national institutions, jointly developing National GBV Accountability Framework: GOL, UN and CSOs at a participatory development session of the National GBV Accountability Framework, Monrovia, Montserrado County. Nov/2022; Photo credit. @Ernree Neepto/ UNDP.*





*LNP giving remarks at CSOs/CBOs/women led group capacity building session to lobby and advocate against laws and policies that are discriminatory against women and girls (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative 2022) funded project.*



*CSO-SGBV Secretarial, Lofa Chapter Chairman addressing stakeholders in a capacity training to lobby against policies that are discriminatory against women and girls in Kolahun district (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight support project).*





*INCHR, Lofa Chapters' County Coordinator building the capacity of key GBV/local authorities/CBOs/CSOs stakeholder on the new domestic violence and rape Laws of Liberia 2021/2022 (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative) support project in Kolahun.*



*A group post of SGBV stake actors amongst CBOs/CSOs/local authorities/women groups, traditional and religious leaders in Wanhassa District, Lofa County 2021/2022 (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative) funded project.*





Street parade in Sakonedu community, Quadu Gboni district in support of compulsory female education after the CSO/CBOs/Women led groups/traditional and religious leaders capacity training to strengthen and lobby against laws and policies that are discriminatory to women and girls (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative funded project).



A group post at a petitioning program for a compulsory female education in Quadu Gboni district, Lofa County to Hon. Mariam B. Fofana ED#4. squatting in white T-shirt is the youth chairman of the district (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative 2022).





*INCHR, Lofa Chapter County Coordinator strengthening and building the capacity of Women groups/traditional and religious leaders to support and lobby against laws and policies that are discriminatory against women and girls in Quadu Gboni district (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative 2021) funded project.*



*Community SGBV/GBV committee structured meeting to support and lobby against laws and policies that are discriminatory against women and girls (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative 2021/2022) funded project.*





*A female advocate (Deddeh Kamoh) speaking to SGBV/GBV stakeholders amongst local authorities, traditional and religious leaders in a capacity building session to lobby and advocate against laws and policies that are discriminatory to women and girls in Wanhassa district (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative 2021) funded project.*



*SGBV/GBV stake actors amongst male and female traditional leaders, religion and community leaders in a capacity building session to lobby and advocate against laws and policies that are discriminatory to women and girls.*



*Traditional women, girls and youth of Wanhassa District advocate against laws and policies that are discriminatory to women and girls after capacity building sessions (UNDP/EU/UN Spotlight Initiative 2021/2022) funded project.*

## f Videos

Recordings of several Liberia Spotlight Initiative events that took place in 2022 in Voinjama, Lofa County, implemented by PYCOSI in partnership with UFUDUM events:

- Celebration of International Women's Day
- 16 Days of Activism Against GBV
- Stakeholder engagement events
- School Club members raising awareness among parents about the consequences of FGM
- Celebration of International Day of Observance, 2022

Editor: Augustine G Kessellie Link: [https://youtu.be/QzIkskW\\_Lw0](https://youtu.be/QzIkskW_Lw0)

Five-minute-long drama performed by the School Club in Voinjama on child marriage, Lofa County: Link: <https://youtube.com/ch?v=KthvenfDI8c&feature=share>

Action-Oriented Youth of Liberia: Community Education to Minimize SGBV and Mainstream Pathways to SGBV Case Reportage, Johnsonville event, uploaded on 06 August 2022: Link: <https://www.facebook.com/780157278787751/posts/2574547329348728/?flike=scwspnss>



*A group of beneficiaries of Bahn Housing Units with an array of dignitaries including LRRRC Ex. Dir, UNFPA and UNHCR Representatives (Credit UNFPA Liberia).*



## I Sustainability

The experience of many nations throughout the world demonstrates that funding for gender equality is not prioritized, leaving gender ministries understaffed and gender equality and gender mainstreaming issues in other ministries, agencies, and commissions without resources. Liberia is not an exception to this rule. The Government of Liberia's competence and readiness to spearhead initiatives and allot national resources for the advancement of women's rights and the eradication of violence against women and girls is essential to its long-term viability. However, as soon as the government begins allocating funds, this action will serve as an additional incentive for partners in the private sector, financial institutions, and international organizations for development to continue their support of the SDGs, EWAV, and the advancement of women and girls' rights.

The Spotlight Initiative Sustainability Strategy will be created in 2023 with direct participation from the government, CSOs, and development partners. For instance, it would include the essential papers and steps for maintaining Liberia's response to sexual and gender-based violence, such as developing the Integrated Essential Services Package model for comprehensive treatment for victims of violence against women and girls. The initiative has been actively involved in institutional improvement and capacity building. It has concentrated on developing employee capabilities, infrastructure, and systems. It plans to keep up its tenacious lobbying of the government to ensure funding allocation and prioritization for the Initiative's sustainability initiatives.

To guarantee both quality and availability of services while also ensuring that the gains are preserved, and that transition is smooth, LSI will keep working

with the government to identify resources for service supply and to identify steps and design a Sustainability Strategy. Most of the service center employees work for the government, and the safe houses and social coping centers have already been turned over to the administration. Health response centers have all been built in previously existing hospitals. The provision of DNA and forensics services, SRHR/SGBV integrated services, maternity waiting homes, safe homes, social coping centers, as well as comprehensive sexuality education are all important SGBV response interventions that are currently being discussed with the government, donors, and partners. The government has been fully involved in this initiative, and we have their assurance that they will have complete ownership when the project is finished.

To establish a business plan for the sustainability of the center after the Spotlight program ends, the initiative is collaborating with the DNA/Forensic center's pathologist. With the safe-home staff, dialogues are initiated about other financing interventions, including the potential for funding investments in agriculture and other livelihood support. Increased engagements with CSOs have proven to deepen the sense of ownership and belonging to the Spotlight Initiatives and its values, especially at the grassroots level, where communities embraced such ownership. In 2023 and beyond, it is anticipated that all of the work done with regards to awareness/sensitization on prevention of the negative social norms and harmful practices against women and girls through the implementation of the SBCC will be sustained and over time, the desired changes will start to manifest in the behavior of people, especially when more women are involved in decision making and

leadership, more girls are retained in school and there is a reduction in abuse against children.



## I Next Steps

A national campaign featuring key messages from the Social Behavior Change Communication Strategy on altering harmful social norms and preventing and ending harmful practices and behaviors against women and girls will continue to run through RUNOs' programs. Through a newly established network of journalists working on FGM, an award-granting system was launched to encourage journalists to report objectively on FGM. Journalists were provided with guidelines for submitting entries for the awards, and the winning submission will be announced in 2024.

Support will continue for legislative staff and their work with the Law Reform Commission, MGCSP, MOJ, INCHR, and CSO to complete the joint review of three laws: the Domestic Relations and Domestic Violence Act, the inheritance law, and the domestic violence act, with the results to be submitted to the legislature. Additionally, advocacy for the passage of legislation within the legislature and among all pertinent parties will continue through the work of gender advocates.

Efforts to ensure the passage of the Anti-FGM Bill into law are gaining momentum, with a draft bill

before the House of Representatives for review and passage. Once passed and signed into law, the bill will serve as the legal framework for prohibiting the practice of FGM in Liberia.

The process to support the operationalization of vocational and heritage centers will continue through the work of RUNOs, the Government, and other stakeholders. Business plans and a resource mobilization plan are being finalized to guide this operationalization.

A plan to sustain the activities of the Spotlight Initiative was collaboratively prepared. The plan prioritizes government institutions as key players in the sustainability process and accords high importance to government resources for funding identified actions.

The EU has recently announced the possibility of Spotlight Initiative 2.0 to succeed the soon-ending program. Under the leadership of the UNRCO, the process to prepare for accessing this funding is expected to start soon after clarifications are provided by the EUDEL on October 25, 2023.



## I ANNEXES<sup>19</sup>

Annex A: Results Framework

Annex B: Risk Matrix

Annex C: CSO Engagement Report

Annex D: Innovative, Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

Annex E: Annual Work Plan

Annex F: Assets / Equipment / Major supplies



*Service providers discuss the benefits of family planning services on a local radio during a FP outreach campaign in Lofa County (Credit, UNFPA Liberia).*

<sup>19</sup> Under completion process.







**Spotlight  
Initiative**



## **FINAL NARRATIVE PROGRAMME REPORT**

PROGRAMME TITLE:

**LIBERIA SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE**

REPORTING PERIOD:

**01 JANUARY 2019 – 31 DECEMBER 2023**



# Annex A 2023

## Outcome 1 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.</b>					
	<b>Legal age of Marriage</b>				
	0	0.75	0.75	0	
	<b>Parental Authority in Marriage</b>				
	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Parental Authority in Divorce</b>				
	0	0.5	0.5	0	
	<b>Inheritance rights of Widows</b>				
	0	0.5	0.5	0	
	<b>Inheritance rights of Daughters</b>				
	0	0.5	0.5	0	During 2023, no progress was reported.
	<b>Laws on Domestic Violence</b>				
	0	0.25	0.25	0	
	<b>Laws on Rape</b>				
	0	0.5	0.5	0	
	<b>Laws on Sexual Harassment</b>				
	0	0.75	0.75	0	
<b>Indicator 1.2 National and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&amp;E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.</b>					
	<b>National level</b>				
	Evidence-based, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, Funded, M&E framework, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Costed, Funded, M&E framework, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	Evidence-based, Rights of all women & girls, Participatory Development	The National SGBV road map was developed and implemented as well as a M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP, however the plan was a three (3)-year (2020-2022) plan. Although the plan roadmap ended in 2022, activities are still ongoing. Some activities within the plan that was not completed are being implemented while discussions are ongoing for the drafting of a new roadmap.
	<b>Sub-National Level</b>				
	Does not apply/ there is no plan	0	0	Does not apply/ there is no plan	The National SGBV road map was developed and implemented as well as a M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP, however the plan was a three(3)-year(2020-2022). Although the plan roadmap ended in 2022, activities are still ongoing. Some activities within the plan that was not completed are being implemented while discussions are ongoing for the drafting of a new roadmap.
<b>Indicator 1.3 Laws and policies are in place that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda.</b>					
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Human rights policy drafted, discussions remain focus on engagements to have it adopted.
<b>Output Indicator</b>					
	<b>Developed or Strengthened</b>				
<b>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.</b>					
	0	0	3	2	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 1.1.2 Number of inquiries conducted by human rights institutions on VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination in the country within the last year.</b>					
	4	0	8	2	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 1.1.3 Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates within the last year.</b>					
	3	0	4	3	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 1.1.4 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination, within the last year.</b>					
	0	0	121	150	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 1.1.5 Number of Parliamentarians and staff of human rights institutions with strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination and implement the same, within the last year.</b>					
	<b>Parliamentarians</b>				
	0	0	15	100	22 legislative staff were trained in addition to parliamentarians. The legislative staff play cardinal role in ensuring that human rights principles, standards and gender are mainstreamed in laws and work of the legislature. As part of their responsibilities, they provide various support services to lawmakers, legislative branch of government makes laws, and this branch has the constitutional responsibility to revisit, reform or repeal existing laws deemed morally wrong and not in conformity with international standards.
	<b>Women Parliamentarians</b>				
	0	0	4	11	
	<b>Human Rights Staff</b>				
	0	0	178	154	
	<b>Women Human Rights Staff</b>				
	0	0	95	73	
<b>Indicator 1.1.6 Number of assessments completed on pending topics and strategic litigation implemented by women's rights advocates, within the last year.</b>					
	0	0	3	0	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls. have M&amp;E frameworks and processed</b>					
	0	0	3	0	During 2023, no progress was reported.

Sub-National						
budgets within the last year.	0	0	1	0	During 2023, no progress was reported.	
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft and cost action plans on ending VAWG and accompanying M&E frameworks.	0	0	75	50	During 2023, no progress was reported.	
Indicator 1.3.1 Number of draft laws and/or policies developed that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.	0	0	1	1	During 2023, no progress was reported.	
Indicator 1.3.2 Number of draft laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates.	Number of Laws & Policies which received inputs from Women's Rights Advocates				During 2023, no progress was reported.	
	0	0	1	1		
Indicator 1.3.3 Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.	Government Officials demonstrate awareness					
	0	0	160	50	During 2023, no progress was reported.	
	those Officials who participate in developing laws & policies					
	0	0	85	30		
	Women Government Officials demonstrate awareness					
0	0	50	50			
Women Officials who participate in developing laws & policies						
	0	0	28	30		
Indicator 1.3.4 Number of women human rights defenders with strengthened capacities to contribute to the development of laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.	Women Human Rights Defenders demonstrate awareness					
	0	30	125	65	Due to past data entry error, corrections were made for previous years. The correct figure for indicator (1.3.4.a) is 125. Previous years data was corrected as: 2019 = 10 2020 = 10 2021 = 75 2022 = 0 2023 = 30.	
	Contribute to developing laws and policies					
	0	10	70	65	we have: 2019 = 0 2020 = 20 2021 = 0 2022 = 40 2023 = 10 and hence a cumulative of 70. Due to previous data entry error, we are recording 10 missing in 2023. The total number of women HR defenders involved is now 70.	

## Outcome 2 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Coordination Mechanism?					
Indicator 2.1 Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Both 2022 and 2023 reports affirm the presence of coordination meetings at the National Steering Committee level and the national GBV taskforce level. In the 2022 report, the affirmative response indicates the existence of the one (1) National Steering Committee, National GBV taskforce, and county-level GBV taskforce.
Indicator 2.2 Percentage of national budget being allocated to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Government of Liberia submitted a proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 in the amount of US\$777.9 million which was reduced by US\$29 million as compared to the US\$806.5 million approved budget for fiscal year 2022. The Government of Liberia allocated 3M in the FY2023 national budget to support the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP. The fight against SGBV in Liberia is a consolidated approach that brings together various
	0%	0.00%	0.00%	1%	
Output Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.	0	1	19	12	A GBV Advocacy strategy was developed in 2023 by several women's rights advocates who were trained and provided grants through the Liberia Spotlight Initiative program. The strategy document has been reported and is available in the online library.
Indicator 2.1.2 Internal and external accountability mechanisms within relevant government institutions in place to monitor GEWE and VAWG/HP.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	In 2022 and 2023, the government of Liberia, through relevant ministries and agencies developed, validated, and launched the National GBV Accountability Framework mechanism document. The government validated and launched the National GBV Accountability Framework, developed with the support of Liberia Spotlight Initiative. This framework serves as both an internal and external mechanism to ensure coordination, commitment, policies, resources, and sustainability for addressing gender-based violence and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services.
Indicator 2.1.5 Number of targeted national and sub-national training institutions for public servants that have integrated gender equality and VAWG in their curriculum, as per international standards.	0	0	7	7	Seven (7) national and sub-national training institutions have integrated gender equality and VAWG into their curriculum. The institutions include the following: 1. Bureau of Correction and Rehabilitation 2. Liberia Immigration Service 3. Ministry of Justice/Liberia National Police 4. Liberia National Fire Service 5. Judiciary 6. Armed Forces of Liberia 7. Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency We report a data entry error for 2020, 3 were recorded but already reported in the past, leading to double counting. Final cumulative is 7.
Indicator 2.1.6 Number of key government officials trained on human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, within the last year.	Government Officials				
	0	0	249	160	In 2021, the Liberia Institute for Public Administrators (LIPA) was contracted, resulting in the training of 130 key government officials. In 2022, the Institute for Research Education and Democratic Development (IREDD) was also granted funding, leading to the training of 119 key government officials at both national and subnational levels. This totaled 249.
	Women Government Officials				
	0	0	128	110	During 2023, no progress was reported.

	Government Officials				
Indicator 2.1.7 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	823	170	The cumulative accounts for training results come from government and implementing partners' training reports, particularly through the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Gender, and consultant reports. The Ministry of Justice, through the SGBV Crimes Unit, trained 703 criminal justice chain actors and local government officials throughout the lifespan of the
	Women Government Officials				
	0	0	350	40	During 2023, no progress was reported.
Indicator 2.1.9 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to support the integration of ending VAWG into the development plans of other sectors.	0	0	208	100	The actual cumulative result is 200 grassroots women's rights advocates, as indicated in the report. The target was 100, but 200 was achieved during actual implementation. Additionally, eight (8) more women's rights groups were provided grants to further advocate, respond to, and report cases of GBV in their respective communities.
Indicator 2.2.1 Multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanisms are established at the highest level and/or strengthened, and are composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans, within the last year.	There is no coordination mechanism	Established at the highest level, Composed of relevant stakeholders, With a clear mandate and governance structure, With annual work plans	Established at the highest level, Composed of relevant stakeholders, With a clear mandate and governance structure, With annual work plans	Established at the highest level, With a clear mandate and governance structure, Composed of relevant stakeholders, With annual work plans	The National GBV Taskforce is still functional, holding regular monthly meetings to discuss and address pertinent GBV issues. The result is one National GBV Taskforce at the national level and 14 at the subnational/county level. These bodies convene monthly, with representation from groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In 2023, the National Taskforce was supported to host a two-day national GBV taskforce retreat, where members from all the counties upheld the principles of Leave No One Behind (LNOB).
Indicator 2.2.2 Proportion of national and sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in place that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	0	4	15	5	Result is one (1) National GBV Taskforce at the national level and 14 at the subnational/county level. These bodies meet monthly with representation from groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. In 2023, the National Taskforce was supported to host a two-day national GBV taskforce retreat, where members from all the counties evaluated their work over the year and planned for the coming years ahead. We record for 2023 4 missing mechanisms unrecorded in previous year due to data entry error in the system.
	National Level Meetings				
Indicator 2.2.4 Number of meetings of regional, national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, within the last year.	0	0	33	12	
	Sub-National Level Meetings				
	0	0	9	12	During 2023, no progress was reported.
	Parliamentarians				
Indicator 2.3.2 Number of Parliamentarians with strengthened knowledge and capacities to hold relevant stakeholders accountable to fund and implement multi-sectoral programmes to address VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	169	103	
	Women Parliamentarians				
	0	0	24	11	Over the period, UN Women led series of engagement on Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting as well as advocacy on the adoption of a law on the prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Liberia. Initially, the program only focused on GRPB, but later worked with parliamentarians on the passage of a law on FGM, which hasn't yet been done.
	Government Officials				
Indicator 2.3.3 Number of key government officials with greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	140	60	
	Women Government Officials				
	0	0	0	25	Over the period of implementation, UN Women expanded its rollout of GRPB to a total of 9 line ministries instead of the previously agreed 6 line ministries. This attributed to the increase in the number of officials who capacities was build on GRPB.
Indicator 2.3.4 Number of women's rights advocates with greater knowledge and capacities on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG.	0	0	120	40	Initially, the program worked with 40 women rights group, this number increased as the program continued to build the capacity of these groups who sole responsibility was to monitor the implementation of GRBP principles across Government of Liberia line ministries.

### Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner.	31%	0%	0%	24%	This is a national indicator which we cannot report for in 2023, as it will be captured in the next Liberia Demographic Health Survey (DHS) planned for 2025. Baseline indicator had reflected the figure from DHS 2019 - 20.
	Female Genital Mutilation				
Indicator 3.2.a) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to FGM (in areas where FGM takes place)	50%	0%	0%	40%	
	Child Marriage				
b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage.	36%	0%	0%	15%	During 2023, no progress was reported.
Indicator 3.3 Existence of with at least 3 evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.	0	0	4	3	As previously reported, the 3 evidence based transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes are still being implemented and running throughout 2023. These programmes are now nationally owned and used for GBV prevention programming in Liberia.
Output Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, the country has already drafted new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards.
	In-School Programmes				
	0	3,872	10,709	1,260	
	In-School Programmes Girls				
	0	2,710	5,594	610	
	In-School Programmes Boys				
	0	1,162	5,115	650	



Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either both in and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	<b>Out-of-School Programmes</b>				5,111 girls specifically participated in the Out-Of-School Programmes. The increase in the targeted results are mainly due to a wide range of methodologies (for example, the use of mobile theater which pulled a larger number of persons at a specific gathering) used during awareness raising. More to this is the launch and roll out of the national Social Behavioral Communication change (SBCC) Strategy which necessitated the need for greater community engagements.
	0	7,523	27,139	250	
	<b>Out-of-School Programmes Girls</b>				
	0	5,111	16,646	0	
<b>Out-of-School Programmes Boys</b>					
	0	2,412	10,493	0	
Indicator 3.2.1 Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction, within the last year.	0	1,650	133,721	45,605	1650 including traditional leaders, religious leaders and girls. This also include 255 Males champions from the 5 Counties, 263 boys from 29 schools. Increase in the cumulative results can be attributed to the cascading of information amongst community dwellers themselves. For example, discussing these issues during community and townhall meetings.
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	16,629	65,842	34,734	2023 report on number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping. Increase in the cumulative results can be attributed to the cascading of information amongst community dwellers themselves. For example, discussing these issues during community and townhall meetings.
<b>Total</b>					
	0	518	23,230	1,800	
Indicator 3.2.3 Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces, within the last year.	<b>Men</b>				This includes 255 males in five counties and 263 boys in 29 schools. The gap between results and the target is based on the fact that the awareness program in the 5 spotlight counties was expanded to 255 communities which saw an increase in the attendance of men and boys in these communities. Furthermore, the program also targeted schools in these counties. The program didn't initially anticipate the increase in the number of male beneficiaries reached during its implementation.
	0	255	16,086	1,000	
	<b>Boys</b>				
	0	263	7,144	800	
Indicator 3.2.4 Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction.	24	103	610	744	103 project communities have advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction..
Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.	5	54	67	10	54 campaigns developed and implemented in 2023. The number is higher because it captured the 7 set of street theater performances and drama held in 8 communities on SGBV prevention, What is Domestic Violence and Rape and its consequences, etc. This were added to the observance of the 16 Days of Activism held thrice under the program, the observance of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM held thrice and five community campaigns on sexual reproductive and health rights for young women and boys in 5 communities
Indicator 3.2.6 Number of networks of men and boys developed and/or strengthened to advocate against VAWG and stand for promoting gender equitable values and behaviours during the past year.	21	50	61	38	28 boys clubs and 33 male (men) network. The indicator was reported as per the number of male groups established during the Programme period. The 28 boy clubs are established in schools in the counties as well as the 33 male networks/groups (adults) in the communities. Members in the groups is set at 25 persons per group. The total or cumulative is now for the male 61 network (28 boy clubs and 33 adult male networks), we report 50 in 2023 to account for data error/missing information in previous years.
Indicator 3.3.1 Number of news outlets that develop standards on ethical and gender-sensitive reporting, within the last year.	44	0	58	59	During 2023, no progress was reported.
Indicator 3.3.2 Number of relevant non-state institutions that have developed and/or strengthened strategies/policies on ending VAWG and promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, including those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	<b>EVAWG Policies</b>				During 2023, no progress was reported.
	10	0	11	3	
<b>EVAWG Policies including LNOB</b>					
	0	0	11	2	
Indicator 3.3.3 Number of news and other media stories/reports that sensitively report on VAWG and GEWE more broadly, in the last year.	0	0	1,024	20	This is progressive reporting covering the years of implementation. Our partner had established a media monitoring platform wherein the indicated results were captured which exceeded our target. It is good to note that at a point 19 media institutions were providing stories/report on VAWG and GEWE.
Indicator 3.3.4 Number of journalists with strengthened capacity to sensitively report on VAWG and GEWE more broadly.	<b>Journalists</b>				These are progressive report and captures information from 3 trainings conducted for journalist during the project period. Journalists who have participated in these training have improved in their reportage on issues affecting women and girls.
	0	0	1,039	438	
<b>Women Journalists</b>					
	0	0	303	121	
Indicator 3.3.5 Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, within the last year.	<b>Decision Makers</b>				These are progressive report and captures information from 3 trainings conducted for journalist during the project period. Journalists who have participated in these training have improved in their reportage on issues affecting women and girls.
	0	0	1,516	4,445	
<b>Women Decision Makers</b>					
	0	0	200	605	

## Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Women</b>					
Indicator 4.1 Number of women and girls, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of	0	0	12,205	4,350	One component is due to roll out of the Integrated Essential Service Package for

Output Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<p>Indicating intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence and seek help, by sector.</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.2</b> a) number of VAWG cases reported to the police; b) number of cases reported to the police that are brought to court; and c) number of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators.</p>	<b>Girls</b>				
	0	0	16,851	2,400	Underachievement is due to roll-out of the integrated essential service package for SGBV/SRHR which eventually increased access to services
	<b>Reported</b>				
	2,105	0	5,571	4,000	Not all reported cases are brought to court.
<b>Brought to Court</b>					
126	1,266	3,260	3,000	January to August 2023 analysis on all forms of violence reported to the Women and Children Protection Section /Liberia National Police	
<b>Convictions</b>					
63	0	344	1,400	During 2023, no progress was reported.	
<b>Women</b>					
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.2</b> Number of women and girls with access to programmes developed to integrate VAWG response into SRH, education and migration services.</p>	0	14,674	40,407	1,300	The implementation of Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR, working with community structures like women peace hubs etc. increased access to services for women and girls
	<b>Girls</b>				
0	12,410	36,780	2,000		
<b>Government Service Providers</b>					
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.4</b> Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.</p>	0	0	901	200	Based on the need, more capacity building for government service providers was carryout then anticipated earlier.
	<b>Women Government Service Providers</b>				
0	0	514	165		
<b>Government Service Providers</b>					
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.6</b> Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to better integrate VAWG response into sexual and reproductive health, education and migration services, within the last year.</p>	0	0	42	150	Government service providers who participated in capacity development to better integrate VAWG response into SRHR.
	<b>Women Government Service Providers</b>				
0	0	29	150		
<b>Developed</b>					
<p><b>Indicator 4.1.9</b> Existence of national guidelines or protocols for essential services that have been developed and/or strengthened that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.</p>	No	No	No	Yes	No results for 2023. There was no national guideline or protocol for essential package developed for 2023
	<b>Strengthened</b>				
No	No	No	Yes	Confirmed, there was no national guideline or protocol for essential package developed for 2023	
<b>a) Girls with Knowledge of ES</b>					
0	0	10,614	6,210		
<b>a) Women with Knowledge of ES</b>					
0	0	10,072	899	No report for 2023. More women and girls were reached through awareness, out reaches etc. hence, their knowledge increased.	
<b>b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services</b>					
0	0	10,063	6,141		
<b>b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services</b>					
0	0	59,418	800	No result for 2023 Confirmed, more women and girls were reached through awareness, out reaches etc. hence, their knowledge increased.	
<b>a) Girls with ACCESS to ES</b>					
0	0	14,447	6,141		
<b>a) Women with ACCESS to ES</b>					
0	0	12,321	800	No result for 2023. The implementation of Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR, working with community structures like women peace hubs etc. increased access to services for women and girls survivors/victims and their families	
<b>b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services</b>					
0	0	760	1,000		
<b>b) Women with Access to Recovery Services</b>					
0	0	834	400	Confirmed, the implementation of Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR, working with community structures like women peace hubs etc. increased access to services for women and girls survivors/victims and their families.	

## Outcome 5 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Prevalence</b>					
<b>Indicator 5.1</b> Existence of globally comparable data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The current GBVIMS collects incidence of GBV. However, a more robust architecture is under development.

Incidence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The current GBVIMS collects incidence of GBV. However, a more robust architecture is under development.
on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HIP, collected over time	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>IPV</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A publicly available database is available. Currently GBV data is collected on intimate partner violence, rape, sexual assault, abandonment.
<b>FGM</b>	No	Yes	Yes	0	A publicly available database is available. Currently GBV data is collected on intimate partner violence, rape, sexual assault, abandonment.
<b>Child Marriage</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The country has national statistics VAWG incidence disaggregated, however, not in all the categories mentioned in the indicator.
<b>Femicide</b>	No	No	No	0	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Trafficking</b>	0	Yes	Yes	0	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 5.3</b> , National statistics related to VAWG/HIP incidence and prevalence are disaggregated by income, sex, age, ethnicity, disability, and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	0	0	0	0	The country has national statistics VAWG incidence disaggregated, however, not in all the categories mentioned in the indicator.
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2023)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
<b>Indicator 5.1.1</b> National Statistical Offices has developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 5.2.1</b> Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making, within the past 12 months	0	0	4	16	No achievement for 2023

## Outcome 6 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Results for Reporting Period (2023)	Cumulative	Target	Reporting Notes
<b>Indicator 6.1</b> Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG	0	0	332	390	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 6.2</b> Extent to which there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage efforts to end VAWG	0	0	2	6	Yes, CSOs are using community score cards to develop shadow reports on EVAWG issues from the Five Spotlight Counties.
<b>Indicator 6.3</b> Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG	0	30	495	50	30 CSOs and 5 networks/coalition. Prior to the program, groups were all operating in silos and, in order not to raise expectation, the target was 50. After the mapping of CSOs and Women Rights groups and the capacity building initiatives undertaken in various aspects of the programme including resource mobilization, advocacy and networking, the program over the period was able to reach 495 CSOs and women rights groups who have the expertise to advocacy and influence reforms as well as work towards ending GBV.
<b>Output Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Results for Reporting Period (2023)</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Reporting Notes</b>
<b>Indicator 6.1.1</b> Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	0	14	15	During 2023, no progress was reported.
<b>Indicator 6.1.2</b> Number of official dialogues about ending VAWG with relevant government authorities that include the full participation of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	5	12	10	We are recording 5 in 2023 to correct missing information from previous years. The total is 12 official dialogues (5 in phase 1 and 7 in phase 2).
<b>Youth</b>					
<b>Indicator 6.1.3</b> Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	29	15	Cumulative. The total youth is 29 and marginalized groups is 0 while those considered others (LGBTIQs, etc) is 9. Due to an error from counting returning organizations or counting individuals as organizations, previous report results may appear higher. This has been corrected in the final
<b>LNOB</b>	0	0	8	6	There are 30 CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG.



<p>Indicator 6.1.4 Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year.</p>	13	0	82	30	<p>The cumulative result should be 82 groups with the following representation (Youth - 29; women - 36; Marginalized - 8; others - 9). Due to an error from counting returning organizations or counting individuals as organizations, previous report results may appear higher. This has been corrected in the final year.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.2.1 Number of supported women's right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG, within the last year</p>	0	0	30	30	<p>30 Women's rights groups and CSOs were supported during the project period using the appropriate accountability mechanisms.</p> <p>As the indicator reads, there were 260 beneficiaries from 30 rights groups who benefited from the accountability training in 2021. Due to an error from counting returning organizations or counting individuals as organizations, previous report results may appear higher. This has been corrected in the final year.</p>
<b>CSOs with strengthened capacities</b>					
<p>Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.</p>	0	0	60	30	<p>Phase 1 - 30 groups and Phase 2, additional 30 groups had proven strengthened capacities in Programme design, implementation and monitoring.</p> <p>Due to an error from counting returning organizations or counting individuals as organizations, previous report results may appear higher. This has been corrected in the final year.</p>



**CUMULATIVE REPORT - ANNEX B  
- RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Country Programme / Regional Programme: **LIBERIA**  
Reporting Period: **01 January 2019 - 31 December 2023**

**Instructions:** Kindly refer to the Risk Management Matrix in your approved Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document to report in the below matrix on how your programme has

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)			Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk: Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5, Likely – 4, Possible – 3, Unlikely – 2, Rare – 1.	Impact: Extreme – 5, Major – 4, Moderate – 3, Minor – 2, Insignificant – 1	Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
<b>Contextual risks:</b>						
C1-Fragility of the peace, civil unrest	2	4	Weekly	RCO reports on peace and development	- Strong emphasis on peace processes by the UN - Intensified dialogue with political actors, especially in the political campaigns' period, during elections and in the transition period between the former and newly elected administration	RCO
C2-Humanitarian emergency due to natural or human made disaster	3	4	Weekly	Executive Management Meetings,	- Formulation of a joint response to the SGBV upsurge during the COVID-19 outbreak and associated lockdowns, in partnership and coordination with partners, GoL, RUNOs and EU, and strengthening capacities and accountability of key stakeholders	RCO
C3-Inadequate policy / legal framework	3	2	Annually	OHCHR programme reports	Advocacy for passage on pending bills through targeting leadership of executive, judiciary and legislative branches to draft/amend frameworks - Partnerships with civil society, supporting participation in the development/review of national legislation on SGBV/HPs and advocate to amend inadequacies - Good offices of RCO	RUNOs-OHCHR, UN Women, RCO
C4-Change in national commitment, political will	2	2	Quarterly	Meeting minutes from National Steering Committee and other meetings	- Close and regular political engagements with government focal persons, dialogue with GOL within the NSC - Strengthened policy dialogue on gender issues; - Advocacy with government actors beyond the those working directly on gender, and with other sectors, in collaboration with CSOs and other actors; -Dissemination of information on the strategy and the advantages of addressing SGBV/HPs; - Engagement of UN Good Will Ambassadors in advocacy messaging and campaigns	RCO, RUNOs, CSOs, GoL
C5-Resistance from traditional and religious leaders	3	4	Quarterly	Continued dialogue with the GOL, and National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL)	- Focused and continuous engagement and dialogue with traditional and religious leaders, especially traditional chiefs and elders, using lessons learned; - Sensitization and empowerment of female traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against and desist from engaging in harmful practices (HPs) such as female genital mutilation(FGM), child marriage and intimate partners violence (IPV); - Dissemination of information on strategies and the importance of addressing SGBV/HPs;	RUNOs/ UN-Women, GOL/ MOGCSP, CS-NRG
<b>Programmatic risks</b>						

P1-Limited absorption capacity of national stakeholders to deliver results	2	2	Monthly	Continued dialogue with the national stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity assessment of needs and gaps and capacity development strategies through direct participation of civil society and all national partners;</li> <li>- Regular monitoring and provision of technical support;</li> </ul>	RUNOs
P2-Challenges in resource mobilization to cover identified gaps	2	3	Quarterly	Continued dialogue with the national stakeholders and development partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UN RC and RUNOs worked with development partners in country to mobilize additional resources for specific interventions, including through Government national budgets;</li> <li>- Building on existing structures to sustain EU/UN LSI interventions and engaging additional partners like the civil society and the private sector in EAWG/SRHR interventions;</li> </ul>	RCO, RUNOs
P3-Challenges in implementation and delivery of results (linked to C2 and P1)	2	2	Quarterly	Executive Management and UNCT meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designing and implementing acceleration plans, weekly team meetings</li> <li>- Adoption of clear implementation, monitoring and reporting deliverables;</li> <li>- Regular M&amp;E to enable corrective action to be taken jointly by Government, partners and UN agencies;</li> <li>- Regular updates were provided to the National Steering Committee and the Spotlight Initiative Operational Steering Committee for decision making and guidance;</li> </ul>	RUNOs, RCO
P4-Effectiveness of proposed model/approaches; alternative sources of income for FGM practitioners	3	3	Quarterly	Executive Management and UNCT meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lessons learned from piloting the alternative sources for former FGM practitioners were combined with other approaches like alternative rites of passage for young girls, and community engagements to minimize the risk of setback</li> <li>- The model was piloted in a few selected coverage areas (5 counties) and part of interventions expanded to all 11 FGM-practicing counties</li> <li>- Building ownership through inclusive consultative multi-stakeholder platforms with formal and informal actors to build consensus;</li> </ul>	UN-Women
<b>Institutional risks</b>						
I1-Weakened civil society	3	2	Quarterly	CS-NRG field reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support to grassroots, county-level and relevant national-level women's organizations was enhanced, including support to strengthen their SGBV prevention and response work</li> <li>- Priority was also given to advocacy, knowledge and capacity of CSOs on relevant issues</li> <li>- Collaboration and partnership with Civil Society National Reference Group was promoted</li> </ul>	UNDP, UN-Women, UNRCO
I2-Weak institutional coordination and collaboration, creating duplication	3	3	Monthly	NSC meeting minutes, Annual and Programme Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening of coordination structures and regular monitoring at national and county levels</li> <li>- Learning from regional and global best practices in coordination and collaboration</li> <li>- Regular sharing of information and knowledge, as well as regular dialogue among CSOs, partners and UN agencies</li> </ul>	RCO, RUNOs
I3-Limited availability of data and limited capacities of state institutions to develop and analyse data	2	3	Quarterly	Pillar Five reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of common classifications and indicators to enable cross-referencing;</li> <li>- Strengthen capacity of institutions on data collection, analysis and dissemination;</li> <li>- Development of tool kits (SGBV model surveys, indicator sets and Creation of capacity enhancement strategies, ad hoc and agile coordination mechanisms;</li> <li>- Continued policy dialogue and advocacy with key government institutions;</li> <li>- Strengthening of institutions' capacities to ensure law enforcement and fight against impunity;</li> <li>- Dialogue and cooperation between the legal system and duty bearers at community level protocols to coordinate the generation of information, map out actors, etc.);</li> </ul>	UNFPA
I4-Weak, fragmented and low institutional systems, knowledge and capacity	3	3	Quarterly	Programme reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of capacity enhancement strategies, ad hoc and agile coordination mechanisms;</li> <li>- Continued policy dialogue and advocacy with key government institutions;</li> <li>- Strengthening of institutions' capacities to ensure law enforcement and fight against impunity;</li> <li>- Dialogue and cooperation between the legal system and duty bearers at community level;</li> <li>- Capacity enhancement of regional institutions, including relevant regional women's organizations to implement and/or monitor and report on progress of regional frameworks on EAWG</li> </ul>	UNRCO, RUNOs



I2 and I4 and P3 related -SGBV service provision involves multiple sectors and actors (health practitioners, Police, Psychosocial and mental health clinicians, lawyers, CSOs, CBOs and the community) while SRHR service provision involves mostly health practitioners, CSOs, CBOs and the community). Therefore, coordination of actors has been the major challenge.	3	3	Quarterly	Programme reports	-The multi-sectoral program design of the IESP made it imperative to organize the multiple actors and fragmented services under a well-coordinated and collaborative system to increase access and deliver quality service. No matter the service entry point used by the survivor, all can now have access the needed care and services. Getting actors to change from doing business as usual to a more engaging work practice has not been easy. - Monthly GBV Taskforce meetings have been used as a platform for advocating for the stronger role of the MOGCSP in coordination	UNICEF, UNFPA, other RUNOs
I2 related: Weak coordination - Bringing on board various stakeholders to work in a concerted effort as a team to reform laws.	4	3	Quarterly	Programme reports	Consultative meetings with individual organizations to obtain their buy-in and commitments to the process. Further, informal working sessions were held with individual law makers on the necessitate of the law and to obtain their buy in as sponsors and supporters of these laws.	OHCHR
C4 and P3 related: Slow policy and legislative changes: Engagement with the legislature. Lobbying at the Legislature require time, resources and champion that will sponsor said bill. As a result of the schedule, it is difficult to meet with them in a large group.	4	3	Quarterly	Programme reports	Consultative meetings, informal working sessions were held with individual law makers on the necessity of the law and to obtain their buy in as sponsors and supporters of these laws.	OHCHR, UN Women
Allocation of limited resources to adequately sustain the gains.	4	3	Quarterly	Programme reports	Supported institutions and grassroots women's organizations to strategize and develop strategic plans which includes workplan. According to LRC their budget has been submitted to the legislature. The strategic plan is also expected to be used for fund raising purposes to enable the implementation of the activities. Some grassroots organizations have started securing funds for their work.	OHCHR, UN Women
<b>Fiduciary risks</b>						
F1-The installation of DNA machine to enable sample testing and identification of perpetrators of rape/sexual abuse and related crimes is a challenge.	4	4	Regular	Follow-ups	One of the DNA machines developed a defect during installation and was shipped back to the supplier for repair/replacement. As of the end of the reporting period, the DNA machines were out of reagent for texting but an order for supplies was placed.	UNFPA
F2-Implementing Partners continue to demonstrate weak/ low capacity to utilize/ report/manage funds as agreed within Program documents and Joint workplans (linked to P1, P3)	4	4	Regular	In person training	Training was provided to both GoL and CSOs on RUNOS' financial management, policies and procedures to enhance their capacity to produce accurate and timely reports to avoid delays in funds disbursement and liquidation. Monitoring and reporting to find alternative implementation modalities.	UNICEF, UN Women
<p><b>Assumptions (CPD):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political stability and leadership commitment from Government, CSO, Partners, Private Sector, and Media to end SGBV/HP and promote SRHR</li> <li>- Relevant laws and policies are amended and passed for implementation by the Legislature to eliminate VAWG and promote SRHR</li> <li>- Ownership and mutual accountability by Government, CSOs, and partners on implementation and delivery of results</li> <li>- Buy-in and participation from informal decision makers, including traditional and religious leaders, to serve as agents of change in their communities</li> <li>- Resources are mobilized from donors and partners, and strong partnerships are built for upscaling of the LSI to the remaining 10 countries by GoL</li> <li>- Change in attitudes and behaviours among communities including women, girls, men and boys to stop SGBV/HP and promote SRHR</li> <li>- Strengthen technical and programme capacity and knowledge of the GoL, CSOs and private Sector on SGBV/HP/SRHR</li> </ul> <p><b>Assumptions 2019 - 2023:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased awareness and knowledge on prevention efforts (change in cultural norms and practices), reporting, referrals, stigma and discrimination that hinders access to SGBV/SRHR services by women and girl survivors etc. will be systematically matched and complemented with increased access to SGBV/HP/SRHR response services as part of an integrated package of services, prioritizing accessibility by women, girls, marginalized groups and those in the most difficult to reach rural communities. (UNFPA)</li> <li>2. Leverage on the forensic architecture to enable efficient and effective collection, handling and transportation of evidence (for example semen, fluid, blood, etc.) to the forensic laboratory for DNA testing and confirmation will boost reporting and trial of GBV cases (UNFPA)</li> <li>3. Acceleration of the implementation of the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy and the SBCC Strategy and Plan; including the development of key messages, engagement with cross sections of community based structures, will facilitate change in attitudes/ behaviours / norms which are negative towards women and girls, thus enhancing equity to promote gender and social equalities. (UNICEF and UN Women)</li> <li>4. An empowered and cohesive civil society and women's movement will continue to advocate for SGBV/SRHR duty-bearers' accountability, effective prevention of and response SGBV and HPs, and a safe environment for women and girls to exercise their rights, including SRHRs (UN Women)</li> </ol>						











**Spotlight  
Initiative**

**SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE**

**INNOVATIVE, PROMISING OR GOOD PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION  
REPORTING TEMPLATE (ANNEX D)**

**COUNTRY/REGION: LIBERIA**

**REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2019 – DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> 2023**





## Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

### Guidance and Template on Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

As a **Demonstration Fund**, the Spotlight Initiative aims to demonstrate how a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) and gender equality can make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs. It is thus critical that innovative, promising and good practices, in the field of EVAWG and in the context of implementing a “new way of working”, have the **potential** for **adaptability, sustainability, replicability and scale-up**.<sup>1</sup> This is both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative. It is critical that these practices are documented and shared widely for uptake and continuous improvement to contribute to the evidence base and eliminate violence against women and girls.

This brief guidance and template ensures a common understanding of “**Innovative, Promising and/or Good Practices**” in the Spotlight Initiative. It provides a set of criteria to determine whether a practice is innovative, promising, or good, as well as a template for documentation. Please see the definitions just below / on the next page for further clarification.<sup>2</sup>

### State of a practice: good practice or promising practice?

The following set of criteria will help you to determine whether a practice is a good practice:

	Innovation, experience	Promising practices	Good practices	Policy, principles, norms
Level of evidence	Minimal objective evidence, inferences from parallel experiences and contexts. Lessons learned need to be drawn.	Unproven in multiple settings, anecdotal evidence, testimonials, articles, reports. Existing lessons learned that need to be further elaborated.	Evidence of impact from multiple settings, several evaluations, meta-analysis, expert review, cost-efficiency analysis, good practice criteria. Lessons learned integrated.	Proven in multiple settings, replication studies, quantitative and scientific evidence.
Replicability potential and applicability	New idea, no previous experience, highest risk.	High risk, but potential for further investigation.	Demonstrated replicability, limited risk for replicability.	Consistently replicable, widely applicable.

Adapted from Hancock, J. (2003): *Scaling-up for increased impact of development practice: Issues and options in support of the implementation of the World Bank's Rural Strategy*. Rural Strategy Working Paper, World Bank, Washington D.C.

<sup>1</sup> Guidelines on good practices, UNHCR. 2019. Accessible here: <https://www.unhcr.org/5d15fb634>

<sup>2</sup> Good Practice Template, FAO. 2016. Accessible here: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-as547e.pdf>





### Definition of an Innovative Practice

An **innovative practice** is a **new solution** (method/idea/product) with the **transformative ability to accelerate impact**. Innovation can entail improved ways of working with new and diverse partners; can be fuelled by science and technology; or can involve new social and business models, behavioural insights, or path-breaking improvements in delivering essential services and products, among other solutions. It does **not** have to involve technology; most important is that **innovation is a break from previous practice with the potential to produce significant positive impact**.<sup>3</sup>

### Definition of a Promising Practice

A **promising practice** has demonstrated a **high degree of success in its single setting**, and the possibility of replication in the same setting is guaranteed. It has generated some quantitative **data** showing positive outcomes over a period of time. A promising practice has the **potential** to become a good practice, but it doesn't yet have enough research or replication to support wider adoption or upscaling. As such, a promising practice incorporates a process of continuous learning and improvement.

### Definition of a Good Practice

A **good practice** is not only practice that is good, but one that **has been proven to work well and produce good results** and is therefore recommended as a model. It is a successful experience that has been **tested and validated**, in the broad sense, has **been repeated and deserves to be shared**, so that a greater number of people can adopt it.

<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the "[Spotlight Initiative Guidance on Innovation](#)" for more information.





**Content:**

**Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices, p4**

**Section B: Knowledge Products 2019 - 2023, p22**

**Section A: Innovative, Promising and Good Practices**

Liberia Annual Report 2019 - 2023 Practices - Innovative, Promising and Good Practices list:

- 1) Strengthening women’s rights advocates’ capacities to support the integration of ending VAWG into county development agendas targeting policymakers and other stakeholders – **innovative practice**.
- 2) Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR- **promising practice**.
- 3) Strengthening collaboration amongst CSOs and government actors to enhance law reform – innovative practice.
- 4) The establishment of the National Leadership Group (NLG) a high-level coordination mechanism to guide the Mapping and Assessment of the Social Service Workforce – **innovative practice**.
- 5) The establishment of a National Steering committee on child protection with focus on ‘children in street situation’ and development of road map to address their issues - **Innovative practice**.
- 6) Institutionalization of Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting and Monitoring in 6 MAC to address VAWG, SGBV/HP and promote women and girls SRHRs. **Good practice**.
- 7) Eliminating harmful social norms and practices and other forms of GBV through the involvement of local authorities. **Good practice**.

<p><b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b></p>	<p><b>1) Strengthening women’s rights advocates’ capacities to support the integration of Elimination of violence against women (EVAW) and girls, including SGBV/HP/SRHR prevention and response into county development agendas targeting policymakers and other stakeholders – innovative practice.</b></p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</b></p>	<p>The innovative practice is ‘Sustainable Resource Mobilization and Building Local Ownership’ towards SGBV/HP/SRHR prevention and response through development planning and programming in Spotlight Counties (Montserrado, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Grand Cape Mount).</p> <p>County Development Plans and Funds (CDPF) set the development agenda for the county and lay the</p>





	<p>groundwork for the development of basic services/ infrastructure development, public participation, and engagement of non-state actors in the planning process.</p> <p>The CDP also lay the groundwork for achieving gender equity and women’s and girls’ empowerment (GEWE), promoting equitable access to resources and benefits.</p> <p>To build a more effective responsive and supportive legal, social, and political environment, including all aspects of protection and access to justice, health care, and education, the CDP includes measures for the prevention of and response to GBV, including addressing the root causes of crimes and the promotion of women’s participation in security institution.</p> <p>However, in practice, the planning processes and allocation of county development funds fail to adequately integrate SGBV/HP/SRHR. Several limitations of the current county planning processes and funds allocation observations were noted because of the project’s implementation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The county planning processes are male-dominated, and planning strategies lack gender sensitivity hence development priorities are defined based on tangible outcomes such as construction projects, etc...</li> <li>2. Where women’s issues are placed on the agenda for county planning, SGBV/HP/SRHR are rarely noted as priorities.</li> <li>3. Women’s rights groups/ organizations conduct SGBV/HP/SRHR advocacy and programming in silos from the county development plan processes creating a gap in advocacy.</li> </ol> <p>The innovative practice seeks to increase women’s rights groups working on SGBV/HP/SRHR interest and involvement in county development processes. Further, to ensure SGBV/HP/SRHR are considered during county planning and funds allocation.</p> <p>This practice addresses pillar 2, and the activity began in June 2022 and ends in February 2023.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The goal of the activity is to strengthen women’s rights advocates’ capacities to support the integration of ending VAWG into county development plans/ agendas.</p> <p>At the end of the project, it is expected that county development processes have a clear strategy for the inclusion of SGBV/HP/SRHR issues in planning and development processes.</p> <p>The overall impact is that survivors of SGBV/HP/SRHR will benefit from services supported by county funds in the absence of donor funding; in underserved communities; or during emergencies.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The beneficiaries of the project are Women’s Rights Organizations (WROs), civil society organizations (CSO) and County Local authorities.</li> <li>• All the relevant stakeholders were engaged through meetings, training/ workshops, dialogue and</li> </ul>



	via phone conversation.
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The promising innovative practice expands SGBV/SRHR/HP fundraising and programming by creating an approach that compliments ongoing work.</p> <p>Currently, women’s rights organizations rarely engage with the county development processes as it relates to SGBV/HP/SRHR issues. Although the organizations operate in the county engaging on women’s human rights issues, SGBV/HP/SRHR is often addressed through donor support and engagement in silo from the county development process.</p> <p>The new approach increases women’s rights organizations’ understanding of the county development processes and the opportunities for fundraising, influencing change through local governance and building collective ownership.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>The project implementation experienced delays from the inception stage due to bureaucracy in meeting with authorities of key government institutions to kick off the project. To mitigate this, the team held consultative meetings with the directors of the government line ministries to seek their buy into the practice and they in turn connected the team with the key decision makers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The expiration of County Development Agenda (CDA) since 2013. The project team worked with the development superintendent of the various counties to understand and document the current county development planning in the absence of CDAs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. With support from the LSI, women’s rights organizations including youth groups and rural women groups were provided with a small grant to implement advocacy activities with focus on engaging with the county development processes. Some organizations are for the first-time leading discussions with local authorities through advocacy actions targeting the integration of SGBV/HP/SRHR in county planning and funds allocation.</li> <li>2. The visibility of SGBV/HP/SRHR issues in county planning is increasing and the potential for increased allocation of funds to support response and prevention activities cannot be understated.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>This practice can be adapted to the new generation of the CDAs and include the approach in the national GBV action plans. Since the validation of the practice, the Ministry of Finance &amp; Development Planning and Ministry of Internal Affairs are considering integrating GBV, SRHR and HP issues in the crafting of the next generation of county development agenda.</p>



# Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b>  <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>It is possible for the practice be scaled up to non-Spotlight counties as implemented in Spotlight Counties (Montserrado, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Grand Cape Mount)?</p>
<p><b>Sustainable</b>  <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow up actions with the current organizations that are implementing small projects under to project to document post-project gains and challenges and the process.</li> <li>- Ensure that the practice is included in national SOPs/work plans.</li> <li>- Ensure that the next generation of county development agendas be developed by the government with WRO contributions expressly include SGBV/HP//SRHR concerns and data.</li> <li>- Continuous awareness and mentorship for women’s rights organizations to engage with the county development planning processes.</li> <li>- Design knowledge products with best practices and Guidance notes for the integration of SGBV/HP/SRHR</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice?  <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i></p>	<p><b>Submitted by:</b>  <b>Yah Parwon</b>  <b>Executive Director</b>  <b>Medica Liberia</b>  <a href="mailto:yah.parwon@medicalibera.org">yah.parwon@medicalibera.org</a></p> <p><b>Ernree Bee Neeplo</b>  <b>Programme Analyst-Gender</b>  <b>UNDP Liberia</b>  <a href="mailto:ernree.neeplo@undpp.org">ernree.neeplo@undpp.org</a></p>

<p><b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b></p>	<p><b>2) Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR- promising practice</b></p>
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<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b> <i>(When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</i></p>	<p>The Integrated Essential Service Package (IESP) for SGBV/SRHR, is a comprehensive multi-sectoral case management and service provision package for responding to Sexual Gender-Based Violence and promoting Sexual Reproductive &amp; Rights and (SGBV/SRHR) in Liberia, under Pillar four – Quality Services.</p> <p>The IESP is grounded in a rights-based approach of survivors to SGBV and SRHR services which are culture and age sensitive and ensure confidentiality and safety as well as perpetrators' accountability. The fundamental principles undergirding the development and implementation of the IESP are the human rights-based approach, the survivor-centered approach, and the need to advance gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE).</p> <p>More importantly, promoting integrated services increase timely access of vulnerable children to needed services; the health centres are providing integrated services for SGBV survivors collectively with other sexual and reproductive health care including counselling, treatment and medical services for women and girls in the absence of a one stop centre for SGBV.</p> <p>The programme has set a practice for the government to integrate SRHR and SGBV services working with the ministries of Health and Gender Children and Social Protection, which has drastically improved the efficacy of essential services for women and girls.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The overall objective of the practice is to ensure that every survivor of SGBV in Liberia and every woman and adolescent girl requiring SRHR services receive a comprehensive, effective, and efficient service delivery.</p> <p>Regardless of the sector or program responding to SGBV or providing SRHR services, be it health, security or gender, all essential services should be defined by the common principles of Availability, Accessibility, Adaptability, Affordability, Appropriateness, and Sustainability.</p> <p>Moreover, that service provision is characterized by the prioritization of safety, informed consent, and confidentiality.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The beneficiaries of the service package are particularly survivors of SGBV (adolescent girls, boys, and women) and people in need of SRHR services. Other beneficiaries will include service institutions, CSOs, funding agencies and the Government of Liberia.</p> <p>The IESP module is a product of a collective effort of the government of Liberia's ministries and agencies, UN partners, international and national organizations, civil society organizations, service providers and beneficiaries of SGBV and SRHR services.</p> <p>The process leading to the development of the module in Liberia was well-planned, participatory, and consultative. The process centered around relevance, ownership, and proper political and stakeholder buy-</p>



	<p>in. It was cognizant of the need for policy-level support and commitment to effective integration and implementation. Engagements and consultations were carried out at various levels with crucial actors. The process included conducting several literature reviews of existing policies, strategies, guidelines and standard operating procedures, key informant interviews, stakeholder workshops and consultative meetings, as well as a validation conference.</p>
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>In the past, SGBV/SRHR service provision in Liberia was carried out independently in a fragmented way. The poor coordination and limited collaboration among service actors resulted in a significant gap in SGBV and SRHR care provision and treatment, undermining the survivors' well-being.</p> <p>The IESP is an excellent consolidation of evidence-based strategies and best practices. This service module seeks to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Early detection of abuse through a proactive and robust screening</li> <li>- Reduced barriers to accessing services.</li> <li>- Improved referral systems</li> <li>- Improved survivor/client mental health</li> <li>- Improved confidentiality and reduced stigma and compromise of cases</li> <li>- Improved coordination and synergy between actors through effective communication</li> <li>- Improved health-seeking behaviour or timely access to services (72 hours for rape incidence)</li> <li>- Lastly, improved Data collection and information management</li> </ul>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>In contrast to SRHR services, which involve mainly health practitioners, CSOs, CBOs and the community, the provision of services to survivors of SGBV includes an additional spectrum of actors: police, psychosocial and mental health clinicians, lawyers (and courts). Therefore, the coordination of actors has been a substantial challenge. Getting actors to change from doing business as usual to a more engaging work practice has been challenging.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the multi-sectoral program design of the IESP made it imperative to organize the multiple actors and fragmented services under a well-coordinated and collaborative system to increase access and deliver quality services. No matter the service entry point used by the survivor, all can now have access to the needed care and services.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>The results from the intervention included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reduced complications with multiple entry points by improving referral pathways.</li> <li>b) Improved coordination by strengthening collaboration with stakeholders.</li> <li>c) Enhanced service providers' knowledge and skills by providing detailed and step-by-step instructions.</li> <li>d) Maximized existing resources by avoiding wastage from duplication of services to deliver</li> </ol>



	comprehensive care and treatment to survivors for their optimal well-being
<b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i>	The practice can be adapted through rollout and integration into national service systems (Health, Justice, and Gender).
<b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i>	This practice can be extended or multiplied to all environments that cater for services to SGBV survivors and women and girls SRHR. Through capacity building, refurbishment of existing infrastructure to accommodate the integration, and logistical support, the practice can be extended.
<b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i>	Advocate for national allocation in the budget, possibly at the local level first.
<b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	Not applicable.
<b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i>	<p><b>Marie Togbana-Gbah</b>  <b>Project Manager, Plan International</b>  <a href="mailto:Marie.Togbana-Gbah@plan-international">Marie.Togbana-Gbah@plan-international</a>.</p> <p><b>Ms. Patricia Jallah-Scott</b>  <b>National Programme Analyst, Gender, UNFPA</b>  <a href="mailto:Jallah-scott@unfpa.org">Jallah-scott@unfpa.org</a>.</p>

<b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b>	<b>3) Strengthening collaboration amongst CSOs and government actors to enhance law reform – innovative practice</b>
<b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b> <i>(When did the activity begin? When</i>	<p>This innovative practice is the involvement of relevant partners in a collaborative manner to improve law reform in Liberia. This action is undertaken under LSI Pillar one.</p> <p>The Law Reform Commission (LRC) was enacted into a statutory body by an Act of the Legislature on June 10, 2011. It continues to be recognized as a critical player in the development agenda of Liberia</p>

<p><i>will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</i></p>	<p>through the law reform process.</p> <p>In keeping with its Act, the Commission, among other things, reviews Liberia's laws to ensure their systematic development and reform, including the formulation and codification of laws, eliminating anomalies, and ensuring consistency and harmonization.</p> <p>In some instances, law reforms are embarked on with little or no consultation with relevant partners. More precisely, individuals and groups, including civil society organizations (CSO) and state actors, review laws, draft bills, and submit to the legislature without input from some pertinent players in the law reform process. This has allowed avoidable but significant gaps in securing gender equality and human rights protection in some laws.</p> <p>Therefore, the LRC had several consultative meetings with a cross-section of stakeholders to work in a concerted way to reform laws. After several discussions, line ministries, including LRC, MOJ, MOGCSP, and MIA, and CSOs are working in a team to support the law reform process. The initial project is ongoing, and the laws being worked on are Rape Law, Domestic Violence Act, Inheritance Law, and Domestic Relations Law.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The goals of this joint review of the laws are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To promote a collective approach to law reform</li> <li>2. To avoid duplication and inconsistencies within the reform of the laws</li> <li>3. To support the review of the Domestic Relations law, Inheritance law, and Domestic Violence Act and consolidate them into a single New Domestic Relation bill and submit to the legislature.</li> <li>4. Review the Rape Law and draft a bill for submission to the legislature.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The stakeholders involved include the Law Reform Commission (LRC), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and Civil Society Organizations (CSO).</p> <p>The trigger-down beneficiaries are women and girls, especially victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involved stakeholders will hold specific consultative meetings to discuss the laws and make inputs based on their thematic expertise.</li> <li>2. LRC will consolidate all inputs and share them with team members for further input.</li> <li>3. The process will continue until a final document is concluded and agreed upon for submission to the legislature.</li> </ol>
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s)</p>	<p>With a focus on attaining the targeted goals, this novel approach is expected to be tested in 2023 and to be successful. Implementing a law reform will result in better laws that make it easier to prosecute offenders.</p>





<p>that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>Women and girls will be better equipped to defend themselves from offenders and use the law when and when appropriate if they are more knowledgeable about these laws. In the past law reform was carried out without keen focus on mainstreaming gender and human rights. It was initially done without the usage of a gender and human rights checklist and a clear reference to international human right standards.</p> <p>The establishment of the Gender and Human Rights Desk at the Law Reform Commission (LRC) has made impact in the way laws are being review and bill are being drafted. This novel approach has brought in a new dimension to the law reform process being led by the LRC. Currently laws are being review with a gender and human rights lens and alongside international human right standards. Replicating such law reform will result in better laws that make it easier to prosecute offenders. Women and girls will be better equipped to defend themselves from offenders and use the law when and when appropriate if they are more knowledgeable about these laws.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>The challenges include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Team management - Bringing on board various stakeholders to work in a concerted effort as a team to reform laws.</li> <li>2. Engagement with the legislature - Lobbying at the Legislature requires time, resources, and a champion that will sponsor the said bill. As a result of the schedule, it is difficult to meet with them in a large group.</li> </ol> <p>To overcome these challenges, several consultative meetings were held with individual organizations to obtain their buy-in and commitment to the process. Further, working sessions were held with individual lawmakers on the necessity of these laws and to obtain their buy-in as sponsors and supporters of these laws.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>A team of representatives from CSOs and the government are working together in a concerted manner to reform four laws related to women and girls. As a result of the teamwork, collaborative duplication is minimized and interaction in the review of those four laws has increased.</p>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b></p> <p><i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>Yes, adaptation is possible in different contexts.</p>
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b></p>	<p>Yes, the practice is scalable and applicable in contexts where a participatory review of the laws is envisaged. Yes, it has been noted amongst other things that it strengthens collaboration, avoids</p>



## Spotlight Initiative

<p><i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>duplication, and creates a space for success.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable</b></p> <p><i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>Laws need to be reformed to adapt to societal changes while adhering to constitutional norms and principles. State actors and CSOs need to take ownership and incorporate such goals in their various workplan and put in place accountability measures.</p> <p>The sustainability of the process depends on the process guidelines, Terms of reference for this Law Reform Joint Working Group.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>Not yet validated.</p>
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</p>	<p>The draft bills will be shared with a wider group for inputs. After the consolidation of inputs, the draft bill will be shared again with a wider group for validation before it is finalized.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Ramses T. Kumbuyah</b>  <b>Law Reform Commission</b>  <b>Tel #: +231777087916</b>  <a href="mailto:kumbuyahrt@gmail.com">kumbuyahrt@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Leetor Dymacole Williams</b>  <b>Human Rights Officer, OHCHR</b>  <b>Tel #: +231776933088</b>  <a href="mailto:leetor.williams@un.org">leetor.williams@un.org</a></p>

<p><b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b></p>	<p><b>4) National Leadership Group (NLG) and National Steering committee on child protection – Innovative practice</b></p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does</b></p>	<p>The establishment of the National Leadership Group (NLG), a high-level coordination mechanism which was established to guide the mapping and Assessment of the Social Service Workforce, continues to provide both leadership and technical guidance to the implementation of the recommendations from the</p>



## Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>it address?</b> <i>(When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</i></p>	<p>Mapping and Assessment. This <b>innovation</b> has contributed immensely to the achievements of some key milestones, such as the development of the Case Management SOP, and is contributing to the overall achievement of Pillar four: Response Services. The NLG is a standing committee which is currently providing technical support/ guidance to initiatives of the Social Work force in Liberia.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The goal of the NLG is to improve coordination amongst child protection service providers to ensure services are provided through a standardized case management system.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged</p>	<p>The stakeholders include the MoGCSP/ MoE/ MOJ/ MOH/ Child protection CSOs/ NGOs/ INGOs. These groups were engaged mainly through the Child Protection Network Meetings, etc.</p>
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The NLG is an <b>innovative practice</b> in that it is a new idea which is meant to strengthen the child protection system through a more integrated process of essential service delivery to children.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>The full participation of NLG members in meetings has been a challenge. Meanwhile, awareness is being raised on the relevance of the NLG through soliciting inputs from the members outside of meetings, sharing minutes and other documents, etc. Each NLG member remains committed to their participation, despite irregular attendance to meetings. This innovation contributes to the long-term impact in that it will improve/ strengthen the CP system. Liberia now has a coordinated forum / body which supports the regulation of the Formal Child Protection System.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>Liberia now has a coordinated forum / body which supports the regulation of the Formal Child Protection System.</p>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b></p>	<p>Decentralization of the NLG across key relevant line ministries at county level.</p>



## Spotlight Initiative

<p><i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>Government's commitment through budgetary allocation to support the NLG to carry out monitoring and supervision of initiatives at both national and sub national levels.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i></p>	<p>The following persons, are key to the contribution and work of the NLG:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Mr. Rashid Bangurah – National Consultant – UNICEF <a href="mailto:rbangurah@unicef.org">rbangurah@unicef.org</a></li> <li>2) Mrs. Victoria Zaway – Director – Children's Division MoGCSP <a href="mailto:konwree@gmail.com">konwree@gmail.com</a></li> </ol>

<p><b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b></p>	<p><b>5) National Steering Committee on Child Protection – Innovative practice</b></p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?</b> <i>(When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</i></p>	<p>The National Steering committee on child protection was established to support the assessment on children in street situations and development of a road map to inform interventions. This activity begun in 2022. Although the study/ assessment on Street Children has been completed, the committee is still valid because it must support beyond the assessment to include the implementation of the road map when it is developed.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The goal of the National Steering committee on Child Protection to develop and implement an intervention to support street children.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The stakeholders include the MoGCSP/ MoE/ MOJ/ MOH/ Child protection CSOs/ NGOs/ INGOs. These groups where engaged mainly through the Child Protection Network, Meetings, etc.</p>
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or</b></p>	<p>The NSC is an innovative practice in that it is a new method of working which brings together key actors to</p>





## Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>address issues related to children in street situations.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>The full participation of NCS members in meetings has been a challenge. Meanwhile, awareness is being raised on the relevance of the NSC through soliciting inputs from the members outside of meetings, sharing minutes and other documents.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>The NSC met and endorsed the Children in Street Situation Assessment. This has set the basis for the development of the road map which will support advocacy, policy formulation, etc. on mitigating incidence of children in street situations. This innovation contributes to the long-term impact in that it will improve/ strengthen the programs in response to addressing issues related to children in the street.</p>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	<p>Yes, can be adapted for future use.</p>
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>Decentralization of the NSC across key relevant line ministries at county and levels.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>Government's commitment through budgetary allocation to support the National Steering Committee to carry out advocacy, monitoring and supervision of initiatives to prevent / address children in street situations.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for</p>	<p>Prof. Thomas Kaydor National Consultant – UNICEF <a href="mailto:tkaydor@unicef.org">tkaydor@unicef.org</a></p>




*this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.*

<p><b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b></p>	<p><b>6) Institutionalization of Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting and Monitoring in 6 MAC to address VAWG, SGBV/HP and promote women and girls SRHRs</b></p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</b></p>	<p>Through the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative which commenced in 2019, the programme institutionalized and mainstreaming Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GBPB) into national and institution budget into six spending entities, namely Ministry of Justice, Agriculture, Health, Education, Gender Children and Social Protection, Finance. This is reflection of activities under Pillar 2: National Institutions, Organisations and partners have enhanced technical capacity and resources to prevent and respond to SGBV and HPs at national, sub-national and community levels. The activity was completed in 2021.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The goal of the activity is to strengthen National institutions especially the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and six (6) spending agencies the National Legislature to mainstream Gender Responsive budgeting processes into six (6) spending entities.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The beneficiaries of the project are the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Health, Education, Gender, Justice, Agriculture, Governance Commission and Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)</li> <li>2. Initial engagement commenced with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), the lead government institution responsible to formulate, institutionalize and administer economic development, fiscal and task policies for the promotion of sound and efficient management of financial resources of the government and the Ministry of Gender, the government agency mandated to advice Government on all matters affecting the development and welfare of women and children as well as any other matters referred to it by Government. were initially engaged to ensure gender mainstreaming of the national budget. The discussion led to the inclusion of an initial 3 government institutions and additional 3 more ministries who are line ministries in the provision of services for women and girls, boys and men.</li> </ol>



<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>Prior to the EU/UN Spotlight Programme, the Government of Liberia budget was not mainstreamed to reflect a gender balance as it relates to addressing the needs of women and girls. The introduction of the institutionalization of a Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting policy and units in these line ministries will help in the improvement of Government response to issues that affect women and girls. This new approach has resulted in the increment in the allocation of funds for GBV prevention and response throughout Liberia.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>The results from the intervention include the below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting National (GRPB) Policy 2019</li> <li>2. Established and full furnished GRPB National Coordination Unit at MFDP</li> <li>3. Establishment of a Gender Resource Center at Governance Commission</li> <li>4. Establishment of gender units at National Disaster Management Agency and INCHR</li> </ol>
<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>With the pilot conducted in six spending entities, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) will need to continue to roll out the policy throughout all government ministries and agencies so that women and girls can benefit from gender quota in Liberia's development process.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>To sustain the gains, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning should continue to rollout Gender Responsive and Planning Unit throughout all spending entities.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly</p>	<p>Yes, the practice has been validated and translated into a Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting Policy Mainstreaming Gender into Public Financial Management (2019-2023).</p>



<p>addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	 FINAL GRPB Policy (07.03.2019) v2.pdf
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i></p>	<p><b>Submitted by:</b></p> <p><b>Straven Willie, Programme Specialist, UN Women</b>  <a href="mailto:straven.willie@unwomen.org">straven.willie@unwomen.org</a>;</p> <p><b>Dhogba G. Mabande</b>  <b>Programme Analyst, UN Women</b>  <a href="mailto:dhogba.mabande@unwomen.org">dhogba.mabande@unwomen.org</a>;</p>
<p><b>Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice</b></p>	<p><b>7) Eliminating harmful social norms and practices and other forms of GBV through the involvement of local authorities.</b></p>
<p><b>Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</b></p>	<p>Under the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, Liberia recorded significant milestones in eliminating Female Genital Mutilation and the handing over of tools by traditional practitioners in exchange for the provision of alternative economic livelihood opportunities for 800 traditional practitioners throughout the 11 FGM practicing Counties.</p>
<p><b>Objective of the practice:</b> What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The overall objective of the practice is to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) for Liberia's long-standing tradition and culture through a participatory approach with traditional leaders, chiefs and practitioners and provide them alternative means of obtaining economic gains utilizing new knowledge, skills, and expertise.</p> <p>The goal is to ensure that Liberia is committed to the Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on ending FGM by 2030, which remains a critical step towards achieving gender equality and improving health and well-being, safe motherhood, quality education, inclusive societies, and economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders involved:</b> Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The beneficiaries of the intervention included the Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Council of Chiefs &amp; Elders of Liberia (NACCEL), traditional leaders, paramount chiefs, and female traditional practitioners.</p>





	<p>Prior to the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, UN Women with funding from the Government of Sweden through the GOL/UN Joint Programme on the Prevention and Response to SGBV and Harmful Traditional Practices undertook series of consultations with national and local traditional leaders to obtain their buy-in for the end of the practice of FGM in Liberia. These consultations, led by the National Council of Chiefs &amp; Elders of Liberia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs led to the adoption of two policy statements suspending the practice for one year and three years, respectively. Several follow up meetings and consultations continued with the aim of the conduct of the inventory of traditional practitioners and grooves through the 11 practicing counties and the introduction of alternative economic livelihood programs and the construction of 4 vocational and heritage centers in Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Cape Mount County. The centers serve as a place for learning and cultural exchanges under the “Initiation without Mutilation” principle</p>
<p><b>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?</b> Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>Prior to 2016, the practice of Female Genital Mutilation as part of the Sande society was a no-go zone, as non-members couldn’t speak of the society or practice. Violators were forcefully initiated, and their families made to pay fine to the head of the society. With the several consultations with the traditional council and other key stakeholders, the mentioning of the practice in open was not punishable. Even the leadership and members of the National Council of Chiefs &amp; Elders of Liberia became to refer to the FGM practice in their comments since they bore ownership of the process to eliminate the practice of FGM from the Sande society. Today, the practice is spoken about in public spaces without fear of been harmed or forcefully initiated.</p>
<p><b>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</b></p>	<p>Engaging the female traditional practitioners directly was not possible, except said engagement was approved by the National Council of Chiefs &amp; Elders of Liberia. To ensure that the intervention occur, the programme utilized the National Council of Chiefs &amp; Elders, who are dominantly men to drive the process. The buy-in from the Council helped in the outreach and the intervention that have resulted in a substantial reduction in the practice of FGM in the 5 Spotlight Counties of Liberia.</p>
<p><b>Outputs and Impact:</b> What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>The results from the intervention included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Conduct of the inventory which captured 1,344 traditional practitioners throughout the 11 FGM counties of Liberia.</li> <li>b) Provision of alternative economic livelihood support for 800 female traditional practitioners in the 11 FGM practicing counties.</li> <li>c) The construction of four vocational and heritage centers in counties wherein the prevalence of FGM was high. These counties were Lofa, Nimba, Montserrado, and Grand Cape Mount Counties.</li> <li>d) Undertaking of traditional and ceremonial rites for the total ban of the practice in 5 FGM practicing counties.</li> </ol>



## Spotlight Initiative

<p><b>Adaptable (Optional)</b> <i>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</i></p>	
<p><b>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</b> <i>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</i></p>	<p>To extend the practice more widely, the intervention should consider engagement with men who are the drivers/leaders in the traditional settings. Moreover, engagement with the traditional council is key to ensuring that traditional practitioners adhere to ban on the practice of FGM throughout Liberia.</p> <p><a href="#">Liberia records another significant milestone in eliminating female genital mutilation - as Nimba County practitioners turn over their 'tools'   UN Women – Africa</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainable</b> <i>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</i></p>	<p>Continue support to economic empowerment for traditional practitioners.</p>
<p><b>Validated (for a good practice only):</b> Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Additional details and contact information:</b> Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? <i>Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.</i></p>	<p><b>Dhogba G. Mabande</b> Programme Analyst, UN Women <a href="mailto:dhogba.mabande@unwomen.org">dhogba.mabande@unwomen.org</a>.</p>



## Section B: Knowledge Production (since the beginning of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative program)

**A Knowledge Product converts uncaptured knowledge, experience, lessons learned and cutting-edge expertise on a specific topic or derived from implementation into a learner-oriented product.**

A learner-oriented product is structured in a practical way that allows the reader to clearly understand and retain the knowledge being provided. Knowledge Products play a key role in advancing the Initiative's [Knowledge Management Strategy](#) to document, analyze and disseminate knowledge, as well as capture lessons learned and innovative, promising and good practices. As such, a Knowledge Product can be understood as an **output and a key asset for the success of Spotlight Initiative.**

**Types of Knowledge Products include the following:**

- Assessments
- Research Papers
- Brochures
- Capacity Development Modules
- Guidance note
- Tools
- Infographics
- Magazines/Newsletters
- Policy Briefs
- Position Papers/Thematic Strategy Briefs
- Briefs/Factsheets

For more information, please refer to the Spotlight Initiative Knowledge Products Guidelines available [here](#).

**Please list all Knowledge Products developed by the Spotlight Initiative since the beginning of your programme, and any knowledge products that are in the pipeline.**





# Spotlight Initiative

## Some articles:

### Published articles on Spotlight Initiative

1. Traditional practitioners embark on alternative economic livelihood programs in Liberia - <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/02/in-the-words-of---economic-programs--fgm-liberia>
2. Working with traditional leaders to end violence against women in West Africa - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2021/11/working-with-traditional-leaders-to-end-violence-against-women-in-west-africa>
3. “It is everybody’s responsibility to take action” - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/7/from-where-i-stand-miatta-darwolor>
4. Traditional practitioners leave FGM for farming in Liberia - <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/news/traditional-practitioners-leave-fgm-farming-liberia>.

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
1. SGBV Referral Pathway Posters (UNICEF)	Brochures	This brochure provides basic information on how survivors of SGBV/ GBV can access integrated services at the One Stop Centers in a timely and coordinated manner.	Revised in 2016	<a href="#">spotlight-referral-01.pdf</a>
2. National SGBV Colloquium	Assessment	Provides information of best practices and lessons learnt on case management	Completed in 2019 and	<a href="#">here</a>







Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Report (UNDP)		and prosecution of SGBV Crimes, HPs, and access to SRHRs from experts in the field	has been published	
3. Revised National Psychosocial Training Manual (2019-2023)/ UNFPA	Capacity Development Modules	<p>The revised National Psychosocial Manual (2019) is an overarching tool that seeks to consolidate, harmonize and standardize various psychosocial approaches and services, building on the existing contents of the 2011 Psychosocial Manual and other manuals and instruments developed by members of the national PSS network. The manual itself aims to respond to the critical needs of vulnerable people and the citizenry at large.</p> <p>The overall goal of this manual is to contribute to the psychosocial development of persons at risk (survivors of various forms of abuse, trauma, and torture, as well as SGBV) in Liberia by ensuring that psychosocial practitioners are well-trained and have the requisite skills and knowledge to provide effective psychosocial interventions, comprising of rehabilitation support services and empowerment for persons with diverse</p>	2019	<a href="#">here</a>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		needs.		
4. Liberia Spotlight Initiative Launch Report (UN-Women)	Brief/	<p>The Report highlights the activities undertaken in the launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative in Tienii, Tewor District Grand Cape Mount County on June 18, 2019.</p> <p>The Program was graced by the Vice President of Liberia, H.E. Jewel Howard-Taylor, and other prominent key stakeholders as well as communities' leaders and members from the 5 Spotlight Counties. The launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative followed a multi stakeholder participatory and consultative process that led to the co-designing of a comprehensive gender-based violence elimination programme.</p> <p>A CSO participant said, "The civil society was involved in the entire process of the design and development of the program". The process was led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) in collaboration with the European Union and the United Nations.</p>	2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pVpGLSushIZsmp3KtIVH2VCJDylqewuy/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pVpGLSushIZsmp3KtIVH2VCJDylqewuy/view?usp=sharing</a>
5. Domestic Violence Act of 2019	Law	The DV Act of 2019 seeks to provide protection, and relief of survivors/victims of domestic violence; to provide	2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PL0_11PFaczBVPT0VugGPa7J3jfJwiif/view?us">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PL0_11PFaczBVPT0VugGPa7J3jfJwiif/view?us</a>





## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		punishment and/or rehabilitation for perpetrators of domestic violence and to provide for the procedure and guidelines to be followed in relation to the protection and compensation of victims/survivors of domestic violence		<a href="#">p=sharing</a>
6. Seven (7) Count Policy Statement Suspending FGM (GOL)	Policy Brief	The 7 County Policy by Traditional leaders and practitioners served as a binding document to suspend the practice of FGM for a period of one (1) year with the intent to afford key stakeholders and traditional leaders to address aspects of the Sande society that affects women and girls. The suspension resulted in the conduct of the inventory of traditional practitioners and their grooves as well as paved the way for the provision of alternative economic livelihood support for traditional leaders in the 5 Spotlight Counties.	June 25, 2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mt3wfJB-IYcQOCW-260gWP4w3xfnm2tT/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mt3wfJB-IYcQOCW-260gWP4w3xfnm2tT/view?usp=sharing</a>
7. CSOs Mapping Report and other supporting documents (UN-Women)	Assessment	The CSOs Mapping Report aimed to identify CSOs, CBOs and vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as the various sectors. The Report captured information about functional CSOs and CBOs, Networks, Coalitions, marginalized and vulnerable groups in Liberia including those with special needs groups, as well as findings on the prevalence of VAWG/SGBV and HPs in	August, 2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1koS4KydcHyzJe7M4camlvJC1tHoNr6-i/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1koS4KydcHyzJe7M4camlvJC1tHoNr6-i/view?usp=sharing</a>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HNcZpyT3SpFti4Q7dfEvTetwV9LxFAUq/view?">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HNcZpyT3SpFti4Q7dfEvTetwV9LxFAUq/view?</a>



Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		the counties. The Report integrated findings from all counties, information about each county and is composed of annexes.		<a href="#">usp=sharing</a>
8. Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Document (UN Women)	Capacity Development Module	<p>The Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Document aim to address gender-inequitable norms to reduce SGBV and HPs, including the promotion of SRHRs, with a specific objective to reduce the socio-cultural acceptability of domestic violence, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and female genital mutilation (FGM) against women, girls, including groups of those facing intersecting forms of violence such as the sexual minorities, the disabled and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Prevention Strategy takes into consideration potential and actual perpetrators and lays the road map to address the underlying root causes, gender inequality discriminatory norms and values, based on a thorough analysis of risk factors for the specific form of violence that the prevention strategy will address. These will promote change in social norms, attitudes, and behaviors at all levels through initiatives.</p>	November, 2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ig3lxhj-cidVZ6Qzpr5kifwoVnxCQz30/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ig3lxhj-cidVZ6Qzpr5kifwoVnxCQz30/view?usp=sharing</a>
9. Inventory of Traditional Grooves and Zoes Report	Research Paper	As a result of the 7 Count Policy Statement, the inventory of traditional	November 2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AHYxcnpHvRV_X36">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AHYxcnpHvRV_X36</a>





Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
(UN-Women)		<p>practitioners and their grooves were conducted with the aim of mapping out the actual traditional practitioners and the grooves or "bush schools" as a means of preparing an evidence-based Report for the provision of alternative economic livelihood support as well as enable the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as the Traditional Council obtain first-hand information as it relates to those practicing FGM in the country.</p>		<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZV40a_ZGynKH">FZV40a_ZGynKH_2qi/vie w?usp=sharing</a></p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13O8FON-S-nUJBU_7bKNV6rNsMq9hBOHK/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=116316216069015295706&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13O8FON-S-nUJBU_7bKNV6rNsMq9hBOHK/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=116316216069015295706&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a></p>
10. SGBV Training Manual (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding – WANEP- Liberia)	Capacity Development Module	<p>The manual is designed to conduct training and educate beneficiaries on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Traditional Practices (HPs) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) with the hope of mitigating and/or addressing these pervasive human rights issues that affect women and girls.</p> <p>It includes information/lessons on how to work both as individuals and communities to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, and on how victims and/or their relatives or third parties can seek redress for human rights abuse and violations.</p>	December, 2019	<a href="#">Here</a>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
11. 16 Days of Activism Campaign Launch Report (UN Women)	Brief/ Report	The Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection leads the observance of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in Liberia. With support from the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, the Ministry led several activities under the Global theme "Generational Equality Stands Against Rape!" and the National Theme "Still Blue: Enough is Enough! Stop Rape and Promote Equality!"	December, 2019	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RLStfglCF2G8Hk7GZZ2-bLrSuZsnaul_/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RLStfglCF2G8Hk7GZZ2-bLrSuZsnaul_/view?usp=sharing</a>
12. Spotlight Initiative Final Success Story Document (UN-Women/ DEN-L)	Story	This report documents the project's success stories resulting from the intervention with Civil Society Organisations and Women's Rights Groups. The document registered success stories, challenges, lessons learned and key recommendations for progress toward program outcomes.	2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JUbtWWSLBejM9a286fDP473v4AbVKaLJ2/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JUbtWWSLBejM9a286fDP473v4AbVKaLJ2/view?usp=sharing</a>
13. Draft Policy Brief on CSOs and Women Movement Engagement	Brief	The policy brief focused on ending violence against women and girls through civil society networks and multistakeholder platforms. It highlights good practices, contributions, challenges, and recommendations of civil society networks and Multistakeholder platforms of civil society organisations while addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Liberia and the West African Region.	2020	Draft



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
14. EVAW Brief (UN-Women)	Brief	The Brief contained information on ending violence against women and girls in Liberia, providing a clear understanding of the EU/UN Spotlight Program and its objective to ending all forms of violence against women and girls.	2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iwa916JfmhTPbFsv1vagj4NKOMJrFTVc/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iwa916JfmhTPbFsv1vagj4NKOMJrFTVc/view?usp=sharing</a>
15. SGBV Accountability Capacity Assessment Report (UNFPA/ IOM)	Assessment	<p>The mapping exercise focused on assessing the institutional and structural framework of the peace huts, that their networks support their functionality and responsiveness to SGBVs/HPs as well as their capacities to prevent and respond to SGBVs, HPs and SRHR violations.</p> <p>A mapping exercise was conducted to identify available services, gaps, and challenges so that intervention could be either expanded or addressed to facilitate and enhance the capacity of the <b>women peace huts</b> to detect, prevent and respond to Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBVs) and Harmful Practices (HPs), promoting Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) information and services through the establishment and institutionalization of an early warning response mechanism.</p>	March 2020	<a href="#">Here</a>



Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
16. Capacity Needs Assessment of Justice and Security Institutions in Liberia (UNDP)	Assessment	<p>This assessment report identifies structural, administrative, and operational gaps within the different justice and security institutions which have the responsibility for preventing, protecting, and responding to SGBV crimes, HPs and promoting access to SRHR services in Liberia.</p> <p>The assessment analyses some of the institutional weaknesses, their effects on credible investigations and prosecution of SGBV cases and how this impacts the safety and security of women and girls in the five counties in Liberia.</p>	<b>March 2020</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HmvZDh486OJ6Dzh9r_No_bcRo6f7VL3_/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HmvZDh486OJ6Dzh9r_No_bcRo6f7VL3_/view?usp=sharing</a>
17. Simplified Version of the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy (UN-Women)	Capacity Development Module	<p>To ensure understanding of most of beneficiaries who are partly unlettered, the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Development was simplified to afford the roll out and dissemination of the CPS Document in the communities. With this process, Action Plans are developed by communities and supported to sensitize community members on the prevention and referral of cases of SGBV, HPs and addressing SRHRs issues.</p>	April, 2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZuAwVglq9_0DQcGhZctb-ifaJP7rKLSJ/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZuAwVglq9_0DQcGhZctb-ifaJP7rKLSJ/view?usp=sharing</a>
18. Judiciary Gender Equality Policy (UNDP)	Guidance notes	<p>It is intended to promote equal opportunities for all personnel and discourage practices that are based on gender inequality. It is a document that promotes respect, esprit de corps among</p>	July 2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BMYGuN8kjbDsquos0N2WvMnH6UDcyTDy/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BMYGuN8kjbDsquos0N2WvMnH6UDcyTDy/view?usp=sharing</a>





Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		all employees with the goal of enhancing the professionalism of the Judiciary as an organization worthy of the tasks and responsibilities it was established to perform.		
19. South-South Cooperation Report – Final Version. (UN-Women, DEN-L)	Brief	The South-South Cooperation Exchange Report sought to identify good practices in CSO Network/Multi-Stakeholder platforms to implement and advocate interventions related to multiple & intersecting forms of violence and discrimination.	October, 2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ne-cmZ1PE20PibsuHGRN5VmoMRP7fsMX/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ne-cmZ1PE20PibsuHGRN5VmoMRP7fsMX/view?usp=sharing</a>
20. Social Accountability Training Report for Civil Society Organizations in Liberia (West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI))	Training Report	The Report is based on a capacity building training conducted for women's right advocates and relevant Civil Society Organisations to use social accountability mechanisms and strengthen their capacity on advocacy, management, administration, finance, HR, reporting and resource mobilization. The training was facilitated by West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), a leading capacity development institute in the region.	November, 2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X_WHKbmQ5Y0A8MWFmmQ7u4TiXa2QzQ2S/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X_WHKbmQ5Y0A8MWFmmQ7u4TiXa2QzQ2S/view?usp=sharing</a>
21. Social Accountability Training Manual for Civil Society Organizations in Liberia (?)	Capacity Development Module	The manual focused on the importance of social accountability and the role of civil society organizations in holding duty bearers accountable. The manual is a learning material aimed at promoting	November 2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n1Tg_FydUAc0RW3A4gWH26IJWYE7ZvqN/viiew?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n1Tg_FydUAc0RW3A4gWH26IJWYE7ZvqN/viiew?usp=sharing</a>



Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		appreciation and understanding of social accountability theory and practice in Liberia.		
22. Media Training Manual on Gender Sensitive Reporting (UN-Women)	Capacity Development Module	To build the capacity of media practitioners and their executives on issues of gender sensitive reporting, the manual serves as a guide to developing story ideas on SGBV, COVID-19 and its impact on SGBV, identify credible sources to accurately report on SGBV, and examine data with the goal of increasing awareness and shaping public opinion and response to the problem. The manual is based on lessons learned and the impact of the media engagement and advocacy, thus the need for increased capacity building training for media practitioners on Gender Sensitive Reporting under the Liberia Spotlight Initiative.	December 22, 2020	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DicEgYG_Oct4F9vfQqTF-0S6v96RvXIG/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DicEgYG_Oct4F9vfQqTF-0S6v96RvXIG/view?usp=sharing</a>
23. Journeys of Child Victims/ Witnesses of SGBV through the Criminal Justice Process in Nimba, Margibi and Bong Counties (UNICEF)	Assessments	The Child Justice Study (2020) has revealed that child victims/witnesses of SGBV and other serious crimes endure <b>various forms of secondary victimization</b> at all stages of the criminal justice process in Liberia. The Journeys of child victims/ Witnesses of SGBV through the criminal justice process indicate how, why, and what can be done to address this situation.	January 2021	/



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
24. Training Module Child Victim/ Witness of SGBV (UNICEF)	Capacity Development Modules	Training module on consequences of SGBV, the rights of Child Victim and Witness of SGBV, Secondary victimization of Child victims, Witnesses of SGBV and Measures to prevent and mitigate secondary victimization	January 2021	<a href="#">Training Module Cvw of SGBV (second draft April 2021).pdf</a>
25. Event Report Multistakeholder Dialogue and Experience Sharing Conference (UN-Women).	Brief	The Report on the Multistakeholder dialogue and experience sharing conference to support coordination, collaboration, and networking amongst the stakeholders at all levels, discussed key achievements and challenges in the implementation of the program, and proffer recommendations that would inform the implementation of the next phase of the program.	March 12, 2021	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JqQBkdWNlyHoSootPu31sfymEd-POmPp/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JqQBkdWNlyHoSootPu31sfymEd-POmPp/view?usp=sharing</a>
26. CSO GBV Secretariat Peer learning Event Report (UN-Women/ DEN-L)	Brief	The Report highlights the Peer Learning Event to provide the space and opportunity for CSOs actors across the 5 Spotlight Counties to share their experiences in relation to their achievements, challenges, key learning during the implementation phase in the spirit of learning from one another and improving their work as the project comes to an end. The report documents achievements, challenges and shared amongst themselves key recommendations that enhance their work.	March 15 – 16, 2021	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MpbzIChkPlb6UhSihfvI3WvPtEe3yVYB/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MpbzIChkPlb6UhSihfvI3WvPtEe3yVYB/view?usp=sharing</a>



Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
27. Social Behaviour Change Communication Strategy (UNICEF)	Tools	<p>Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), also known as Communication for Development (C4D), is a widely recognized strategy used for transforming normative drivers of violence against women and children. SBCC plays a critical role in challenging the deeply entrenched attitudes, values and norms that condone physical and emotional violence, sexual abuse, exploitation, and harmful gender-based practices.</p> <p>The present strategy provides a long-term vision and guiding framework to address violence against women and girls over the next five years and includes a monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E) framework to ensure measurability and ongoing evidence and feedback mechanisms to inform and improve its implementation.</p>	June 2021	<a href="#">Liberia SBCC Violence Strategy Final 19 June 21.pdf</a>
28. Social Behavioural Change Communication Strategy and (Plan/UNICEF)	Guidance Note/ Capacity Development Modules	The strategy focuses on changing social and cultural norms, beliefs, and practices, including gender-inequitable norms and behaviours that lead to violence, builds on ongoing violence prevention and response efforts, and aims to enhance the communication efforts – both through use of the media	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2021.	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K4MIH1rHEEmMmoSilkAUB409439rBtg?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K4MIH1rHEEmMmoSilkAUB409439rBtg?usp=sharing</a>





Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		and increased community engagement – to generate awareness, foster dialogue and engage key influencers in efforts to change norms that perpetuate violence.		
29. Alternative Livelihood Project Report – Phase 1 (Plan International)	Brief	The Report highlights work being done with over 300 traditional practitioners in the 5 Spotlight Counties in terms of alternative income source for FGM practitioners to eliminate the practice of FGM and empower traditional practitioners as change agents. The Report covers the VSLA program, the Business Development and Literacy skills training as well as the Climate Smart Agricultural Program.	June 2021	<a href="#">Here</a>
30. SGBV Key Highlights 2018-2020 (UNFPA)	GBV Baseline Prevalence Study	<p>To gain an understanding of the magnitude of the problem, a quantitative approach was used and involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trend analysis of SGBV cases over several years across Liberia.</li> <li>• Capacity planning to forecast the demand of certain services from service providers in relation to SGBV cases.</li> </ul> <p>Visualization to show how SGBV cases are spread across Liberia and in Spotlight Counties.</p>	August 2021	<p>GBV Baseline Prevalence Study:  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xS-KSAOpKWK0yN7-0evGWFK6ufEn_Ki/edit">https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xS-KSAOpKWK0yN7-0evGWFK6ufEn_Ki/edit</a></p>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
31. Map of LSI Phase Two counties 32. (UN RCO)	Infographics - map	The Phase II of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative programme, zero FGM component expanded to six additional counties.	Sep 2021	See map <a href="#">here</a>
33. SGBV Service Providers Mapping (UNFPA)	Infographics	The goal of the mapping exercise was to identify the location of various SGBV service providers in the five EU Spotlight counties to have an accurate and reliable record (database) of various service providers. The rationale is to help determine the capacity, access, ability, and the status of the service providers to enhance SGBV data collection. Findings revealed that there are 27 service provision centers with diverse cadres of service providers ranging from psychosocial, health, justice, and protection. Psychosocial service is the most provided service for SGBV Survivors accounting for 41.9% followed by health 26.4%, justice 19.3 while protection accounts for the least 12.4% according to the Report.	October 2021	<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MXjH5W8iSgkSsjCpDrAoCz7qiu4p0c1e/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MXjH5W8iSgkSsjCpDrAoCz7qiu4p0c1e/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs</a>
34. SGBV/ SRHR Integrated Essential Service Package Manual (UNFPA)	Capacity Development Modules	To ensure that the IESP is grounded in evidence-based strategies and international best practices, many global guidelines and instruments were reviewed in the development process. Below are the key ones:	December 2021	<a href="#">SGBV/SRHR Integrated Essential Services Package Manual</a>



Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		<p>Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (Core Elements and Quality Guidelines,</p> <p>UNFPA Planning and Implementing and Essential Package of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (Guidance for Integrating Family Planning and STI/RTI with other Reproductive Health and Primary Health Services).</p>		
<p>35. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for SGBV forensic sample investigation in Liberia (UNFPA)</p>	<p>Guidance notes</p>	<p>This document aims at providing the proper procedure for the collection, handling, transport, testing and disposal of biological samples in SGBV cases for forensic laboratory analysis to provide scientific evidence (alleged perpetrator/accused DNA) that may prove or disprove a link between individual(s) - perpetrators and survivors of rape - and objects or places before a court of jurisdiction. The forensic investigation will bring tangible evidence in the investigative approach to develop a strong evidence-based for successful prosecutions.</p> <p>This will also help to adjudicate SGBV cases expeditiously and provide justice for both survivors and alleged perpetrators/accused.</p>	<p>December 2021</p>	<p>This procedure should be read in conjunction with the National Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Liberia (2020-2024) and the National Specimens Referral Guideline 2020 "Transport of Biological Materials".</p> <p><a href="#">SOP for SGBV Forensic sample investigation in Liberia</a></p>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
36. Reference Group Recommendations to Task Force in reaching out to Grassroots Women organizations, women civil society groups. 37. (CS-NRG/ UN RCO)	CS-NRG Recommendation	Liberia Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) Recommendations to the Taskforce in reaching out women's grassroots organizations as a direct way on how to sustain robust sustainability of projects activities and to ensure community ownership.	2022	<a href="#">3- Reaching out to Grassroot Women CSOs</a>
38. IEC posters on prevention of SEA/ Rape and Child Marriage (UNICEF)	Brochures	Graphic awareness on prevention of SEA/ Child Marriage and Rape	2022	<a href="#">SI SEA Brochures</a>
39. Phase 1 Key Results/LSI	Phase 1 Key Results	A consolidated Key Results of Spotlight initiative from 2019 – 2021 outlining key pillar achievements along with coordination and collaboration with partners.		<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rXGIGE5Ge115-9a0B06m9uF1JxHcz1zv/e/dit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=117424741388317106271&amp;tpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rXGIGE5Ge115-9a0B06m9uF1JxHcz1zv/e/dit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=117424741388317106271&amp;tpof=true&amp;sd=true</a>
40. Change in SGBV Laws and Policy (UNDP)	Policy Briefs	It highlights the importance of changing laws and policies discriminatory against women and a gender policy for the country to address issues of gender inequality and negative gender stereotyping in Liberia. It furthers provides implications and recommendations for action.	March 2022	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cF15XjDCV5o71XKdfTi7yEd6Y0U_72N5/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cF15XjDCV5o71XKdfTi7yEd6Y0U_72N5/view?usp=sharing</a>





Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
41. Liberia CS-NRG Standard Operating Procedure (CS-NRG/ UN RCO)	Policy briefs	The SOP defines the roles and functions of the CS-NRG organs, specifies procedures, protocols, elections, membership and spells out the decision-making processes, including collaboration and communication with the Spotlight Initiative team/s.	July 2022	<a href="#">Liberia CS-NRG SOP - Standard Operating Procedures-final.pdf</a>
42. CS-NRG Advocacy Strategy and Advocacy Plan (CS-NRG/ UN RCO)	Policy Briefs	The CS-NRG Advocacy Strategy and Plan aim to increase awareness, remind, amplify, and caution the government and the public, more specifically the Ministry of Justice to respond appropriately to ensure gender equality and protection of women and girls in Liberia.	September 2022	<a href="#">5- Final Liberia CS-NRG Advocacy Strategy</a>
43. Spotlight Initiative: Liberia Key Results (2019-2021)	Newsletter, 44p.	Summary of the key results achieved from 2019-2021 in Liberia – Phase I	September 2022	<a href="#">Key results 2019-2021</a>
44. Training module on Gender and Positive Parenting for community Influential on gender, human rights and violence prevention and response including Community Child Protection mechanisms (UNICEF).	Capacity Development Modules	This Module is a revised edition of the initial module developed in Phase 1 and is designed for semi-literates and illiterates. It provides a set of training contents for community-based Influential persons and groups supported by the EU-Spotlight Initiative in Liberia. The training contents are designed to give participants the knowledge that aid in transforming attitudes and building engagement and facilitation skills that promote social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) in preventing	September 2022	<a href="#">POCKET GUIDE SGBV SURVIVORS.pdf</a>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		and responding to VAWG.		
45. Training Manual for security institutions (UNDP)	Capacity development Manual (in-service training manual)	<p>This Integrated Training Manual for the Liberia National Police (LNP), Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) and the Judicial Institute (JI) is a result of the desk review conducted under the UNDP Spotlight. The desk review was aimed at ascertaining whether sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), harmful practices (HP) and sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) issues were captured in the curriculum of the three institutions.</p> <p>The objective is reinforcing the knowledge base of the personnel on the nature and impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on women, girls, men, boys, and the entire community/society and to ensure that the Security Institutions and the Criminal Justice System institutions incorporate knowledge on SRHR, HPs and GBV in their training curricula.</p>	September 2022	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ESqLFUOeLDJItVsdJGJPNp91vRx-PUNF/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ESqLFUOeLDJItVsdJGJPNp91vRx-PUNF/view?usp=sharing</a>
46. Final Liberia SI CS-NRG Monitoring Report (CS-NRG/ UN RCO)	Monitoring Report	This Report for the monitoring visit conducted in five counties took place from the 17th – 25th November 2022 to assess what worked well, who were the beneficiaries, how effective and efficient beneficiaries accessed justice, health	November 2022	<a href="#">Liberia SI CS-NRG Monitoring Report</a>



Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		care, which service (s) were being provided and recommendations for improvement/ adjustment.		
47. Data Collection Tool (UN RCO)	Tool	There are two new data collection forms/tools created for the Liberia Spotlight initiative. 'LSI Monitoring Form 2022', a short form designed to Monitor Spotlight initiative activities in Liberia. Its purpose is to capture the effectiveness and efficiency of the Programme, and the 'LSI Event Form 2022', a form designed to capture EU/UN Partner's Field Activities and implementation including workshops, meetings, conferences, etc.	These data collection tools were first developed in August 2022 and training was delivered to programme staff and CS-NRG members in September 2022. The form was later finalized in October 2022, tested during CS-NRG monitoring visits from 17-25 Nov 2022 and is being used to collect programme data.	<a href="#">Kobo data Clean data</a>
48. Liberia Civil Society National Reference Group Monitoring Scorecard 2022 SDG-5 (CS-NRG/ UN RCO)	Tool	Liberia Civil Society National Reference Group produced this Monitoring Scorecard to monitor Disbursement, Implementation, Participation, and Funding mechanisms for Liberia SDG-5. A total of 15 Indicators were analysed in response to recommendations from feminist and women's rights movements.	December 2022	<a href="#">2- Liberia SI Monitoring Scorecard Final Report</a>  <a href="#">2- Liberia SI Monitoring Scorecard Analysis</a>
49. Liberia Civil Society National Reference Group	Policy Report	Liberia Civil Society National Reference Group recommendations on how to	December 2022	<a href="#">4- LNOB Report</a>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Report and Recommendations on Leaving No-one Behind (CS-NRG / UN RCO)		incorporate “Leaving No One Behind” for the inclusion of all persons including minority groups.		
50. Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) Human Rights Advocacy Strategy for GBV Prevention and Response (Draft)/ (OHCHR)	Tool and plan	The strategy supports the work of AFELL on advocacy engagements related to strategies on gender-based violence response, prevention, and protection; mainstreaming gender and human rights in programming processes; and law reform.  This document is still a draft, and the process of finalizing is ongoing.	March 30, 2023	<a href="#">AFELL Human Rights Advocacy Strategy for GBV</a>
51. Handbook on Gender-sensitive human resource management for justice and security institutions in Liberia (UNDP)	Guidance notes	The aide-memoire is intended to guide senior managers, in particular human resource managers, in the security and justice institutions in Liberia in adapting strategies for increasing and enhancing female participation in the sector.	<b>Revised March 2023</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rbr_pLcwC79X4CM4z3HZCgb4AGy4mt1a/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rbr_pLcwC79X4CM4z3HZCgb4AGy4mt1a/view?usp=sharing</a>
52. Integrated SGBV Manual for Justice and Security Institutions (UNDP)	Capacity Development Modules	To ensure that the Security Institutions, and the Criminal Justice System institutions incorporate knowledge on SGBV, SRHR, HPs, and GRBP in their institutional interventions.	<b>Revised March 2023</b>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FSM3na1mOv-bB9vs3gVWM8_CeK2H-nh/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FSM3na1mOv-bB9vs3gVWM8_CeK2H-nh/view?usp=sharing</a>
53. Capacity Needs Assessment of Justice and	Assessment	This assessment report identifies structural, administrative, and operational	Completed in 2020 and expected to be published	<a href="#">here</a>





Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Security Institutions in Liberia (UNDP)		gaps within the different justice and security institutions which have the responsibility for preventing, protecting, and responding to SGBV crimes, HPs and promoting access to SRHR services in Liberia. The assessment analyses some of the institutional weaknesses, their effects on credible investigations and prosecution of SGBV cases and how this impacts the safety and security of women and girls in the five counties in Liberia.	in March 2023	
54. Change in SGBV Laws and Policy (UNDP)	Policy Briefs	It highlights the importance of changing laws and policies discriminatory against women and a gender policy for the country to address issues of gender inequality and negative gender stereotyping in Liberia. It furthers provides implications and recommendations for action.	Completed in 2020 and 2021 and expected to be published in <b>March 2023</b>	<a href="#">here</a>
55. Liberia Spotlight Newsletter Sep 2022- April 2023/ UNRCO/ Programme Coordinator	Newsletter – programme key events – two versions, 2 pagers	Summary of key programme events for the period Sep 2022 – April 2023	25 April 2023	Two versions of the two-page long newsletter: <a href="#">Version 1</a> and <a href="#">Version 2</a>
56. Know your rights brochures on 1. Violence Against Women and girls 2. Property Rights of women/	Brochures	The brochures are intended to create awareness on violence against women and girls to contribute to the broader efforts to end violence against women	April 30, 2023	<b>Not available yet</b>



## Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
(OHCHR)		and girl. Also, they are intended to enhance the knowledge of women and girl to speak up and advocate for their rights.		
57. GBV Accountability Framework (UNDP)	Guidance notes and framework	The framework expresses the roles and responsibilities of key actors working in these areas and shows the inter-multi-sectoral levels at national, county and community levels. The accountability framework serves as a guide to measure progress and assess gaps for determining improvement in service delivery.	May 2023	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dMQdwsZFY6qaOYsLFo4XAMcfEJDe70jM/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dMQdwsZFY6qaOYsLFo4XAMcfEJDe70jM/view?usp=sharing</a>
58. Social Behavioural Change Messages on ending child marriage, SEA and Rape against women and girls	Audio	Using a 'human centred approach', these SBC messages were developed as part of the national SBC campaign launched on 14 June 2023 to promote community engagement in the campaign on ending sexual and gendered based violence, including harmful practices against women and girls.	June 2023	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UgM3uMTuKxd2MnL4hFbC1sf0xNFXPXX7?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UgM3uMTuKxd2MnL4hFbC1sf0xNFXPXX7?usp=drive_link</a>
59. Judiciary Gender Policy (UNDP)	Guidance notes	It is intended to promote equal opportunities for all personnel and discourage practices that are based on gender inequality. It is a document that promotes respect, esprit de corps among all employees with the goal of enhancing the professionalism of the Judiciary as an organization worthy of the tasks and	Drafted in 2021 and completed and published July 2023	<a href="#">here</a>



# Spotlight Initiative

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
		responsibilities it was established to perform.		





**LSI Knowledge Products 2019-2021:**

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/ published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
60. GBV Advocacy strategy for grassroots women rights	Strategy document	Strengthening women's rights advocates' capacities to support the integration of ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) into county development agendas targeting policymakers and other stakeholders	2023	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/15WESlh8o0avnNVYFmz6OUEb6RiinsT8K/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/15WESlh8o0avnNVYFmz6OUEb6RiinsT8K/view?usp=sharing</a> (Strategy)  <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KEKRFBH1qN9rOhKYTVVgKgEA1JkTN6qH/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=111426807312981342432&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KEKRFBH1qN9rOhKYTVVgKgEA1JkTN6qH/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=111426807312981342432&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a> (Action plan)

End.



**Spotlight Initiative**

List of equipment / vehicles / remaining major supplies and its end-use upon completion of the

Spotlight Initiative programme

Programme: **Liberia Spotlight Initiative**



No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, if any	No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to JFK Hospital/National Forensics Laboratory/Pathologist (Government)</b>					
1	Toyota Land Cruiser 79 Double Cabin Pick-Up, 6 Seater (Model # HZ179L-DKMR5-A2)	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 35,918.00
2	Lenovo Laptop with Assorories	UNDP	N/A	2	\$ 2,100.00
3	Desktop Computer and HP Printer	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 1,890.00
4	Standard Autopsy Table	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 11,599.14
5	Autopsy Carrier	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 6,785.49
6	Stainless Steel Utility Cart	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 1,174.41
7	Organ Scale	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 2,483.66
8	Emalming Machines	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 3,834.96
9	Sixteen Compartment Body Refrigerators	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 65,245.76
10	Four Compartment Body Refrigerator	UNDP	N/A	2	\$ 42,800.80
11	Electrical Autopsy Saw	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 2,899.78
12	FormalIn Cabinet	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 7,611.93
13	15 KVA Power Capacity Voltage	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 1,600.00
14	AB RapidINTEL Sample carttr	UNFPA	N/A	2	\$ 13,720.00
15	AB RHID PRIMARYCTRG gfe 100 EA	UNFPA	N/A	2	\$ 15,260.00
16	AB RHID ACE GFE 50 SMPL KIT	UNFPA	N/A	2	\$ 13,340.00
17	Swap of current Rapid RHID wit	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 45,540.00
18	Procure 1 SRV3KI-APC SMART SRV	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 1,650.00
19	Gibson refrigerator single door refrigerator	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 1,550.00
20	Procurement of Gibson double door refrigerator	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 1,650.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 278,653.93</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Vocational and Heritage Centers (Lofa County)</b>				
1	TVS Star Motorbike	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 1,300.00
2	Digital Camera	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 1,000.00
3	Laptop(HP Core i3)	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 1,000.00
4	Laptop Computer	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 1,395.00
5	Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	N/A	2 \$ 3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 7,695.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Vocational and Heritage Centers (Montserratado County)</b>				
	1 TVS Star Motorbike	UN Women	1 \$	1,300.00
	2 Laptop (HP Core i2)	UN Women	1 \$	1,000.00
	3 Laptop Computer	UN Women	1 \$	1,395.00
	4 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2 \$	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 6,695.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Vocational and Heritage Centers (Nimba County)</b>				
	1 TVS Star Motorbike	UN Women	1 \$	1,300.00
	2 Laptop(HP Core i3)	UN Women	1 \$	1,000.00
	3 Laptop Computer	UN Women	1 \$	1,395.00
	4 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2 \$	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 6,695.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Vocational and Heritage Centers (Grand Cape Mount County)</b>				
	1 Laptop Computer	UN Women	1 \$	1,395.00
	2 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2 \$	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 4,395.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Grand Gedeh County County)</b>				
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2 \$	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Gbarpolu County)</b>				
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2 \$	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Margibi County)</b>				
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2 \$	3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>



No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Grand Bassa County)</b>			
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2	\$ 3,000.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Rivercess County)</b>			
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2	\$ 3,000.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Bomi County)</b>			
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2	\$ 3,000.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to Beneficiaries - Former Female zoes (Bong County)</b>			
	1 Cassava Grating Machine 5.5HP Gasoline Engine	UN Women	2	\$ 3,000.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to UN Women Liberia</b>			
	1 A Notebook computers	UN Women	3	\$ 5,406.00
	4 Lenovo Yoga Processor	UN Women	1	\$ 1,265.00
	5 Epson Projector	UN Women	1	\$ 1,590.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 8,261.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MIFDP)</b>			
	1 Laptop (454os) Computer	UN Women	1	\$ 1,200.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
	<b>Transferred to Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS)/Liberia National Police (Government)</b>			
	1 Desktop Computer - Lenovo Idea Center Aio3 24	UNDP	8	\$ 8,800.00
	2 Office equipment ( Printers, toners, stapler machine and stationery)	UNICEF	1	\$ 1,942.80
	3 Provision for the renovation of short stay facilities (2020 support to WACPS/LNP)	UNICEF	1	\$ 16,500.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$ 27,242.80</b>



No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Judiciary (Government)</b>				
1	Public Address (PA) System and accessories: 2000 watts, 12 inches JBL	UNDP	N/A	2 \$ 6,700.00
2	CCTV Camera (DVR): BNC Video input, Audio Input, HDMI Video Outputs, VGA Video Input	UNDP	N/A	2 \$ 2,500.00
3	Living Room 3 pcs	UNDP	N/A	2 \$ 3,098.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 12,298.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to NAWOGA-FGM / HEFOSEL (CSO)</b>				
1	Windows Laptop Computer - Lenovo (MJOERQZW), Monitor and Accessories	UNDP	N/A	1 \$2,995.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$2,995.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Law Reform Commission (Government)</b>				
1	Laptop Computer Lenovo	OHCHR	N/A	7 \$14,693.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$14,693.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Independent National Commission on Human Rights (Government)</b>				
1	Thunder Motorbike	OHCHR	N/A	5 \$ 8,500.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$ 8,500.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference, No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (Government)</b>				
1	APC Smart UPS 3KVA rack mount	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 2,700.00
2	Vmware Vshape Essential Kit 1	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 1,900.00
3	Dell 13 7000 2-in-1 Laptop wit	UNFPA	N/A	8 \$ 9,192.00
4	Dell optiplex 3070 desktop com	UNFPA	N/A	4 \$ 4,200.00
5	CISCO Meraki MR33 Cloud Manage	UNFPA	N/A	2 \$ 2,070.00
6	CISCO ASA5585-S10-KP ASA 5585-	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 17,500.00
7	HP LaserJet Enterprise M680	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 1,850.00
8	CISCO ISR4431/K9 (4GE, 3NIM, 8	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 7,200.00
9	Microsoft SQL server 2012 stan	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 1,100.00
10	Kaspersky Endpoint for busines	UNFPA	N/A	1 \$ 1,400.00
11	Vocational and heritage center facilities in Grand Cape Mount county	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 417,520.46
12	Vocational and heritage center facilities in Montserrat County	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 407,516.55
13	Vocational and heritage center facilities in Nimba County	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 483,743.14
14	Vocational and heritage center facilities in Lofa County	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 294,640.64
15	Epson Projector	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 1,590.00
16	Notebook Computers	UN Women	N/A	1 \$ 1,265.00



17 Laptop (454os)	UN Women	N/A	1	\$	1,200.00
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$</b>	<b>1,656,587.79</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference,	No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Ministry of Health (Government)</b>					
1	Medical kits	UNFPA	N/A	4	\$ 47,334.84
2	RH Kit 3 - Post-rape Treatment	UNFPA	N/A	105	\$ 118,525.25
3	(A41810) AB RAPIDHIT ID SYSTEM	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 4,800.00
4	(A41810) AB RAPIDHIT ID SYSTEM	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 5,182.50
5	(A41810) AB RAPIDHIT ID SYSTEM	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 96,480.00
6	(A41810) AB RAPIDHIT ID SYSTEM	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 4,665.00
7	Ultrasound, scanner, digital,	UNFPA	N/A	11	\$ 21,164.00
8	Operating table - USI - 2001	UNFPA	N/A	1	\$ 4,800.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 302,951.59</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference,	No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to Ministry of Justice (Government)</b>					
1	Laptop (454os)	UN Women	N/A	1	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference,	No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Transferred to the RCO</b>					
1	Computer - Laptop Thinkpad Yoga i5	UNDP	N/A	5	\$ 10,450.00
2	Canon Camera (Generic Camera) EOS 80D Canon Lens Kit 24.2	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 2,075.00
3	48000 BTU Floor Standing AirCondition (KF-120LW/41)	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 2,250.00
4	Lenovo Laptop Ideapad v14	UNDP	N/A	3	\$ 3,585.00
5	Haier Refrigerator 360degrees (Air Flow 569L)	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 1,115.00
6	Samsung Galaxy Phone S22 Ultra Black 512 GB	UNDP	N/A	2	\$ 3,116.18
7	Desk Raiser	UNDP	N/A	1	\$ 1,222.13
8	Lenovo Laptop Thinkpad (E14 - 17 Processor (SPF2W4MVZ, SPF2V802M, SPF2V7HHF, SPF21	OHCHR	N/A	5	\$ 7,845.00
9	IPHONE 13 PRO-MAX	OHCHR	N/A	2	\$ 3,170.00
10	All in one Color Printer Medium (M479fdn)	OHCHR	N/A	4	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 37,828.31</b>

No.	Item description	Agency	Agency reference,	No. of units	Total cost in USD
<b>Written Off Items</b>					
	TVS Star Motorbike	UN Women	N/A	1	\$ 1,300.00
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>

<b>Total</b>					<b>\$ 2,400,191.42</b>
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Agency	Name of Representative	Date	Signature
OHCHR	Christian Mukosa	30-04-24	
UNDP	Louis Kuukpen	30-04-24 30/04/24	
UN Women	Comfort Lamptey		
UNFPA	Bidisha Pillai	30/04/2024	
UNICEF	Andrew Brooks	30/04/2024	

