



A Joint Country Programme by UNWOMEN, FAO and WFP in Partnership with the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture

Country Programme Proposal

<i>Country:</i>	LIBERIA
<i>Project Title:</i>	Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Liberia (RWEE)
<i>Total budget requested</i>	US\$ 4,873,977
<i>Beneficiaries to be assisted with the contribution</i>	Rural Women: 8,000 Beneficiaries (2014 – 2017)
<i>Duration of project:</i>	1 October 2014 – October 31, 2017

1. Brief Background Information

Rural women are key agents for development. They play a catalytic role towards achievement of transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, food security, and education are among the many challenges they face. These are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is essential, not only for the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also for overall economic productivity, given women’s large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide.

UN Women supports the leadership and participation of rural women through the Rural Women Structure in shaping laws, policies and programmes on all issues that affect their lives, including improved food and nutrition security, and better rural livelihoods. Training equips them with skills to pursue new livelihoods and adapt technology to their needs.

WFP provides food assistance to rural women and girls in rural schools for encouraging increased enrolment and improved retention. The UN agency works to help Liberians who are unable to produce or obtain enough food for themselves and their families.

FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and continues to help Liberia to transition, modernize, and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.

Women play a key role in food production and form a large proportion of the agricultural work force globally. In Liberia, they comprise 54% of the labour force in both the formal and informal sectors. In agriculture they

constitute the majority of smallholder producers and it is estimated that they produce approximately 60 percent of agricultural products, carry out more than 80 percent of trading activities in the rural areas and are heavily engaged in the artisanal fishing industry, in addition to fulfilling daily household chores. Yet Liberian women remain among the most disadvantaged. They are disproportionately clustered in the least productive sectors, with 90 percent employed in the informal sector or agriculture. Their predominance in the informal economy translates into low productivity, meagre earnings and exposure to exploitation.

Illiteracy rates among women aged 15-49 are particularly high (60 percent) compared to men (30 percent). 42 percent of Liberian women and 18 percent of men have never attended school. In rural areas, literacy rates are staggeringly low at 26 percent, while the gender gap in secondary school attendance is very high, with a net attendance ratio of 6 percent for females. While 19 percent of men have completed secondary school or higher, only 8 percent of women have accomplished the same.

In Liberia, 40 percent of the population is highly vulnerable to food insecurity, and women, who lack means of sustainable livelihoods, employment skills and suffer from higher rates of malnutrition, are particularly susceptible. In addition to gender based violence, sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS, especially among young rural women and girls, rural Liberian women are exposed to food insecurity.

Given equal resources, rural women could contribute much more. FAO estimates that if women farmers (43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries) had the same access as men, agricultural output in 34 developing countries would rise by an estimated average of up to 4 percent. This could reduce the number of undernourished people in those countries by as much as 17 percent, translating to up to 150 million fewer hungry people.

Many of Liberia's most poor are rural women. Poverty eradication is a key challenge for women in rural parts of Liberia. The country's Agenda for Transformation seeks to address this, but the support of international partners and donors is paramount to achieving this result.

The establishment of the Rural Women Structure in Liberia created a platform for rural women to articulate their concerns, evaluate their accomplishments and devise strategies to tackle challenges they may encounter. One key concern for the structure has been the need for supporting rural women farmers in improving their livelihoods and securing increased food security, especially in rural Liberia. In addition, the structure has remained committed to strengthening alliances and planning future RWEE activities for the empowerment of rural women in Liberia.

Under the Rural Women Structure, an Association of Women in Cross border Trade was established with 5 functions as a bargaining platform to address issues affecting women traders. Through this structure, rural women traders have set up savings and loans in their communities for access to credit. This requires the support of the government and the UN system in Liberia if we are to see change in the direction of rural women's improved livelihoods.

By specifically targeting the economic security of women in key concession areas and farming communities impacted by extractive industries, RWEE will ensure the empowerment of rural women to actively engage in the management and sustainability of their local economies. The project will use a holistic economic empowerment training model as an entry point for engaging community women in the rights and management of community natural resources, land and social agreements with concession companies. By documenting effects of the intervention on women's confidence in their future security, RWEE will serve as a pilot to mobilize additional resources for programming related to women's engagement in natural resource and environmental management within the UN Country Team. It will also serve as an entry point for future work with concession and mining companies on the empowerment and protection of rural community women.

In addition, the joint programme will build on the innovative work being done by the Gender Ministry and UN Women on masculinities and the networks of male gender equality champions (including the 1325 Champions), working to build greater community support, and particularly that of men and traditional leaders, for women's leadership in decision-making and for the protection of women and children from violence. Work in this regard

will focus on building awareness of gender norms, sexual and gender violence, and address the role in which men can and should play in promoting and protecting the rights of women to a life free from violence. Through fostering increased awareness and growing social sanctions for SGBV, this can contribute to decreasing gender based violence as well as creating a more enabling environment for women's voice and agency.

The Rural Women Economic Empowerment Project will most definitely scale up and expand innovative models (i.e. NEXT LEVEL, SLA, etc.), develop new approaches to address inequalities faced by rural women, and shall most importantly build on the respective strengths of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality, World Food Programme, and the Food and Agriculture Organization working in Liberia. FAO role will ensure its technical knowledge and policy support role on agriculture and food security in Liberia while the World Food Programme will provide through the joint programme food assistance innovations for food insecure Liberians affected by food insecurity. UN Women shall complement the joint programming with FAO and WFP with its technical expertise on gender equality and women's empowerment in post Ebola Liberia.

It is against this background that UN Women along with FAO and WFP and in collaboration with Liberia's Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture have developed a strategic programme for Liberia, aligned to the Global Joint Programme on RWEE, aimed at promoting rural women's economic empowerment with a national launch with the Rural Women Structure and supporting other initial RWEE activities as a UN system response in support of rural women's economic empowerment through joint actions. With additional support, the joint programme will scale up its strategic interventions including the geographic expansion of the programme's scope to address increasing issues as it relates to rural women farmers and the socio-economic impact of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on rural women. This joint programme is a 5 year global programme initiative expected to generate synergies that capitalize on each agency's mandate, comparative advantage and institutional strength to generate more lasting and wider scale improvements in the livelihoods and rights of rural women, including young women in line with sustainable development and post MDGs. The JP will closely align with 'Early Recovery and Livelihoods' processes under the National Response Plan on EVD in Liberia.

Liberia is one of the seven countries, namely Ethiopia, Guatemala, Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Niger considered as a pilot country under the implementation of the RWEE Joint Programme. UN Women in collaboration with participating U.N. agencies and government ministries adapted the global joint programme to its context, identifying Liberia's priorities for a proposed joint implementation plan for the UN participating agencies and national stakeholders. The entire process was consultative and definitely draws from the global joint programme document, UNDAF 2014 – 2017, and Liberia's Agenda for Transformation (AFT). As the joint programme is systematically being aligned with supporting government's efforts in responding to the socio-economic impact of EVD on women and girls, participating UN agencies including government ministries and agencies will remain focused on ensuring the effective delivery of strategic intervention under the joint programme's implementation in Liberia during early recovery and post Ebola.

This proposal reflects the initial contributions from Norway (US\$ \$245,482.00) and Sweden (1,042,773.00) in 2014 and 2015 respectively, totalling US\$ 1,288,255.00. All other financial quotes in this proposal are reflecting proposed costs for 2016 and 2017 RWEE programming years.

2. Objectives

The Year 1 preparatory phase of JP RWEE in Liberia will design and launch the 5 year evidence-based Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Joint Programme (JP RWEE) targeting the economic and social empowerment of Liberian rural women based on the consolidation of research, evidence-based practices and lessons learned from the field, and ownership from critical, local, national and regional stakeholders.

Strategic objectives for Year 1 programming include:

To launch JP RWEE at the national level across all sectors through the hosting of a National Rural Women's Conference with the Liberia Rural Women's Structure including targeted training in leadership and democratic

representation, consultations on governance reforms (Constitutional Review and Decentralization), and consultations for the adoption of a roadmap for the JP RWEE and expanded support for women's agricultural production through the Rural Women's Structure

To conduct a strategic mapping and assessment of women's farming groups in 3 counties for securing data on the needs of existing women's farming groups in targeted counties (by agricultural production area, geographic distribution, size and gender of farming groups, and prioritization of capacity building needs); and

To conduct an initial Organizational Development (OD) and Leadership trainings to support leadership structures and development of by-laws for targeted women's farming groups identified from the mapping and assessment in 3 counties.

2015: Year 2 programming for RWEE was based on the following objectives:

- To enhance the organizational capacity of the National Rural Women's Structure to represent the needs and concerns of rural women across Liberia, particularly the most vulnerable;
- To improve women's access to credit or finance for strengthened agricultural inputs and assets, innovative technologies and improved extension services through the creation of agricultural SLAs;
- To support and strengthen the capacity of women's cooperatives to improve their access to markets opportunities, such as the Purchase for Progress programme;
- To expand rural women's access to financial services through the expansion of Savings and Loan Associations (SLAs), with a particular focus on piloting training models for agricultural SLAs;
- To increase the skills of rural women, including girls and young women, in literacy, numeracy and business development;
- To strengthen rural women's leadership and participation in local governance, particularly in the constitutional reform process;
- To provide technical assistance for local level gender responsive planning and budgeting, in line with implementation of Liberia's Decentralization Policy and initial support to a strategic mid-term review of Liberia's National Gender Policy; and
- To ensure linkages for rural women and young girls to wider programming on SGBV prevention and response, as well as sexual and reproductive health services.

The Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment programming for 2016 and 2017 will include the following strategic interventions:

- Work with communities to raise awareness about land tenure and land use rights to promote women's equal access to and ownership of land for agricultural production;
- Advocate with the Government of Liberia and Liberian financial institutions for rural women's increased access to financial services and products such as savings, credit, insurance, domestic payment services and remittances, and promote better linkages between informal and formal financial services;
- Support Government of Liberia and the private sector to promote rural women's access to critical integrated services (e.g. extension advice and marketing services).
- Support Government of Liberia to relieve the burden of women's work through the provision of labour-saving technologies, and fuel efficient stoves in targeted communities;
- Support rural women's access to critical inputs for agricultural production such as tools, high quality seeds and machinery;
- Organize a learning and sharing event for capturing best practices and lessons learnt within the context of FSN;
- Organize tours for learning exchange with rural women at national and global levels;
- Support women-led and women-managed local food reserve systems through food banks, consumer cooperatives and nutrition education, as well as the role of women in men-women systems;
- Strengthen rural women's productive capacities through training and the provision of tools and equipment;

- Enhance the capacities of women-led associations to jointly manage productive assets and to deliver effective services to their members;
- Support training on nutrition education and training;
- Create awareness and support advocacy around Liberia's National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy for government's endorsement and implementation;
- Support government through the Ministry of Agriculture to revise and finalize the National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Agriculture Programmes and Projects;
- Support lowland rehabilitation for integrated seed production to improve food and nutrition security and environmental protection;
- Support skills building for rural women and girls in business development, adult literacy and numeracy including for vocational skills (i.e. tailoring, cosmetology, pastry, catering, soap making, food preservation, etc.);
- Support women and girls' access to finance/credit through Savings and Loan Associations, social cash transfer, small grants, MFIs, etc.;
- Strengthen linkages to markets using ICT (i.e. mobile money, price information, market monitoring, etc.);
- Support rural women and girls' access to SRH education and services for increased understanding of their reproductive rights and improved family planning;
- Support rural women led associations or entrepreneurs to produce food for the home grown school feeding programme;
- Support rural women's access to solar energy and other innovative technologies (i.e. eco stoves, etc.);
- Create awareness on the rights of rural women on the management of natural resources (land, forests, river, etc.), particularly in concession areas;
- Support the hosting of the annual National Rural women's Conferences 2016/2017 including for the holding of the 2016 national elections;
- Strengthen rural women, including young women, self-confidence and capacity to take on leadership roles in local governance systems (land committees, land desk officers, community development initiatives) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
- Strengthen rural women's advocacy platforms so that they can engage in regional processes (e.g. NRWS, AWICBT, LMA, etc.) and key policy debates (e.g. Land Rights Bill, Domestic Violence Bill, Constitutional Review Process, Draft Local Governance Bill, and Post MDGs, etc.);
- Facilitate networking of rural women's organisations (NRWS, AWICBT, etc.) at sub-national and national levels, and their stronger links with the women's movement for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision making processes;
- Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water) through legal literacy, community dialogues in Peace Huts/Committees, community radios, and other forums and platforms for communication;
- Support rural women and girls to participate in civic education, the Electoral and the Referendum processes.
- Provide IEC materials for rural women and girls on human rights issues;
- Support the implementation of the revised National Gender Policy through creating increased awareness on the policy via radio talk shows, jingles, printing and dissemination of a simplified version of the policy – depicting simple pictorials and/or illustration explaining the policy. Awareness process to include integration of a training module in the existing adult literacy curriculum on the NGP for educating rural women on the subject; and
- Provide policy assistance to:
Mainstream gender into food, agriculture, nutrition and rural development policies.
- Advocate and strengthen capacities for the implementation of policies advancing women's land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling, land distribution programmes and other changes in land law; and
- Create more awareness on the propositions that seek to address gender issues in the Constitution Review and Decentralization processes for consideration by national government;
- Conduct a survey on the 'women's empowerment in agriculture' index in order to carry out a baseline for the RWEE JP.

In support of securing rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs, based on the four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women in 2016 and 2017 RWEE programming years, the project "Rural Women's Economic Empowerment - RWEE" will expand upon the work of the Government of Liberia and the United Nations to strengthen the economic security of rural women in particularly high risk/ conflict-prone areas, including border regions and agriculture communities affected by large concession agreements and the most vulnerable and neglected communities. The programme will work with rural women and girls in these areas to strengthen their economic opportunities, while enhancing their understanding of their rights and responsibilities. The programme will have direct linkages with other ongoing activities to provide holistic support to women thus strengthening not only their agency but their voice in decision making processes.

Strategic economic empowerment and employment programmes will focus on rural women in concession areas to ensure that they have the skills and inputs necessary to benefit from increased economic opportunities as a result of the concessions. As concession agreements often raise community tensions, vulnerabilities for women also increase: levels of sexual exploitation and family violence increase, access to land decreases, and rural women are unlikely to benefit from the formal employment opportunities offered in the extractive industries. This aspect of the programme will work to counter these effects and protect at-risk women and girls in these communities, thereby reducing the social tensions and pressure. In these concession areas, working closely with existing community peace huts, the project will also support women to engage with concessionaires and local government to enforce implementation of their development commitments, as well as to ensure that women have access to land dispute mechanisms. Synergies will be developed with the ADR initiative supported by UN-HABITAT to ensure complementarity and greater impact.

In addition to the economic programming for rural women in concession areas and the agriculture sector, the project will work in close collaboration with the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade (AWICBT), National Rural Women Structure (NRWS), and the Liberia Marketing Association to support ongoing work to increase the women's access to finance and skills training, to expand employment opportunities in their communities, to build their businesses, and to increase the accountability of border security forces for women's protection. While increasing the women's productivity as economic actors, the programme will also support women's role in citizen oversight of security sector institutions and directly link AWICBT and NRWS members to existing reporting / dialogue mechanism with security sector institutions to directly report suspicious and corrupt practices at Liberia's borders. Women traders will be trained in early warning signs of conflict and direct linkages will be built between the Association and the security sector including the justice and security hubs to facilitate improved accountability to women's rights.

The programme will address dialogue at various levels: within communities fostering dialogue amongst women themselves and between women and local authorities, with the counties through foster dialogue between women leaders and decentralized authorities at the county level, and at the national level between fostering dialogue with national institutions and with the Mano River Union.

RWEE project targets three distinct groups of women and young women: 1. women involved in agriculture, 2. women and young women in communities at risk of conflict associated with concession agreements, community land disputes, and extractive industry activities, and 3. women who secure their livelihoods through regional trade activities, referred to as women in cross border trade (WICBT).

As the programme will targeted a total of 8,000 beneficiaries at the cost of (USD 4,873,977), the USD/beneficiary ratio will be USD 653/woman. All 8,000 targeted women will receive a delivery of strategic interventions at community level (e.g. Adult Literacy & Numeracy + Business Development Skills, Business Development Skills + SLAs).

In addition, Women Entrepreneurs Group A (4,000 women) will benefit from leadership training and improved seeds;

Women farmers Group B (4,000 women) will benefit from nutrition training and credit lines.

Although not formally documented, community reports suggest that women and girls in concession and extractive industry areas are particularly vulnerable to harassment, sexual abuse and HIV/AIDs. Due to the prevalence of male labor in these sectors, women are often excluded from the formal employment opportunities. Amongst the transient male labor force, demands for sex workers can be high and many women and young women depend of prostitution as a means of income generation.

The project will target a diverse group of women from each of the targeted areas including rural women farmers, market women, sex workers, former combatants and young women (aged 16 – 26). Young women will enter into a targeted economic training programme, including significant life skills training. Other participants will be divided into two cohorts based on their levels of literacy and education. Women with limited to no literacy and numeracy skills will participate in a longer programme that includes skills building in basic literacy and numeracy.

Women involved in agriculture and cross border trade are critical economic agents in Liberia's economy. Throughout the years of the conflict, many of these women risked their lives to bring important commodities into the Liberian market. In the past decade of recovery and development, women farmers and traders remained the primary suppliers of food, commodities, and goods into Liberia's rural markets and remote areas. While some women's businesses have expanded into rural wholesale suppliers of dry goods, clothing, rice and household items, many other cross border traders rely on weekly trips to nearby countries to restock their markets.

The Association of Women in Cross Border Trade (AWICBT), established in 2010 to represent the common interests of women traders, now boasts over 12,000 registered members with chapters in every district and county in Liberia. The Association is a linguistically and ethnically diverse group of women, brought together by their common challenges in regional trading and business operations in Liberia. Traders often have strong connections in other West African countries (especially Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Togo, Nigeria and Ghana) and frequently crisscross the West African region.

By nature of their business, women in cross border trade are in frequent contact with security personnel at border checkpoints, Liberian internal checkpoints, and at the internal checkpoints in other countries. The frequency with which they travel, along with the economic motivation of their movement, make cross border traders particularly vulnerable to harassment, corruption and abuse at the hands of security officials. In addition, they are liaisons across ethnic groups, both in and outside Liberia. Due to their frequent interactions with security institutions, cross border traders are a critical target population for establishing greater trust and confidence in Liberia's security sector.

Women's overall economic security will be increased through three main channels: improving their income earning potential, increasing women farmers and traders' sense of economic security and confidence, and increasing the capacity of rural women to demand for their rights in the community management of natural resources, land and the environment.

Based on the assumption that business opportunities exist in these communities and that improved skills and access to credit will provide expanded opportunities for business women, the project will offer business and financial training programmes for women with varying degrees of education. This will also include access to trainings in vocational skills, leadership skills, and organizational development.

Working alongside the existing community women's peace huts and other networks of women involved in conflict resolution, and assuming that they will provide increased confidence and opportunities for women to participate in community decision making, the project will assist women to better understand the laws and agreements that affect the management of their communities' land and natural resources, as well as corporate social responsibility policies. By demanding their rights, women will have greater control over the resources needed for their economic future.

A RWEE country team comprising of the UN and Government of Liberia, civil society members, the National Rural Women's Structure, the selected implementing partners and in some instances UNMIL county officers will enter targeted communities to identify women to participate in the joint programme.

The mobilization will cover public awareness on the projects and the communities' interest to sustain development as a result of the project. This public awareness will include messaging that the mobilization is open to all that are interested without restriction as the programme is looking to reach a diverse group of women, that information received through the recruitment questionnaires will remain confidential and mobilization will include but not be limited to rural women, illiterate/literate, farmers, market women, female heads of household, former combatants, sex workers, and women with disabilities, etc.), to participate in the holistic programme. Public awareness partners will include the Gender County Coordinators, Rural Women's Structures, the Association of Women in Cross-Border Trade, Liberia Marketing Association, and community based organisations, women's groups and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Heads of Field Office to ensure transparency and maximize available resources.

Mobilization of men for programme components on working with men will include partners/spouses/relatives of the mobilized women, among other men in the communities. Male networks will be established with at least 500 men serving as positive role models and male ambassadors to the peace huts, publicly working to end violence against women and children in the target communities by October 31, 2017.

Activities under the approach will include conducting community assessments, mobilizing participants, and conducting a baseline of the strategy on working with men in targeted communities. In addition, it will also include utilizing mentor and coaching methodologies to train 500 men as male advocates for the end to SGBV, supporting network activities at community level and public campaigns, and finally monitoring and the assessment of network activities at community level. Targeted men under the joint programme will receive trainings on gender, organizational development, leadership skills, and on SGBV awareness, prevention, and response. In addition, they will be linked to local security hubs for assisting victims of SGBV in accessing justice at the community level and ensuring women, peace and security.

3. Justification for the intervention

As identified in Liberia's Priority Plan, economic marginalization was one of the key drivers of Liberia's conflict and continues to be an indicator of the challenges facing the economic empowerment of women in post war Liberia. Women, and more specifically rural women, have been amongst the groups most marginalized and amongst the groups living in situations of great fragility and vulnerability due to economic insecurity. At the same time, women have played and continue to play a key role in maintaining and or creating social cohesion in communities. For these reasons, Liberia's National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 emphasizes the inclusion of women in Liberia's economic revitalization and specifically prioritizes women's participation and involvement in the local management of the community's natural resources, as well as the economic empowerment of women in cross border trade.

In general, women comprise 51% of Liberia's adult labor force, playing a major role in Liberia's economy and household income generation. Yet women and men are not equally distributed across the productive sectors, nor are they equally remunerated. Women are far more likely to be in vulnerable employment (89%) than men (69%), and those in rural areas much more vulnerable than those in urban areas (87% as against 68%). In an economy dominated by agricultural and informal work, women carry the heaviest burden in these sectors and men greatly outnumber women in all other sectors of Liberia's economy. The forestry sector hires men at a rate of 4 men for every 1 woman. In mining and panning, more than 9 men are hired to every 1 woman. In manufacturing it is 4:1 and in the services sector 3:2. Only in agriculture and fisheries are men and women employed at an equal 1:1 ratio.

When analysing women's role in the economy, wholesale and retail trading play an important role, as 35% of all women in the labor force earn their incomes in this sector. Out of the quarter of Liberia's labor force trading as their primary source of income, 70% are women. As a livelihood, trading provides women with an opportunity

for business growth and wealth creation, not only increasing their economic security but also having a multiplier effect on the wellbeing of their wider household and communities. It is a particularly strategic entry point for women in rural and border areas.

For these reasons, the economic growth and stability considered necessary for lasting peace will rely heavily on the inputs and the development of women-owned businesses and women labourers. And yet, given the breakdown of the labor force, women have the least to gain economically from employment generated by concessions and the growth in the extractive industries.

By specifically targeting the economic security of rural women in key concession areas and communities impacted by extractive industries, this project will contribute to supporting the empowerment of rural women and girls to actively engage in the management and sustainability of their local economies. A holistic economic empowerment training model will be used as an entry point for engaging community women in the rights and management of community natural resources, land and social agreements with concession companies. By documenting effects of the intervention on women's confidence in their future security, this will serve as means of mobilizing additional resources under the joint programme for programming related to women's engagement in natural resource and environmental management. It will also serve as an entry point for future work with concession and mining companies on the empowerment and protection of rural community women.

By targeting women in cross border trade, the joint programme will contribute to two key objectives: stimulating economic development as well as in building linkages and trust across borders within the region. This initiative builds on the unique characterization of cross border traders to increase the accountability of the security sector and to improve inter-regional linkages and networks for detecting early warning signs of conflict.

In addition, the joint programme will contribute to increasing community security and peace through enhanced leadership capacities of rural women as key stakeholders in generating a greater demand for justice and improved accountability to women's human rights in Liberia. It will utilize men as male champions in the fight to end violence against women and girls

This programme is catalytic in that it stimulates and builds a demand for justice amongst women who otherwise would not seek out the justice system and lays the foundation for a coalition of women and men's community peace building structures who can effectively participate and inform ongoing efforts to ensure gender responsive security sector reform in Liberia.

The programme is closely aligned with **Goal Five of the SDGs** with the following specific targets:

- **Target 5.1:** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- **Target 5.2:** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **Target 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- **Target 5.6:** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- **Target 5.a:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- **Target 5.b:** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- **Target 5.c:** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Liberia's Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture have remained committed in the process of ensuring that rural women farmers and want-to-be farmers do function through cooperatives to gain collected related benefits. This process still needs significant level of support from the UN Country Team and donors, if the process is to result in a favourable change for rural Liberian women's economic empowerment in post war Liberia including that of post Ebola.

In addition, the Gender Ministry needs support for work on the National Gender Policy that is aimed at guiding government action to address gender inequalities and to mainstream gender in national policies and development programmes. The Ministry of Gender needs support for the mid-term review and revision of the policy for continued implemented in post Ebola Liberia and to ensure that it is properly in line with the SDGs, international best practices and takes into account the particular circumstances of women and men in Liberia, to disseminate the revised policy and to develop sufficient capacity to monitor its implementation and to provide support and guidance to other sectors of government for effective implementation on request. In this effort, the MoGCSP works closely with the National Gender Forum; a multi-sectorial structure headed by the President and comprising, among others, Gender Focal Persons (GFP) from all government ministries, civil society representatives and development partners including members of the UN family.

Current statistics from the Central Bank of Liberia reveals that rural women's access to credit is quite limited compared to the opposite sex. This has been the case since most women are disempowered and cannot afford to pay back interests as interest rates are considerable high. Thus, most rural women have resulted to an approach centered on the Savings and Loan Association methodology to access credit or finance. It is in light of this that CBL has provided women's SLA groups with access to limited credit with a low interest rate for expanding their SLAs. Unfortunately, the CBL's loan scheme for women's access to credit has proven to be inadequate, thus, a call for additional support is essential to sustaining financial and/or economic security for rural women and girls in Liberia. With regards to women's access to credit, it is quite apparent that there exists gender imbalance not only at national level but also at the district and community levels.

The Constitutional reform process has been an issue that Liberia's political leaders have tinkered with since the end of the 2003 Accra Peace Conference that returned the country to stability. Unlike the issues of security sector reform or transitional justice and disarmament, no timetable was set for a process of constitutional review or reform – neither during the peace conference nor during the transitional period. Thus, the issue has been left to the discretion of the sitting government. The first reform attempt was made in 2009 with the establishment of what was then the Constitutional Reform Taskforce. With no funding, however, the Taskforce did no more than designing work-plans that were not implemented. This was followed by a referendum focusing on electoral issues and the age limit for Supreme Court judges. The referendum which was held in August 2011 was widely criticized as self-serving and that essentially aimed to eliminate political competition ahead of the 2011 general and presidential elections. Hence, the need for advocacy work here and that of direct support to the process is significant for ensuring that GEWE is integrated throughout the reform process.

The old centralized governance issue in Liberia as a unitary state was observed as an onerous problem to sustainable development. This centralized system impeded the bottom-to-top developmental initiatives, subordinated participatory governance system, increased poverty and constrained local dwellers to focus on central government for everything. In fact, the role of sub national structures was not clearly defined, thus reinforcing the centralized structure of government. The decentralization process in Liberia has begun with little evidence of the transfer of power from or decision making from the central government to local government structure. Liberia's current attempt for ensuring a more decentralized system lies with a decentralized system that encourages fewer tiers in the organizational structure, wider span of control, and a bottom-to-top flow of decision making. The joint programme looks forward to creating more awareness on the propositions that seek to address gender issues in the current Constitution Review and Decentralization processes for consideration by national government.

National platforms like the National Rural Women Structure and the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade are committed to ensuring that the voices of women are heard and acted upon. Both the Constitutional review and the Decentralization processes are two key areas of both structures and they are playing a major role in

contributing towards the mainstreaming of gender throughout the entire process. The joint programme will strengthen these advocacy platforms for ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment is holistically considered.

Improving women's health strengthens their economic empowerment. Access to sexual and reproductive information and services (including information about HIV transmission) and reduced rates of early marriages, increase women's chances of finishing education and breaking out of poverty. In terms of rural women's access to health including its improvement by reducing user costs, providing transport and strengthening the accountability of service providers, the joint programme will form linkages with Liberia's ongoing Joint Programme for the H4+ Global Initiative for Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child Health - Accelerating Progress in MDG 4 & 5 - collaboration with SIDA to complement project activities related to rural women accessing sexual and reproductive health care and services. This will also include support for maternal and obstetric services and help improve the availability of skilled attendants at births under the H4+ initiative. RWEE will do more awareness raising around women and SRH (i.e. public campaigns, radio talk shows, Flyers, brochures, etc.) and will form synergies with the H4+ Initiative at country level, as both JPs have a presence in several of the targeted counties. It is expected that through the support from the RWEE country programme, there will be a significant reduction in unwanted pregnancies and increased teenage pregnancy among rural girls.

With increased access to improved Sexual and Reproductive Health education and services, rural women, including young women will better understand their reproductive rights within a more supportive environment and will have better knowledge of family planning and its importance, thus, alleviating continued economic hardship on the livelihoods of rural households. In addition, the joint programme will ensure linkages for rural women and young girls to wider programming on Sexual and Gender Based Violence prevention and response in close collaboration with Phase II of Liberia's SGBV Joint Programme.

A brief status on the situation of women in terms of accessing financing and literacy skills (which is very fundamental for accessing a wide range of other skills (vocational and entrepreneurial) in Liberia includes:

Access to finance: Women dominate among microfinance borrowers in the urban areas of Liberia, but they lack access to larger financing facilities and to any type of financing in rural areas. Generally, however, Liberia has limited experience in the practical application of best practices in microfinance, and though there are an array of microfinance providers in Liberia, ranging from NGOs, Commercial Banks and smaller informal credit providers, the provision of sustainable microfinance services is currently limited. During the fourteen years of conflict, Liberia, unlike other countries in the sub-region was simply unable to sustain or consequently rebuild its microfinance industry. Most of the microfinance services provided are confined to Monrovia in Montserrado County together with interventions in a few neighbouring counties. These services are provided by two NGOs specializing in microfinance and one commercial bank which are estimated to serve just over 15,000 active clients.¹ The present Government however has recognized the potential of microfinance and has channelled efforts in support of the sector with the development of a microfinance strategy for the next five years. Women's access to micro-finance has been identified as a strategic priority both in the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection and within the Government's Economic Stabilization and Recovery Plan (ESRP), and the Agenda for Transformation.

Literacy: Illiteracy levels among women aged 15-49 (60%) are particularly high as compared to men (30%), which in turn put women at a clear disadvantage in engaging in entrepreneurial activities and employment, including accessing vocational training and skills. There is currently no national adult literacy programme or strategy to address this problem.

Business and vocational skills: Vocational and business skills trainings are not presently offered nationally and in the past have been offered in a less than effective manner. Vocational skills courses offered for women have generally tended to focus on very traditional skills (tailoring, tie-dye, etc.) where there are no immediate market

¹ Distinguishing between the two as follows: (i) Rural finance-Financial services offered and used in the rural areas by people of all income levels. (ii) Agricultural Finance-A subset of rural finance dedicated to financing agricultural activities. (B. Helms Access for All-Building Inclusive Financial Systems -CGAP 2006)

opportunities and do not therefore offer meaningful empowerment opportunities to women concerned. There is a conscious effort on the part of the Government and partners to improve upon these skills programs of the past by offering skills training programs tailored to the demands of the labour market and economic activities. One example is the Economic Empowerment for Adolescent Girls Project, a partnership program between the GoL, World Bank, Nike Foundation and Danish Government. However, many programs, such as this one, are focusing on youth and there exists a great need to work with emerging rural women entrepreneurs, particularly in empowering them with the relevant skills to take advantage of existing opportunities (such as exporting under AGOA) and enhancing cross-border trading activities for those products where Liberia has a sub-regional comparative advantage.

Employment and income generation: The Government of Liberia has placed employment and income-generation at the centre of both public and private sector growth. The centrality of employment suggests that it needs to be integrated throughout the work of the economic transformation pillar of the AfT as well as in other pillars such as those on infrastructure and security.

Women and the formal sector: The formal sector in Liberia is small and has been experiencing gradual shrinkage due mainly to the war and the international sanctions on the export of diamonds and forest resources. With 90% of working women employed informally or in agriculture, increasing women's participation in the formal sector is a major concern. Particularly considering that the major sectors driving Liberia's economic growth - mining, rubber and forestry - historically provide few formal jobs for Liberian women.

Women in the informal sector: The informal economy is characterized by subsistence enterprises such as petty trading in dry goods, used clothing, peddling domestic foodstuff, makeshift hair and beauty parlours, grocery and food kiosks. Open-air makeshift markets and cross-border trading are rampant. According to the national food survey of 2006, the vast majority of women in greater Monrovia for instance, worked as market vendors and in petty trading (68% of the urban female labour force), and a small proportion held clerical positions (13%). About 80 percent of working women were self-employed, almost twice as many as the number of self-employed men (40% of men). Among those who had businesses, women were more likely to own informal ones (only 3% of women had registered business compared to 14% of men). Men were predominant in skilled and professional jobs (25%), or as unskilled, casual or contract workers (20%)². However, the informal economy has limited opportunities with virtually no social protection. Severe lack of employment and economic opportunities particularly for women and youth therefore continues to be a very volatile and pervasive problem compounding the poverty situation in Liberia.

For RWEE Inception Phase / Preparatory Activities (No Cost), Please See Next Page

² National Food Security and Nutrition Survey

JP RWEE Inception phase: LIBERIA

Timeline: steps	Activity	Expected output	Responsibility for drafting outline/ generic example	Date	Liberia Status	Liberia Completion Dates	Liberia's Notes
Preparatory activities	Generic TOR for Program Manager to support the consultations and the workshop preparation process		UN Women (Lead UN agency)	November 2012	Completed	November 15, 2015	Preparatory activities led by UN Women and JP GEWEE Programme Manager; An international and national consultants hired to conduct a prospective evaluation of current activities (i.e. JP GEWEE) and led field consultations for identifying and prioritizing future actions.
	Hiring of Program Manager to help with logistics and administration						
	Preparation of briefing note on what the JP RWEE means for UNW, FAO, and WFP.	Briefing note for use at country level	UN Women (Lead UN agency)	October 2012	Completed	October 2012	Steering Committee meeting held and briefings on the JP through the GWEE JP provided to all participating agencies.
	Draft of a scoping study to describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender issues in agriculture and rural development within the national / local context; National priorities; UN system e.g. UNDAF; delivering as One Key actors involved Ongoing activities/practices by the 3 U.N. agencies; Preliminary identification of areas for collaboration: common topics / interesting methodologies/ common targets (both geographical and in terms of people) 	Mapping of relevant activities and priorities at national level for a common understanding	UN Women (Lead UN agency)	January 2013	Completed	May 2013	Detailed survey designed by UN Women and JP GEWEE Evaluation team, adopted and launched by the GTG, and analysed by the evaluation team. The identification of areas for collaboration highlighted in the JP GEWEE and JP FSN evaluations, as 3 of the agencies have a strong history of working together on rural women's economic empowerment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with UN system Brief and close communication with the RC JP in UNCT meeting agenda Complementarities and synergies with other JPs In Liberia, special attention placed on agencies responsibilities and on the role that UNW plays Workshop dates in agreement with UNCT 	<p>Support and buy-in by the RC and the UNCT</p> <p>Clear understanding of RWEE added value with respect to other joint programmes</p>	<p>All the agencies under coordination of lead agency</p>	<p>January 2013</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>October 2013</p>	<p>Presentation made to UNCT;</p> <p>Joint Programme considered in new UNDAF, One Programme and Annual Work Plans;</p> <p>UNCT decision to place administration and management of JP RWEE under the second phase of JP GEWEE (2013 – 2017). This never happen as GEWEE did not get funded. JP RWEE was initiated as a stand-alone JP.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with Government Direct communication through the RC Government representatives in meetings and the advancement of activities Representation of the government at workshops and in the national programme steering committee Workshop dates in agreement with the government 	<p>Support and buy-in by the government</p> <p>Identification of counterparts; key focal points in agriculture/ rural development/ gender ministries</p>	<p>All the agencies under coordination of lead agency</p>	<p>January 2013</p>	<p>Initiated and ongoing</p>	<p>October 2013</p>	<p>Government of Liberia is fully engaged in the decisions of the Steering Committee and endorsed the decision to place JP RWEE under JP GEWEE. JP RWEE however became a stand-alone JP in country.</p> <p>Details for the workshop were planned in full coordination with the Government counterparts (i.e. Agriculture and gender, etc.).</p>
<p>Preparation</p>	<p>Engagement with UN organisations/donors/partners</p> <p>UN Women meeting of gender thematic group, to present the programme and the consultative process</p>	<p>Awareness on the JP</p>	<p>All the agencies under coordination of lead agency</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Initiated and ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>GTG informed of the Joint Programme (June 2015);</p> <p>GTG plays strong role in mapping exercises and consultative processes under JP RWEE.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of participants for stakeholders workshops, including: Projects/Programme managers 	<p>List of participants defined and agreed by UNCT and all</p>	<p>All the agencies under coordination of</p>	<p>January 2013</p>	<p>Ongoing activity</p>	<p>April – May 2013</p>	<p>First list of stakeholders developed during April 23, 2013 technical retreat;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government representatives • Other relevant UN agencies • Development partners • Rural women's organisations • Civil Society representatives • Local authorities Private sector representatives • Media 	agencies	lead agency				List submitted to Steering Committee and GTG for further comments; Finalized in mid-May 2013.
Workshops preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops agenda • Finalisation of agenda • Nomination of rapporteurs 	Generic outline for local adaptation	UN Women (Lead UN agency)	January 2013	Ongoing	May 2013	UN Women, with technical committee
Workshops follow-up	<p>Workshops report, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary of discussions • AWPB for 2014 - 2015 • strengths and weaknesses of the consultation process • recommendation on key elements to be taken into consideration for the Joint Programme's operational guidelines 	Workshops reports with valuable information for programme development and operational management	UN Women (Lead UN agency)	March 2013	Initiated and still ongoing	October 2015	<p>Note: June 2013 workshop focused on the consultations, results of the evaluation, the prioritization of activities and planned methodologies for the JP GEWEE / RWEE.</p> <p>AWPB for 2013 – 2014 finalized after the workshop</p> <p>October 2015 workshop focused on the consultations and the prioritization of 2016 and 2017 activities and planned methodologies for the RWEE.</p> <p>AWPB for 2016 – 2017 finalized after the workshop</p> <p>UN Women to lead</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of potential donors • Preliminary discussions prior to workshops • Invite to co-sponsor the national consultative workshops • Invite for a roundtable at the end of the workshops in order to 		UN Women (Lead UN agency)	Day after workshops	Initiated and still ongoing	October 2015	

	present preliminary results in priority setting	Road map with clear understanding of next steps and core content of the programme at national level	All the agencies under coordination of lead agency	October 2014	Completed	June – July 2013	UN Women led in close collaboration and consultations with the Gender and Agriculture ministries, National Rural Women Structure, Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, other CSOs and the private sector
	Preliminary country programme document, identifying specific objectives a subset of activities budget implementation timeframe work plan for 2014/2015 potential partners preliminary geographical and social targets						Note: Steering Committee will expand as stakeholders are added during consultative processes (example: UNFPA, UNESCO, etc.)
	Set up the national Steering Committee of RWEE: agree on composition, functioning, etc.				Already existing		
	Spell out division of responsibilities between co-lead agencies in relevant countries				Existing		Note: will follow the One UN Liberia guidelines for JPs, with any changes suggested as a result of the evaluation findings
Programme preparation	Joint field missions in the regions selected for the JP implementation so as to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertake a real assessment of the local context involve communities, local government and local actors Clearly define what activities are going to be carried out in the framework of the topics selected during the consultative workshop Capacity assessment and selection of implementing partners 				Completed		Given the rainy season in Liberia, it is unlikely that any field assessments will be possible until late 2013. Capacity assessment and selection of partners will be done during Q3 2013 for the Joint Programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representatives from the 3 agencies will participate								
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Project Outputs and Key Activities:

Within the six targeted counties, the joint programme will secure increased economic security for women, defined by their ability to generate and manage their own income. 8,000 rural women, young women and cross border traders will participate in community-based training programmes in literacy/numeracy, vocational skills, business skills, financial management, sexual and reproductive health education, leadership skills, etc. throughout 2014 – 2017. All beneficiaries will be trained in financial services and assisted to form Savings and Loan Associations for women’s access to credit.

To complement these trainings and focus on the rights and security of rural women traders and farmers, the joint programme will strengthen partnerships between the Mano River Union, Government of Liberia security sector and Association of Women in Cross Border Trade including the Ministry of Agriculture and local farming groups to foster traders and farmers’ increased confidence in the agriculture and security sectors and understanding of proper security and regional trade procedures and protocols through support to the annual assemblies of the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade and the annual National Rural Women’s Conference. Through direct linkages with existing security hubs, women farmers and traders will gain access to reporting mechanisms for instances of harassment, corruption or abuse.

In addition, women farming groups’ capacities will be built in organizational development and leadership skills to ensure increased women’s participation in decision-making processes including for increased food security and nutrition in post Ebola Liberia. Support will be provided through the joint programme for the endorsement and the implementation of the National Strategy on Food Security and Nutrition including that of the implementation of the new and revised National Gender Policy in Liberia. Rural women’s access to solar energy and innovative technologies (i.e. Eco stoves, etc.) in support of environmental protection will be provided to the most vulnerable and neglected communities in rural Liberia.

Finally, through innovative outreach and sensitization methods, women in targeted communities will gain the knowledge and capacity to demand respect of their rights in community management of land and natural resources. These activities will be supported by the existing land desk in the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection and will link closely with women’s peace building forums to deliver tailored sensitization materials to community women on specific natural resource, environment and land issues that affect their livelihoods and the future of their communities.

4. Activities

Norway & Sweden Funded Activities 2014/2015

Activity Description	Place of Implementation	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Activity cost In USD	Lead Agency
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p>				
<p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p>				
<p>Host National Rural Women’s Conference with the Liberia Rural Women’s Structure including targeted training in leadership and democratic representation, consultations on governance reforms (Constitutional Review and Decentralization), and consultations for the adoption of a roadmap for the JP RWEE and</p>	<p>Maryland (with rural women leaders representing all districts and counties in Liberia)</p>	<p>▪ 225 rural women delegates</p>	<p>\$100,000.00</p>	<p><u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP WFP, FAO, MoA</p>

expanded support for women's agricultural production through the Rural Women's Structure				
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security				
Strategic mapping and assessment of women's farming groups for future JP RWEE support in targeted counties (by agricultural production area, geographic distribution, size and gender of farming groups, and prioritization of capacity building needs)	Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ Approximately 2,000 women and men involved in agricultural activities	\$45,022.43	WFP <i>UN WOMEN, MoGCSP, FAO, MoA</i>
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems.				
Conduct initial Organizational Development (OD) and Leadership trainings to support leadership structures and development of by-laws for targeted women's farming groups	Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 80 women leaders; and 2,000 women and men in targeted farming groups	\$84,400.00	UN WOMEN <i>MoGCSP MoA, WFP, FAO</i>
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems				
Enhance the organizational capacity of the National Rural Women's Structure to represent the needs and concerns of rural women across Liberia, particularly the most vulnerable	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	▪ 80 women leaders; and 2,000 women and men in targeted farming groups	\$100,000.00	UN WOMEN <i>Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection</i> <i>Local Partner (TBD)</i>
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Improve women's access to credit/finance to strengthen agricultural inputs and assets, innovative technologies and extension services through the creation of agricultural Savings and Loan Associations	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	▪ Approximately 1,000 women farmers involved in agricultural activities	\$104,860.00	FAO <i>Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection</i> <i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Support and strengthen the capacity of women's cooperatives to improve their access to markets opportunities, such as the	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River	▪ Approximately 2,000 women and men in	\$235,400.00	WFP <i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>

Purchase for Progress programme, with a focus on Construction of 3 Storage buildings including drying floor, toilet and hand pump; Capitalization stock for CGRs (90 MT locally procured rice); Acquisition of Post-harvest technology and warehouse equipment for 3 CGRs; Capacity building of Women farmer organizations and partners (MoA & MGCSP); and Transportation (shipping and inland transportation) and handling of food commodities to project locations	Gee, and Sinoe (Initial counties)	targeted farming groups		
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth				
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Expand rural women's access to financial services through the expansion of Savings and Loan Associations (SLAs), with a particular focus on piloting training models for agricultural SLAs	Margibi and Grand Bassa (Expansion), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (Initial counties)	▪ 2,000 women and men in targeted farming groups	\$150,000.00	UN WOMEN Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection Local Partner (TBD)
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth				
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Increase the skills of rural women, including girls and young women, in literacy, numeracy and business development	Margibi and Grand Bassa (Expansion), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (Initial counties) including Montserratado	▪ Approximately 1,000 rural women and girls involved in agricultural activities including scattered classes for 500 market women and girls	\$284,295.00	UN WOMEN Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection Local Partners (TBD)
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes				
Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems				
Strengthen rural women's leadership and participation in local governance, particularly in the constitutional reform process	Margibi and Grand Bassa (Expansion), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (Initial counties)	▪ 80 women leaders in targeted farming groups	\$15,000.00	UN WOMEN Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.				

Provide technical assistance to Ministry of Agriculture for local level gender responsive planning and budgeting including support for County Coordinators	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Gender Unit at MoA and 5 CCs in targeted counties 	\$70,000.00	UN WOMEN <i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p>				
Ensure linkages for rural women and young girls to wider programming on SGBV prevention and response, as well as sexual and reproductive health services	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 1,500 women and girls in targeted farming groups 	\$10,000.00	UN WOMEN <i>Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection</i>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p>				
Provide initial technical assistance towards the National Gender Policy mid-term review process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold 2 consultative meetings with stakeholders (UNW, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, & UNMIL) to discuss draft concept note for support to the NGP mid-term evaluation; and Hold 1 consultative meetings with GFPs to discuss the mid-term evaluation, their role in collecting data from their institutions (MACs) for the evaluation. <p>Consideration for the policy's four outcomes: GE mainstreamed; Human rights are guaranteed; Enhanced productivity of women and men; and Increased gender knowledge</p>	Montserrado MGCSP central office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 gender focal points (GFPs) in line ministries and agencies 	\$5,000.00	UN WOMEN <i>Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection</i>
Proposed 2016/2017 Activities for RWEE Programming				
Activity Description	Place of implementation	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Activity cost In USD	Lead Agency
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>				
Work with communities to raise awareness about land tenure and land use rights to promote	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 8,000 women targeted 	100,000	FAO <i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA,</i>

women's equal access to and ownership of land for agricultural production.	River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	under the joint programme		MoGCSP, MoIA, Land Commission, NRWS, EPA
<p>Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth</p> <p>Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p> <p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p> <p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p> <p>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes.</p>				
Advocate with Government of Liberia and financial institutions for rural women's increased access to financial services and products such as savings, credit, insurance, domestic payment services and remittances, and promote better linkages between informal and formal financial services.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	50,000	UN WOMEN UN WOMEN, FAO, MoGCSP, MoFDP, CBL, NAPEX, MFIs, MSMEs, Ministry of Commerce, AWICBT, NRWS, Private Banks
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</p>				
Support Government of Liberia and the private sector to promote rural women's access to critical integrated services (e.g. extension advice and marketing services).	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	125,000	FAO UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, LMA
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>				
Support Government of Liberia to relieve the burden of women's work through the provision of labor-saving technologies, and fuel efficient stoves in targeted communities	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women	100,000	UN WOMEN UN WOMEN, WFP, MoGCSP, MLME, RREA, EPA, AWICBT
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>				
Support rural women's access to critical inputs for agricultural production such as tools, high quality seeds and machinery.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	400,000	FAO UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security.</p> <p>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.</p>				
Organize a learning and sharing event for capturing best practices and lessons learnt within the context of FSN.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 250 of the 8,000 targeted women	100,000	WFP UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, AWICBT

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security.				
Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.				
Organize tours for learning exchange with rural women at national and global levels.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 50 of the 8,000 targeted women	150,000	WFP UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, AWICBT
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Support women-led and women-managed local food reserve systems through food banks, consumer cooperatives and nutrition education, as well as the role of women in men-women systems.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 4,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	400,000	WFP UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, CDA, NRWS
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Strengthen rural women's productive capacities through training and the provision of tools and equipment	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women	350,000	WFP UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				
Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security				
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Enhance the capacities of women-led associations to jointly manage productive assets and to deliver effective services to their members.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 2,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	150,000	FAO UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				
Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security				
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets				
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women				
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes				
Create awareness and support advocacy around Liberia's National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy for government's endorsement and implementation	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 2,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	75,000	WFP UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets				
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women				
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes				
Support government through the Ministry of Agriculture to revise and finalize the National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender issues in Agriculture Programmes and Projects.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ TBD	20,000	UN WOMEN UN WOMEN, FAO, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MIA, NRWS
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				

Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security				
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Support lowland rehabilitation for integrated seed production to improve food and nutrition security and environmental protection.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women (Heads of Households; 83 groups)	300,000	FAO UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MoIA, EPA, NRWS
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth				
Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Support skills building for rural women and girls in business development (3,000 women and girls), adult literacy and numeracy (4,000 women and girls) including for vocational skills – 1,000 women (i.e. tailoring, cosmetology, pastry, catering, soap making, food preservation, etc.)	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	325,000	UN WOMEN UN WOMEN, MoGCSP, MoE, NRWS, THINK, EduCARE, LMA, AWICBT
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth				
Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Support women and girls' access to finance/credit through Savings and Loan Associations, social cash transfer, small grants, MFIs, etc. <i>Rural women's access to training in the V/SLA methodology and the provision of initial funds as start-up capital in support of new SLAs</i>	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	250,000	UN WOMEN FAO, MoGCSP, NRWS, CBL, NAPEX, EduCARE
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth				
Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products				
Strengthen linkages to markets using ICT (i.e. mobile money, price information, market monitoring, etc.)	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 3,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	50,000	UN WOMEN MoGCSP, MICAT, NRWS, LoneStar, Cellcom GSM, Novafone
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes				
Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.				
Support rural women and girls' access to SRH education and services for increased understanding of their reproductive rights and improved family planning.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 4,000 of the 8,000 targeted under the joint programme	25,000	UN WOMEN UNFPA, MoGCSP, MoH, MoE, NRWS, AWICBT
Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security				
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production				
Support rural women led associations or entrepreneurs to	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland,	▪ 2,500 of the 8,000	200,000	FAO

produce food for the home grown school feeding programme.	River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	targeted women		<i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS</i>
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>				
Support rural women's access to solar energy and other innovative technologies (i.e. eco stoves, etc.)	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 500 of the 8,000 targeted women	125,000	UN WOMEN <i>WFP, MoGCSP, MIA, MLME, RREA, EPA, NRWS</i>
<p>Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p> <p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p>				
Create awareness on the rights of rural women on the management of natural resources (land, forests, river, etc.), particularly in concession areas.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	150,000	UN WOMEN <i>FAO, MoGCSP, MIA, EPA, NRWS, Land Commission, FDA</i>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets</p> <p>Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes</p>				
Support the hosting of the annual National Rural women's Conferences 2016/2017 including for the holding of the 2016 national elections.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 500 women delegates	50,000	UN WOMEN <i>FAO, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MIA, NRWS, AWICBT</i>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems</p> <p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p>				
Strengthen rural women, including young women, self-confidence and capacity to take on leadership roles in local governance systems (land committees, land desk officers, community development initiatives) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	10,000	UN WOMEN <i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MIA, NRWS</i>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p>				

<p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p>				
<p>Strengthen rural women's advocacy platforms so that they can engage in regional processes (e.g. NRWS, AWICBT, LMA, etc.) and key policy debates (e.g. Land Rights Bill, Domestic Violence Bill, Constitutional Review Process, Draft Local Governance Bill, and Post MDGs, etc.</p>	<p>Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties</p>	<p>▪ 50 women leaders in targeted communities</p>	<p>20,000</p>	<p>UN WOMEN</p> <p><i>MoGCSP, MoCI, NRWS, LMA, AWICBT, Land Commission, CRC, Governance Commission</i></p>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems.</p> <p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.</p> <p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes.</p>				
<p>Facilitate networking of rural women's organisations (NRWS, AWICBT, etc.) at sub-national and national levels, and their stronger links with the women's movement for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision making processes.</p> <p><i>Facilitate strategic dialogues with established women-based structures and their stronger links with the women's movement in Liberia to ensure strengthened collaboration and coordination for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policies (NGP, Trade Policy, Agriculture Policy, etc.) and decision making processes (CRP, Decentralization, 2017 Elections).</i></p>	<p>Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties</p>	<p>▪ 4,000 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme</p>	<p>10,000</p>	<p>UN WOMEN</p> <p><i>MoGCSP, NRWS, WONGOSOL, AWICBT</i></p>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p>				

Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water) through legal literacy, community dialogues in Peace Huts/Committees, community radios, and other forums and platforms for communication.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 6,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	50,000	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>MoGCSP, Land Commission, NRWS, Peace Huts, AFELL, PUL</i>
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.				
Support rural women and girls to participate in civic education, the Electoral and the Referendum processes.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 3,000 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	10,000	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>MoGCSP, MoE, NEC, NRWS, MICAT</i>
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.				
Provide IEC materials for rural women and girls on human rights issues.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	20,000	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>MoGCSP, MICAT, NRWS, NEC</i>
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
Support the implementation of the revised National Gender Policy through creating increased awareness on the policy via radio talk shows, jingles, printing and dissemination of a simplified version of the policy – depicting simple pictorials and/or illustration explaining the policy. Awareness process to include integration of a training module in the existing adult literacy curriculum on the NGP for educating rural women on the subject.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ TBD	25,000	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>MoGCSP, NRWS, Line Ministries and agencies</i>
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets				
Provide policy assistance to Mainstream gender into food, agriculture, nutrition and rural development policies. <i>Technical assistance and advice for the Ministry of Agriculture</i>	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 150 lawmakers, county authorities, and other relevant actors	10,000	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>FAO, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, Parliament, MIA</i>

<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p> <p>Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p> <p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets</p>				
Advocate and strengthen capacities for the implementation of policies advancing women's land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling, land distribution programmes, and other changes in land law.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ 150 lawmakers, county authorities, and other relevant actors; 2,500 women in targeted communities	10,000	UN WOMEN <i>MoGCSP, NRWS, AFELL, Land Commission, MIA</i>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</p> <p>Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels</p> <p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets</p>				
Create more awareness on the propositions that seek to address gender issues in the Constitution Review and Decentralization processes for consideration by national government	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	▪ The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	10,000	UN WOMEN <i>MoGCSP, CRC, MICAT, NRWS, Governance Commission</i>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p>				
(Norway and Sweden) 2014 – 2015 Already Funded Total:			US\$ 1,288,255	
2016 – 2017 Unfunded Total:			US\$ 3,585,722.43	
2014 – 2017 Grand Total:			US\$ 4,873,977.43	
<p>Each of the above activities are associated with the cost and the timeline for implementation, taking into consideration the agriculture season, partners availability, and foreseen socio economic events. These activities will also form synergies with Early Recovery and Livelihoods initiatives under Liberia's Ebola National Response Plan including the Economic and Stabilization Recovery Plan (<i>i.e. Prioritizing access to finance for farmers and SMEs</i>) in support of post Ebola. For each activity a Lead Agency and government ministry has been identified in the Country Programme document based on the comparative advantage and area of specialisation.</p>				
5. Modality of Activities				
<p>All activities presented above will be implemented by the respective UN agencies through collaborating partners from the Government of Liberia (<i>i.e. Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; and Ministry of Agriculture</i>) including women's civil society organizations, other line ministries and agencies including the private sector. In addition, the joint programme will implement activities through UN Women, WFP, and FAO in direct collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture including other relevant</p>				

line ministries and agencies. This will also include Civil Society (i.e. National Rural Women Structure, Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, WONGOSOL, NAPEX, etc.)

The joint programme is prioritizing rural high risk areas of target, specifically six counties that also include concession / extractive industry areas including one cross border county (Grand Bassa, Margibi, Sinoe, River Gee and Maryland, with high populations of rural women involved in agriculture and traders. The targeted counties were selected after an initial assessment of potential communities. A participatory community assessment enabled the successful identification of key issues affecting the livelihoods of rural women and also key conflict drivers in targeted communities. This also includes the key issues affecting rural women in relation to the availability of land and natural resource management, access to finance, access to agricultural inputs, level of SGBV/SEA, etc. The joint programme initial assessment provided an opportunity to examine pertinent concession contracts affecting the community and to identify any potential source of conflict between the local communities and concessionaires.

The overall approach to implementation will be based on the following principles:

Participation and local ownership of the initiative through catalyzing and supporting women's voices and connecting them with women in similar situations in other communities;

Capacity development through transfer of skills and knowledge which enable the target beneficiaries to gain the confidence, knowledge and tools to advocate on their own behalf;

Dialogue and mutual accountability through institutionalizing mechanisms for ongoing dialogue on issues related to women's security and SGBV and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to monitor progress on improved prevention and response;

Holistic approach to SGBV and women's security through linkages with the women's economic empowerment project to build greater economic security;

Synergies through working with existing structures to support an interconnected platform for community based peacebuilding to increase impact and outreach;

Quality technical assistance developed and delivered in a manner which responds to the profile and needs of the target groups;

Partnerships at the national level between Government, UN Agencies, relevant CSOs and particularly grass root women's groups; and

National advocacy driven by community level experiences through using the Peace Huts as a channel for rural women's voices to inform and influence national and sectorial policies related to peace building, conflict resolution and justice.

6. Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes from the overall programme by activities (as seen in the RWEE Country Action Plan) are reflected as seen below:

Outcome 1: Women [and young girls] in rural Liberia enjoy food security.

- **Output 1.1:** Rural women and adolescent girls have improved access to resources, skills, and services in targeted communities, government and financial institutions.
- **Output 1.2:** Rural women in targeted communities manage food security successfully and in an innovative way.

Outcome 2: Women groups and [rural] associations in Liberia have access to information and skills that secure their livelihoods.

- **Output 2.1:** Rural women possess entrepreneurial skills to run businesses using innovative technologies.
- **Output 2.2:** Rural women participate and benefit from national and global studies [research], study visits and learning events.

Outcome 3: Women and women’s network participate lead in shaping policies in Liberia.

- **Output 3.1:** Rural women [agricultural] organizations are capacitated to articulate needs of rural women.
- **Output 3.2:** Women and Men in targeted communities are aware of women’ rights including of women’s management of natural resources.
- **Output 3.3:** Women have access to SRH education and reproductive health services including SGBV services.
- **Output 3.4:** Sub national and national rural women organizations shape decision making process and influence national dialogue/agenda.


Outcome 4: National policy documents in Liberia support economic security [and ownership over resources] of rural women.

- Output 4.1:** Local and national government stakeholders have skills to apply gender sensitive policy making.
- Output 4.2:** National stakeholders in agriculture practice [pilot] gender sensitive statistical information [on economic empowerment of rural women].
- Output 4.3:** Rural women priorities are reflected and implemented through post 2015 Agenda [sustainable development goals].

7. Budget

PROGRAMME BUDGET (2014 – 2017 - \$ 4,873,977.43)				
Requested at this time (2016 - \$ 1,750,000.00)				
CATEGORY	FAO	WFP	UN WOMEN	TOTAL
1. Staff and Other Personnel Cost	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$195,000.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$100,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$245,000.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	\$150,000.00	\$52,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$252,000.00
4. Contractual Services	\$620,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$2,220,000
5. Travel	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$700,000.00	\$1,450,000.00
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	\$54,588.70	\$54,749.90	\$83,780.00	\$193,118.60
Total Programme Costs	\$1,289,588.70	\$1,266,749.90	\$1,998,780.00	\$4,555,118.60
8. Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	\$90,271.21	\$88,672.49	\$139,914.60	\$318,858.30
TOTAL	\$ 1,379,860	\$ 1,355,422	\$ 2,138,695	\$ 4,873,977

8. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

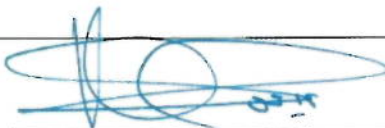


(On behalf of FAO)

Name: Marc Abdala
Title: FAO Country Representative



Date

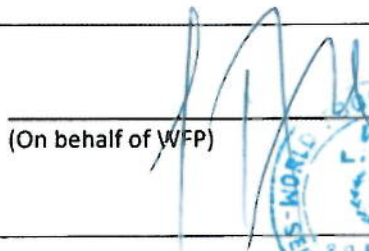


(On behalf of UN WOMEN)

Name: Peterson Magoola
Title: Country Representative / OIC



Date:



(On behalf of WFP)

Name: Sory brahim Ouane
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Date:

9. Official Contacts

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10. Annex

RWEE Country Action Plan (October 2014 – October 2017)

Country name: LIBERIA Lead Agency: UN WOMEN

This Costed Country Action Plan (CCAP) for Liberia details activities that the Country Team can implement within a timeframe beginning October 1, 2014 - October 31, 2017. These activities were approved at country level through a participatory process involving the RWEE Technical Committee which includes representatives from UN Women, WFP, FAO, MoGCSP, and MoA. A high level meeting with national stakeholders and partners was held on identifying Liberia's priorities beyond 2015. Both the UNCT and the Government of Liberia through the Gender and Agriculture ministries have jointly endorsed all activities for the period October 201 – October 2017.

This Plan contributes to Liberia's Agenda for Transformation and the Economic Stabilization and Recovery Plan – Post Ebola is primarily centered on the economic empowerment of rural women. It is indeed aligned to the *Ebola National Response Plan under Early Recovery and Livelihoods*. The objective of the programme is to achieve sustainable poverty reduction through broad-based growth across sectors in rural areas by improving land use, increasing the productivity of agriculture, access to finance and agricultural inputs, enabling graduation from extreme poverty, and connecting rural communities to economic opportunity through improved infrastructure.

In the table below, each priority activity is associated with the cost and the timeline for project implementation taking into consideration the agriculture season, partners availability, and foreseen socio economic events. For each activity a Lead Agency has been identified in the Country Programme document based on the comparative advantage and specialization.

Activity Description	Place of implementation	Expected impact or outcome	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Implementing partners	Starting date	Ending date	Activity cost In USD	Financial support already received in USD	Financial gap to be funded In USD
Strategic mapping and assessment of women's farming groups for future JP RWEE support in targeted counties (by agricultural production area, geographic distribution, size and gender of farming groups, and prioritization of capacity building needs)	Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe	Baseline Information available on women's farming groups and communities selected in the 3 targeted counties for JP RWEE	Approximately 2,000 women and men involved in agricultural activities	WFP	October 2014	December 2014	\$45,022.43	\$0.00	\$45,022.43

		intervention(s)); Communities and farming groups selected for JP RWEE support						
Initial Organizational Development and leadership trainings to support leadership structures and development of by-laws for targeted women's farming groups	Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe	Women's farming groups formally organized and functional in selected communities in the 3 targeted counties	80 women leaders; 2,000 women and men in targeted farming groups	UN WOMEN, MoGCSP, MoA, WFP, FAO	January 2015	February 2015	\$84,400.00	\$84,400.00
Host National Rural Women's Conference with the Liberia Rural Women's Structure including targeted training in leadership and democratic representation, consultations on governance reforms (Constitutional Review and Decentralization), and consultations for the adoption of a roadmap for the JP RWEE and expanded	Maryland (with rural women leaders representing all districts and counties in Liberia)	Increased profile and voice of rural women through the Liberia Rural Women's Structure; Improved cohesion and support to the Rural Women's Structure in line with	225	UN WOMEN, MoGCSP, MoA, WFP, FAO	November 2014	November 2014	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00

<p>support for women's agricultural production through the Rural Women's Structure</p>	<p>national priorities in the Agenda for Transformation</p>	<p>The needs and concerns of rural women across Liberia, particularly the most vulnerable are represented by the Rural Women Structure;</p> <p>Increased profile and voice of rural women through the Liberia Rural Women's Structure; and</p> <p>Improved cohesion and support to the Rural Women's Structure in line with national priorities in</p>	<p>80 women leaders; and 2,000 women and men in targeted farming groups</p>	<p>UN Women <i>Ministry of Gender</i></p>	<p>April 2015</p>	<p>June 2015</p>	<p>\$100,000.00</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>	<p>\$100,000.00</p>
<p>Enhance the organizational capacity of the National Rural Women's Structure to represent the needs and concerns of rural women across Liberia, particularly the most vulnerable</p>	<p>Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)</p>								

Improve women's access to credit/finance to strengthen agricultural inputs and assets, innovative technologies and extension services through the creation of Savings Loan Associations	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	Increased economic security for rural women, (defined by their ability to generate and manage their own income)	Approximately 1,000 women involved in agricultural activities	FAO <i>Ministry of Agriculture</i> <i>Ministry of Gender</i>	April 2015	December 2015	104,860.00	\$0.00	\$104,860.00
Support and strengthen the capacity of women's cooperatives to improve their access to markets opportunities, such as the Purchase for Progress programme, with a focus on Construction of 3 Storage buildings including drying floor, toilet and hand pump; Capitalization stock for CGRs (90 MT locally procured rice); Acquisition of Post-harvest technology and warehouse equipment for 3 CGRs; Capacity building of Women farmer organizations	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	Capacity of women's cooperatives strengthened to improve their access to market opportunities, such as the Purchase for Progress programme (P4P)	Approximately 2,000 women and men in targeted farming groups	WFP <i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>	April 2015	December 2015	\$235,400.00	\$0.00	\$235,400.00

Strengthen rural women's leadership and participation in local governance, particularly in the constitutional reform process	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	Rural women's leadership and participation in local governance, particularly in the constitutional reform process strengthened for increased voice	80 women leaders in targeted farming groups	UN Women Ministry of Gender	April 2015	June 2015	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Provide technical assistance to Ministry of Agriculture for local level gender responsive planning and budgeting including support for County Coordinators	MoA Monrovia Central Office and County offices in Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	Increased technical assistance to MoA for local gender responsive planning and budgeting including support for County Coordinators on Agriculture	1 Gender Unit at MoA Central Office and 5 CCs in targeted counties	UN Women Ministry of Agriculture	February 2015	December 2015	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	\$70,000.00
Ensure linkages for rural women and young girls to wider programming on SGBV prevention and response, as well as sexual and reproductive	Margibi and Grand Bassa (<i>Expansion</i>), Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe (<i>Initial counties</i>)	Increased knowledge and awareness on SGBV prevention and response	Approximately 1,000 rural women and girls involved in	UN Women Ministry of Gender	October 2015	December 2015	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00

health education and services	Montserrado MGCSP central office	coupled with SRH education and services	agricultural activities	UN Women Ministry of Gender	hcrM 2015	2015 IirpA	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
<p>Provide initial technical assistance towards the National Gender Policy mid-term review process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold 2 consultative meetings with stakeholders to discuss draft concept note for support to the NGP mid-term evaluation; and ▪ Hold 1 consultative meetings with GFPs to discuss the mid-term evaluation, their role in collecting data from their institutions (MACs) for the evaluation. 		Increased technical assistance to MGCSP for initial processes leading to a strategic mid-term review of Liberia's National Gender Policy and its implementation status	40 gender focal points (GFPs) in line ministries and agencies						
<p>Work with communities to raise awareness about land tenure and land use rights to promote women's equal access to and ownership of land for agricultural production;</p>	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Women in targeted communities have knowledge and capacity to demand respect of their rights in community	The 8,000 women targeted under the programme	<u>FAO</u> <i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MoIA, Land Commission, NRWS, EPA</i>	March 2016	October 2017	100,000.00	\$0.00	100,000.00

Advocate with Government of Liberia and financial institutions for rural women's increased access to financial services and products such as savings, credit, insurance, domestic payment services and remittances, and promote better linkages between informal and formal financial services;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women have increased access to credit for creating and/or expanding their businesses for improved livelihoods	The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	<u>UN WOMEN</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoGCSP, MoFDP, CBL, NAPEX, MFIs, MSMEs, Ministry of Commerce, AWICBT, NRWS, Private Banks	March 2016	October 2017	50,000	\$0.00	50,000.00
Support Government of Liberia and the private sector to promote rural women's access to critical integrated services (e.g. extension advice and marketing services);	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are accessing extension advice and marketing services	The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	<u>FAO</u> UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, LMA	March 2016	December 2016	125,000	\$0.00	125,000.00
Support Government of Liberia to relieve the burden of women's work through the provision of labour-saving technologies, and	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Government is supporting rural women to access labour-saving technologies,	2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>UN WOMEN</u> UN WOMEN, WFP, MoGCSP, MLME, RREA, EPA, AWICBT	March 2016	October 2017	100,000	\$0.00	100,000.00

fuel efficient stoves in targeted communities;			and fuel efficient stoves.										
Support rural women's access to critical inputs for agricultural production such as tools, high quality seeds and machinery;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women farmers are accessing tools, high quality seeds and machineries	The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	<u>FAO</u> UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS	March 2016	October 2017	400,000.00	\$0.00	400,000.00				400,000.00
Organize a learning and sharing event for capturing best practices and lessons learnt within the context of FSN;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Best practices and lessons learnt are being considered for addressing issues in attempt to ensure a successful implementation of the joint programme.	250 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>WFP</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, AWICBT	November 2016	November 2016	100,000.00	\$0.00	100,000.00				100,000.00
Organize tours for learning exchange with rural women at national and global levels;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are participating in tours for learning exchange	50 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>WFP</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS, AWICBT	July 2016	November 2016	150,000.00	\$0.00	150,000.00				150,000.00
Support women-led and women-managed local food reserve systems through food banks, consumer cooperatives and nutrition education, as well as the role of	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	women-managed local food reserve systems are functional and women are	4,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>WFP</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, CDA, NRWS	March 2016	October 2017	400,000.00	\$0.00	400,000.00				400,000.00

women in men-women systems;		accessing services										
Strengthen rural women's productive capacities through training and the provision of tools and equipment;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are engaged in food processing, storage, and post-harvest handling	2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>WFP</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS	March 2016	October 2017	350,000.00	\$0.00	350,000.00			350,000.00
Enhance the capacities of women-led associations to jointly manage productive assets and to deliver effective services to their members;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Women led associations have the capacity to jointly manage productive assets and to deliver effective services to their members	2,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>FAO</u> UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS	March 2016	October 2017	150,000.00	\$0.00	150,000.00			150,000.00
Support training on nutrition education and training;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Women have access to nutrition and training services	2,500 women in targeted communities	<u>WFP</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, MoE, NRWS	March 2016	December 2016	50,000.00	\$0.00	50,000.00			50,000.00
Create awareness and support advocacy around Liberia's National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy for government's endorsement and implementation;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women and households have improved food security and nutrition	2,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>WFP</u> UN WOMEN, FAO, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS	March 2016	December 2016	75,000.00	\$0.00	75,000.00			75,000.00

Support government through the Ministry of Agriculture to revise and finalize the National Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Agriculture Programmes and Projects;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Gender is mainstreamed in food security and nutrition	TBD	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>UN WOMEN, FAO, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MIA, NRWS</i>	March 2016	October 2017	20,000.00	\$0.00	20,000.00
Support lowland rehabilitation for integrated seed production to improve food and nutrition security and environmental protection;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are engaged in lowland farming for improved food and nutrition security and environmental protection	2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women (Heads of Households; 83 groups)	<u>FAO</u> <i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MoIA, EPA, NRWS</i>	March 2016	October 2017	300,000.00	\$0.00	300,000.00
Support diversification of agricultural production to include crops and animals husbandry (Piggery, Fish pond, Small Ruminants, Poultry, etc.);	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are engaged in diversified agricultural production that includes crops and animals husbandry	2,500 women in targeted communities	<u>FAO</u> <i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS</i>	March 2016	October 2017	250,000.00	\$0.00	250,000.00
Support skills building for rural women and girls in business development (3,000 women and girls), adult literacy and numeracy (4,000 women and girls) including for vocational	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Women have improved skills to better manage their livelihoods	The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>UN WOMEN, MoGCSP, MoE, NRWS, THINK, EduCARE, LMA, AWICBT</i>	March 2016	October 2017	325,000.00	\$0.00	250,000.00

skills – 1,000 women (i.e. tailoring, cosmetology, pastry, catering, soap making, food preservation, etc.)												
Support women and girls' access to finance/credit through Savings and Loan Associations, social cash transfer, small grants, MFIs, etc.;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Women and girls have access to finance through SLAs, small grants, and direct social cash transfer	The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	<u>UN WOMEN</u> FAO, MoGCSP, NRWS, CBL, NAPEX, EduCARE	March 2016	October 2017	250,000.00	\$0.00	250,000.00			
Strengthen linkages to markets using ICT (i.e. mobile money, price information, market monitoring, etc.);	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are using ICT to access services on mobile money, price information, market monitoring, etc.	3,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP, MICAT, NRWS, Lone Star, Cellcom GSM, Novafone	March 2016	December 2016	50,000.00	\$0.00	50,000.00			
Support rural women and girls' access to SRH education and services for increased understanding of their reproductive rights and improved family planning;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women and girls have access to improved SRH education and services; teenage pregnancy reduced	4,000 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>UN WOMEN</u> UNFPA, MoGCSP, MoH, MoE, NRWS, AWICBT	March 2016	October 2017	25,000	\$0.00	25,000.00			
Support rural women led associations or entrepreneurs to	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River	Rural women led associations	2,500 of the 8,000	<u>FAO</u>	March 2016	October 2017	200,000.00	\$0.00	200,000.00			

produce food for the home grown school feeding programme;	Gee, and Sinoe Counties	are producing food for the home grown school feeding programme	targeted women	<i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, NRWS</i>	March 2016	October 2017	125,000.00	\$0.00	125,000.00
Support rural women's access to solar energy and other innovative technologies (i.e. eco stoves, etc.);	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are accessing solar energy and other innovative technologies (i.e. eco stoves, etc.);	500 of the 8,000 targeted women	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>WFP, MoGCSP, MIA, MLME, RREA, EPA, NRWS</i>	March 2016	October 2017	150,000.00	\$0.00	150,000.00
Create awareness on the rights of rural women on the management of natural resources (land, forests, river, etc.), particularly in concession areas;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women are aware of their rights in the management of natural resources (land, forests, river, etc.), particularly in concession areas;	The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>FAO, MoGCSP, MIA, EPA, NRWS, Land Commission, FDA</i>	March 2016	October 2017	50,000.00	\$0.00	50,000.00
Support the hosting of the annual National Rural women's Conferences 2016/2017 including for the holding of the 2016 national elections;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	The NRWS is representing rural women across all sectors and a new leadership is actively engage with government and the	500 women delegates	<u>UN WOMEN</u> <i>FAO, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MIA, NRWS, AWICBT</i>	November 2016	December 2016	50,000.00	\$0.00	50,000.00

Strengthen rural women, including young women, self-confidence and capacity to take on leadership roles in local governance systems (land committees, land desk officers, community development initiatives) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs);	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women and girls have increased self-confidence and the capacity to take leadership roles in local governance	2,500 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	UN WOMEN <i>UN WOMEN, WFP, MoA, MoGCSP, MIA, NRWS</i>	February 2016	October 2017	10,000.00	\$0.00	10,000.00
Support SLAs, cooperatives and unions to make their governance more transparent, effective, accountable, gender equitable and age inclusive through: implementing gender policies and strategies (NGP, NSMGI, etc.); and providing managerial and leadership training;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	There is increased accountability and transparency with SLAs, cooperatives and unions	2,500 women in targeted communities	UN WOMEN <i>FAO, MoGCSP, MoA, NRWS, CDAs, AWICBT</i>	February 2016	October 2017	75,000.00	\$0.00	75,000.00
Strengthen rural women's advocacy platforms so that they can engage in regional processes (e.g. NRWS, AWICBT, LMA, etc.) and key policy debates (e.g.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	The NRWS and the AWICBT are engaged with regional processes and key policy	50 women leaders in targeted communities	UN WOMEN <i>MoGCSP, MoCI, NRWS, LMA, AWICBT, Land Commission, CRC,</i>	February 2016	October 2017	20,000.00	\$0.00	20,000.00

Land Rights Bill, Domestic Violence Bill, Constitutional Review Process, Draft Local Governance Bill, and Post MDGs, etc.;		debates (e.g. Land Rights Bill, Domestic Violence Bill, Constitutional Review Process, Draft Local Governance Bill, etc.							
Facilitate networking of rural women's organisations (NRWS, AWICBT, etc.) at sub-national and national levels, and their stronger links with the women's movement for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision making processes;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	NRWS, LMA, and the AWICBT are engaged with advocacy work with the MRU and ECOWAS for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision making processes	4,000 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	UN WOMEN MoGCSP, NRWS, WONGOSOL, AWICBT	February 2016	October 2017	10,000.00	\$0.00	10,000.00
Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water) through legal literacy, community dialogues in Peace	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women have increased understanding of their rights at the	6,000 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint	UN WOMEN MoGCSP, Land Commission, NRWS, Peace	February 2016	October 2017	50,000.00	\$0.00	50,000.00

Huts/Committees, community radios, and other forums and platforms for communication;			level and are engaging men to ensure that those rights are respected	programme	Huts, AFELL, PUL					
Support rural women and girls to participate in civic education, the Electoral and the Referendum processes.	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women and girls are well-informed about their civic duties and are engaged with existing process in support of Liberia's Electoral and the Referendum processes	3,000 of the 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme		<u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP, MoE, NEC, NRWS, MICAT	February 2016	October 2017	10,000.00	\$0.00	10,000.00
Provide IEC materials for rural women and girls on human rights issues;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Rural women and girls are more knowledgeable about their human rights	The 8,000 women targeted under the joint programme		<u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP, MICAT, NRWS, NEC	February 2016	December 2016	20,000.00	\$0.00	20,000.00
Support the implementation of the revised National Gender Policy through creating increased awareness on the policy via radio talk shows, jingles, printing and dissemination of a	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	There is increased understanding of GEWE with rural populations, and Liberia is exhibiting a	TBD		<u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP, NRWS, Line Ministries and agencies	February 2016	October 2017	25,000.00	\$0.00	25,000.00

simplified version of the policy – depicting simple pictorials and/or illustration explaining the policy. Awareness process to include integration of a training module in the existing adult literacy curriculum on the NGP for educating rural women on the subject;										
Provide policy assistance to: Mainstream gender into food, agriculture, nutrition and rural development policies. Advocate and strengthen capacities for the implementation of policies advancing women's land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling, land distribution programmes and other changes in land law;	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Gender mainstreamed into food, agriculture, and nutrition, and rural development policies; Women's land rights are exercised at the national and sub-national levels	150 lawmakers, county authorities, and other relevant actors; 2,500 women in targeted communities	<u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP, MIA, MICAT, NRWS	February 2016	October 2017	20,000.00	\$0.00	20,000.00	
Create more awareness on the propositions that seek to address gender issues in the Constitution Review and Decentralization processes for consideration by	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties	Gender issues are addressed in the revised version of the Constitution and is mainstreamed throughout	The 8,000 targeted women under the joint programme	<u>UN WOMEN</u> MoGCSP, MIA, MICAT, NRWS	February 2016	October 2017	10,000.00	\$0.00	10,000.00	

national government;
and

the
decentralizzati
on process.

Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%):

\$ 318,858.30	\$ 0.00	\$ 318,858.30
\$ 4,873,977.43	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,873,977.43

TOTAL

Sustainability

The RWEE Liberia Country Programme's economic empowerment model is designed to ensure sustainability and community ownership, building the capacity of local trainers and utilizing the revolving savings and loan associations (SLAs) to provide long-term solutions for women's access to savings, insurance and credit facilities. Based on lessons learned through the previous Government of Liberia and United Nations joint programming in economic empowerment, women / girls participating in the programme will receive training in business skills combined with efforts to form SLAs. This not only provides the skills for personal and business financial management, but also ensures they have a safe and secure facility for managing their profits, accessing safety nets, and receiving credit.

Women who are illiterate will have a special track for improving their literacy and numeracy skills, while participating in the business training. Specific methods for sustainability include:

Local trainers: All trainers for SLAs, literacy and business classes are recruited from within the local communities and go through an extensive training of trainers, coaching and mentoring method for developing their training skills. In particular, the model draws on community women to start as facilitators and to develop the confidence and skills to take over the full training course. Women within the class can then rely on this trainer as a mentor for guidance and assistance after classes finish. In addition, many of the trainers who have implemented these classes in the past, have continued offering the classes after the project closes, charging small fees to women who wish to attend.

Community women extension agents: Based on the lessons from past interventions, the joint programme will identify strong women with experience in Savings and Loan Associations to participate in a detailed training session to gain certification under the Central Bank of Liberia as "SLA Extension Agents". These women will then be able to serve as monitors for the Central Bank of Liberia, as well as to provide technical services to women's SLAs for a reasonable fee. Examples of such services include: record keeping verification, assistance with loan / bank applications, supervision of year-end share outs, facilitating changes to an SLA's constitution.

Central Bank Loan Extension Availability Facility: Savings and Loan Associations have the opportunity to apply to the Central Bank of Liberia for access to low-interest loans to increase the amount of capital that they are able to on-lend to their members. These linkages will be established through the project and serve as an exit strategy for ongoing financial support to the women.

Risk management

Risk	Likelihood (high, medium low)	Severity of impact on project (high, medium, low)	Mitigating Strategy
Conflict spill over / instability in neighbouring countries (particularly Cote D'Ivoire and Guinea)	Low	High	Incorporate early warning sign training and mechanisms within interventions in all communities; Coordination with security sector
Change in focus and priorities during the 2017 Presidential and Representatives elections	Medium	Low	Prioritize launch and initiation of all activities in late 2014 and the first quarter of 2015; Develop and implement clear communication strategy to manage expectations and understanding of the project and its beneficiaries with targeted communities, participants and local authorities during assessment and monitoring visits.
Project and participation becomes politicized	Medium	Medium	Ensure clear guidelines for recruitment in the project activities, regardless of political party;

			Implement clear communication strategy to manage expectations and understanding of the project and its beneficiaries with targeted communities, participants and local authorities.
Community conflicts with concession companies disrupt economic activity	Low	Medium	Utilize community structures, including the existing peace huts implemented under the "Women as Peacemakers and Nation builders" project, as a forum to foster constructive exchange between companies and communities.
Access to Finance initiatives mismanaged and/or become source of internal conflict for women.	Medium	Medium	Clear communication strategy with all participants; Participatory development of Association rules and constitution; Rigorous and random monitoring of partners and implementation.
As women's economic independence increases, they experience increased rates of domestic violence	Medium	Low	Hold introduction sessions with male leaders, husbands and boyfriends at the start of the interventions; Link with other programmes in the community that are engaging men (including Peace Huts) to engage men in dialogues on women's economic rights, household contributions and the prevention of violence.

Systems for M&E of the project (portfolio):

Monitoring the results in the log frame will require the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, including a baseline and end line survey of all women / young women participating in the training and access to finance programmes, a qualitative survey for a representative sample of women in cross border trade, as well as a qualitative survey for a representative sample of community women on the issues of natural resource management and land.

In addition to collecting survey data, monitoring of implementing partners will take place on a regular basis, and structured, participatory joint monitoring missions will be conducted every 6 months, with active participation from civil society Board members and stakeholders from the technical team.

The M&E Coordinator (MoGCSP), with supervision from the National Coordinator (UN WOMEN), will have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the M&E Plan, as well as coordinating with the M&E experts in UN WOMEN, WFP, and FAO.

Following the analysis of M&E data, the National Coordinator will have the responsibility of reporting the findings to the RWEE UN/GoL National Steering Committee.