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| O HCHR MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT OF A PROJECT TO SUPPORT NATIONAL PEACEBUILDING PRIORITIES IN ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND ENTITIES  Project funded by: Peace Building Fund and Liberia Multi Partner Trust Fund |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | May 2019 | |



Quote

*QUOTE*

*“When the fundamental principles of human rights are not protected, the center of our institution no longer holds. It is they that promote development that is sustainable; peace that is secure; and lives of dignity.”*

*– Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein*

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Acronyms

CBO Community Based Organisation

CSOs Community Support Organisation

FGM Female Genital Mutilation

INCHR Independent National Commission on Human Rights

NRC Norwegian Refuge Council

NGO Non- Governmental Organisation

OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights

PAPD pro Poor Agenda for Transformation and Development \

SGBV Sexual Gender Based Violence

# **CHAPTER ONE**

# **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

# **1.1 Introduction**

This monitoring and evaluation report presents results of a project implemented by OHCHR: *‘Support to National Peacebuilding priorities in enhancing the capacity of human rights institutions and entities’* with financial support from Peace Building Fund and Multi- Partner Trust Fund. The project was implemented in all fifteen counties of Liberia namely: Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Margibi, Mary land, Montserrado, Nimba, River Gee, Rivercess and Sinoe. The current monitoring and evaluation exercise sampled six out of the fifteen counties. This includes: Bomi, Margibi, Bong, Nimba , Grand Bassa and Montserado.

The report highlights main findings on results of OHCHR human rights promotion interventions (human rights education initiatives such as capacity building; training; technical assistance; human rights awareness raising, information dissemination) and human rights protection interventions (human rights monitoring, investigations, documentation and reporting).

The report also showcases best practices, lessons learnt and challenges faced by various national and sub national interlocutors in advancing peace building efforts through human rights promotion and protection; and key recommendations to consolidate gains and results achieved by the project.

# **1.2 Background**

The project set out to support national peacebuilding priorities through enhancement of the capacity of human rights institutions and entities through human rights promotion and protection interventions. The project also sought to contribute to ongoing peace building initiatives to address identified conflict triggers[[1]](#footnote-1), which led to Liberian Civil war and continue to remain largely unaddressed[[2]](#footnote-2). As Liberia transitions from post conflict to reconstruction and development phase; analysis of capacities of national institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) at national and sub-national level highlighted the need for more technical support to strengthen and consolidate gains towards sustaining peace through inculcating a culture of respect for human rights human rights promotion and protection initiatives.

In order to ensure that the project achieved its results, the theory of change below was used to guide project implementation.

**Theory of Change**

**IF** harmful and discriminatory traditional practices are eradicated and;

**IF** traditional justice systems, institutional and legal frameworks undermining human rights of citizens and especially women and children are strengthened and made human rights responsive and;

**IF** national institutions including security agencies, INCHR and civil society organization and United Nations institutions are capacitated to promote, protect and monitor human right violations;

**THEN** the culture of human rights will be embedded amongst Liberians and institutions;

**BECAUSE** citizens including women, youth, children and other marginalised groups can claim their rights and justice while institutions will have the capacity and the tools to ensure the enforcement of international and national human rights commitments and legal frameworks.

The project comprised of two expected outcomes and six outputs as presented in the below:

**Outcome 1** Strengthened capacity of government, INCHR and Civil Society and Community based Organizations in human rights protection and promotion through increased human rights accountability mechanisms, monitoring, reporting and advocacy for a sustained peace, reconciliation and conflict prevention.

**Output 1.1:** Strengthened state human rights protection mechanisms and systems to meet international human rights treaty obligations and particularly address SGBV, HTP and discrimination against marginalized groups.

**Output 1.2:** Increased capacity of INCHR to support the realization of human rights, the achievement of national strategic objectives, and the integration of rights based approaches within government national strategies including for national reconciliation and sustained peace.

**Output 1.3:** Increased CSO human rights monitoring, reporting, advocacy, and collaboration with INCHR, as well as engagement with government for effective human rights accountability.

**Outcome 2.** Human rights culture enhanced through continued provision of independent field monitoring, mentoring, advisory services and technical assistance to national institutions/actors and the UNCT for a sustained peace after UNMIL’s closure.

**Output 2.1**: Human rights situation in Liberia monitored documented and reported upon including responses of national capacities to address and realise human rights observance in Liberia

**Output2.2**: OHCHR leads Human Rights Working Groups (HRWG) including Protection of Civilians (PoC) strategy and Rights up Front for the UNCT and provides guidance on the integration of human rights based approaches in UNDAF programming to support government peace building priorities, AfT and treaty obligations for sustainable peace, reconciliation and conflict prevention

**Output 2.3:** OHCHR expertise and qualified staffing fulfils the implementation of Outcomes 1&2.

The project was implemented by OHCHR Liberia country office in cooperation with key institutional and civil society partners. A total 12 personnel were recruited in 2018. This includes: One(1) P.5 Male-Country Representative; One 1) P.4 (Male) -Deputy Representative-(temporary), One(1) P.3(M)- Human Rights Officer; Three(3)- (2 Female/1Male) International Volunteers Human Rights Officers, two(2), NOB-(2 Male) Human Rights Officers; two(2) Administrative and Finance Officers one(1) ( NOA) Female and one(1) female, G6 Consultant; Two(2) , G-3 (Male)Drivers.

The project hired key substantive and administrative personnel to implement the project. OHCHR spent a total budget of Two million United States dollars (USD 2,000,000) with USD 1, 600,000 funded by Peace Building fund and 680,000 co-funded by the Government of Sweden.

# **1.3 The objectives of the evaluation**

1. Find out change arising from OHCHR human Rights promotion and protection activities (change at individual, organisational and community level).
2. To document lessons learned, innovations and good practices to highlight project results.
3. To make recommendations to inform OHCHR management decision making and strategic programme direction to consolidate achievements and address gaps in future projects– including in the area of gender equality, peace and security.

# **Chapter Two**

# **Methodology and methods**

# **2.1 Methodology**

The evaluation exercise used both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

# **2.2 Qualitative methodology**

OHCHR team used qualitative methods such as focused group discussions, reflections and key informant interviews.

# **2.3 Quantitative research methods**

Survey method was employed in the evaluation exercise to generate quantitative and numerical information through questionnaires. OHCHR conducted a desk review of relevant literature from project reports, UNCT reports and other studies to triangulate findings of the evaluation exercise. In determination of sample population, OHCHR used a sample table developed by Krejcie and Morgan (1970). A sample population of 45 was selected with a corresponding sample size of 40 respondents. Over all a total of 40 respondents participated in the evaluation exercise. Five research methods were used to collect data, this included (FGDs, Key informant interview, desk reviews, survey and telephone interviews).

# **2.3.1 Sample design**

# **2.3.2 Purposive sampling technique**

The evaluator used purposive sampling technique to identify the respondents. The technique was most preferred because allows a researcher to select suitable respondents based on subject matter expertise.

***The distribution of respondents by category and gender***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Category | Gender | | Total | Method |
| **Female** | **Male** |
| **1** | CSOs(includes representative of PWDs, youth and women) | 4 | 23 | 27 | Face to face interview |
| **2** | Liberia National Police |  | 2 | 2 | Face-to face interview |
| **3** | Traditional leader | 1 | 1 | 2 | Face-to face interview |
| **4** | INCHR Personnel | 4 | 5 | 9 | Email questionnaire administration |
| **Total** | | **9** | **35** | **40** |  |

Figure 1: Table showing distribution of respondents by category and gender

# **Chapter Three**

# **Analysis and Findings**

# 3.1 Main Findings

# **3.2 Introduction**

This chapter presents key findings from respondents on the change in learning which occurred because of OHCHR capacity building and trainings. It highlights voices of recipients of OHCHR training and it provides evidence of change at individual, organisational level demonstrating the impact of human rights knowledge and skills in bringing a positive change in the communities.

# Change at individual level arising from OHCHR trainings

Below are voices of some of the respondents:

# Fighting against FGM in the communities

*I attended two human rights training organized in Ganta and Barnga by OHCHR on human rights standards Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and harmful traditional practices. The trainings changed my mind-set about rights of women and girls. Before I used to threaten my daughter that I will take her to the Bush schools were she can go and be trained to become a woman and to undergo Female Genital Mutilation. After OHCHR training, I told my daughter that I would no longer take her to the bush schools. The relationship between my daughter and me has since changed and we are very close to each other now. The training changed my mind-set and it is clear that it is important for us to teach our children from home without subjecting them to bush schools. I was able to mobilize 40 rural women after attending OHCHR training to create awareness on children’s rights and to persuade them not to take their children for FGM. Some of the women have talked to their children and they are now able to say no to FGM*  **(Janet Flomo, human rights activists, Nimba County).**

# **3.2 Analysis of Relevance of human rights trainings**

OHCHR administered questionnaires by email to 11 INCHR personnel comprising of both commissioners and human rights officers. Four (4) out of the eleven (11) personnel responded to questionnaires.

# **3.2.1 Assessment of level of change in knowledge on thematic human rights issues arising from OHCHR capacity building programmes**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assessing change in the level of knowledge on human rights issues arising from OHCHR trainings | | | | | | | |
| Variables | Rating grid:1(low) to 6 (high) | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| International and regional human rights standards and protection mechanism |  |  | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Human rights obligations of the government |  |  |  | 2 | 2 |  |
| Monitoring legislation and policies |  |  | 2 | 2 |  |  |
| Mmonitoring violations of human rights |  |  |  | 3 | 1 |  |
| Monitoring budgets to assess government commitment in allocation of available resources for progressive realization of human rights | 1 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Human rights indicators to track progress on realization of human rights |  | 3 |  | 1 |  |  |
| Reporting on thematic human rights issues |  | 2 |  | 2 |  |  |
| Mechanism for protection of human rights through quasai- judicial function | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |  |  |
| Total | 3 | 11 | 6 | 12 | 5 |  |

# **3.2.2 Analysis of level of knowledge on human rights thematic issues among INCHR personnel**

[Figure 2: Bar Graph showing level of understanding on thematic human rights.7](#_Toc8830170).. **Source: Raw data, 2019**

The above graph presents the level of knowledge and understanding of INCHR Commissioners and human rights officers on thematic issues. The rating grid has a score grid of 1 (low) to 6(high).in line with the above graph, only three (staffs) out four mentioned that they had some understanding on human rights indicators, monitoring budgets and monitoring violations of human rights with the highest rating of 3.

The second highest score were majority of staff gave a r rating of two (2) indicates a significantly low level of knowledge on methodologies for monitoring budgets, limited understanding of human rights indicators framework , reporting on thematic human rights issues and low levels of knowledge on quasai-judicial functions of the Commission.

Feedback from Key informant interviews with INCHR was triangulated with feedback from the questionnaires, majority of INCHR personnel alluded to the fact that the trainings are relevant to their work. Below are illustrative examples of comments from key informant interviews in verbatim:

*The information provided by OHCHR in human rights trainings is relevant to the thematic programme work of INCHR, practically, I am using the information provided by OHCHR to conduct human rights monitoring, advocacy and routine activities of the office.*

*OHCHR has strengthened INCHR capacity in the field ( we are only two people in the county) so OHCHR training has enhanced networking with the strategy of training other CBOs and groups has helped INCHR field monitors to strengthen human rights education.*

*The added value that OHCHR has brought to INCHR is capacity building on networking , reporting and documentation of human rights, investigation of cases and ensuring gender sensitive in programming* ***(INCHR field monitor in Margibi County)***

# **3.2.4 Relevance of OHCHR training to CSOs and traditional leaders**

Feedback from CSOs and traditional leaders reveal that OHCHR capacity building has largely influenced human rights programmatic work of both CSOs and traditional leaders.

Voices of some of the CSOs represented was record verbatim as follows:

*OHCHR training is very relevant, although more work needs to be done on civic education (human rights, demystify myth around human rights). For example, majority of people feel that human rights has come to spoil the children. Before the training, I would not have done all the interventions, which I am now making. I now know human rights issues and am able to take action using appropriate channels (Executive Director, Prison Fellowship, margibi).*

# **3.2.5 Analysis of Effectiveness and Efficiency**

Analysis of feedback from the four respondents on the different variables used for assessing effectiveness of OHCHR training were as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Assessing effectiveness of OHCHR trainings | | | | | | | |
| Variables | Rating grid: 1(low) to 6 (high) | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Quality of OHCHR training |  |  | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Effectiveness of human rights training in building the capacity of INCHR |  |  | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| contribution of OHCHR human rights training to broader societal change |  |  | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Total |  |  | **3** | **3** | **6** |  |

# **3.2.6 Analysis of effectiveness of OHCHR trainings**

[Figure 3: Bar Graph showing analysis of nder 7](#_Toc8830708)

**Graph 1: Source of data- Raw data, May 2019**

The above graph presents an assessment of effectiveness of OHCHR trainings to INCHR personnel; two personnel gave a high rating of five (5) indicating significantly high level of effectiveness in terms of the different variables such as quality, effectiveness in building capacity of INCHR personnel, contribution to broader social change.

Three INCHR gave OHCHR an average rating of four (4), while three (3) felt the trainings were moderately effective with a score grid of three.

# **3.2.7 Efficiency**

The cost benefit analysis shows that the project resources has been utilised efficiently in line with OHCHR and PBF financial procedures and guidelines.

# **3.2.8 Analysis of impact of the project**

* Key respondents raised concerns over measuring the impact of the project considering that the project was implemented within a very short timeframe of eighteen months (January 2018-June 2019). Impact evaluation requires long-term programming between 5-10 years. In light of this, the short time frame rendered it difficult to evaluate the impact of the project.
* INCHR recommended that, in order to achieve long-term impact in strengthening capacities of national institutions and entities, there is need for more capacity building to increase the knowledge of staff on human rights to inform effective engagement with the different arms of the government.
* OHCHR has supported INCHR to mobilise resources for its operations and programmes, which will enable consolidation of gains made under PBF project.
* Increasingly citizens, communities, and community-based organisations are becoming aware of rights and responsibilities this reducing incidences of domestic violence and respecting rights of women to decision-making, property ownership, education and work.

# **3.2.9 Analysis of Sustainability**

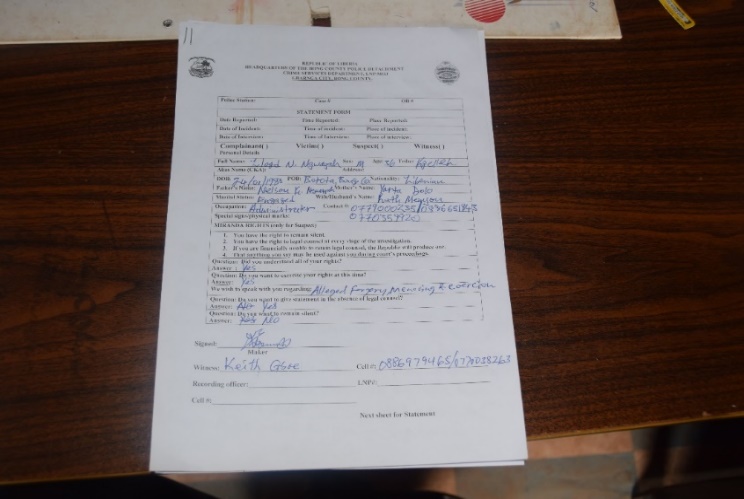
* There is need to support CSOs at county level to access small grants to strengthen their capacities to carry on with human rights work.
* There is need to support CSO periodic meetings to ensure better coordination to sustain the gains made in promoting human rights.
* There is need for more logistical support to CSOs and INCHR field staff.
* OHCHR should consider conducting TOT for senior officers to train other lower cadre officers.
* There is need to conduct more refresher trainings after 3 months; the training should also target different departments within the police including (Patrol, Women and Children, CID).

# **3.3.1 Lessons learnt, Good Practices and Human interest stories**

# **3.3.2 Lessons learnt**

There is need to educate community leaders on human rights so that they can reach out the broader community (multi-plier effect). Based on emerging concerns in the community such as mob action. The police recommended that there is need to organize community policing outreach initiatives to conduct legal education and jurisdiction of different entities on handling criminal cases including defining the roles and responsibilities of community actors within the criminal justice system.

# **3.3.3 Good Practices**



**Statement form designed by Detective Flomo in Bong Police Station to sensitize suspect of their rights during and after arrest**

After the training, the detective designed a statement form. The form is currently being used in Bong police station to sensitise suspects of their rights before recording their statements. Police officers read pre-trial human rights legal safeguards highlighting rights of suspects, the suspects then consent to take their statements or request to remain silent. This demonstrates a best practice on how the police can regain public confidence.

# **3.3.4 Human- interest stories**

# **3.3.4.1 Fighting against FGM in the communities**

*I attended two human rights training organized in Ganta and Barnga by OHCHR on human rights standards Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and harmful traditional practices. The trainings changed my mindset about rights of women and girls. Before I used to threaten my daughter that I will take her to the Bush schools were she can go and be trained to become a woman and to undergo Female Genital Mutilation. After OHCHR training, I told my daughter that I would no longer take her to the bush schools. The relationship between my daughter and me has since changed and we are very close to each other now. The training changed my mind-set and it is clear that it is important for us to teach our children from home without subjecting them to bush schools.*

*I was able to mobilize 40 rural women after attending OHCHR training to create awareness on children’s rights and to persuade them not to take their children for FGM. Some of the women have talked to their children and they are now able to say no to FGM* **(Janet Flomo, human rights activists, Nimba County).**

# **Sylone a14 year old girl joins in sensitizing peers at school to say no to FGM**

*Flomo standing fourth from the left and her daughter Sylone standing second from the left and other young girls to say no to FGM in their community in Nimba County.*



*My mother used to speak to me rudely and threaten to take me to bush school. After wards she changed and told me that, ‘I will no longer take you to bush school and subject you to FGM ritual. Bush school will not help you to achieve much, so you should stay and go to school and study’.*

*When my mother told me not to go to the bush school were FGM is practiced; I was very happy. My mother is now teaching me all the things such as cooking, sweeping and cleaning. In future, I want to become a lawyer to protect people’s rights* ***(Sylone Dgblahpue, 14, sixth Grade,)***

Detective Flomo; the Commander of Ground Services Department in Bong Police station, Bong County attended OHCHR training on human rights standards applicable to law enforcement. He shared his experience with OHCHR, that before attend the training, officers in his department used to detain suspects between 3-4 days.

However, after the training, he understood that there is need to respect human rights of suspects consequently, right now he ensures that he provides oversight in checking the detention book on regular basis to ensure that there are no cases of pro-longed detention. The detective also noted that, although the police faced numerous logistical challenges such as transportation, Detective Flomo has continued to advance promotion of human rights; he has been able to brief his colleagues on human rights issues and has reached out to Twelve (12) personnel from his department. ‘*I have noticed that members of my department are observing the 48-hour rule. Previous the officer would assault, intimidate suspects and obtain statement from the suspects in the absence of legal counsel but this has changed; says Detective Flomo.*

# **3.3.4.2 Traditional leaders play a key role as agents of change in advocating for human rights**

Mr. Gailon A Gosah, a vice chairperson for National traditional Council of Margbi attended human rights training organized by OHCHR were he learnt about human rights, harmful practices, and its consequences. Mr. Gailon had this to say:

*‘Before the training, I did not know how to respect someone’s rights, we never had time for gender issues, as a man I felt that what I said on any matter was final. However, after the training, I learnt that it is not good to interfere with the rights of others.*

In April 2019, I had a traditional council meeting, which was by 60 traditional leaders comprising of native Superintendent, Paramount Chief, Commissioner, Clan Chiefs and general Town Chief and Elders. I used the opportunity to tell the council members on the importance of education, and that the regular school is good as a result, there is a reduction in the number of women pushing their children to go to the bush school.

*On April 4, two people were arrested by police on suspicion of ritualistic killing of a 25-year-old man who was found dead in the bush with most of his body parts missing in Saclepea district. On 7 April, additional arbitrary arrests of 13 persons was made following attempted mob action and reprisal against the two suspects who were reportedly suspected to have conducted the ritualistic killing. The mob attempted to intercept the two suspects while on transit to Police HQ in Sannaquelie. Through INCHR intervention, 10 suspects out of the 13 initially arrested were released. INCHR conducted background checks and made contacts with relevant sureties leading to release of 10 suspects on bond after spending one week in police detention contrary to the 48-hour rule* ***(INCHR field Monitor, Nimba County)***

*INCHR Buchanna Visited Prison in February 2019 and met 96 inmates in a prison meant for 47 inmates. They interviewed 13 inmates (10 was found to have committed minor offences such theft of property and simple assault). INCHR engaged with County Judge, Joe S. Barkon, to advocate release because of prolong imprisonment without being tried.*

*County Judge visited prison to verify and on March 1st after reviewing inmate’s folders order the release of all 10 inmates interviewed by INCHR monitor (Christian Tweh, Emmanuel William, Morris T. Johnson, Emmanuel Wesseh, Samuel Garjar, Garmonyou, Alex Joe, Daniel Dayougar, Augustine Lepon, and Patrick Quahoyua)* ***(INCHR Field Monitor, Buchana County)***

*There is early April incident involving more than 20 persons who went to the farm and tied one of the framers with a rope and the person died in the processes, members of the group who were responsible for the act were arrested by police in Butuo. The police arrested the suspects and hired public transport to take them to police station. In order to avert mob action, the CSO representative called the Paramount Chief in Butuo telling him to go to the police and to stop the suspects from being transported in public transport. The suspects were later brought safely to police under escort by police officers in April 2019. There are currently six suspects on pre-trial detention in Sanequelle prison* ***(Community Justice Adviser, NGO monitor, Nimba County)***

*In April 2019 more than 20 farmers allegedly tied one of the farmers with a rope while in the farm and the person reportedly died in the processes. The police arrested members of the group who were suspected to be responsible for the act and took them to Butuo. , he immediately called the Paramount chief in Butuo telling him to go to the police and to stop the suspects from being transported in public transport because of mob action and inception of suspects by mob. The suspects were later bought on the escort of police in April 2019. There are currently six suspects on pre-trial detention in Sanequelle prison (****Melvin Mesahn, Community Justice Adviser)***

*In October 2018, I conducted prison visit in Bondiway central prison facility, ensure that the correction officer comply with minimum standards are guaranteed in the Bondiway central prison, there was an outbreak of measles, three inmates were affected. I contacted county civilian officer who dispatched a team of two medical personnel to provide treatment the outbreak was contained.*

*In April 13 2019, there was a riot by aggrieved motorbike riders against murder of their colleague Mr. Moses Wolpay(deceased) who was hired by two strange passengers to Gibi one of the major towns in Margbi. The police released arrested suspects on grounds that there was no sufficient evidence, in retaliation, motorbike association members organized a riot resulting in the burning down of the police station in Wealla, and Salala .*

*In response, the police conducted arbitrary arrests of over 200 people including children and women; accounts from eyewitnesses revealed that, the police allegedly physically assaulted the suspects while on transit to the police station. The CSO executive director intervened by calling the County Security Council Head, T.Ocealus Zubah to raise concerns over the heavy-handedness of the police officers. The latter reportedly called the police officers to stop the corporal punishment and physical assault meted on the suspects. INCHR intervention resulted in immediate cessation of excessive use of force during arrest by the police officers. INCHR reported the matter to its HQ, Department of Complaints and monitoring for further action (****Executive Director, Prison Fellowship, a local NGO based in Margibi)***

OHCHR training on monitoring methodology has enabled INCHR to advocate for rights of workers in a chines company in the context of business and human rights.

*In April 2018, Victor Williams a welder in Sino-hydro Company -a Chineese company hired to build airport runway and terminal registered complaints of bad labor practice, racism and denial of rest to Liberian workers and opposed to Chinese experts. In June 2018, INCHR contacted Ali Hneie the marking manager of the company in a bid to follow up and verify the complaint. The latter denied the complaint of racism and stated that the project was at competition stage so there was a need to lay of a non –essential staff, what was pending was payment of benefits. INCHR went to the labour, Margibi county- lower Margibi to crosscheck if they were aware of the complaint. The labor Commissioner Leroy Brown informed INCHR that, they had summoned Ali- hneie. After two weeks, the company paid 350 employees in the presence of the District representative* ***(INHCR field monitor, Margibi)***

# **3.3.4.2 Linkage to peace building and security**

The human rights training has enhanced the work of the police resulting in bringing a stop to police brutality in handling suspects. The trainings have also enabled the police to work in close relations with the community thus creating avenues and platforms for the community to provide information and report cases to the police; this is gradually contributing to changing a culture of impunity.

The police and human rights organizations have been working collaboratively. Presence of human rights officers tend to deter crimes and violence. INCHR regular visits and engagement with justice and rule of law actors have help reduce violence tendency from police when handling suspects in the community. This initiative is contributing to confidence building on the work of the police in keeping law and order.

Capacity building of CSOs on human rights has strengthened their capacities to promote and sustain peace-building initiatives. CSOs often sensitize conflicting communities on the need to respect the rule of law and to use available remedies for redress other than taking the law in their hands. At individual level, the CSOs have quite often called aggrieved parties to address the conflicts related to child support, land and other issues.

# **3.3.4.3 Examples of voices of CSOs involved in peace building initiatives at community level**

Some of the examples of community based initiatives aimed at strengthening peacebuilding efforts reported in verbatim:

*We mitigated community-based conflicts among individuals in Margibi, Buchanna, Banga and Montserado. Notably, between April to May we have so far organized eight stakeholder meeting reaching about 200 people. Out of the eight meetings (one was aimed at addressing land issue which was referred to Norwegian Refugee Council, they were able to resolve the land matter*.

# **3.4.3.4 Limitations**

Whereas the funds for implementing the project was disbursed in January 2018, actual implementation of project activities commenced in April 2018 with the establishment of the office following the signing of a six-year host country agreement with the Government of Liberia. The agreement allows the OHCHR Liberia country office to exercise its full human rights promotion and protection mandate in line with the High Commissioner’s global mandate and programmatic priorities elaborated in the Office Management Plan (OMP) 2018-2021.

# **3.4.3.5 Challenges**

Both CSOs and INCHR field personnel registered concerns over poor visibility due to lack of office space especially in Margibi and NImba.

INCHR monitors and CSOs human rights defenders raised concerns over challenges of accessing certain places due to lack of mobility equipment such as motor bikes and lack of facilitation to aid communication (airtime and other logistical requirements)

There is no substantive support from INCHR HQ is poor, not feedback, no body calls to check on field staff. There is need for more substantive support to the field.

# **4.4.3.6 Recommendations**

* There is need to harmonize traditional law or customary justice system with formal justice system It has been noted that traditional leaders do not have powers to preside of criminal cases and yet they continue to interfere in handling criminal cases which fall within the jurisdiction of the formal justice system
* There is need to strengthen more engagement of INCHR field monitoring in coordination, planning meetings and inter- regional training to strengthen experience sharing, lessons learnt and success stories.
* OHCHR should support INCHR to get more visibility and office space in the counties.
* OHCHR should support INCHR to increase the number of personnel from current two (2) to more five.
* OHCHR and INCHR should meet periodically to brainstorm on the issues to be addressed before implementation of activities.
* OHCHR and INCHR should ensure that MOU on collaboration and coordination is signed and implemented.
* OHCHR and INCHR should initiate knowledge sharing processes and procedures based on shared responsibility.
* OHCHR and INCHR should address challenges related to procurement delays by UNDP, as a third party needs to address its operational challenges.
* There should be regular interaction between OHCHR HROs and INCHR secretariat to ensure smooth planning and implementation of human rights programs.
* There is need for more information sharing and joint implementation of activities.
* There is need to strengthen OHCHR and INCHR participation in existing coordination meetings convened by the CSOs at county level to take stock of progress and to discuss key emerging human rights issues and linkage with national level HRs advocacy platform .
* OHCHR should support HRs advocacy platform to strengthen visibility of NGOs in the field through printing of identity cards and jackets, which they can use during human rights monitoring missions to prison, police and observing court proceedings.
* OHCHR should conduct specialized training for police human rights standards related to law enforcement.
* OHCHR should conduct more training on requisite standards on prevention of mob action, rule of law
* The police officers recommended that they do not have skills to collect forensic evidence from the crimes scene.
* OHCHR should solicit experts to train police on methodology of investigation of cases and collection of forensic evidence. It was also highlighted that the absence of biometric system largely impacted on collection of evidence to aid prosecution.

# **Annexes**

# **Annex 1: Data collection tools**



**PROJECT: SUPPORT NATIONAL PEACEBUILDING PRIORITIES IN ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND ENTITIES**

*Internal Monitoring and Evaluation of OHCHR technical Cooperation and support to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights*

Name of Respondent (Optional): Title:

*On a scale of 1 to 6 (where 6 is high and 1 is low), how would you assess the achievement of the human rights training workshops?*

**A. INCHR Commissioner and HROs have an increased understanding of :**

* International and regional human rights standards and protection mechanism

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* human rights obligations of the government

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

- monitoring legislation and policies

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

- monitoring violations of human rights

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

- monitoring budgets to assess government commitment in allocation of available resources for progressive realization of human rights

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

- human rights indicators to track progress on realization of human rights

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

- reporting on thematic human rights issues

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

- mechanism for protection of human rights through qusai- judicial function

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**B. Assessing Relevance of INCHR technical work**

**2. How relevant is OHCHR technical support to your work?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**3. How effectively has OHCHR met project goals on strengthening capacities of INCHR on thematic human right issues?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**C. Effectiveness**

-The Quality of OHCHR training?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

-Rate OHCHR effectiveness and contribution in building needed capacities of INCHR (knowledge, tools, guidance and availability of resources at the national level to sustain the results achieved.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

-Rate the contribution of OHCHR human rights training session to broader societal changes through the work of the learners and their organizations or communities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**D. Impact**

-What is your rating of change in peace building efforts directly linked to OHCHR human rights promotion and protection interventions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Impact or human rights stories.( with illustrative examples, share examples of impact stories which shows the results or achievements made by INCHR that is attributable to OHCHR technical assistance)
  2. Recommendations to improve further collaboration between OHCHR and INCHR.

# **Annex 2: Key informant interview Guide**

**County: …………………………………………………..**

**Name: ……………………………………………………..**

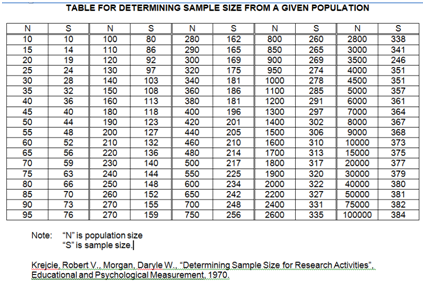
**Organization/Institution: …………………………**

**Position: …………………………………………….……**

Human Rights training attended: ……………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Description of changes at individual, organizational and community level linked to the training  
   Lessons learnt, good practices and challenges arising from human rights work.
2. What are the existing coordination with other actors on human rights issues
3. What are the Human-interest stories arising from your interventions.
4. What is the relevance of the work of OHCHR to your organization
5. What is your assessment of the Quality of OHCHR trainings (content, subject matter knowledge by facilitators, appropriates of the topics to human rights contextual issues)
6. What are strategies for ensuring sustainability and consolidation of gains/achievements?
7. What recommendations would you like to make to improve future programming?
8. What is the linkage between your organizational work and peace and security

# **Annex: 3 Table for determining sample size**



1. According to the CCA, 2018, main key conflict drivers included; high youth unemployment, limited employable skills and lack of skills; corruption, land and county boundary disputes, concession related tensions, issues on effective delivery of legislative agenda, centralized decision making; poverty; elite capture of the state and natural resources, economic inequality; disharmony between communities and sentiments that the Government of Liberia does not operate to the benefits of most of its people. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Source: CCA,2018.p 26-27 ; PAPD, 2018-2023, p.99; UNDAF Evaluation Report 2013-2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)