



**Spotlight
Initiative**
*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

Liberia

Annual Narrative Programme Report

01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number

Programme Title: Liberia Spotlight Initiative (LSI)

MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹
00112285

Recipient Organization(s)

- UN Women
- UNFPA
- UNDP
- UNICEF and
- OHCHR

Programme Cost (US\$)

Total Phase I approved budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 15,844,000 USD

Phase II budget as per the Spotlight CPD/RPD: 6,790,286 USD

Phase I Spotlight funding:² 20,844,000 USD

Total EU Contribution:
22,634,286 USD (Phase I and II)

Agency Contribution:
3,586,637 USD (Phase I and II)

Spotlight Funding and Agency Contribution by Agency:

Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)
UNDP	\$4,615,415	\$1,339,844
UNFPA	\$6,208,800	\$722,328
UNICEF	\$2,470,807	\$714,423
UN WOMEN	\$7,917,460	\$311,985
OHCHR	\$1,421,804	\$498,057
TOTAL:	\$22,634,286	\$ 3,568,637

OVERALL TOTAL (Phase I and II):
26,220,923 USD

Priority Regions/Areas/Localities for the Programme

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

In Phase II, the elimination of the FGM component is expanded to an additional six FGM practising counties: Bong, Gbarpolu, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and River Cess. See the map [here](#).

Key Partners

Government: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection-(MGCSP); Ministry of Education (MOE); Ministry of Health (MOH); Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Youth and Sport-(MOYS), Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT); Law Reform Commission (LRC); Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), Liberian Board of Midwives and Nurses (LBMN), and National Council of Chiefs and Elders (NACCEL)

Associated UN Agencies: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration

Non-governmental organizations & CSOs: 15 CSOs and CBOs listed in the CS National Reference Group

Other key Non-state Partners: National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders (NACCEL) and Liberia Board of Midwives and Nurses (LBMN)

Programme Start and End Dates

Start Date:
01.01.2019

End Date:
31.12.2022

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

² The Spotlight Contribution refers to the amount transferred to the Recipient UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BCR	Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CBO	Community-based organization
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CGEP	Country Gender Equality Profile
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPS	Comprehensive Prevention Strategy
CS-NRG	Civil Society National Reference Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCI	Defence for Children International
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EVAWG	Ending violence against women and girls
f	female
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBV-IMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GoL	Government of Liberia
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GRPB	Gender-responsive planning and budgeting
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HPs	Harmful Practices
HRGC	Human Rights and Gender checklist
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INHCR	Independent National Commission on Human Rights
LCP	Liberia Crusaders for Peace
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/ questioning (ones' s sexual or gender identity), intersex, and asexual/aromantic/ agender persons
LIBTELC	Liberia Telecommunication Corporation
LIPA	Liberia Institute for Public Administration
LNCRF	Liberian National Children's Representative Forum
LNOB	Leaving No-One Behind
LNFS	Liberia National Fire Service
LNP	Liberia National Police

LRC	Law Reform Commission
LSI	Liberia Spotlight Initiative
m	male
mL	Medica Liberia
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MICAT	Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MOH	Ministry of Health
MCH	Maternal and child health
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACCEL	National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSC	One-stop centre
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations Organizations
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SRHRs	Sexual and reproductive health rights
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VSLA	Village savings and loans associations
WA	Work Area
WACPS	Women and Child Protection Services
WHRDs	Women Human Rights Defenders

Executive Summary

The role of women in shaping Liberia's past and present is evident at both micro and macro levels of the country. However, Liberian women and girls suffer from multiple intersecting forms of prejudices, violence, and harmful practices due to deeply entrenched socio-cultural norms and behaviours. There is growing international and national attention from policymakers and other stakeholders to address women and girls' grievances better, and Spotlight Initiative represents the most significant support from international development partners so far.

Unfortunately, according to the DHS (2019-2020): 37% of Liberian women and 25% of Liberian men believe that a husband is justified to beat his wife in at least one of five specified cases; 46% of the respondents were women living in rural areas while 22% were women in urban areas; 83% of women in Liberia have heard of the Sande society, or women bush clubs and the practice of Female Genital Mutilation, and 35% said they were members³; Most of the respondents who had undergone the FGM practice reported it having happened at the age of 10-14 years⁴.

In addition to deep-seated patriarchal norms, Liberia also suffers from the normalization of violence and widespread impunity fostered by civil wars marked by high levels of sexual violence used as a weapon of war. Although Liberia has ratified some international and regional women's human rights instruments and has advanced progressive laws in place, their implementation remains weak.

The legislative framework is not well known to ordinary citizens. COVID19 stay-at-home restrictions further heightened the risk of intra-household conflict, family separation, potential child abuse, and reliance on other "coping" mechanisms such as child marriage. During the reporting year, the government introduced COVID19 Response Plan while working with multiple government entities to slow down the spread of the virus – a proactive stance reflecting lessons learned from the Ebola epidemic.

Apart from violence and harmful practices, access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Services (SRHRs) remains limited; most girls' first sexual experience is often forceful and abusive, and child marriage persists, especially within poor rural communities; teenage pregnancies are at a high rate with 55% of girls aged 15-19 and 4% of 15-year-old girls having children.

³ This is a significant decline in comparison to Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) conducted in 2007 and 2013 when it was 89%. Membership has also fallen down from 66% in DHS/2007, 50% in DHS 2012 to 35% in DHS 2019-2020. In general, it is assumed that women who are members of these societies are also circumcised. Liberia Demographic and Health Survey DHS (2019-2020). Available [here](#)

⁴ The lowest number of 17% were cut at the age of 5-9 and approximately two out of five girls were circumcised when they were below 5 or above 15. See Liberia DHS (2019-2020).

Even that Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data for 2019-2020 show slight improvement since 2007 and 2013, in the 2020 Human Development Report, Liberia kept 175th position among 189 countries with a gender development index of 0,890; in addition, Liberia holds 165th rank for its gender inequality position⁵.

Meanwhile, the results of the 2021 Liberia SCORE survey⁶ conducted every two years since 2016 confirm that acceptance of sexual violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has dropped in Spotlight counties⁷ while Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Gbarpoly, River Cess and Bomi record increase in support to FGM. The SCORE survey confirms that 55% of the population is in a situation of severe human insecurity and that eight out of 10 persons struggle with food insecurity. Food security and economic livelihoods are among the key factors influencing the inclination toward violent tendencies, including the endorsement of SGBV. On average, the acceptance of SGBV and FGM is dropping by 0.9 and 0.4 units, respectively, and the worst situation is recorded in non-Spotlight Initiative counties: Grand Bassa, Sinoe, Gbarpolu, River Cess, and Bomi, showing a critical need for Spotlight expansion in Phase 2 and beyond. The LSI continued to support and strengthen the GBV- Information Management System (GBV-IMS) to ensure regular data collection and analysis. Reported cases show that in 2021 there were 1,204 GBV (1,170f; 34 m) from the five LSI counties, which is a significant decrease from 2020 when there were 1,830 or 626 fewer cases reported cases in five LSI counties. The impact and causality are yet to be established.

In 2021, the Liberia Spotlight Initiative (LSI) undertook a Mid-term Assessment (MTA), a critical exercise that helped Programme refocus, redesign and adjust interventions for Phase Two.

The vital role of the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) continues to secure a coherent approach to planning and programming and incorporating MTA recommendations at all stages of programming and implementation. UN RCO continues to guide dialogue and coordination with the Government and development partners, especially the European Union. Consultations among the EU and UN at technical and strategic levels resulted in concrete programming improvements and quality of documents such as the Gender Equality Profile for Liberia. Monthly exchanges remain the key information and expertise sharing platforms that improve programming and results.

The Government of Liberia's inter-ministerial meeting with the RCO and Responsible UN agencies (RUNOs) resulted in the initiation of the "Framework for Success⁸" (F4S), a policy

⁵ Human Development Report 2020, available [here](#).

⁶ Liberia SCORE survey preliminary results, presentation for the UNCT Liberia, 2021.

⁷ The Programme targeted five out of fifteen counties in Liberia: Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, and Montserado. These are prioritized because of the high prevalence of SGBV/HPs and fewer SRHRs. In Phase II, the elimination of the FGM component is expanded to an additional six FGM practising counties: Bong, Gbarpolu, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and River Cess. See the map [here](#).

⁸ Framework for Success was initiated of the high level meeting between Ministers of the Government of Liberia and Resident Coordinator and Heads of UN agencies, aiming to clarify expectation and improve coordination.

document aimed to be the foundation for coordination, communication, joint monitoring, and implementation of all future joint programs among the UN and Government partners and ensuring full implementation of the Leaving No-One Behind (LNOB) principle. Four RCO field staff members in four counties represent the most significant part of the network who are able to closely monitor grassroots actors and the most vulnerable groups.

On the other side, the Delivering-as-One (DaO) principle continues to strengthen effectiveness both at the programming and operational levels. The RC role has proven crucial in creating space for strategic policy guidance and policy implementation through knowledge management and solution-oriented dialogue and guidance to the technical team – critical factors for efficient performance.

In addition, at the practical level, RUNOs are conducting joint recruitments through the One UN Portal, joint monitoring visits are planned for Phase Two, and the team has embarked on working on a consolidated online archive and procurement plan, among others. The LSI also reflected on sustainability plans for the program, having reached mid-way through the implementation timeline. Therefore, strategies are being examined on the sustainability factors that will be key to ensuring continuity of the program and impact on the most vulnerable population. Strategic results during the reporting year under the LSI included:

- **New laws and policies strengthened with the support of civil society networks to fight violence against women and girls:** Women human rights defenders from the five (5) LSI counties, including the Civil Society Organization Human Rights Advocacy Platform (CSO-Platform), have enhanced capacities on drafting legislation, shadow reports consolidation with emphasis on the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and developing advocacy strategy on the implementation of legislation and CEDAW recommendations. The Human Rights Advocacy Platform, including women human rights defenders, drafted a CEDAW shadow report and is embarking on the drafting of a National Human Rights Defenders Protection Policy. In addition, gender and human rights are being integrated into the law reform processes because Law Reform Commission (LRC) has established Gender and Human Rights Desks which drafted policy guidance document on aligning customary laws with international human rights standards that protect the rights of women, girls, persons with disability and the LGBTQI community.
- **National institutions, stakeholders, and CSOs have enhanced technical capacity and resources to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices (HPs) at national, sub-national, and community levels:** GBV taskforces have now strengthened their ability for effective coordination and partnership among taskforce members, government ministries and all stakeholders and use computers and printers supplied to the Spotlight counties. The LSI supported the Liberia Institute for

Public Administration (LIPA) to enhance the technical capacities of the Justice and Security institutions to prevent adequately, respond and address SGBV cases, including harmful practices and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the five Spotlight Counties. The Programme also supported one national CSO to review the curriculum of three justice and security institutions (namely, the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, and Liberia National Police) to integrate a manual to mainstream gender and prevention and address SGBV crimes.

- Enhanced efforts at community levels to eliminate harmful social norms and practices through inclusive participation, awareness of the negative impacts, and community-driven solutions at the national, county, and community levels:** The Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) strategy was validated at national, and county level and participants in the training of trainers (ToT) participants committed to boosting the dissemination of the SBCC key messages, including awareness-raising on preventing social and gender inequalities and promoting women’s and children’s rights to equitable empowerment opportunities. The strategy will guide the social norms and behaviour change work during Phase Two. Moreover, local stakeholders and community dwellers from the Spotlight target communities have increased knowledge of the violence continuum and how violence reinforces each other. The LSI established buddy clubs on Prevention/ Reporting and Response to school-based violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). To facilitate climate-smart agricultural intervention, the LSI procured four agro-processing equipment (2 rice mills and two charcoal machines) for use by two groups of traditional practitioners. The construction of four (4) of the vocational and heritage Centres is ongoing (wherein two at being finalized) and, once complete, will act as multicultural centres where positive cultural practices will be conducted.
- Service provision reflects global standards and local priorities:** The quality of sexual and reproductive health rights services delivery was improved for women living in remote counties by refurbishing two safe homes and one Maternity Waiting Home in Bahn, Nimba County, including a delivery room, labour room and post-partum service space. Two (2) DNA machines were procured and, once operational, are expected to strengthen collaboration between the judiciary and police in managing evidence. At the same time, the SGBV early warning mechanism through the Liberia National Police women and children protection services (WACPs) and the Peace Hut women network was enhanced with logistical

support to strengthen operationalization. Following the renovation of victim⁹ protection rooms at two (2) Circuit Courts in Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties, there will be an improved jurisdiction over cases of rape, sexual assault, and abuse. Similarly, 25 durable shelters for refugee women were handed over to the Government. All other service centres, including the safe homes in Lofa and Nimba, the social coping centres in Nimba and Montserrado, and the 27 health facilities, are still providing adequate services to women and girls at risk or abused. The LSI supported and monitored the renovation of two (2) WACPS facilities in two Spotlight Initiative target counties: Lofa and Nimba, to foster timely and efficient services to survivors¹⁰ of SGBV.

- **Precisely 2,096 (2,090f; 6m) child survivors accessed at least one form of multi-sectoral case management services**, including medical/ justice/ psychosocial support (PSS); a total of 445 (434f; 11m) adolescent girls and boys, survivors, and at-risk girls benefited from social and economic empowerment opportunities, including vocational, basic literacy, small business, and financial management skills. The graduation and distribution of business start-ups kits marked the completion of a series of economic empowerment interventions, including Life skills, financial literacy, and small business management training organized for girls and boys. Beneficiaries now have reduced economic susceptibility and exposure to risks factors, thus preventing violence against them in their respective communities. Some of the beneficiaries developed joint plans to establish cooperatives for business engagements.
- **Enhanced capacities of CSOs and Women's Movement in addressing harmful cultural norms:** Community members comprising the marginalized groups gained enhanced knowledge in advocacy and networking to effectively identify policies and laws that are discriminatory against women and girls. At the same time, five (5) CBOs enhanced their capacities on raising awareness of the existing legal and policy frameworks that seek to address SGBV and HPs. A total of 60 CSOs, including those from marginalized groups who shared experiences, developed and presented a resolution on addressing the increased cases of SGBV to the Government. Exactly 100 CSOs are now more competitive in resource mobilization because they were supported in developing various policies, including the anti-Corruption Policy and prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy (PSEA).

⁹ The terms "victims" and "survivors" of sexual and gender-based violence are appropriate but may be used in different contexts or serve different purposes. **In law, the status of "victim" provides certain rights, such as** the entitlement to participate in proceedings and request reparation. The term "victim" is used in the judiciary and criminal justice system and denotes a person who has recently experienced violence. The victim could be a *direct* or *indirect*, or *secondary* victim – for example, a witness watching the violence occurs.

The term "survivor" is more often used by the communities and service providers and indicates a feminist and "empowerment approach" indicating an individual undergoing a recovery process when considering the short and long-term consequences of violence.

There is no rule as to which term to use when – hence this report uses them interchangeably. The best approach is to ask the person in question the most appropriate address. However, the impact of SGBV and the way how individuals feel about their experience goes beyond those terminologies and nobody should be forced to identify as neither the survivor nor the victim.

¹⁰ See above footnote on the usage of terms victim and survivor of violence.

Contextual Shifts and Implementation Status

The LSI's work in Liberia created significant milestones in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) throughout 2021 despite a sharp increase of COVID19 cases due to the new virus variant. In late May 2021, the country began to experience an exponential rise in cases in Montserrado County alone. By the end of the second quarter of the year, the country was in the third wave of the outbreak, of which there was 100% of increased cases weekly than in the previous waves¹¹. The increase has caused a restructuring of the operations to telecommuting options and increased usage of information technology, replacing face-to-face meetings among actors. Regardless, health protocols remained intact.

During the reporting year, a total of 1,204 GBV (1,170 or 97% f, 34/ 3% m) from the five LSI counties comprised: rape (871), sexual assault (143), domestic violence/physical assault (84), denial of resources (103), and others (0).

Consultations between the European Union Delegation (EUD), both at technical and strategic levels, the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the UN heads of agencies resulted in concrete improvements to the programme and technical collaboration to demonstrate UN Reform to improve programme efficacy. This partnership enhanced timely decision-making and information-sharing, especially with the need to accelerate delivery by March 31st, 2021¹². During the reporting period, the programme accelerated the implementation of activities of Phase I, which was significantly impacted by the upsurge of the COVID 19 pandemic in Liberia.

Instead of large group meetings, groups were divided into smaller units for the said activities to be implemented, which took longer than usual, increasing the period for implementation of activities. These included awareness-raising and capacity-building workshops. With such restrictions, other digital mechanisms of training and building awareness through zoom meetings were done, but this was rather more costly and came with technical challenges, especially for the hard-to-reach communities. It has also challenged staff information technology skills in an environment that lacks critical infrastructure (electricity, internet coverage and limited road networks).

In some communities, face to face interventions was done in small groups, for example, less than 20 people per gathering, as those enabled observing health protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID 19. More still, the LSI continued to participate in the regular national pillar response meetings held to keep abreast of the new COVID19 measures and updates, which

¹¹ Liberia COVID-19 Daily sitrep 503 (July 31, 2021) available [here](#).

¹² All Spotlight recipient Countries in Africa were requested to ensure they hit the 75% delivery on expenditures by March 2021. In view of this, all RUNOs worked meticulously to ensure that measures are put in place to accelerate delivery to arrive to the 75% mark by March 31st.

helped inform the adjustments made in programme implementation at community county and national levels.

The 3rd wave of the COVID19 pandemic proved to be more devastating from the economic implications causing a rise in prices and overall insecurity. Hence, there would have been no better way for the LSI to be implemented than through **civil society organizations (CSOs), especially local/grassroots women's groups whose capacities to prevent and respond to SGBV, to promote SRHR and prevent and respond to COVID19 had been enhanced in the previous year.** CSOs' work on the prevention and response was essential given that SGBV had been declared a state of emergency in Liberia in 2020. With the rise of the third variant in 2021, this became more of a silent pandemic 2021. As such, CSOs had easy access to counties and communities of focus during the pandemic.

Larger CSOs created partnerships with the grassroots CSOs to implement most interventions, which, especially under Outcome 3, eased and fast-tracked implementation. Under outcome 6, grants given to grassroots CSOs as a part of capacity-building efforts empowered those CSOs to achieve positive results in effectively preventing and responding to COVID19 and SGBV,

The Government continued to be engaged at all levels of programme implementation. Government line Ministries were part of the target stakeholders interviewed for the mid-term assessment. They composed the consultative sessions in planning for Phase 2 implementation and were also involved as Partners in the implementation and reporting processes. Moreover, the Government chaired the weekly National COVID19 Response Plan Pillar meetings. Additionally, all stakeholders, including the EUD, were involved in both the Mid-term Assessment as well as Phase 2 planning. The EUD (through the technical focal point) was also regularly updated on the implementation of the Spotlight programme by attending and participating in the monthly and then weekly programme management and coordination meetings. Through this engagement, interventions were implemented in a timely manner and results were owned by all. However, despite efforts from the EUD to closely support the programme implementation and coordination, staff long absence and turnover in the third and fourth quarters impacted the EUD's physical involvement in some of the events/projects held during the reporting year. Notwithstanding, the LSI continued to update the EUD on all ongoing interventions virtually.

At the end of the reporting period, the program remains mainly "on track", with most activities significantly progressed, excluding the completion of two (2) out of four (4) Vocational and Heritage Centres in Vezela, Lofa County and Gbanquoi, Nimba County which were both at roofing level and the completion of internal developments in 2022.

Implementation progress by outcome area:

By the end of the reporting period, average implementation progress was at 85.16 per cent. Poor and inaccessible roads caused delays in implementation during the rainy season, which slowed down performance. Covid 19 and associated restrictions stalled some of the interventions, although the LSI sought other solutions to ensure continuity. As per Mid Term Assessment Report, the team identified areas for improvement and acceleration opportunities to be implemented. The summary is presented in the below matrix:

Spotlight Initiative - Outcome areas (implementing RUNOs + Pillar leads are underlined)	Implementation progress as of 31/12/ 2021
Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework (<u>OHCHR</u>)	98%
Outcome 2: Institutions (<u>UNDP</u> , UN-Women)	88%
Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change (<u>UN-Women</u> , UNICEF, UNFPA)	80%
Outcome 4: Quality Services (UNICEF, <u>UNFPA</u> , UNDP)	70%
Outcome 5: Data (<u>UNFPA</u> , UN-Women)	75%
Outcome 6: Women's Movement and CSOs (<u>UN-Women</u> and UNDP)	100%
TOTAL	85%

Programme Governance and Coordination

Liberia Spotlight Initiative maintains several institutional mechanisms to govern the implementation and coordinate programme partners at the national and local levels.

a) National Steering Committee (NSC)

As the primary governance body for the LSI, the National Steering Committee (NSC) serves as a platform for dialogue and a mechanism for strategic solutions and synergies at the country level. It is an essential venue that ensures that civil society is visible and interacts with the highest decision-makers. Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) members use it as an advocacy platform to voice their recommendations and seek redress and strategic decisions and long-term solutions for grassroots situations faced by the vulnerable groups, LGBT-QI and women's CSOs.

Liberia National Steering Committee (NSC), which now comprises 17 voting members and nine (9) observers, is co-chaired by the Government of Liberia, represented by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), and the UN Resident Coordinator. The NSC

members are the Head of EU Delegation, UN Resident Coordinator, five Responsible United Nations Agencies (RUNOs), seven (previously five) Government of Liberia ministries¹³ and three (previously two) CS-NRG Co-chairs. The number of CS-NRG representatives in NSC is increased from two to three because the number of Ministries was increased from five to seven. Namely, two additional ministries were added in Phase Two as key partners: the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism. This increase in membership will maintain the prescribed membership ratio and voting power of the women's civil society organizations.

Nine observers in the NSC are two associated UN agencies: UNHCR, IOM; government institutions: the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders-NACCEL, Liberia Board of Midwives and Nurses-LBMN, Law Reform Commission-LRC, and National Independent Human Rights Commission-NIHRC, four EU members states¹⁴ and development partners¹⁵ who maintain a role in gender equality and women's empowerment agenda in Liberia.

During the reporting year, the National Steering Committee met twice, in March and December, and made the following decisions:

- NSC reviewed and approved LSI Phase Two proposal and budget and periodic and annual joint programme narrative reports submitted by recipient UN Agencies.
- It approved programmatic and budgetary revisions (less than 25 per cent of the value of the budget) within the limits of the approved Country Programme Document (CPD) by the Operational Steering Committee.
- Reviewed risk management strategies and ensured the programme proactively managed and mitigated risks.
- Managed stakeholder relations at the country level.
- Provided comprehensive recommendations for the proposal shortlisted for support by the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund to avoid partner and geographic coverage duplication.
- Reviewed the Annual Work Plan for 2022 and proposed its approval in the first quarter of 2022.
- Tasked Technical and Pillar Working groups with clear goals and action points for implementation, seeking evidence-based results.

¹³ Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism.

¹⁴ Germany, France, Ireland and Sweden.

¹⁵ World Bank and others.

- The RC has proven to be a critical factor in leading UN and partners' dialogue and facilitating joint solutions among actors, including the EU Delegation, UN, government, and a broader spectrum of development partners at the national level. The regional and local perspective brought by the RCO regional network and local field staff from four counties informs the localization of global, continental and nationwide solutions and sustainable implementation.

b) Civil Society National Reference Group¹⁶ (CS-NRG)

A total of 16 CS-NRG members with diverse expertise and backgrounds were officially selected in 2019 to be members of the Liberia CS-NRG in their capacity as national experts. Selected individuals were nominated among 44 participating CSOs' representatives who volunteered in the LSI programme design during 2018. Driven by the "Leaving No-One Behind" (LNOB) principle, in 2021 Liberia CS-NRG was composed of 15 prominent women's rights, women-led CSOs and networks, national women's peacebuilding umbrella organizations, rural women, young women and youth, feminist, religion-based, persons with disability organizations, HeForShe Champions and groups representing vulnerable identities.

The LSI CS-NRG Phase Two Work plan and Budget¹⁷ were approved in the first quarter of 2021 and revised in the third quarter when members have adjusted and officially signed the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. Aligned to the Global Reference Group TOR and adapted to the national context, the CS-NRG Work Plan and Budget is estimated to be USD 115,000 for the Phase Two activities in four key areas: 1) CS-NRG Mandate and Functions, 2) Coordination mechanism with regional and national reference groups, 3) Collective and solidarity advocacy to crucial decision-makers and 4) Coordination of Civil Society monitoring of Spotlight implementation.

In April 2021, CS-NRG conducted monitoring of the LSI implementation in four¹⁸ **out of five Spotlight counties** and submitted Recommendations for action to the RC.

When the newly recruited LSI Programme Coordinator was brought on board in August 2021, and after the third wave of COVID19 was put under control in Liberia, CS-NRG quickly resumed its activities. The LSI CS-NRG members continued virtual meetings and used a smartphone-based platform¹⁹ to communicate and share information. They received monthly communication top-up support to enable their online voluntary work and contribution to programme implementation.

¹⁶ Civil society reference groups are established as an institutional mechanism at global, regional and national levels.

¹⁷ From the initial LSI programme design, the CS-NRG role was positioned under RCO office and that decision was re-confirmed in 2021. Instead in the Pillar six, the CS-NRG is located under Program Management and Coordination Unit PMCU / RCO.

¹⁸ Montserrado as the capital and the largest county was not monitored due to the third wave of COVID19 in Liberia.

¹⁹ WhatsApp is mostly used for this purpose.



Photo 1: Members of CS NRG visit heritage sit, April 2021.
Photo/CS-NRG archive.



Photo 2: Civil Society NRG members interact with local women during their monitoring visit in April 2021. Photo/CS-NRG archive

In Sep 2021, a work plan review session was organized, and Phase Two Work Plan was reviewed and revised to comply with the Global SI Guidelines fully. During the work planning session, ad-hoc support was provided from the ECOWAS Radio staff, a local journalist who worked with the CS-NRG team and the new LSI coordinator to facilitate connections through social media focusing on Twitter. It was proof of how on-the-job support from experts could empower a team of dedicated individuals and bring results – Liberia's CS-NRG work is now more visible across the global SI community and at the national level among government and development partners.

At that point, a decision was made to initiate preparations to produce the CS-NRG Monitoring Scorecard for Liberia and to adjust the monitoring process to Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation guidelines. For this purpose, a CS-NRG retreat was held in November to jointly identify opportunities with four of the RCO field staff and six RUNO staff members.

In the third quarter, the CS-NRG, which had two co-chairs, nominated an additional co-chair to sit on the National Steering Committee to compensate for the two newly added ministries²⁰ and maintain the ratio, voting power and visibility of the women, feminists and LGBTQI civil society groups in this highest decision-making body. The NRG Co-chairs act as a watchdog for any human rights breaches, CSO challenges and have the power of voicing out human rights concerns. CS-NRG members represented the group during important national and global EAW events observing International Women's Day, 16 Days of Activism Campaign, UN Day and other LSI programme events: validation of policies, strategies, equipment handover etc.

²⁰ In phase one Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning were the key implementing partners. In Phase Two, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism joined the team for higher results and impact.

During the work planning session held in Sep 2021, NRG members identified the need for closer coordination and communication with the LSI team. Therefore, the annual retreat was organized in Nov 2021 and enabled CS-NRG to review, revise and finalize TOR and revise and sign the Code of Conduct and engage with all four LSI field staff and the RUNOs technical experts around Phase two implementation and monitoring planning.



Photo 3: Liberia SI CS-NRG, RCO field team and LSI Programme Coordinator members met the Acting Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection during the CS-NRG Annual Retreat session in November 2021. Photo/UNRCO



Photo 4: Members of the LSI CS-NRG during their Annual Retreat in November 2021, Photo/UNRCO

In the last quarter of 2021, almost all Liberia CS-NRG members participated in global SI surveys and two international online SI forums in which they deployed their facilitation skills and advocated for solutions and needs of LGBTQI and women's organizations working on the national and grassroots levels in Liberia. At the Request of the RC to provide advice and recommendations on one specific case of the vulnerable group service provider in Monrovia, the CS-NRG had a meeting with the RCO Head of Office and RUNOs and agreed to conduct monitoring as a part of their role to advise and monitor the Programme implementation in similar situations. A sharp spike in COVID19 cases delayed procurement procedures and travel to the service provider.

In the last monthly meeting, 23 Dec 2021, a decision was made to revise the CS-NG plan and budget again and recruit external support for the intense operationalization of the CS-NRG deliverables and Co-Chairs and Coordinators strategically focus on sustainability and impact.

The number of CS-NRG members fluctuated slightly during the year, as some experts have withdrawn from membership. Once the CS-NRG Code of Conduct was adjusted to the local context, some NRG members assessed they could make a higher impact as implementing partners; some stepped down due to personal reasons or remote living areas and lack of access to internet and mobile network. For remote rural areas members, new representatives were identified to attend meetings in the capital and to enable continuity of representation.

c) Inter-agency coordination, technical committees, and other governance mechanisms

Efforts to prevent VAWG require coordination – at both sub-national and national levels – between all stakeholders, including Government ministries, UN agencies and Civil Society organizations. During the reporting year, an inter-agency partnership among RUNOs, CS-NRG and the Government continued coordination and technical synergies, especially during the COVID19 pandemic, to jointly plan and implement, bringing all actions under one platform in the spirit of leaving no one behind²¹. This inter-agency coordination was made possible by maintaining their comparative advantages while leveraging their complementarity during project implementation in an integrated and coherent manner²².

Moreover, the LSI ensured joint programming throughout the programme cycle from designing, implementing and monitoring and reporting in a coordinated and concerted manner and across pillars to avoid duplication of roles, reduce time and costs during implementation, and ensure programme sustainability.

Specific Programme mechanisms for coordination purposes are the Technical Working Group (TWG) and Pillar Working Groups (PWG), convened and led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; those groups gather all actors from RUNOs, government, CS-NRG and implementing partners and are responsible for implementing recommendations from the NSC. Unfortunately, COVID19 and the low quality of the key infrastructure (internet, electricity) and the need to acquire new information technology skills among stakeholders required patience in establishing the full functionality of those groups at a time when face-to-face meetings were impossible. In addition, the vacant position of the Programme Coordinator created a five-month-long burden on the Technical team at a time of intense budget revision and Phase two document preparation. This has, however, proven that the group of dedicated professionals remove barriers and ensures programme efficiency.

The LSI is closely linked with other interagency groups, such as the UN Gender Theme Group (GTG). Chaired by UN Women, who ensured coherence and guidance, the GTG functions as a joint body and consists of members of the Government, Development Partners, Representatives of the CS National Reference Group and the UN. The GTG meets once a month to review the different policy gaps and opportunities and provide guidance for the effective and efficient use of resources (human and capital) across the national gender equality agenda. LSI focal points contributed strategic inputs around the work being done under each of the six LSI Pillars, and these inputs fed into the GTG's annual reports.

²¹ One of the co-chairs of the CS-NRG who also represents CSOs at the National Steering Committee is the lead of a non-profit organization on LGBTIQ issues in Liberia

²² For example, while UNFPA provided DNA machines as per the GOL request it was noticeable that those need work bench in an air-conditioned space to be operational. Those were procured by the UNDP.

The LSI also was part of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), wherein focal points ensured that SGBV interventions and gender issues were well mainstreamed into the work plan and reports of the UNSDCF. The UNSDCF results or pillar group meetings occurred once every month during the reporting period to prepare for work plan development and take stock of the previous year's results and recommendations. Moreover, the LSI RUNOs continued to support the Women, Children and Girls Pillar of the National Response Plan by providing timely, substantive inputs to standard operating procedures, work plans and budget. The Women, Children and Girls Pillar is a National Response Pillar for COVID 19, which met on a weekly basis to brief and strategize on how to address SGBV and other gender issues during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Under the guidance of the RC and ECOWAS Radio leadership and in close collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden media programming team, LSI RUNOs explored and finalized the Collaboration Concept note with ECOWAS Radio. The concept note was a result of the intense engagement of a diverse group of LSI experts: an engineer, communication specialist, gender specialist, procurement staff and programme coordinator, together with journalists and a radio management team. This process proved that ad-hoc groups made on short term tasks bring value-added and knowledge enhancement.

d) Use of UN Reform inter-agency tools

During the reporting period, RUNOs agreed on the use of joined procurement processes, in which generic terms of reference were developed to be used by all RUNOs. Procurements for visibility materials, for example, were done through UN Women for the RCO and UNDP at the time UN Women was conducting their procurement. RUNOs all agreed to procure through UN Women, which saved time and costs that would have instead been utilized with each RUNO procuring their items. The UNCT has a unique daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rate applicable across all programs in Liberia and applies mobile money solutions for direct payment to vendors/ individuals. It also applies cost-sharing for offices located in One UN Building. Transparency

Through the leadership of the RC, the LSI models a new way of delivering on the SDGs in an integrated way, leveraging the collaborative advantages of RUNOs. This approach facilitates knowledge sharing at all levels enabling a holistic approach to solutions, learning and knowledge management among team members with highly specialized technical expertise.

Programme Partnerships

a) Government

The LSI depends on a solid partnership with the Government for its success and sustainability. In response to the calls for closer cooperation and wishing to address to Mid-term assessment report recommendations of strengthening coordination and dialogue and while preparing for the National Steering Committee, an inter-ministerial consultative meeting was convened by the key Spotlight coordinating counterpart: Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

The inter-ministerial meeting gathered Ministers, Assistant and Deputy Ministers of Gender, Education, Justice, Internal Affairs, and Health, who dialogued with the RC and Heads and Deputy Representatives of RUNOs around solutions and moving forward with implementation of Phase Two.

During this meeting, various recommendations on how to improve Government coordination with the UN on the LSI were stipulated. A “Framework for Success” was then identified to be designed as the guiding document that should be crafted by the technical team and presented to the decision-makers. Framework for Success was agreed to be the policy document to inform the multiple issues related to coordination, portraying who does what, when, and the various tasks embedded by the different stakeholders: communication, cooperation, coordination, monitoring, information sharing, timely request and responses and the absorptive and reporting capacity of both sides.

This engagement established a multi-sectoral platform for government engagement on the LSI’s strategic direction, implementation, and challenges. RC and the Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection agreed to continue with this practice biannually.

In order to advance gender-sensitive legislation and enhance the operational capacities of Institutions, the LSI engaged with the Law Reform Commission (LRC) as well as the Ministry of Justice and Judiciary in collaboration with the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS), the SGBV Crimes Unit and Judiciary. The LSI engaged the Law Reform Commission and provided support for the establishment of the Gender and Human Rights desk, which is an added value in ensuring that gender and human rights are incorporated in the law reform processes.

In the spirit of Delivering as One, the LSI RUNOs continued to support the Women, Children and Girls Pillar of the National Response Plan by providing timely, substantive inputs to standard operating procedures, work plans and budget. The MGCSP conducted monitoring of the

Prevention Strategy in the selected Counties and operationalized the Toll-free Call Center, which was established in the previous year through joint funding from the LSI. Cases of SGBV during COVID 19 could now be reported through this call centre, leading to timely intervention. Despite this progress, more awareness is needed to increase citizens' awareness and usage of this number and call centre services²³. This is the Ministry's focus for 2022.

The programme also engaged and collaborated with the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in collaboration with the National Council of Chiefs & Elders of Liberia (NACCEL) in addressing violations by some traditional practitioners in the recruitment and forceful initiation of some girls in the traditional society in infringement of the MIA Circular prohibiting bush-school activities during the COVID 19.

Further, to provide evidence in the prosecution of SGBV and other violent crimes, the National Diagnostic Division (NDD) of the Ministry of Health (MOH) conducted an assessment of laboratories in the five spotlight counties in collaboration with key line ministries, including the MGCSP and MOJ to develop and validate a Standard of Operations (SOP) for collection, storage, transportation and processing of forensic samples. Similarly, the National Diagnostic Division (NDD) collaborated with the Forensic Department of the John F. Kennedy Medical Center to build capacities for lab technicians in the application of the forensic and DNA examination, collection, and handling of specimen preservation and proper investigation.

b) Civil Society

To deliver under the principle of LNOB, LSI partnered with various groups of CSO, including national, local/grassroots, women's rights and/or feminist CSOs, CSOs representing specific groups, for example, women and girls living with HIV and AIDS. Those grassroots actors were provided with grants to ensure that they reached the hardest to reach communities and ensure continuity of interventions amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. Interventions included training traditional and religious leaders, human rights advocates, heads of women groups, and CSOs on SGBV elimination, relevant legislation, and awareness-raising activities on the prevention of SGBV and COVID 19. With these interventions, compromising²⁴ VAW cases at community levels was rarely heard of, whilst traditional leaders are now encouraging survivors, their families, and relatives to forward cases of VAWG through formal legal frameworks and structures.

Coordination and collaboration with CSO partners and CSO networks continued through weekly virtual meetings to ensure interventions' synergies and track implementation. In these

²³ The number of calls vs. the number cases reported via this toll-free hotline is unknown at this moment.

²⁴ If the "case is compromised", that means that families of the victim and perpetrator/s negotiated and agreed upon the financial compensation for the "damage caused". This guarantees that the victim will not use legal mechanisms to seek justice and legally prosecute the perpetrator.

meetings, programme technical staff provide updates on programme implementation, including any challenges identified and risks mitigated. Following the capacity building of CSOs on networking and collaboration in the previous year, in 2021, implementation/ delivery was accelerated through such partnerships wherein larger CSOs partnered with smaller CSOs at the grassroots levels. Coordination with five CSO Secretariats has led to the development of CSO clusters working in various sectors in the five LSI counties. The CS-NRG, as the oversight body, continued to monitor critical interventions in selected Counties, participated in the Midterm Assessment, provided inputs in phase two planning, was represented at the National Steering Committee, and continued to provide information in various LSI documents as required.

c) European Union Delegation

During the reporting period and with COVID 19, face-to-face meetings with the EU mainly were replaced with virtual ones, including weekly LSI meetings to stay abreast of programme interventions and provide timely feedback on programme adjustments and implementation. This relationship has enhanced timely decision-making at the EU leadership level, which usually receives updates on various issues from the technical leads. The EUD focal point is also part of the weekly meetings for the Women, Children and Girls Pillar Response Plan. Moreover, the EU was involved in monitoring the construction of the heritage and vocational centres in two project Counties. The EUD has also been involved in the Midterm Assessment process as well as in Phase II planning, wherein they provided strategic inputs to the proposal and budget.

Constant and timely consultations with the EU on different programmatic initiatives such as the preliminary programme reports, mid-term assessment, and key activities have resulted in concrete improvements to the programme. This technical collaboration demonstrated that UN reform is closely linked with programme efficacy. This partnership has enhanced timely decision-making and information-sharing. During the pandemic, the EU technical focal point continued to participate in the weekly Women, Children and Girls Pillar Response Plan meetings that replaced the monthly technical working group meetings. The EU also continued to be an active partner and provides feedback and advice to the UNRC, UN Agencies and the technical teams. Such advice has been conducted through face-to-face meetings, zoom meetings, WhatsApp, among other communication channels.

The EUD has indicated a keen interest in being very closely involved in programme implementation and monitoring at the country level. The EUD highlighted the need for increased programme communication and visibility and has helped achieve it through its participation in different events for the LSI. However, despite the EUD efforts to closely support the programme implementation and coordination, there was a time when the LSI team lacked tech-

nical expertise from the designated EUD counterparts due to the EUD team's long COVID19 absence and vacancies.

d) Cooperation with other UN agencies (if applicable)

RUNOs continued coordination and technical synergies, especially during the COVID19 pandemic, to jointly plan and implement all actions under one activity. Additionally, in the spirit of Delivering as One and exploring innovative ways of working, between April and August 2021, in the absence of the Spotlight Coordinator, under the leadership of the UN-Women Technical Specialist, in collaboration with other partners (CS-NRG, Government Partners and EU Delegation) responsible UN organizations (RUNOs) drafted the Phase 2 proposal and budget, in a collaborated manner leading to the development of a robust document that the Operational Steering Committee later approved. RUNOs were seen working together across pillars, attending meetings jointly to address issues which led to timely finalization and approval of documents.

The partnership amongst RUNOs during the recruitment of partners was enhanced through the United Nations Partnership Portal (UNPP), which led to the recruitment of the final two National Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including Defence for Children International – Liberia (DCI) and Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) during the reporting year. The CSOs worked with the Ministries of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to scale up interventions to prevent and respond to SGBV and HP perpetrated against children especially against adolescent girls. The LSI provided technical and financial support to these implementing partners to strengthen local and national Child protection systems and community-based structures such as the GBV Observatories, Child Welfare Committees, and GBV taskforces.

e) Other Partners and resource mobilization (if applicable)

During the reporting period, the programme continued its partnership with the leadership of the National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL) in sustaining the suspension of the practice of Sande and Poro societies throughout the 15 counties of Liberia. Though the Policy Statement, which expired in June 2020, efforts were made with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the NACCEL to extend the suspension of the practice for an additional period while the Government of Liberia and partners finalized the Anti-FGM Bill for submission to the House of Parliament for passage into law. The NACCEL is also a key advocate that guides and influences traditional male and female leaders to refrain from practising FGM. NACCEL, MIA and MGCSO are working together to extend the alternative livelihood support program for the traditional leaders to the remaining six non-Spotlight Counties²⁵.

²⁵ In Phase II, the elimination of the FGM component is expanded to an additional six FGM practicing counties: Bong, Gbarpolu, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and River Cess. See map [here](#).

To expand its reach out to all counties in Liberia, LSI explored and finalized a collaboration concept note with the ECOWAS Radio, which closely collaborates with community radios and represents a key information channel for women in rural areas. Radio remains the key information channel for women and men outside Montserrado county whose capital Monrovia is home for over one million people

Considering the funding gap in the implementation of gender equality programming in Liberia, the LSI is set to step up its resource mobilization efforts by regularly preparing concept notes and sharing them with potential donors. A very detailed presentation about the Spotlight Initiative Program in Liberia with the emphasis on the Phase One results and Phase Two programming goals was delivered to all development partners and ambassadors through the RC facilitated dialogue. A similar, only more detailed virtual presentation was organized for a World Bank Washington DC team to enable synergies and avoid duplication.

The LSI will also carry out donor intelligence using historical data on donors who had supported gender equality programming in the past but are no longer present in the country and identifying potential, and likeminded donors such as the Embassy of Sweden that has previously funded a Joint programme on ending SGBV and harmful practices called the Government of Liberia-United Nations SGBV/HTPs Joint programme.

Moreover, the LSI will continue to solicit financial support for the programme from the Government for accountability and sustainability of existing efforts. During the reporting year, the Government, for example, procured a DNA machine to support the efforts of the LSI for evidence gathering for the prosecution of rape cases which should also be recorded as a significant contribution proving government ownership²⁶.

²⁶ Aside from the DNA machines, in 2020, the Government contributed USD 200,000 to enhance gender-responsive budgeting and also committed USD 2M to support the implementation of the National Anti-SGBV Roadmap (2020-2022), national policy document adopted following the rise of SGBV cases in the country and national emergency announcement from the President H.E. George Manneh Weah in 2020.

Results

Capturing Broader Transformations Across Outcomes

The 2021 LSI results at different outcome levels mutually reinforce and complement each other. The “leaving no one behind” principle was ably applied across all the 6 LSI outcome areas to ensure that groups representing the most key populations were central to the entire programming process. These included the people with disabilities, the LGBTQIA, women living with HIV and AIDs, and rural women, among others. Such engagements led to the following overarching results:

The first [Country Gender Equality Profile](#) (CGEP) was developed for Liberia with support from the EUD (and other key stakeholders), which was part of the technical working group in the drafting, designing, and validating of the document. The CGEP is a crucial tool to provide a timely and adequate understanding of the current operating context concerning gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) to national and international partners. In partnership with the African Development Bank and the Embassy of Sweden, the EUD provided technical guidance and financial support to develop this important document. The validated CGEP is utilized to analyse the differences in gender relations, including power dynamics that generally lead to gendered discrimination, which fosters VAWG in communities.

During the reporting period, the LSI legislative pillar, through support to the GOL led by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), drafted the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) regulatory framework after an extensive assessment of identified private and public sectors. The framework emphasizes the GOL strategic approach on the Prevention of SEA while at the same time allowing for the establishment of a protection architecture that is firmly anchored on the roles and responsibilities of pertinent actors. At the Law Reform Commission (LRC), gender and human rights focus persons gained enhanced knowledge and skills in human rights monitoring and integrating gender and human rights into law reform processes. Similarly, with support from the LSI, a gender and human rights desk²⁷ was established at the LRC and is now complimenting GOL’s efforts to ensure that law reform and policies development processes prioritize human rights and gender concerns. Other interventions focused on LSI support to the Legislature and drafting the human rights and gender checklists to ensure that bills are reviewed from human rights and gender perspective, according to the requisite international standards.

²⁷ The gender and human rights desk was established and used to inter alia support the process of incorporating gender and human rights into the law reform processes. The office space was established where two designated focal persons are seated and together with the Commissioners and other staff are providing the requisite skills to incorporate gender and human rights into the policies reform process. I can do some photos tomorrow and attached them.

To address social norms and behaviours, LSI targeted traditional and religious leaders as champions of change, and they benefitted from capacity building pieces of training that enhanced their capacities in the prevention of SGBV and HPs at community levels. As the custodians of culture, LSI meticulously engaged traditional leaders in various interventions, including awareness-raising and monitoring alternative economic interventions (see under Pillar 3 results). Given their influence and reach during the reporting year, there were limited chances of compromising SGBV and HPs' cases. As of the project period, 300 former traditional practitioners benefited from alternative sources of income through conducting climate-smart agriculture and Village and Savings Loan schemes, which have so far generated over LD\$5,173,820.00 as compared to LD\$2,149,775.00 in 2020. Some of these funds come from sales of harvested crops from the 5 Spotlight Counties. In addition, 221 traditional leaders and 108 faith-based leaders (religious leaders) have enhanced knowledge and skills on gender transformative programs on SGBV, HPs, SRHR and access to legal aid. As such, they continued awareness and sharing of information on SGBV prevention through peer-to-peer engagements, church and mosques services and outdoor outreach programs, thus transforming attitudes in various communities that reinforce SGBV and HPs.

Amidst COVID 19, traditional and religious leaders continued to play a pivotal role in ensuring that VAWG was not compromised²⁸ at community levels and that information and sensitization on the prevention of VAWG reached the most remote communities in all the five LSI target Counties. Moreover, the SBCC strategy, which was developed with technical guidance from the EUD and other stakeholders, enhanced knowledge increase on EVAWG at national and sub-national levels with key messages on EVAWG and promoting SHRHs as well as COVID19 prevention using theatre for development techniques through mobile stage and town hall meetings. With this, communities reached with such a level of awareness are already demonstrating positive practices to promote social and gender equality and women and girls' empowerment.

The provision of and access to multi-sectorial integrated services (Health, psychosocial, justice, protection/safe-home services) for women and girl survivors of violence was incredibly a substantial milestone achieved during the reporting period. It was a considerable milestone because of the critical role service delivery/response plays in the fight against SGBV. Secondly, the increased number of people who accessed services at service provision centres was a promising practice that shows that survivors are well informed of the referral pathway just in case they experience SGBV and can longer keep silent about the abuse. Timely access to maternal services during the peak of COVID19 was enhanced through the establishment of a maternity waiting room in one of the LSI Counties (Nimba). Moreso, the procurement of two DNA machines will facilitate DNA testing and samples collection in Liberia. When installed,

²⁸ If the "case is compromised", that means that families of survivor and perpetrator/s negotiated and agreed upon the financial compensation for the "damage caused". This guarantees that the survivors will not use legal mechanisms to seek justice and legally prosecute the perpetrator.

the DNA machines RHID 0487 and RHID 0631 will be used to strengthen access to justice for survivors of SGBV by ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable through the forensic investigation of DNA samples (identification of perpetrators of rape/sexual abuse and related crimes based on the sample from tissue or blood). In forensic casework for crimes, the DNA data will be run against a national DNA database to match or exclude a suspect.

Civil Society organizations continued to play a key role in the prevention of SGBV/HPs and the Promotion of SRHR, especially local/grassroots groups (including men and youth groups, women groups, GBV observatories/ Child Welfare Committees/ Community Action Groups/ Children's Forum) whose capacities had been enhanced from the previous year to prevent and respond to SGBV and prevent COVID19 response in 2021. CSOs work on the prevention and response of SGBV/HPs and SRHR. During the previous year, the LSI had enhanced their capacities by providing small grants to ensure that they reach the hardest to reach communities in the spirit of leaving no one behind, results which were maintained during the current reporting year.

In 2021, five CSOs including those representing marginalised groups capacities were enhanced to raise awareness on EVAWG as well as effectively advocate and lobby for change in laws and policies that are discriminatory and against women and raise awareness on the existing legal and policy frameworks that seek to address SGBV and HPs. As a result of the grants provided to CSOs, five women rights movements were established and actively providing awareness and advocacy activities in various communities while a youth group made a petition to a member of the Liberian Legislature for the ban of child marriage and promotion of girls' education in Liberia.

Reporting on the implementation of Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME):

After the new Coordinator came on board, she engaged with the CS-NRG to clarify all stakeholders' premises and roles, especially NRG members in the PME process. The recommendation was made to hire the new M&E Specialist and CS-NRG facilitator to guide the process while simultaneously leading the capacity building of the team.

Simultaneously, the field team in four counties was tasked to closely work with the PMCU and CS-NRG members to identify counties and communities where PME will be kicked off and later replicated. An inquiry started with Procurement and IT specialists to identify potential solutions for the usage of online data collection equipment e.g., smartphones.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Legislation that criminalizes VAWG continues to play a vital role in promoting gender equality and ending violence against women and girls, whilst eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls does not only have a multiplier effect across all other development areas but also is essential to achieving fundamental human rights.

Under the LSI legislative pillar, establishing a gender and human rights desk at the Law Reform Commission (LRC) is expected to gradually increase mainstreaming of human rights and gender in the national policies and law reform processes. This was made possible through LSI's consultation with the government and the LRC top management, through training staff members and mentoring two (2) female focal persons on integrating gender and human rights in law reform processes.

With the operationalized Human Rights and Gender Desk at the LRC²⁹, law reform, SGBV/HPs and SRHR policies development processes are now being prioritized as human rights and gender concerns. LRC now has a specific gender and human rights office with focused efforts, including supporting women and girls' related initiatives, integrating human rights principles, norms and standards into bills, laws, and law reform processes irrespective of culture and practices. With this progress, it is anticipated that Liberia's current rank of 177 out of 188 countries on the overall measures used to determine the [gender inequality index](#) will improve and the rates of SGBV/HPs especially female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and teenage pregnancy will all gradually reduce, while access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) will increase.

A total of 75 (54/f and 21/m) women human rights defenders (WHRDs) from the five LSI counties have enhanced capacities on human rights advocacy; they are familiar with the National action plan (NAP) and legislation drafting processes and can now ably contribute actively to the drafting of policy documents or legislation for public or private use at either local or national level. Further still, they have re-enforced their network and have established a social media platform where they share information and also enhance their advocacy plans. Moreover, there has been enhanced coordination between the local HRDs and those at the National level, where issues at the local level cascade to the national level for redress with relevant

²⁹ The Gender and Human Rights Desk is established and used to inter alia support the process of incorporating gender and human rights into the law reform processes. The office space is created where two designated focal persons are seated and together with the Commissioners and other staff are providing the needed skill to incorporate gender and human rights into the policies reform process. Gender and HR-Checklists developed with the legislature was submitted to the Human Rights and Judiciary Committee who uses it as a reference for the review of bill and other pertinent document. The LSI will monitor if the Checklists are presented in plenary and adopted.

senior government partners. WHRD now stand at a more advantageous point to understand how to protect themselves while at the same time advocating to ensure the rights of women and girls are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

Similarly, and considering that WHRDs are women and men who champion and fight for the human rights of women and girls, they challenge harshness, oppression, and injustice in every part of the world, often endangering their lives to abuses while supporting the survivors of human rights violence. Considering this, the LSI has embarked on engaging human rights defenders to draft a human rights defenders protection policy for approval by the Legislature.

As a joint approach, in collaboration with government partners and CSO, the LSI supported the Legislature in developing human rights and gender checklists to ensure that all bills are reviewed from human rights and gender perspectives and are compliant with international standards. Parallel to this, the LSI enhanced capacities of 35 (16/f, 19/m) representatives from the legislature and civil society organizations on this checklist and its application.

The HRG Checklist was submitted to the Legislature and is now used as a yardstick to mainstream gender and human rights issues when conducting legislative business in parliament while at the same time using it as a mechanism to alert members of parliament about the gender and human rights implications of the provisions of a bill, strategy, policy, or government programs handled in parliament.

Nine (9) Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) field monitors (3/f, 6/m) are now equipped with the requisite skills to monitor, investigate, report and document allegations of human rights violations, including those related to SRHRs, SGBV/HP in the counties. This follows a capacity building training for field Monitors and partners on a methodological framework for investigations, documentation and reporting on allegations of human rights violations related to SRHRs, SGBV/HP. LSI embarked on a “Do it together” mentoring exercise for monitors of the INCHR, an initiative that led to this result.

LSI drafted a Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy in collaboration with the government and other partners. The PSEA policy builds on shared values, principles, and beliefs, describes the steps taken to ensure protection from SEA, and aims to end SEA in the public sector with a view that the policy will be cascaded to the private sectors.

This result was underpinned by the findings from an initial assessment undertaken on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in private and public sectors conducted in 2020, LSI in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, engaged a total of 80 (32/f and 48/m) stakeholders in a series of consultative meetings and stakeholders’ engagement on the elaboration of national prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) regulatory framework.

In the spirit of leaving no-one behind (LNoB), the LSI enhanced the LGBTIQ's issues and the need for Legislators and the public to observe their human rights as required by international principles and standards. The LSI provided technical and financial support to INCHR and the LGBTIQ community to hold a three-day working session for fifty (24/f, 26/m) representatives of INCHR and the LGBTIQ community. They focused on increasing awareness and knowledge on protection mechanisms, current discriminatory conditions affecting the LGBTIQ community and human rights defenders in Liberia. Human rights defenders are now better able to collaborate among themselves and with other actors in LGBTQI protection and advocacy to ensure stable and violence-free communities. Moreover, this podium provided an opportunity to develop a common platform where LGBTIQ related cases of violence are flagged with the INCHR and Government stakeholders, including state security institutions.

Outcome 2: Institutions

National institutions are actively responding to SGBV cases at all levels in a more coordinated way³⁰. At the same time, Justice and Security Sector's Personnel, the Judiciary and the MGCSP have enhanced capacities to implement gender-sensitive human resource management policies and recommendations of the capacity needs assessment for the security sector on SGBV HP and promotion of SRHRs. This followed a capacity building training on coordination and partnership which included personnel of the security sector and the judiciary residents and assigned in five (5) counties in Liberia. A total number of 130 (74/f, 56/m) participants were trained and actively provided services in their various areas of assignments.

GBV taskforce members have enhanced skills and knowledge and can now effectively coordinate with the government ministries and all stakeholders implementing SGBV prevention and response interventions at national and subnational levels. This was made possible following a capacity building training for five (5) gender-based violence (GBV) county-level taskforce teams and national secretariat members who were trained and given logistical support to improve coordination.

A total of 39 GBV taskforce members (19/m, 20/f) representing the five LSI Counties were targeted and trained. Additionally, ICT equipment (computers and printers) were procured and turned over to the GBV taskforce secretariat for onward submission to the Spotlight counties to strengthen capacity and coordination. A verification visit was conducted in the Spotlight Counties during the project reporting period to monitor the implementation of the county-level coordinating mechanism (SGBV Task Force meetings) amongst related SGBV stakeholders. The visit revealed that there has been improved coordination amongst actors following their capacity building on handling cases of SGBV in a gender sensitive manner conducted in 2019

³⁰ The National and Sub National GBV task force is an example of this result. GBV taskforce is a platform/ network of people from different institutions where all partners meet monthly and present on their interventions (Health, Justice, and legal pillars) and seek joint solutions to issues in a timely manner. They have a database of contact numbers that are utilized in cases of emergencies.

and 2020. With enhanced capacities, criminal justice chain actors now coordinate closely through the established SGBV task force in all Spotlight districts and the government-led GBV task force in the Counties. SGBV actors meet regularly, communicate through various means, and collectively support survivors where necessary.

Comprehensive manuals³¹ on how to mainstream gender, prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence crimes was developed. This was a result of a local NGO — Medica Liberia — which received a Low-Value Grant to review the curricula of three justice and security institutions (namely, the Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and Liberia National Police). The project built on the gains made during the previous interventions and strengthened the capacity of eight (8) CSOs by providing them with financial resources and technical support to effectively coordinate, monitor and report SGBV/HP cases and promote SRHR at subnational and community levels. As a result, sub-granted CSOs programs and structures were reviewed, and organizations' strategic plans were strengthened to implement selected activities. Refresher training on SGBV/HP issues at subnational and community levels; and integration of SGBV/HP content into the training curricula of three national institutions (LNP, LNFS and MOJ) were conducted³².

In addition, thirty (30) CSO representatives (18/f, 12/m) from eight (8) selected CSOs capacities were strengthened by Medica Liberia (mL) to develop a one-year costed strategic plan that prevents and respond to VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promote women and girls' SRHR. The CSOs were supported to review and revise their costed action plans developed in 2019. Each of the eight (8) CSOs received a small grant of six thousand two hundred fifty United States Dollars (USD 6,250) to implement selected activities provided in their work plans. At the same time, mL entered a four-month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and small grants contract to guide the partnership. As a result, sub-granted CSOs programs and structures have been improved, and organizations strategic plans strengthened for the implementation of selected activities aimed at addressing issues of violence against women and girls.

Three (3) national institutions (the Liberia National Police, Liberia National Fire Service, and Ministry of Justice) have integrated SGBV, HPs, and SRHRs in their personnel training curriculum. The methodology for the integration included desk review of existing training materials and policies, development of a training manual to fill gaps identified in desk review, a validation workshop, and training of trainers (TOT) for relevant staff of the named institutions and other security institutions. Based on the gaps identified in the three institutions' training curricula, SGBV, SRHR, and HPs training manuals were developed. A validation workshop for the training Manuals/ Curricula of Justice and Security Agencies was conducted, followed by a TOT workshop, which brought together thirty (30) participants (11 f, 19 m) from the justice

³¹ Manual is available in an online repository for the first time established for a joint program as a part of the Spotlight Initiative; The Manual is available [here](#).

³² Link to media article on the event is available [here](#) accessed March 2021.

and security sectors. The trainers acquired essential knowledge and demonstrated the ability to follow the manual and facilitate workshops.

A total of 105 technicians (25f, 80m) budget, planning and monitoring and evaluation officers from nine (9) Government line ministries and agencies have enhanced capacities to institutionalize gender-responsive planning and budgeting (GRP) principles in the draft fiscal Year 2022 National budget.

This result represents a logical next step that builds on the previous EU support to GRP in Liberia³³. Through 2021 GRP efforts, the Government of Liberia has allotted USD\$380,000 in the draft FY 2022 national budget to support the institutionalization of gender-responsive budgeting (GR) in nine ministries.

Furthermore, 34 CSOs have increased their knowledge and skills and are more aware of a gender-sensitive budget. Participants have increased understanding of the links between the FY 2022 National Budget, a policy implementation tool that complements the revised National Gender Policy (2018-2023), and the GRP Policy.

They now comprehend how to use the budget to address the national or county-based low-performance indicators on education, health (sexual and reproductive health, breast, and cervical cancer, etc.), and agriculture (smallholder and subsistence farming support to women cooperatives and women-led organizations). They are now aware that providing employment opportunities for women and men leads to better livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Considering the above engagements, 40 participants (21 f, 19 m) developed an advocacy plan targeting legislators to increase legislative support for gender-responsive planning and budgeting. They signed a general resolution that called for enacting of gender-responsive budgeting law that will replace the GRP Policy.

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norms Change

The LSI continued implementation of both Phase I and initiated Phase II interventions during the reporting period with the execution of several vital activities geared to increasing knowledge on SGBV prevention, addressing the negative practices of harmful practices, especially Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and growing knowledge on assessing to SRHR services and

³³ EU support to GRP in 2019 enabled the LSI to conduct a mapping of influential CSOs to develop advocacy tools targeting legislators to increase legislative support to GRP. In 2020 CSOs were trained in GRP, wherein 40 participants (21 f, 19 m) from 10 CSOs benefited from such training and are applying advocacy skills in GRP. In 2021, a joint resolution was signed calling for enacting of GRP Law that will replace the GRP Policy to ensure the National Budget is gender responsive. It will also support the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) to collect gender-disaggregated data during the 2022 Liberian Census.

hygiene management. As a result of the implementation of these activities, the following key results were achieved:

A total of 11,247 beneficiaries (4,491/f, 5,592/m), 684 girls and 480 boys from 225 communities in the five LSI Counties have increased knowledge on the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy. Strategy is a document aimed at informing all efforts to prevent SGBV/ HPs and promote SRHR, implementation of the Rape Law, Domestic Violence Law, and government-led Anti-SGBV Roadmap that protects women and girls from violence.

Communities have also enhanced their knowledge of the SGBV referral pathway. This has reduced the chances of compromising SGBV/HPs cases at the community level and improved the promotion of SRHRs. These beneficiaries, including community leaders (religious and traditional), are now agents of change addressing social norms and are involved in establishing community structures that seek to ensure that women and girls are protected and perpetrators of violence are referred to the police for legal redress.

One hundred eighty-four (184) local-level campaigns on the 16 Days of Activism Campaign were conducted during the project period in city centres and communities to raise awareness of incidents of SGBV and the forceful initiation of young women and girls in bush schools to undergo FGM.



Photo 5: Traditional practitioners in Vezela, Lofa County, northern Liberia, are transforming because of economic empowerment projects. Photo/UN Women

During the peak of the third wave of the COVID19 pandemic, community members gained enhanced knowledge on its prevention as well as the prevention of SGBV, HPs and the promotion of SRHRs. Key county stakeholders³⁴ were engaged in town-hall meetings, street theatre performances and open-air programmes considering COVID19 safety protocols and VAWG prevention and response. They received knowledge on the comprehensive prevention strategy to prevent VAWG, learning on the continuum of sexual violence and domestic violence and the referral pathway on SGBV, as well as how to report cases and use various centres for access the information on COVID19.

³⁴ Those include: County Gender Coordinators, Women and Child Protection Services (WACPS) Officers, health practitioners, religious, traditional and community leaders, and youth groups.

In addition, under the HeForShe Campaign, five (5) male networks with 145 male members have a newfound knowledge. They are committed as agents of change in changing patriarchy, promoting positive masculinity that reinforces and promotes gender equality and respect for women's rights. These men conducted gender-transformative programs, including awareness and sensitization messages with peer groups and community members.

on positive social norms, attitudes, and behaviour, including avoiding gender stereotyping. Through these male networks, 843 beneficiaries (326/w, 266/m, 146 girls and 105 boys) are now informed on positive cultural practices and social norms. They have new knowledge on the best and most meaningful ways of promoting positive social-cultural norms and behaviours within their families and communities. As a result, most communities have established community structures that enforce guidelines on the treatment of women and girls and referral perpetrators of violence for prosecution.

Furthermore, the 24/7 Service Call Center is operational and receiving calls using the 116, toll-free hotline number provided by Liberia Telecommunication Corporation (LIBTELCO), National operator providing telephone, Internet, fax and radio services to the Greater Monrovia area. This has helped facilitate timely reporting of cases to relevant institutions and reduce the chances of compromising SGBV Cases at the community levels, especially at the peak of COVID19. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) is planning a nationwide awareness of the services being provided through the call centre as the number of cases reported via this hotline is relatively low.

A key component of the Spotlight Initiative in the prevention of SGBV and harmful traditional practices was the continued engagement with 300 (former) traditional practitioners of female genital mutilation (FGM) to provide alternative economic livelihood skills and support. These Practitioners remain champions of change in the fight against FGM in Liberia and acted as monitors of the closure of bush schools in the five Spotlight Counties.

To sustain their agricultural interventions, during the reporting year, they received two (2) sets of Agro-Processing Machines (rice mills and vegetable dryers) that supported the preparation of crops harvested because of the climate-smart agriculture program and the establishment of 12 village and savings loan associations (VSLAs) which are expected to grow their capital for more than 100 per cent: from LD\$2,149,775.00 in 2020 to LD\$5,173,820.00 in 2022. This has resulted in an increase in household incomes for traditional practitioners and sustained their businesses, most of which have grown from small to middle-level businesses. To further sustain their gains, the agricultural component commenced the planting of beans/peas, which will be exported to markets abroad, thus gaining more income for their VSLA program. When asked what gains she had made since enrolling in the economic empowerment project, one of the beneficiaries of the alternative financial support had this to say during the reporting period.



Photo 6 and Photo 7: Vocational and heritage centre Grand cape Mouny-Tienne, 2021 Photo/ UN-Women



Photo 8: Construction works in Lofa County, Photo/ UN-Women

Photo 9: Construction work in Nimba County, Photo/ UN-Women



Photo 10: A completed vocational training centre in Montserrado County-town

“[The project] taught us how to write and spell our names. They also taught us how to make gardens. We harvested some corn and raised \$20,000 [Liberian dollars], which contributed to our village savings and loan scheme. “I am happy that I can now spell my name, and my business has also grown. Previously, it was unheard of for a traditional practitioner to write their name, but now, we can. I used to get L\$500 from the ‘bush business’, but now I can raise between L\$2000 and L\$3000. I am now able to pay school fees for my children,” explained Ms. Kromah.

Further to supporting the climate-smart agriculture program and the business development and skills training program, two (2) out of four (4) vocational and heritage centres were completed.

Those centres will serve as learning centres that will enhance positive cultural and traditional practices and enable young women and girls to reach their full potential and contribute to the wellbeing of their community and society. More importantly, centres will enable traditional zoes³⁵ to continue promoting positive cultural practices in continuation and support for the cultural heritage in Liberia. Below are the progress photos:

Moreover, in 2021, the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy and Plan were officially validated and launched at the National level and across the five LSI countries. The level of engagement in both processes was characterized by the participation of a variety of influential actors and advocacy groups, including religious and traditional leaders, lawmakers, members of parents and teachers' associations (PTAs), women, youth and children-led organizations, civil society organizations, child welfare committees / GBV Observatories, government, and members of the donor community.

An estimated 500 persons participated in these county-level validations and launches. In parallel, a national Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held as a catalyst to support the effective implementation of both the SBCC strategy and plan. A total of 26 consortia of trainers comprising of personnel from government/ CSOs/ the media/ community-based structures participated. A total of 250 persons are equipped with facilitation techniques, skills and knowledge on SBCC and are now utilizing these skills in community and social mobilization engagements to prevent SGBV/SEA and HP and tackle social inequalities that continue to impede the development of women and girls. It is anticipated that these initiatives will contribute to the shifting of mindsets to adopting positive cultural and religious practices which promote gender and social equality.

The LSI continues to work with partners, specifically the Government of Liberia, in accelerating actions to prevent violence against children by establishing and strengthening national and subnational-level child protection and GBV systems and simultaneously investing in behaviour and social norm change interventions. Social and behavioural change effort is a critical strategy to transform normative drivers of VAWG such as gender inequality, widespread acceptance of violence, and power structures that place women and children on unequal footing. The beneficiaries of the SBCC pledged their commitment to boost the dissemination of the SBCC key messages, including awareness-raising on how to prevent social and gender inequalities and promote women's and children's rights to equitable empowerment opportunities. Through town-hall meetings, community outreach and social mobilization, at least 8,481 persons (5882/f, 2679/m), including children, were reached with awareness messages on social norm change interventions and other GBV-related information and, how to access SGBV services through the referral pathway/COVID 19 prevention, etc. The SBCC strategy is now a catalytic tool/ approach in informing the key messages in the ongoing implementation of the National Anti-SGBV Road Map (2020-2022).

³⁵ For details on zoes and their role see <https://www.refworld.org/docid/58cff6114.html> accessed 22 Aug 2022

Outcome 4: Quality Services

The provision of and access to multi-sectorial integrated services for women and girls survivors of violence was a substantial milestone achieved during the reporting period. A total of 10,741 direct beneficiaries (5,201/women, 4,981/girls, 478/men, 81/boys) accessed multi-sectorial services at county and national levels. Those Innovative services enabled targeted interventions such as health services, psychosocial support, counselling, skills training, referrals, and survivor responses. In addition, 37 fistula survivors were identified and mobilized, and 25 benefited from fistula repairs/surgeries.

Timely and safe deliveries are now enhanced in LSI supported counties because maternity-waiting homes comprising of a labour and delivery clinic in Nimba, and Lofa Counties were refurbished and turned over to the government. Those will enhance obstetric services under the sexual reproductive health and rights intervention. These facilities are now contributing to reducing the currently high maternal mortality and neonatal deaths ratio in Liberia.



Photo 11: Maternal Waiting Home in Nimba County, Photo UNFPA

Survivors can now have safe space while assessing integrated services because, in addition to the two functional Safe Homes in (Lofa and Nimba) counties, an additional one which will serve as a regional hub for the western cluster has been refurbished in Grand Cape Mount County and handed over to the Liberian Government.

The newly constructed maternity waiting home is expected to "bridge the geographical gap" in obstetric care between remote areas by ensuring that pregnant women and girls with limited access to equipped health facilities and services are temporarily accommodated at the health facility under the supervision of skilled birth attendants until delivery.

In an effort to support and enhance the SGBV early warning mechanism at community levels, 20 officers of the Liberia National Police benefitted from in-service training aimed at strengthening stakeholder coordination, collaboration in improving response to SGBV and logistical support. For this purpose, nine motorbikes, 11 digital cameras and nine recorders were handed over to nine WACPs depots in Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and Grand Cape Mount Counties to support community accountability structures including the Peace Hut Women network to facilitate the early warning mechanism implementation.



Photo 12, 13 and 14: Handover session of motorbikes to Liberia National Police (LNP) Women and Child Protection Services (WACPs) depots in Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and Grand Cape Mount Counties

Convicts and pretrial detainees can now live a dignified and self-sustainable life in their communities void of stigmatization after release from sentence because of LSI supported social coping centres and skills training. Training in craftwork, bead making, soap making and tailoring programs are available in three (3) Central prison facilities in the country (Montserado, Bong and Nimba). A snapshot of some of the products showcased during the exhibition is posted herewith. The sustainability of this intervention is inevitable because the display helped to link the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) products to markets. Proceeds from sales will now be used to purchase more materials to expand production and market access.

Service delivery via 27 One-stop centres and health centres will now be improved because support, including strengthening the institutional structure to ensure SGBV integration in routine SRHR services, is ensured.

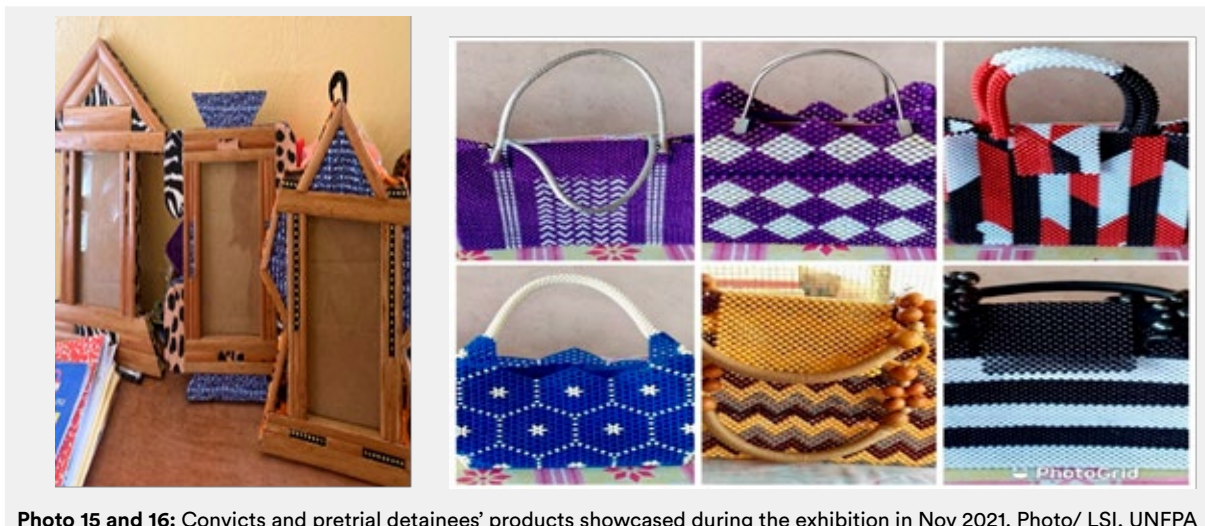


Photo 15 and 16: Convicts and pretrial detainees' products showcased during the exhibition in Nov 2021. Photo/ LSI, UNFPA

LSI provided technical support and guidance to the Judiciary for the remodelling of two (2) Circuit Courts in Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties to establish victims' protection rooms to facilitate speedy trials of sexual violence crimes. As a result, communities are increasingly re-

porting SGBV cases to the police expecting those to be referred to the Courts in the selected counties for timely prosecution (see the data below on WACPS and LNP).

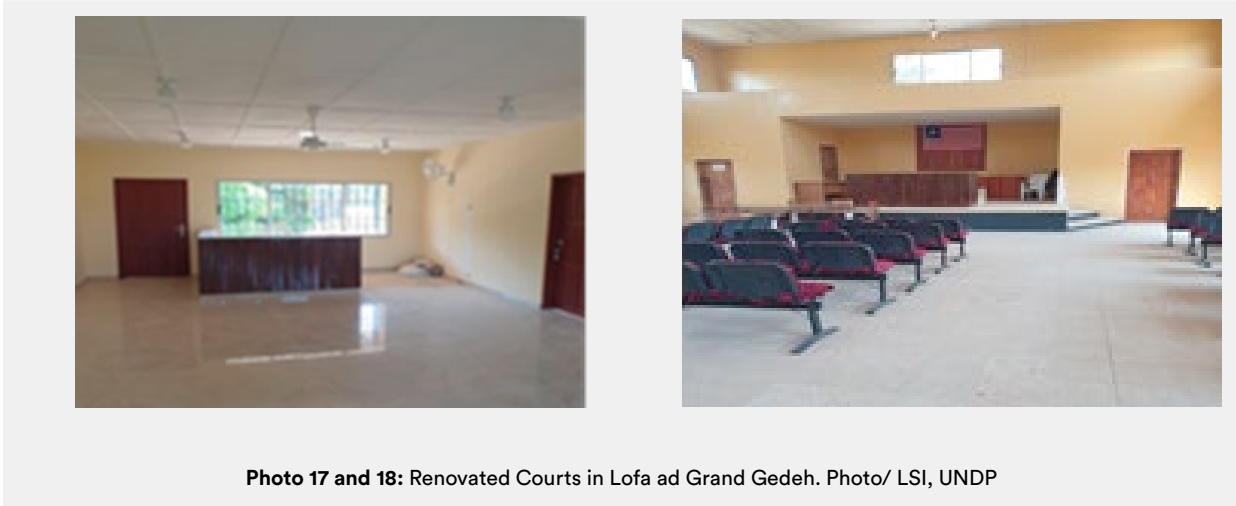


Photo 17 and 18: Renovated Courts in Lofa and Grand Gedeh. Photo/ LSI, UNDP

Even though the two newly built/ renovated courts are not yet fully operational, it is expected that the public confidence in the judicial system in the five LSI target Counties will soon be restored, citizens' human rights will be promoted, and the devastating impact of SGBV on women, girls and other vulnerable populations will be curtailed because the citizens are now aware of their rights and the role of SGBV monitors responsible for monitoring cases through to prosecution. This follows public awareness campaign that engaged over 2000 women and men in street parades. Moreso, community members in Lofa and Grand Gedeh Counties were happy to have Specialized SGBV Court that is targeted to address VAWG cases in a timely manner. The technical guidance provided to two CSOs (Care found-Grand Gedeh and PYCO-SI-Lofa), who were later awarded low-value grants to raise awareness around the facilitation of speedy trials of sexual violence crimes, contributed to the achievement of this result.

WACPS and the Liberia National Police (LNP) can document cases in a safe and confidential manner, have improved workflows, and respond appropriately to SGBV and HPs at the national, local, and community levels. WACPs and LNPs have enhanced coordination with other partners, leading to improved case handling. During the reporting period, a total of 1,356 cases of all forms of violence were reported from various WACPS Units across Liberia, excluding five Spotlight counties: 677 (49.9%) of the crimes reported were sex crimes (rapes, gang rapes), 469 (34.5%) were domestic violence, and 210 (15.4%) were other crimes (such as corruption of minors, etc.).

Of the 677 sex crimes reported, 340 cases are currently in court, 128 are awaiting court trial, 83 are under further investigation, and 103 are at large. This was made possible with the technical support and guidance rendered to WACPS/LNP and procured a variety of ICT equip-

ment and stationery at the refurbished WACPS/LNP facilities in five Spotlight Counties.

Two (2) WACPS/LNP facilities in Zorzor, Lofa County and Sanniquellie, Nimba County, were renovated and refurbished. These facilities have radically changed the operations of WACPS in the County. As a result, WACPS staff have increased public confidence in law enforcement officers, with spacious facilities for privacy and a comfortable working environment and survivor- and child-friendly facilities. This support has improved the performance of their overall operations.



Photo 19 and Photo 20: Pictorial of renovated WACPS/LNP facilities in Lofa and Nimba Counties, photo, LSI, UNDP

LSI provided technical support to the Ministry of Justice through the National Pathologist Unit, which led to the procurement and handover of assorted forensic equipment, furniture, and clinical supplies for the Pathologist Laboratory Unit at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital. As a result, forensic pathologists will have increased confidence in gathering empirical evidence, which will further affect the timely prosecution of cases in a gender-sensitive manner. Additionally, once fully installed the equipment will be used to strengthen the Pathologists forensic evidence gathering capacities which support the government of Liberia's effort to collect scientific evidence for the timely adjudication of SGBV. The technology is aimed to build on best practices and lessons learnt on prosecuting SGBV crimes, harmful traditional methods, and violations of Sexual Reproductive Health Rights regionally and globally.



Photo 21 and 22: September 21, 2021, Monrovia: Stakeholders (EU Ambassador, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Ministers of Health, Justice, Gender and Hospital Administration) viewing some assorted forensic equipment at the Handover Ceremony at JFK Hospital, PHOTO/ LSI UNDP, UNFPA

Survivors of SGBV have increased assistance (in the form of cash distribution for relocation, counselling, and transportation) to help them with coping while they are away from home, pursuing justice and recovering. This support is provided through One-stop centres. Survivors and their families can now access quality essential services, including longer-term recovery services and opportunities. With funding from the LSI, the SGBV Crimes Unit of the Ministry of Justice implemented the several sub-activities aimed at enhancing the prosecution of sexual violence cases and inclusion of the provision of Psychosocial counselling and medical services (feeding, medical assistance, and emergency package for referral cases, conduct travel to counties for legal investigation and relocation as well as monitoring visits to police stations. A total of one hundred three (103) survivors of sexual violence, particularly rape were beneficiaries. Beneficiaries per counties were: Montserrado-31, Lofa-10, Grand Gedeh-31, Nimba-11, and Cape Mount-20. Seventy-one (71) Psychosocial counselling sessions were conducted for survivors and their family members.

During this implementation period, the resurgence of the COVID19 Pandemic compelled most community-based structures to intensify their awareness campaigns and to include prevention messages on GBV / HP / SEA as women and girls remained exposed to such forms of violence. Under the implementation of DCI and LCP, a total of 1,505 victims of SGBV and at-risk adolescents, including 445 adolescents who benefited from social-economic empowerment opportunities, were provided with life skills training to help them with positive alternative coping mechanisms and the ability to make informed choices. A set of 15,000 copies of the SGBV referral pathway posters and other IEC/BCC materials on the Prevention of SGBV/SEA and HP, including the GBVie Pocket guides, were reproduced and are pending dissemination across the Five Spotlight Counties. These referral posters are county-specific and help direct survivors to access services in a timely and dignified manner.

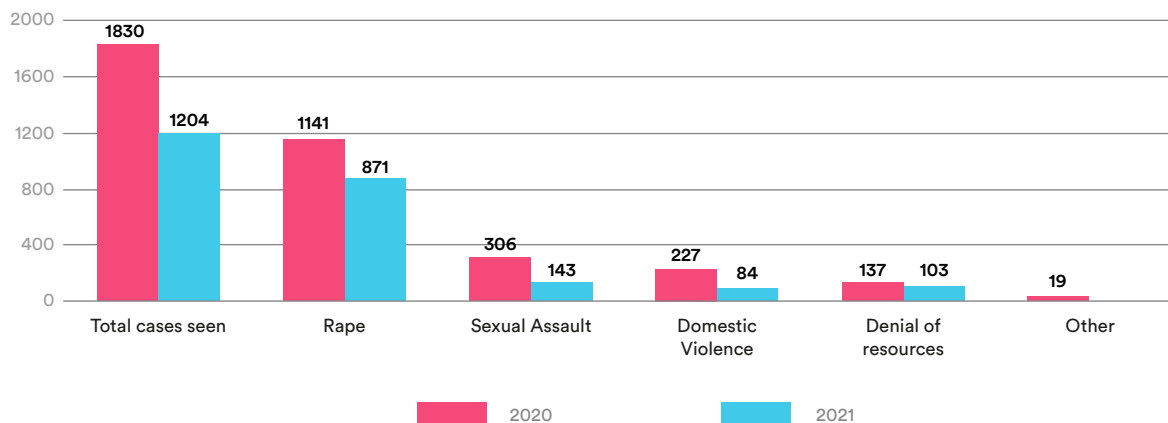
Additionally, LSI supported MGCSP, LCP, DCI, and their community-based structures: Child Welfare Committees and GBV observatories and the Liberian National Children's Representative Forum (LNCRF). LNCRF is a children led participatory platform responsible for ensuring the rights and wellbeing of children are protected, respected, and implemented and for advocating and raising awareness on SRHRs and prevention and reporting of SGBV HPs in five Spotlight Counties.

Outcome 5: Data

In 2021, the need for accurate and timely data to inform policies, implementation, identify gaps, and the need to learn and adapt was key to the spotlight implementation. Resources were made available for MGCSP to respond to data-collection needs. Major achievements were enhanced coordination among data producers, the recruitment and deployment of new data clerks, the creation of standard tools, and capacity development.

The GBV-IMS tools are now standardized, and the GBV-IMS Information-Sharing Protocol is now implemented. The provision of gender-sensitive data, which is data disaggregated by age, sex, and demographic information, is now a reality due to the LSI support to the MGCSP GBV division. The GBV-IMS reported a total of 1,204 GBV cases (1,170 f, 34 m) from the five LSI counties, in 2021 which comprise of rape (871), sexual assault (143), domestic violence/physical assault (84), denial of resources (103), and others (0). Data showed that the incidence of rape is high in Montserrado, with 703 cases representing 71% of total reported rape cases (871). This was followed by Grand Gedeh with 184 cases (15%), Nimba 102 (8%), Grand Cape Mount with 32 (3%) and Lofa 24 (2%) in 2021. Similarly, a total of 436 cases (425 F, 11 M) from non-Spotlight counties, comprising rape (232), sexual assault (29), domestic violence/physical assault (107), denial of resources (63), and others (5) were recorded.

The disproportionality of cases of SGBV in Montserrado compared to other LSI counties is likely to be attributed to it being the most populous county with the highest population density and well-harmonized reporting mechanisms coupled with more relaxed adherence to existing traditional norms, values, and practices, which is not the case in other LSI counties. LSI supported capacities strengthening of Government and CSO partners in basics of monitoring, evaluation and reporting concept and tools. The training strengthened the capacities of 53 participants (32/m, 21/f).

Table 1: showing a comparative Analysis of 2020-2021 VAWG Cases

Whereas in 2020, the GBV-IMS reported a total of 1,830 GBV cases (1,802 female, 28 male) from the five LSI counties, comprising: rape (1,141), sexual assault (306), domestic violence/physical assault (227), denial of resources (137), and others (19). It was revealed that the incidence of rape is high in Montserrado, with 841 cases representing 73.7% of total cases reported. This was followed by Grand Gedeh with 109 cases (9.4%), Nimba with 89 (8%), Grand Cape Mount with 54 (4.7%) and Lofa with 48 (4.2%) in 2020. Of these, 62 cases (5.4%) were sent to court, 21 (2%) were resolved/settled out of court, and three (0.2%) were convicted. Comparatively, there were more cases seen/reported in 2020 compared to 2021 probably due to significant increase in GBV cases during the COVID19 lockdown period. For example, incidence data on reported domestic violence cases were 227 in 2020 while in 2021 incident reports dropped to 84. SGBV service providers mapping was conducted in five spotlight counties with schematic analysis of the data revealing the availability and geographical coverage of GBV services and service providers.

Findings via GBV IMS³⁶ revealed that there are 27 service provision centres with diverse cadres of service providers ranging from psychosocial, health, justice, and protection. According to the report, psychosocial service is the most provided service for SGBV Survivors, accounting for 41.9%, followed by health 26.4%, justice 19.3 while protection accounts for the least 12.4%.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

Out of 23 key issues identified by Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and Women Rights groups and 34 recommendations made to the Government of Liberia through the MGCSP, 12 of those key issues identified have been addressed by the Government through the imple-

³⁶ Available here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SOXqo5I-tvIhdJEgC97LggD47Lp79BOx>

mentation of the Government of Liberia & Partner Anti-SGBV RoadMap (2020-2022). This is a national strategic document aimed at eliminating SGBV and HP in Liberia.

This progress is a result of the Government of Liberia commitment of USD 6,000,000 (with an initial USD 500,000 contribution provided) to enhance implementation of the National Anti-SGBV Roadmap. Government support included the procurement of one large scale DNA Machine, construction of additional Stop Centres throughout the country and increased awareness involving traditional and religious leaders on SGBV prevention and response, signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UN CRPD) Optional protocol to improve the implementation and reporting on disability inclusion, and the translation of laws and policies into accessible and easy to read formats (produce popular versions in local dialects).

Moreover, 79 CSOs and women rights groups making up 237 CSO representatives (Women – 38, Men – 80, Girls – 52 and Boys 67) have enhanced knowledge in the development of Human Resource policies, Financial and Procurement Policies and Gender and Social Inclusion Policy for their institutions. Assessment of these institutions indicates 50 – 60% policy gaps across the four areas identified for the training and institutional strengthening of these CSO and Women Rights Groups. Policy Checklists/ Templates and frameworks were developed to aid the development of vital institutional policies for the respective CSOs and Women's Rights groups.

Reporting on SRHR:

Through the LSI support, a maternity waiting home comprising a labour, and delivery clinic in Nimba and Lofa Counties was refurbished and turned to the government to enhance obstetric services under the sexual reproductive health and rights intervention. Maternal and Neonatal health outcomes are now improved in these facilities because of the provision of these waiting home facilities. Data showed that about 456 women accessed these facilities before and after deliveries.

LSI also developed a comprehensive SRHR integrated service manual that will help mainstream and advance sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and sexual gender-based violence in the Spotlight supported health facilities.

A total of 966 (813m, 153f) teachers were trained from 331 schools in five Spotlight Counties. An assessment of the results shows a 97% achievement against the 996 targets set for teachers and 100% achievement against the target (331) set on the number of schools. The 311 schools were supplied with instructional materials. A total of 10,118 (6,854 f and 3,264 m) young people benefited from sexuality education delivered in school settings and can now make life changing decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Some 37 fistula survivors were identified and mobilized and 25 of them who benefited from fistula repairs/surgeries enjoy improved quality of life.

Rights Holders (“Beneficiaries”)

Indicative numbers	Direct for 2021	Indirect for 2021	Comments / Explanations
Women (18 yrs. and above)	16,507	142,707	<p>Direct: Includes survivors who access integrated services, GBV services at the 12 supported OSC, Safe Homes, etc. It also includes women in communities who benefitted from outreach activities, campaigns, advocacy, and awareness raising activities, etc.</p> <p>Indirect: Includes women reached through awareness raising engagement through street theatres, radio talk shows airing of GBV messages, distribution of flyers and posters,</p>
Girls (5-17y)	11,571	46,236	<p>Direct: Includes survivors who access integrated services, GBV services at the 12 supported OSC, Safe Homes, etc. It also includes girls in communities who benefitted from outreach activities, campaigns, advocacy, and awareness raising activities, in and out of schools, etc.</p> <p>Indirect: Includes girls and adolescent participating in outdoor activities, listening to GBV shows, etc.</p>
Men (18 yrs. and above)	11,527	138,157	<p>Direct: Includes traditional and religious leaders, local authorities, etc who participate in community engagement dialogues, workshops, consultative meetings, etc. and access integrated services.</p> <p>Indirect: Include men in communities who listened to radio talks shows, GBV messages aired on local radio stations or during peer engagements have an opportunity to understand the need for positive social norms, attitude, and behaviour towards women.</p>
Boys (5-17yrs.)	2,263	16,925	<p>Direct: Includes youth leaders and members, etc who participate in community engagement dialogues, workshops, consultative meetings, etc. and access integrated services.</p> <p>Indirect: Include youth in communities who listened to radio talks shows, GBV messages aired on local radio stations or during peer engagements have an opportunity to understand the need for positive social norms, attitude, and behaviour towards women.</p>
TOTAL	41,868	344,025	

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

The rise in the number of COVID cases within the UN staff led to working from home arrangements across RUNOs, which disengaged physical meetings. As such, new working measures through virtual meetings have been adopted for business continuity. This required staff and partners to adjust to the new working environment and to adjust to the usage of information and communication technology (ICT) in their daily work while finding new ways to communicate and share information. This is particularly challenging in an environment of unstable electricity networks and fluctuating internet services. In addition, in the context of COVID19 it was challenging to hire new staff members to support financial, administrative and M&E functions while the Communication Officer post was vacant until November 2021. Towards the end of the year, the only female field officer resigned and a new recruitment process had to be initiated.

There was a gap in the implementation of most activities as Phase I progressed into the commencement of Phase II activities. As a result of this, a continuation of activities in Phase II commenced in the last quarter of 2021, thus creating a need for renewing community entry modalities to remind the community and key stakeholders of the ongoing activities of the Spotlight Program under Phase II. Some RUNO exhausted all funds from Phase one implementation and invested additional efforts to continue implementation as the Phase II funding reached the RUNOs in late December.

Due to COVID19 restrictions and the low absorptive capacity of implementing partners, a slow delivery rate was identified as a critical risk. To address capacity gaps and its consequences, activities were reprogrammed to re-allocate unspent programme resources from UNDG categories 4 and 7 (Travel and General Operations & other direct cost) to UNDG category 6 (Transfer grant to counterparts) to work with two (2) CSOs to implement key activities that are essential to addressing issues around the court operationalization, advancing citizens human rights and eliminating a devastating impact on SGBV on women, girls, and other vulnerable populations.

Enhancing political will and commitment remains a concern to improve programme implementation. Coordination with the government partners needs to be further enhanced, thereby creating a more conducive environment for better collaboration with a focus on achieving long term and sustainable programme goals. This will enable the LSI program to achieve a higher impact. As a mitigating measure, LSI engages government partners with a similar vision as an advocacy platform for further engagement with pertinent government partners.

Delay in the submission of CSO reports and limited ability in report writing was also one of the challenges in programme implementation. As a mitigation measure, LSI conducted a spe-

cific session for CSOs partners on report writing, joint reviewed their report, provided them with good report-writing tips and engaged them to ensure that the report met the requisite quality.

Lack of adequate local materials (sand, crushed rocks, etc.) and scarce skilled human labour largely impacted the completion of the remaining two Vocational and Heritage Centres in Lofa and Nimba County. The lack of materials was due to heavy downpours of rain during the project period, which caused inaccessibility to project sites. With the dry season in place, work at the project sites has commenced and will be completed by June 2022.

Some of the culturally sensitive issues supported by the LSI, such as the elimination of FGM and domestic violence, may cause some risks if not managed well. However, LSI's continued galvanized efforts to work with traditional leaders and religious leaders at every level of implementation and through consultative dialogues to ensure that their voices and recommendations are considered is key to mitigating this risk.

Moreover, children under 17 years continue to be the primary victims/survivors of rape and other forms of SGB violence. According to both the MGCSP and MoJ, in 2021, there was a total of 2,096 SGBV cases involving child survivors age ranging from 3 (three) to 17 years old. Despite all efforts being made to ensure that survivors of sexual violence receive the needed support and assistance, gaps exist in the process due to fragmented and weak child protection systems. Although it is realized that each child survivor requires a specific and unique care plan to meet his or her specific recovery needs, however, fulfilling these rights, continues to remain challenging for stakeholders, especially GoL and other service providers. To mitigate this challenge, LSI harmonized case management services/standards and approaches; mapping of the Social Service Workforce and mapping of services to help inform the development of a national Case-Management Standard Operating Procedures. This intervention will further ensure that the requisite skills and knowledge sets are available to support quality multi-sectoral case management services.

Despite some challenges encountered by the re-emergence of the COVID 19 Pandemic in 2021, programme implementation was carried out as planned to some extent. One of two Rapid Hit DNA machines procured in 2021 experienced a failed installation and was advised by the supplier (ThermoFisher) to be shipped to South Africa for repairs. One of the machines had a factory fault, and the other was due to an expired reagents/cartridge. The reagents that were shipped with the machine expired before the completion³⁷ of the workbench, thus the installation failed. However, reagents have been replaced at no cost to LSI, and installation is pending very soon.

³⁷ 97% is installation completed

There is a prevailing fear that the Spotlight Initiative work will be left unfinished and that not all pillars will be able to achieve all results. In the last year of programme implementation, the workflow, commitment and relations and networks built over three years have only now reached a certain level of maturity. However, all those will be abruptly interrupted in 12 months, at the end of 2022. Acceleration measures for fast-tracking programme implementation will be put in place. Still, scientific literature and research do support claims that four years are not enough to initiate and achieve such a complex behavioural change, nor can it be done in a rush. Global changes will undoubtedly affect Spotlight countries differently, and the Liberia team will reflect on all aspects, first internally and then with counterparts.

Lessons Learned and New Opportunities

a) Lessons Learned

The activities implemented during the reporting period have proven to have great relevance. For example, CSOs' strategic plans were reviewed and revised, capacity gaps were addressed through training and mentorship, and financial support was provided to implement activities within CSOs' work plans. Moreover, the LSI enhanced the skills and knowledge of CSOs to deliver their services through a more coordinated and result-driven approach. The implementation of work plans is expected to impact the lives of women and girls and add value to the CSOs' work in the intervention communities. Enhanced mentorship and capacity building of CSOs will continue during programming to ensure that results reflect the LSI Results framework and work plan.

Community centred approaches interventions are vital for any project's success. When communities are given a chance to get involved in implementing a project, they feel part of it and feel obligated to ensure success. Based on their involvement, they will go to any length to ensure that the projects succeed. Stakeholder support (buy-in) in the project locations was solicited, and they took the lead in the implementation process by mobilizing the communities to act against SGBV and HPs. With community buy-in and ownership, the sustainability of intervention will be ensured. As good practice, community engagement will continue to be sought during Programme implementation.

A programme that aims to empower women as advocates for policy reform and implementation to end SGBV/HPs **gains the needed momentum when those involved are people with passion and vested interest.** Most members of the SGBV/HPs women movement are primarily women and girls who are former victims or survivors of SGBV/ HPs. Those women share solidarity and empathy based on their shared dreadful experiences. Women have scars of SGBV due to the patriarchal system; coming to learn their rights and laws that protect their rights gives them the vigour to claim their rights.

Traditional practitioners' access to alternative economic activities is affirmative action for economic empowerment but also good initiative for social-norms change. During the reporting year, traditional practitioners had a second chance to become economically empowered. Available statistics for Liberia showed that there are more men than women who access literacy and vocational skills training opportunities, despite the nation's population, which is reflected in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016 report. As such, the LSI continued to target female zoes to enhance their household income for self-reliance and also to debunk the practice of FGM.

Building partnership through the formation of a countrywide women's solidarity platform, as in the case of the LSI program that seeks to establish a women movement to increase coordination to advocate for legal reform and implementation, is an ingredient of success to end SGBV through local ownership building. However, this approach can be unsuccessful and unsustainable if there isn't a realistic sustainability plan and exit strategy to maintain the momentum. However, there is a need for continuous mentorship to strengthen the capacity of these groups and a lack of resources to take care of coordination meetings. While there are commitments, influence, and passion among the rural women, they will need support to keep the momentum.

Strengthened Community Networks and Structures are key in EVAWG. In the case of the peace hut initiative and other women lead community networks, the lesson learned was to strengthen existing community networks and structures before focusing on their expansion. This can, in return, result in sustained actions. In addition, recognizing and enhancing the roles of community-led initiatives, such as peace huts, in peacebuilding by providing technical assistance is a fruitful and strategic approach to addressing gender inequalities at the community level.

Investing in joint monitoring and regular spot-checks: There is a need for constant monitoring and evaluation of project activities to measure results, identify challenges and adopt timely mitigating measures. Regular and systematic joint monitoring of the indicators is essential to inform programme management and stakeholders about the progress. It is also vital for LSI and donor partners' visibility at the national and community level. The CS-NRG partnered with RUNOs and RCO field staff to monitor interventions during the reporting year. The report has informed programme adjustment as to where there was a need.

Consensus and agreement with key stakeholders, including Government, CSOs on key programme decisions: For building synergy and ownership, continuous discussions and engagement with national partners are necessary, enhancing programme delivery and sustainability of results.

Operational alignment among actors, including information and communication technology usage, requires staff to acquire new skills and practice using virtual online communication and data storage and document sharing platforms. Cybersafety policies but also non-complementarity of internal software systems prevent RUNOS from accessing each other files and documents. IT systems and open software, and cloud based solutions for data storage and exchange should be put on the agenda at the technical level and staff given appropriate training. Liberia SI needs an IT specialist to fully support the team to function in diverse software options and solutions, including email networks and mailing lists, and joint work on the long and cumbersome documents such as AWP and budget.

A coherent approach among RUNOS towards stakeholders improves the perception of the “UN as one” abolishing boundaries among agencies' and speeding up effectiveness and implementation – examples are unified daily subsistence allowance (DSA) for external actors established by the UNCT in Liberia. Spotlight initiative provides a platform to test and pilot the best solutions that will improve effectiveness and reach out.

b) New Opportunities

During the reporting year, the training of criminal justice chain actors from the justice and security sectors not only improved their skills in identifying and responding to SGBV but also boosted their confidence deriving more trust from survivors of violence and communities to freely report any SGBV cases. This led to a much-needed desire for the LSI to scale up and target training additional 200 participants from the Ministries of Justice, Health, Gender, Internal Affairs, Youth & Sports, Information, Education, academic institutions, and the Judiciary Branch for increased impact in ensuring the availability and accessibility of effective, inclusive, and responsive integrated multi-sectoral services to all survivors and affected groups.

Further, the renovated and constructed WACPS/LNP facilities in four of the five Spotlight Counties have been a game-changer for WACPS operations. Officers have appreciated the work as it's added value to their performance, thus scaling up to the 5th county for renovation in 2022.

To end negative cultural practices, the programme focused on piloting the alternative livelihood opportunities program to access the level of interest and support the program would garner from traditional leaders and practitioners. With the provision of alternative livelihood support to 300 traditional practitioners, which include the climate-smart agriculture program and the Village Saving Loans (VSLA), there has been increased demand from other traditional practitioners in the six new-spotlight counties for similar opportunities since they themselves are committed to eliminating the practice of FGM in their counties. The programme is therefore targeting additional 600 - 800 traditional practitioners in Phase II with livelihood support.

Furthermore, in ensuring that no one is left behind in the programme, there are now opportunities for more engagement with LGBTQIA groups within the country, such that they also benefit from grants being provided by the programme. Since these groups are not officially registered, efforts are being made to ensure that they are supported through implementing partners who will build their capacity and provide them small grants to prevent and respond to SGBV.

To ensure the availability and accessibility of effective, inclusive, and responsive integrated multi-sectorial SGBV/HPs/SRHR services to survivors and affected groups at national, sub-national, and community levels, the LSI identified the Peace Huts women as a partner that would potentially contribute to increasing the current Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (24% LDHS 2019) in the country. The Peace Hut Women from all “Spotlight Initiative” supported counties will be trained as Family Planning (FP) Community Based Distributors. The Training Package is designed to deliver introductory, interactive training on Family Planning Community Based distribution, counselling, referral, and FP commodity storage. The training package is also geared to increase the peace hut women's understanding of SRHR to effectively work along with other accountability and health community structures to combat the prevalence of SGBV.

In 2021, joint procurement was further explored to jointly procure other goods and services for office equipment and stationeries, communication etc. RUNOs agreed to procure jointly, which helped to accelerate implementation, especially amidst COVID 19. This initiative was of Joint Procurement was endorsed by the heads of agencies to avoid delays in programme implementation caused by the various RUNOs’ different procurement processes affecting the programme implementation timeline.

During the peak of COVID-19, the LSI continued to leverage virtual platforms to conduct pieces of training and webinars for various activities such as the South-South learning exchange for CSOs in the region and media training, among others. This approach was very practical and helped both mitigate COVID-19 risks and achieve project results in a timely manner. It is anticipated that LSI will continue to use this approach in 2022. The use of information technology has been an innovation to bridge gaps and continue the provision of essential services during movement restrictions.

Innovative, Promising or Good Practices

In 2021 the team identified several important innovative, promising, and good practices, one of them establishing the experience that CSO partnerships (Title 1) are more effective in implementing interventions at both sub-national and national levels because they have more comprehensive access to networks and umbrella organizations in an impactful way. They also have a reputation and access to local communities and local actors e.g., courts, to influence change at the community level when it comes to compromising cases, especially with vulnerable survivors. Economic Empowerment of communities is crucial in advancing changes in behaviours and attitudes. For example, Traditional leaders (Title 3), so-called zoes who are performing FGM, give momentum to those traditional leaders, women, to engage in other more profitable activities and abandon this part of the culture and act as agents of change. In addition, supporting Women Grassroots organizations (Title 4) ensures the creation of larger-scale awareness and impact around sensitive topics. Coordination (Title 5) at the local level, between the police and safe house, requires constant effort and attention and makes real-life changes in the protection and lives of survivors.

The LSI continued to explore and employ innovation and good practices to accelerate transformative results for women and girls in both prevention and response to violence and harmful practices. This reporting year documents various areas of the programme where innovative, promising, and good practices were used and harnessed in activities through implementing partners and the beneficiaries alike.

Annexe D of this report summarizes these examples with evidence to show positive changes from which the programme learns lessons for ongoing and future implementation. Specific areas in which Spotlight practised and or experienced the use of innovation, promising and good practices are: working with grassroots women's organizations, FGM practitioners and local/traditional leadership structures to tackle all forms of violence against women within communities; enhancing the capability of law enforcers beyond trainings to incorporate transportation to access remote villages and reach the farthest affected populations; supporting safe platforms for girls and women to report cases and to seek refuge; supporting safe homes which have also been used to house abandoned and abused male children, which goes beyond the mandate of the homes.

Communications and Visibility

a. Overview

Just as with all programming, the communication and visibility plans were hampered by the COVID19 restrictions. Most staff telecommuted, and public events and field trips were curtailed as part of safety measures and health social distancing protocol. However, with the support of field officers and implementing partners based within the communities and with the use of social media, LSI's communications and visibility managed to stay on track as planned, despite the low extent of engagement. This year saw implementing partners engaging more in their partnership with LSI on social media than in the previous years, as seen in the media monitoring report attached. RUNOs continued to entertain audiences via social media mainly. Despite the progress, there is still a gap in the usage of agency websites to (re)publish LSI stories. Advocacy and campaign events were observed on social media due to COVID19.

In all communications and visibility outputs, the EU branding and visibility guidelines were strictly adhered to, including placing logos on all publications and materials produced, mentions and attributions given to the EU in all written outputs. Invitations to all events (on or offline) were also extended to EU representatives in the country throughout the year whenever possible.

- 1) **Press and media:** LSI had about 15 TV appearances and held several radio discussion/ talk shows besides the programs it sponsors via implementing partners. Due to COVID19 restrictions and the absence of a dedicated communications officer³⁸ to the initiative, a conclusive quantitative report about media presence is yet to be derived.
- 2) **Social Media:** all RUNOs engaged audiences on social media, mainly on Facebook, about LSI activities, events, and campaigns. A total of 26 posts were identified directly by RUNOs, with a few more engagement posts from heads of agencies and the Resident Coordinator as well as the Programme Coordinator.
- 3) Events were minimal and restricted to social media. (See below media monitoring table for details)

b. Messages

- 1) **Message:** “the fight against sexual and gender-based violence is a collective fight”.

³⁸ Spotlight Initiative Communication Officer was recruited in Q4 of the 2021 (Nov 2021)

We are in this together”—audience: public. This message was effective, as seen through the reiteration of the message by lawmakers, enforcers, social influencers, and parents in the LSI communities of operation and across the country through media reports and activity reports.

- 2) **Message:** “the silence on SGBV must be broken. Victims and survivors must speak up and up” Audience: public. The LSI activities in the various communities have seen an increasing number of survivors speaking up for themselves against SGBV; for instance, victims are reporting cases of abuse despite being threatened by either parents or the attackers and community members; survivors are openly speaking about SGBV issues in their communities to save other women and girls from falling prey; community members are discussing SGBV, early marriages and FGM as matters of concern according to field reports and case studies.

c. Media and visibility events

- Online promotion and dissemination of the finalized versions of the simplified laws on rape, domestic violence, and inheritance facilitated by Spotlight Initiative. The simplified versions are translations of the contents of the respective laws into ‘everyday Liberian English’ to help increase mass awareness of the rights guaranteed to women and girls in these laws.
- The LSI popularized and validated policy guidance, titled: “Traditional Practices and Customary Laws in Liberia: Their Intersections with International Human Rights Principles and Standards”. The launch was held on 5 April in Voinjama, Lofa County. The LSI produced the policy guidance under the #SpotlightInitiative to carry out a thorough review of Liberian Laws and practices focused on identifying those cultural practices that violate fundamental human rights and formulate a strategy to address the human rights gaps. The initiative aimed to strengthen the knowledge on three laws relevant to protect women’s and girls’ rights (the Domestic Violence Act, the Rape Law, and the Inheritance Act), and to gather inputs from the participants on required amendments to these laws to strengthen the protection of rights of women and girls in Liberia.

National Events included:

- On September 21, 2021, Spotlight Initiative in Liberia handed over assorted forensic equipment to the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Medical Center to support evidence gathering in targeted counties- Nimba, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Gedeh.

As a result of the donation, Pathologists at JFK Hospital have modern equipment to strengthen their forensic evidence gathering and investigation capacity. This Initiative supports the government of Liberia's effort to collect scientific pieces of evidence for the timely adjudication of cases of SGBV. The national event brought together key stakeholders, including the EU Ambassador, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Ministers of Health, Justice, Gender, Hospital Administration, and medical students. Link to event: <https://womensvoicesnewspaper.org/undp-wants-more-done-to-end-impunity-in-liberia/>

- The LSI observed the 16 days of Activism by harness efforts on the prevention of SGBV in communities
- Spotlight Initiative supported the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in 2021. The event was held at the Fortville City Hall, St. John River District in Grand Bassa County.

d. Campaigns

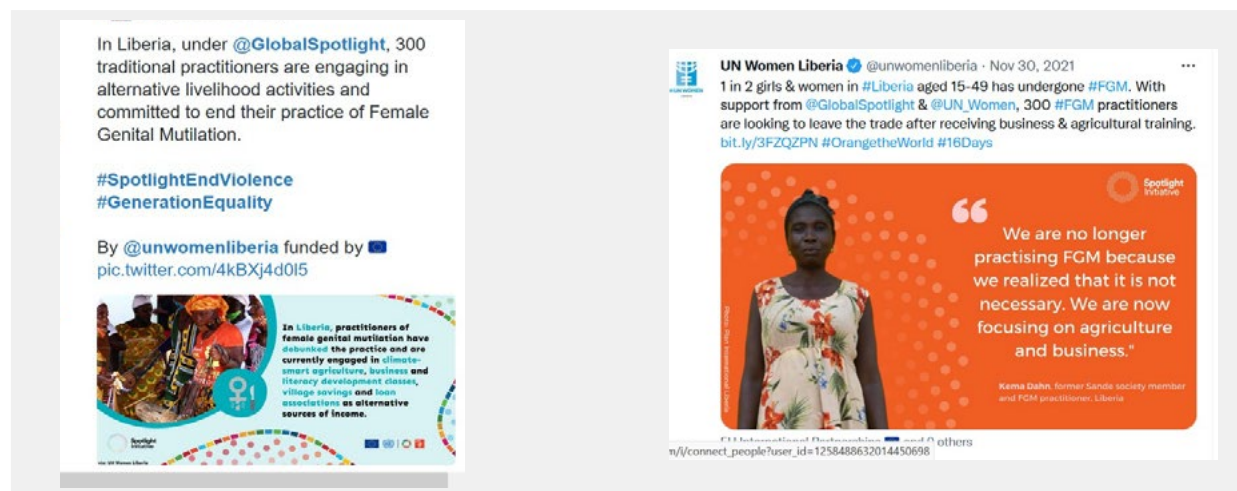


Photo 18: CS-NRG Co-Chair, NACCEL National Coordinator, UN Women staff who moderated the panel and mother of girl forcefully abducted to bush school in Monrovia in September 2021 participated in the Panel during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in One UN House, Monrovia, Nov 2021

The LSI observed the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to end violence against women in all 15 Counties in Liberia, including five LSI Counties. The National event supported by all recipient Agencies was celebrated in Kakata, Margibi County, attracting key stakeholders that included the EU, the Government line Ministries, UN Agencies, CSOs, traditional and religious leaders, youth groups, women groups, among others. In commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the United Nations in Liberia hosted panel discussions on harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and violence against women in elections in Liberia.

The panel discussions were held at the UN building on Friday, 26 November 2021. Panellists comprising of Tamba F. J. Johnson, Chairperson of the Elimination of National female genital mutilation working group and the Co-Chair of the Liberia SI Civil Society-National Reference Group; Madam Setta Fofana Saah, Coordinator of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCEL) and a survivor's mother facilitated discussions on female genital mutilation while Counsellor Gloria Musu Scott, former Chief Justice and Chair of the Constitutional Review Committee; and Senator Botoe Kanneh from Gbarpolu County facilitated the panel discussion on ending violence against women in elections in Liberia.

In addition, social media campaigns were conducted to highlight the contribution of the Spotlight Initiative in ending various forms of violence against women. Below are some captions of social media campaigns:



Please see the media links available [here](#).

e. Human interest stories:

Story 1: Working with traditional leaders to end violence against women in Liberia

“We [traditional practitioners] used to teach girls how to behave in the presence of older people, plaiting hair and being modest,” explains Kema Dahn, a community leader and former practitioner of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Nimba County in north-eastern Liberia.

“But we are no longer practising FGM because we realized that it is unnecessary. We are now focusing on agriculture and business.”

Fifty per cent of girls and women aged 15 to 49 in Liberia have undergone the harmful practice of FGM, often without their consent. FGM is usually performed for financial as well as cultural reasons – the livelihood programme provides climate-smart agriculture and business

management training to FGM practitioners, so they have alternative ways of earning an income.

Dahn is one of 300 traditional practitioners who has benefitted from the Alternative Economic Livelihood programme launched in 2019 by UN Women as part of the multi-year EU-UN [Spotlight Initiative](#) to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls.

“What will make us leave these traditional things is empowerment to start our businesses,” says Dahn. “I never knew much about farming. The new skills I have learned in agricultural business development and management provided a great opportunity for me to get another source of income.”

Yatta Fahnbulleh was the owner of one of the largest bush schools in Tieni in north-western Liberia, where she initiated girls into adulthood through a series of rituals, including FGM. She has since closed the bush school, and a new vocational and heritage centre that is part of the livelihood programme has been built on the same land.

“The time has come for me to change after 35 years ... I feel good about the opportunity to learn and to earn regular income outside of the usual thing I have been doing for years,” says Fahnbulleh. “I see the new project as a good opportunity for all the traditional practitioners across Liberia.”

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2021/11/working-with-traditional-leaders-to-end-violence-against-women-in-west-africa>

Story 2: From Rape Survivor to Change Ambassador: A Girl Finds Hope from Spotlight-supported Safe Home

“I lost my virginity unwillingly, and I felt all hopes were lost. I tried hard to keep myself by avoiding men until I could reach the right age before engaging in sex at my own will and not by another man’s will. When I was lost my virginity at the age of 12, I felt all hopes are lost”.

Naomi*, 12 years old, was raped on the evening of August 17, 2021, when she had gone out to play with her friends in their neighbourhood in Nimba County, Liberia.

For Naomi*, it was another typical day when she and her other girls enjoyed playing. Together, they had fun as usual. On this fateful day, they played until slightly after 06:00 PM, so they were in a hurry to leave before darkness fell.

Unfortunately for Naomi* her friends left in a hurry leaving her behind as she packed up her playing gear and tidied herself up. She called out for them to wait up, but they had left. Then, she hurried up so she could catch up.

Just as she got up to run after her friends, two men of about 20-24 years suddenly attacked her from the back, stuffed her mouth with some dirty pieces of cloth and dragged her into the bush, tore off her clothes and gang-raped her.

“At that moment, fears left me, and I lost hope of fighting them because I knew I didn’t have the strength to do so and get away so easily. I was forced into sex through gang rape, and I lost hope of being that better person I always dreamt of being.” Naomi narrates her ordeal to the psychosocial counsellor after staying two months in the Safe Home.

The perpetrators had taken advantage of the isolated location of the playing field surrounded by a forest and river to commit the crime. No one heard her cry for help, and she was overpowered.

To seek justice for his daughter, Naomi*’s father had to borrow money from people to get to the Police Station, which is quite a distance from their village. The case was transferred to the Women and Children Protection Services (WACPS) department with the help of pressure from community members who got the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) involved.

In the meantime, Naomi* was taken to a Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) Integrated Health Facility for Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) Care and Psychosocial Counselling. After spending a day at the SGBV unit of the hospital, she was then taken to the Safe Home for Protection and other services, including the continuation of ongoing interventions (Safety, Counselling, and medical access) while the perpetrators were being pursued.

“When I got to the Safe Home, the workers I met were so accommodating and caring towards me like the other children I met in the Safe Home. I was fed and given some new clothes and toiletries to use while I was taken to the hospital for medical treatment by one of the workers as per the doctor’s advice. Again, my hopes were rebuilt, and I started to open to my psychosocial counsellor in the home as I continued to narrate what happened to me during the incident. As I narrated my story, I felt that heavy burden being lifted off my shoulders and was more confident to talk about it because my counsellor was always ready to give me an audience. I was then taught how to speak up on matters of such to avoid further occurrence not for only me but for other girls out there”.

At the Safe home, she had routine health care as prescribed by the hospital, and she received psychosocial support services.

The Safe Homes offer a short term stay to survivors. They are owned by the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection under the Government of Liberia and supported with funding from the Spotlight Initiative through Plan International as an implementing partner.

In 2021, 55 SGBV survivors, primarily children, accessed the Safe Home Naomi* attended. The home offers safety counselling and works alongside the Ministry of Justice (WACPS) through the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection to ensure perpetrators are apprehended and made to face justice. The project also reunifies survivors at the right time decided by facility managers based on individual healing and recovery progress to a safe place free of stigmatization and fear.

After spending six weeks at the Safe Home, Naomi* was discharged and reunified with her father. The safe home offers a unification package that includes clothes and toiletries and general dignity kits with funding made available by LSI. Follow-up visitation is made to survivors reunified to ensure their safety and wellbeing for some time.

The two perpetrators fled the community and hid in another. They were eventually found through joint search efforts by police and community members and networks within and outside the area where the crime was committed. Found guilty, they are now serving seven years' jail time each in the County Prison.

Back home under her father's close protection, Naomi* has become an ambassador of change by educating other girls about the places to go when such a thing should happen to them. Even though she is not in school because her parents cannot afford to pay her fees, she is educating other girls on how to speak out about and against violence and abuse, as that was one of the things she was taught of while in the Safe Home.

“My hopes were in shamble; I lost it unwillingly, I struggled to raise, I lived in fears, but yet I overcame by being an outstanding survivor with rebuilt hopes for the future.”

Rape is on the rise and has become a subject that matters across the country; many young girls have and are still suffering prey to these barbaric acts. Naomi* is among them, but unlike many other survivors, she was able to access justice and full supportive recovery services as provided with support from the Spotlight Initiative³⁹.

Story 3: EU funded Spotlight Initiative gives Ivoirian refugees in Liberia something to smile for

Bahn, Nimba County, Liberia: It has been nearly 20 years since Marc Gomet, and his family, including a wife and eight children, fled Bin-Houyé, La Côte d'Ivoire for Liberia because of civil conflict.

Since then, [waves of political instability in La Côte d'Ivoire](#) have kept them in Liberia.

³⁹ * Not survivor's real names. Survivor's identity is disguised for protection. Story submitted by UNFPA, yet to be published.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), there were about 35,000 Ivoirian refugees in Liberia by the end of February 2021. About 27,000 of them arrived between October 2020 and February 2021, while the remainder represents those who entered between 2002 and 2011. Out of this number, 304 households have registered their intention to integrate in Liberia locally.

“I was about 50 years when I came to Liberia with my wife and children in September 2002. I have never been able to return home because of fear for my life,” says Marc Gomet, a former Cacao farmer.

Marc is now 69 years old, widowed and living with a physical disability. He is cared for by mainly his eldest daughter who is supported by the younger children. They are among 75 Ivorian refugee families living in the low-cost, durable housing units constructed for refugees and the host community at the Bahn Refugee Settlement by UNHCR. There are 83 housing units out of which 10 were funded by the UN’s Spotlight Initiative which is supported by the EU. The initiative will construct additional 15 housing units in 2022. Marc resides in one of the units constructed by SI.

Marc is thankful to the Spotlight Initiative for providing him and other Ivoirian refugees in Liberia the opportunity to start descent new lives.

“This house provides my family and me the needed protection as we formally integrate into the Liberian society. At my age now and with my condition, there can be no better support for me and my family other than the provision of a durable shelter,” says Mr. Gomet.

Full story: <https://liberia.unfpa.org/en/news/eu-funded-spotlight-initiative-gives-ivoirian-refugees-liberia-something-smile>

f. Testimonials:

Testimony 1: From where I stand: “It is everybody’s responsibility to take action.”

Miatta Darwolor is the Founder and Executive Director of Sister Aid Liberia, a women-led non-governmental organization that promotes young women and girls’ rights in political participation and leadership; works to prevent violence against women and girls; and advocates for women-friendly policies and laws.

I grew up in a poor family that was deeply rooted in tradition. Some of my sisters and aunts were members of the ‘Sande Society’, where female genital mutilation (FGM) is practised. Fortunately, I escaped the initiation – but that also meant I faced discrimination.

I depended on scholarship programmes to attend school. When I was in high school, I managed to support my mother to go to school with my income from part-time work. Her education opened her up to discussions on gender equality within our family; we agreed as a family to respect and value the rights of girls and boys equally.

Since then, I have worked with several women’s organizations to raise awareness of women’s rights and the health implications of FGM. When I advocate for women’s rights, I am standing up for the rights of my sisters, mothers, and daughters. My life experiences have strengthened my resilience and fortitude.

Through information from workshops, my family decided to never again ‘initiate’ girls through practices such as FGM but rather promote girls’ education. Sister Aid Liberia is now working with other women’s organizations to push for the signing of the FGM bill into law in Liberia.

Poverty and our patriarchal system are the root causes of violence against women and girls in Liberia. If we empower women to stand up for their rights and take up leadership positions in all spheres of life, we will solve many societal issues.

There is also a need to bridge the gap between the young and older generations. We are not in competition and are equally relevant to the fight for gender equality in Liberia.

Advocating for gender equality should not only be the responsibility of women’s rights organizations; it is everybody’s responsibility to act. More men need to realize that women’s rights are human rights, promote positive masculinity and discourage negative social norms, whether at home or work.”

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/7/from-where-i-stand-miatta-darwolor>

Testimony 2: Excerpt from interview with Yah Belleh Suah Gender Coordinator Nimba County, Ministry of Gender and Children Social Protection (MGCSP) on working with Spotlight Initiative

In her words, Ms, Yah had this to say:

“LSI has been instrumental in working with us on eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices on women and girls. In particular, we have seen an increase in the number of women and girls who are informed about the structures on the ground available to them for their protection and support. We have also seen much positive response from local traditional leaders towards FGM and to allow girls obtain education rather than the ‘Sande schools’. Their [LSI’s] training on SGBV for the Spotlight [Initiatives] provided one laptop to the office which has improved our work, for example we are now using it for this workshop’s presentations [interview was done at a time and location when/where the county Gender team were holding a SGBV training workshop]. The Safe Homes rehabilitated by UNFPA are doing well to address the needs of survivors because most of these survivors come from the interiors of the districts and need a place and resources to recover properly before they return to carry on with what is left of their lives. We are very grateful for the support towards the Safe Homes from you [LSI] you will find children and women who were badly abused thriving there. It gives all of us hope. Again, last year we received 60 mattresses and beddings and some children’s clothes from Spotlight through UNDP, these were shared with Margibi and Bong Safe Homes so everyone affected can benefit.

The number of survivors is sadly high especially here in Nimba county which is also one of the largest counties in Liberia. With such initiatives we are hopeful that the numbers will significantly reduce and with enough resources we now know that we can eliminate SGBV because people are now aware of the evils. My office enjoys a long-standing good working relationship with the Spotlight Initiative in the county. The children’s clubs supported through UNICEF are an important addition to the awareness campaign. Need for local organizations to go down to the grassroots, the borderlines and other places that are unreachable by bigger organizations/partners; support to grassroots organizations will help address cases timely and provide accurate and timely data to the county and district. These will also include catchment communities to raise awareness”.

Yah Belleh’s office registers and monitors all activities to do with gender in the county and she’s in charge of the office and all Gender-related activities. LSI helped to increase awareness and hence the office receives more cases because people have the idea of reporting cases where, when and how. LSI works with a network of local civil society organizations in the county through the Ministry of Gender’s Coordination office. Besides project implementation, Yah Belleh’s office and LSI together help to train civil society organizations on gender-based programming and advocacy.

f. Photos:

- Include only 3-4 photos with captions (photo credit and a description) here in the report, and please upload all photo submissions (including the ones included here in the report) to [PHOTO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#).

g. Videos:

- Please include active links to any videos that have been produced during the reporting period, including any that document the contributions/results of Spotlight, here in the narrative. Please submit the videos themselves via the [VIDEO SUBMISSION PLATFORM](#)
- [Link to Photos and \[unedited\] Videos via Google Drive](#)
- Video1: <https://www.tiktok.com/@unitednationshumanrights/video/7034957139340709126>
- Video2: <https://www.tiktok.com/@unitednationshumanrights/video/7035182878656908549>

Next Steps

The Human rights and gender (HRG) checklist has been submitted to the House of Representatives for further discussion with the House of Senates. Additional engagements are ongoing to have the HRG checklist fully operationalized by both houses. The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse draft policy will further be discussed with the government, including the Ministry of Justice and Law Reform Commission, to finalise the draft and advocate to have the policy endorsed. In addition, since the policy is intended to be a national policy, it is anticipated that stakeholders from a broader community will be engaged to obtain inputs and or feedback on the document for ownership. Similarly, regarding the policy guidance document on aligning customary laws with international human rights standards, further engagement will be held with the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for review and validation and advocacy.

Also, taking into consideration communities in remote locations as they are in most times left behind, simplified (Domestic Violence Act, Inheritance, and rape laws) will be printed and disseminated in the five Spotlight Counties with a focus on vulnerable groups, including women, girls, persons with disability and the LGBTQI community. Massive legal literacy awareness on the simplified laws will be continued to enhance knowledge in a holistic manner to enable right holders to seek justice and claim their rights.

Health facility screeners, maternal and child health care providers in various units and departments of the facility will begin to collect data on cases of sexual violence among women, girls, boys and men attending various health services while Peace Hut Women from all “Spotlight Initiative” supported counties will be trained as Family Planning Community Based Distributors in the consequent year.

There will be increased efforts to build the capacity of LGBTQIA groups and networks in the 5 Spotlight Counties and to ensure that they are provided with the needed support during the programme to access services and be free from SGBV. This is as a realization that these groups continue to face increased vulnerability due to their sexual orientation in their communities and public spaces. In some instances, members of the groups are physically attacked and injured and discriminated against and isolated in communities.

The two remaining heritage and vocational centres will be finalized in 2022 to facilitate traditional zoes' continued efforts in promoting positive cultural norms while girls are allowed to attend school in these multipurpose centres. Similarly, in 2022, up to 800 traditional practitioners, including the additional six new-Spotlight Counties (see the map of new counties [here](#)) are being targeted for alternative livelihood opportunities, including climate-smart agriculture and village savings and loans associations (VSLAs). This is a result of the lessons

learned from the engagement with traditional practitioners in the five spotlight counties who willingly embraced the programme and are involved in farming, businesses and literacy as alternative sources of livelihood and debunk FGM, which initially was carried out for economic gains besides being a cultural practice.

Furthermore, the programme will focus on the sustainability of the vocational and heritage centers and also to ensure the sustainability of the positive cultural practices in these centers, an alternative rite of passage program will be established in 2022. It will seek to ensure that traditional practitioners have opportunities that dissuade them from practising FGM. Lastly, the programme will work towards increased monitoring the closure of bush schools and the renewal of the suspension of FGM pending the passage of the FGM Bill into law.

Implementation of the SBCC Strategy in 2022 will also be a step forward in 2022. Based on these preliminary interventions, SBCC Strategy, the LSI intends to scale up the implementation of this strategy in 2022 with specific Strategic areas of the SBCC strategies being optimized. These will include work with media institutions to enhance the visibility of the strategy, capacity building of relevant stakeholders and community members in the rollout and utilisation of the Strategy and conduct monitoring and evaluation of the strategy and plan.

Response to survivors of SGBV/HPs remains critical, especially in the context of COVID 19, and as such, the LSI will continue to work with the MGCSP and MoJ to ensure that a harmonized case management service system is in place for child victim/ survivors through MGCSP social workers with the police, Mental health clinicians, and Child Justice and SGBV Crimes Unit, to ensure multi-sectoral services. Meanwhile, the LSI will also ensure that all reported girls' survivors of VAWG/SGBV/HPs are provided with decentralized, multi-sectorial child-sensitive and child-centered victim assistance (health, education, psychosocial and justice) including socio-economic empowerment activities through harmonized case management system.

Recruitment of the LSI M&E Specialist, Administration & Finance officer and CS-NRG Facilitator is expected to enhance the capacity of RUNO staff and CS-NRG to organize Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation exercises and to facilitate the design of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative CS-NRG Monitoring Scorecard. The CS-NRG is expected to decide on its Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), including membership nomination, rotation and elections, decision-making process. It will also formally endorse TOR and nominate CS-NRG focal points for AWP implementation and explore criteria for CS-NRG financial compensation. Consequently, it might further revise its AWP 2022 to its decisions.

Additional efforts will be organized to revitalize technical coordination meetings with GOL and to reach out to development partners for the deeper programme sustainability. A joint

technical workshop to clarify the 2022 AWP before its validation by the NSC will be held. Also, a joint technical retreat will be held to discuss further best modalities on reaching out to the most vulnerable by implementing mid-term assessment report recommendations, the framework for success, and tracing down programme reformulation and focus after 2022.

Annex A

Outcome Summary Table

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Outcome 1 Summary table					
Legal age of marriage					
Indicator 1.1 Laws and policies on VAWG/HP in place that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.		0.00	0.75	0.00	Stakeholders consultation and engagement were conducted on three laws(Domestic Violence Act, Rape and Inheritance laws. Advocacy is ongoing after which the law will be submitted to the legislature.
	Parental Authority in Marriage				
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Parental Authority in Divorce				
	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	
	Inheritance rights of Widows				
	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	
	Inheritance rights of Daughters				
	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	
	Laws on Domestic Violence				
	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	
	Laws on Rape				
0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00		
Laws on Sexual Harassment					
0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00		
National level					
Indicator 1.2 National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP are in place that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner.	"Evidence-based Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development"	"Evidence-based Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development"	Does not apply/ there is no plan	"Evidence-based Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development"	Anti-SGBV Roadmap commenced in 2020 and is concretized to address SGBV by 2022. The Roadmap is guided by the PAPD(2018) the Revised National Gender Policy(2017), the Nation GBV Action plan(2019). Spotlight is in close collaboration with relevant partners and supporting the implementation of the roadmap. Human Rights Defender have been trained to draft legislation and national actional action. National cut-across the entire country.
	Sub-National Level				
	Does not apply/ there is no plan	0		0	

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 1.3 Laws and policies are in place that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	In 2021, Liberia passed a Revised Trafficking in Person Act which protect women and children. The above covenants and convention have been ratified. what is pending is the CRC optional protocol on sale of children child prostitution and pornography and the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict	
	Developed or Strengthened					
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of draft new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	0	0	1	2		
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of inquiries conducted by human rights institutions on VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination in the country within the last year.	4	1	1	2		
Indicator 1.1.3 Number of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates within the last year.	3	1	1	3		
Indicator 1.1.4 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination, within the last year.	0	92	75	150	75 (54 females and 21 males) WHRDs from the five LSI Counties have enhanced capacities on human rights advocacy; National action plan (NAP) and legislation drafting and can now ably contribute actively to drafting of policy documents or legislations for public or private use at either local or national level.	
	Parliamentarians					
Indicator 1.1.5 Number of Parliamentarians and staff of human rights institutions with strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination and implement the same, within the last year.	0	25	12	100	Nine (3 female and 6 males) Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) field monitors were mentored and are now knowledgeable with the requisite skills to monitor, investigate, report and document allegations of human rights violations, including those related to SRHRs, SGBV/HP in the counties. LSI mentored two (2 females) focal persons on integrating gender and human rights in law reform processes.	
	Women Parliamentarians					
	0	10	4	11		
	Human Rights Staff					
	0	25	11	154		
Women Human Rights Staff						
0	15	5	73			

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year.	Does not apply/ there is no plan	0	see comment box for reporting list of action plans	0	"Action Plan: Anti-Sexual and Gender Based Violence Roadmap 2020 - 2022, Sector: , Over reporting period: Evidence-Based Costed"	
	Sub-National					
	Does not apply/ there is no plan	0	see comment box for reporting list of action plans	0	"Action Plan: Anti-Sexual and Gender Based Violence Roadmap 2020 - 2022, Sector: , Over reporting period: Evidence-Based Costed"	
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft and cost action plans on ending VAWG and accompanying M&E frameworks.	0	25	75	50	0	
Indicator 1.3.3 Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year.	0	25	20	50	Awareness-raising, stakeholder engagements and consultation meetings for the drafting of a Human Rights Defenders /Women Human Rights Defenders Protection Policy is ongoing	
	those Officials who participate in developing laws & policies					
	0	20	0	50		
	Women Government Officials demonstrate awareness					
	0	15	12	30		
Indicator 1.3.4 Number of women human rights defenders with strengthened capacities to contribute to the development of laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.	0	30	75	15	Awareness-raising, stakeholder engagements and consultation meetings for the drafting of a Human Rights Defenders /Women Human Rights Defenders Protection Policy is ongoing	
	Contribute to developing laws and policies					
	0	15	0	15		
Outcome 2 Summary table						
Coordination Mechanism?						
Indicator 2.1 Existence of a functioning regional, national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest levels for addressing VAWG/HP that include representation from marginalized groups.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Is there a national budget allocation?						
Indicator 2.2 Percentage of national budget being allocated to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	The government committed One million United States Dollars towards the fight against violence against women and girls through the special presidential taskforce.	
	What is the percentage of national budgets being allocated?					
	0.0	1.0	1.6	1.0		

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of institutions that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.	0	3	8	12	
Indicator 2.1.5 Number of targeted national and sub-national training institutions for public servants that have integrated gender equality and VAWG in their curriculum, as per international standards.	1	3	3	7	
	Government Officials				
Indicator 2.1.6 Number of key government officials trained on human rights and gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	100	130	160	Liberia Institute for Public Administration (LIPA)
	Women Government Officials				
	0	70	74	110	
Indicator 2.2.1 Multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanisms are established at the highest level and/or strengthened, and are composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans, within the last year.	N/A there is no coordination mechanism	"Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders With a clear mandate and governance structure"	"Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders"	"Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders With a clear mandate and governance structure With annual work plans"	The National GBV Taskforce is the coordination mechanism comprised of relevant stakeholders from government and Civil Society Organizations. The taskforce is functional at the sub-national (county) as well.
Indicator 2.2.2 Proportion of national and sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms in place that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	0	2	3	5	
	National Level Meetings				
Indicator 2.2.4 Number of meetings of regional, national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, within the last year.	0	3	3	12	Three (3) in-person national technical coordination meetings were held and hosted by the Ministry of Gender who leads on coordination. However, there has been gap in hosting the meetings regularly due to the effect of COVID-19.
	Sub-National Level Meetings				
	0	3	3	12	

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.3.2 Number of Parliamentarians with strengthened knowledge and capacities to hold relevant stakeholders accountable to fund and implement multi-sectoral programmes to address VAWG, within the last year.	0	90	26	103	The gender impact of national budget expenditures on development and on citizens is a subject that is only beginning to emerge in Liberia's public policy discuss, even though this has been a key concern within the United Nations and development arena for a number of years now. The revised National Gender Policy of 2009 articulates the government's bold step to breaking with the past and moving on with the sustainable development for both women and men in Liberia. In the three years gender analysis of expenditure of the national budget (FY 2017 – 2020), it is clear that despite a strong national gender policy, integration of gender mainstreaming in national budget expenditure is still farfetched.
	Women Parliamentarians				
	0	11	9	11	
	Government Officials				
Indicator 2.3.3 Number of key government officials with greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG, within the last year.	0	30	105	60	A total of 105 GFPs, Comptrollers, Budget Officers, Policy/Planning Officers, and Monitoring & Evaluation officers received training in gender-responsive planning and budget
	Women Government Officials				
	0	10	105	25	
Indicator 2.3.4 Number of women's rights advocates with greater knowledge and capacities on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG.	0	10		10	40
Outcome 3 Summary table					
Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner.	31.0 %	24.5 %	31.0%	23.5 %	The indicator will be measured in 2022 - 2023.
	Female Genital Mutilation				
Indicator 3.2 a) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to FGM (in areas where FGM takes place)		x			0.36
	Child Marriage				
b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage.		x	50%		

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.2 a) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to FGM (in areas where FGM takes place)	49.8 %	38.0 %	49.8%	39.5 %	The indicator will be measured in 2022 - 2023.
	Child Marriage	x			
b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage.	36.0 %	36.0 %	36%	15.0 %	
Indicator 3.3 Existence of with at least 3 evidence-based, transformative/ comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner.	No	No	Yes	Yes	
Indicator 3.1.1 Existence of a draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Curriculum developed using international standards is part of the Ministry of Education Curriculum and continued to be utilized.
	In-School Programmes				
Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	0	300	750	1,260	A total of 750 in school youth were reached during the programme. During the out of school programme, a total of 5,534 girls and boys were reached, which includes survivors of sexual violence, children benefitting from social economic interventions, children from buddy clubs and adolescents involved in awareness raising activities.
	In-School Programmes Girls				
	0	150	375	610	
	In-School Programmes Boys				
	0	150	375	650	
	Out-of-School Programmes				
	0	0	5,534	250	
	Out-of-School Programmes Girls				
	0	0	4,004	0	
	Out-of-School Programmes Boys				
	0	0	1,530	250	
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	0	8,304	11,097	34,734	These beneficiaries participated in the observance of the 16 Days of Activism

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
	Total				
Indicator 3.2.3 Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces, within the last year.	0	500	6,834	1,800	
	Men	x			
	0	300	6,182	1,000	
	Boys	x			
	0	200	652	800	
Indicator 3.2.4 Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction	24	10	110	744	110 communities have established structures for the rollout and the dissemination of the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy and Action Plan.
Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.	5	1	3	10	
Indicator 3.2.6 Number of networks of men and boys developed and/or strengthened to advocate against VAWG and stand for promoting gender equitable values and behaviours during the past year.	21	3	6	38	
Indicator 3.3.1 Number of news outlets that develop standards on ethical and gender-sensitive reporting, within the last year.	44	0	2	59	
	EVAWG Policies	x			
Indicator 3.3.2 Number of relevant non-state institutions that have developed and/or strengthened strategies/policies on ending VAWG and promoting gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, including those groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with international HR standards, within the last year.	10	1	0	3	In 2021, there was no strategies/policies developed.
	EVAWG Policies including LNOB	x			
	0	1	0	2	
Indicator 3.3.3 Number of news and other media stories/reports that sensitively report on VAWG and GEWE more broadly, in the last year.	0	5	15	20	News and media stories covered issues affecting women and girls including sexual and domestic violence.
	Journalists	x			
Indicator 3.3.4 Number of journalists with strengthened capacity to sensitively report on VAWG and GEWE more broadly.	0	75	388	438	A total of 388 media practitioners who capacities were built in 2020 continued to be engaged and are reporting on issues that affects women and girls in a gender sensitive manner.
	Women Journalists	x			
	0	5	91	121	
	Decision Makers				
Indicator 3.3.5 Number of key informal decision makers and decision makers in relevant institutions with strengthened awareness of and capacities to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights, within the last year.		250		150	25
	Women Decision Makers				
	0	1,065	344	4445	

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
Outcome 4 Summary table						
Indicator 4.1 Number of women and girls, including those facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, who report experiencing physical or sexual violence and seek help, by sector.	Women					
	0	1,500	5,201	4,350	These child survivors accessed one or more forms of multi-sectorial services including psychosocial. Please note there were six male child survivors who also benefited from these services.	
	Girls					
0	500	4,981	2,400			
Indicator 4.2 a) number of VAWG cases reported to the police; b) number of cases reported to the police that are brought to court; and c) number of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators.	Reported					
	2,105	1,000	920	4,000	404 cases pending /ongoing	
	Brought to Court					
	126	750	1147	3,000		
Convictions						
	63	400	29	1,400		
Indicator 4.3 A dedicated VAWG management information system (MIS) is in place at national level which can measure number of women/girl victims/survivors of violence that have received quality, essential multi-sectoral services.	MIS					
	0	0		0	0	
Indicator 4.1.2 Number of women and girls with access to programmes developed to integrate VAWG response into SRH, education and migration services.	Women					
	0	300	5,201	1,300	These child survivors accessed one or more forms of multi-sectorial services including psychosocial. Please note there were six male child survivors who also benefited from these services.	
	Girls					
0	500	2,090	2,000			
Indicator 4.1.4 Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.	Government Service Providers					
	0	40	78	200	LSI supported capacities strengthening of Government and CSO partners in basic monitoring, evaluation and reporting concept and tools. The training strengthened the capacities of 53 participants 32 males 21 females. Similarly, twenty-five laboratory technicians from five (5) spotlight counties were trained to provide quality of care in Collection, handling, transportation, and investigation of SGBV samples for forensic investigation.	
	Women Government Service Providers					
0	35	21	165			

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 4.1.9 Existence of national guidelines or protocols for essential services that have been developed and/or strengthened that specifically address the needs of women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	“: 1., Name of Guideline/Protocol DEVELOPED: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR PROTECTING CRIME SCENE, COLLECTING, STORING, TRANSPORTING, AND TESTING FORENSIC SAMPLE FOR SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LIBERIA : 1., Name of Guideline/Protocol DEVELOPED: Integrated Essential Services Package for SGBV/SRHR”	
	Strengthened					
Indicator 4.2.1 Number of women and girl survivors of violence that have increased KNOWLEDGE of a) to quality essential services, and b) accompaniment/ support initiatives, including longer-term recovery within the last 12 months	a) Girls with Knowledge of ES					
	0	1,510	2,082	6,210	The group accessed knowledge through town hall meetings, peer educators outreach, mobile theater, etc.	
	a) Women with Knowledge of ES					
	0	146	3,452	899		
	b) Girls with Knowledge of longer term services					
	0	1,728	0	6,141		
b) Women with Knowledge of longer term services						
Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girl survivors/victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased ACCESS to a) to quality essential services and b) accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer-term recovery services, within the last 12 months	a) Girls with ACCESS to ES					
	0	1,510	4,981	4,530	The 434 beneficiaries include child survivors and adolescent girls at risk.	
	a) Women with ACCESS to ES					
	1,004	2,286	5,201	7,870		
	b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services					
	0	250	434	1,000		
b) Women with Access to Recovery Services						
	0	100	0	400		

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Outcome 5 Summary table					
	Prevalence				
Indicator 5.1 Existence of globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP, collected over time	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prevalence data is collected during the census and the GBVIMS report on incidence.
	Incidence				
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	IPV				
Indicator 5.2 Existence of publicly available data, reported on a regular basis, on various forms of VAWG/HP (at least on intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, family violence, harmful practices when relevant, and trafficking and femicide) at country level	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
	FGM				
	No	0%	No	0%	
	Child Marriage				
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
	Femicide				
	No	0%	No	0%	
Indicator 5.1.1 National Statistical Offices has developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG	No	Yes	No	Yes	0
"Indicator 5.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making, within the past 12 months"	0	4	4	16	4 Knowledge products were developed during the reporting period
		x			
Outcome 6 Summary table					
Indicator 6.1 Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/ marginalization, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on ending VAWG	0	100	30	390	
Indicator 6.2 Extent to which there is an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage efforts to end VAWG	0	3	0	6	There was no funding to follow up on the implementation of the social accountability skills and knowledge gained by CSOs and Women Rights Groups. This will continue in Phase II of the project.
Indicator 6.3 Number of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending VAWG	0	10	55	50	0

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Milestone 2021	Results for Reporting Period (2021)	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year	0	5	2	15	2 Recommendations presented to the Ministry of Gender.
Indicator 6.1.2 Number of official dialogues about ending VAWG with relevant government authorities that include the full participation of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year.	0	0	2	10	#NAME?
	Youth	x			
Indicator 6.1.3 Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG, within the last year.	0	5	1	6	There are 6 marginalized and vulnerable groups and 1 youth groups which forms the coalitions of CSOs in the 5 Spotlight Counties.
	LNOB	x			
	0	3	6	6	
Indicator 6.1.4 Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year	13	10	125	30	A total of 125 CSOs and Women's Rights groups who under various capacity building trainings have increased capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for ending all forms of violence against women and girls in Liberia.
Indicator 6.2.1 Number of supported women's right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG, within the last year	0	0	80	30	0
	CSOs with strengthened capacities				
Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.	0	0	100	30	100 CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have increased capacities to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on EAWG.
Indicator 6.3.2 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year	0	0	100	0	100 CSOs and Women Rights Groups use UN Agencies generated knowledge product to design, mobilize resources and conduct awareness and other programmes on ending EAWG.

Annex B

Risk Matrix

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring:		Addressing the Risk Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?			
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Contextual risks						
C1-Fragility of the peace, civil unrest	2	4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong emphasis on peace process by the UN 	RCO
C2-Humanitarian emergency due to natural or human made disaster	3	4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulating joint response in partnership and coordination with partners, GoL, RUNOs and EU strengthening capacities and accountability 	RCO
C3-Inadequate policy / legal framework	3	2	Annually	OHCHR programme reports	Advocacy for passage on pending bills through targeting leadership of executive, judiciary and legislative branches to draft/amend frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with civil society, supporting participation in the development/review of national legislation on SGBV/HPs and advocate to amend inadequacies Good offices of RCO 	RUNOs-OHCHR, RCO
C4-Change in national commitment, political will	2		quarterly	Meeting minutes from National Steering Committee and other meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close and regular political engagement with new government focal persons; Strengthened policy dialogue on gender issues; Advocacy with government actors beyond the those working directly on gender, and with other sectors, in collaboration with CSOs and other actors; -Dissemination of information on the strategy and the advantages of addressing SGBV/HPs; 	RCO, RUNOs, CSOs, GoL
C5-Resistance from traditional and religious leaders	3	3	quarterly	Continued dialogue with the GOL, and National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCCEL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused and continuous engagement and dialogue with traditional and religious leaders, especially traditional chiefs and elders, using lessons learned; Sensitization and empowerment of female traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against and desist from engaging in HPs such as FGM, child marriage and IPV; Dissemination of information on strategy and the advantages of addressing SGBV/HPs; 	RUNOs/ UN-Women, GoL, CSO

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring:		Addressing the Risk Please include the mitigating and/or adaptation measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?			
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
C2-1.The reemergence of COVID 19 has created logistical challenges for international procurement and supply chain thereby resulting to scarcity of commodities on the market, delay in receiving procurements, and stock out of essential drugs and other medical supplies	3	3	Periodic	Field visits, stock out report	Early initiation of procurement request, procuring in large quantities and repositioning of essential drugs and medical supplies	UNFPA
C2.2. Increased resurgence of COVID 19 has continue to put children especially girls at risk of SGBV/ HP and SEA in that it affects their protection mechanisms across all levels thus making them vulnerable. This situation also limits delivery of key interventions.	3	3	Regular	Field visits and Virtual meetings	Adhoc and Planned Virtual PMVs were conducted with IPs to assess the level of achieving targets agreed upon.	UNICEF
C2-3.National challenges affecting health sector in Liberia (massive stockout of essential drugs and medical supplies, inadequate human resource availability, High attrition rate of staff, inadequate supply chain management, demotivation of staff due to delay in salary payment, non-standardized mentorship and in-service training for service providers etc..)	4	4	Regularly	Monitoring, feedback from the service provision point, Reports	Ensure that project specific drugs and supplies are directly supplied to project implementation unit (this is still a challenge), support continuous supportive supervision and on-site mentorship, encourage service providers motivation by ensuring the availability of basic logistics and supply to strengthen service provision.	UNFPA
Programmatic risks						
P1-Limited absorption capacity of national stakeholders to deliver results	2	2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity assessment of needs and gaps and capacity development strategies through direct participation of civil society and all national partners; Regular monitoring and provision of technical support; 	
P2-Challenges in resource mobilization to cover identified gaps	2	3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource mobilization strategies for the Spotlight Country Programmes at country level are developed and implemented; The UN RC work with development partners in country to mobilize additional resources, including Government cost-sharing; Build on existing structures to sustain the interventions and engage with alternative partners like civil society and private sector; 	
P3-Challenges in implementation and delivery of results (linked to C2 and P1)	2	2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and implementation of acceleration plans Adoption of clear implementation, monitoring and reporting deliverables; Regular M&E to enable corrective action to be taken jointly by Government, partners and UN agencies; Regular updates provided to the National Steering Committee and the Spotlight Initiative Operational Steering Committee for decision making and guidance; 	

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring:		Addressing the Risk Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
			How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?			
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
P4-Effectiveness of proposed model/approaches; alternative sources of income for FGM practitioners	3	3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lessons learned to inform and design approach and pilot •Pilots of innovative models in a few selected coverage areas •Build ownership through inclusive consultative multi-stakeholder platforms with formal and informal actors to build consensus; 	
P1.1.-Low capacity of Implementing Partners to utilize funds and liquidate within agreed timeframe. (linked to I4)	3	3	Regular	Virtual meetings via ZOOM	Coordination meetings were held, follow ups via emails and phone calls to ascertain	UNICEF
P1.2. - Limited absorptive capacity by national partners and CSOs (linked to I4)	5	4	annual, regular	Country office report, Virtual meetings via ZOOM	Follow-up with national partners and CSOs in the implementation of activities. Consistent monitoring of activities. Coordination meetings were held, follow ups via emails and phone calls to ascertain.	UNDP
P1.3.-Data collection on GBV is further hampered by a lack of resources (human and equipment) to digitalize and central GBV data collection, reporting and storage mechanism. (linked to I4)	3	3	Regular	Assessment	Procured GBV backup server, provided incentives to data clerks, hired data analyst, installation and development of server and data website pending.	UNFPA
P1.4-Limitations in response services are aggravated by inadequate government logistical and financial capacities, coupled with a lack of coordination among government stakeholders and implementing partners providing response services. Consequently, the police is severely under-resourced and notoriously slow to respond to arrest, the judiciary process is also a very big challenge [linked to I2 and I4]	3	3	Regular	Field monitoring visits, assessments, reports	Advocate for more national budgetary support, trained 20 officers of the Liberia National Police and provided logistical support, (9 motorbikes, 11 digital cameras and 9 recorders) and handed over to 9 WACPs depots in Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and Grand Cape Mount Counties to support community accountability structures including the Peace Hut Women network to facilitate case identification, reporting and referrals.	UNFPA
P1.5.-Limited support to survivors and families for medical and legal services (linked to I4)	4	4	annual	partner's report	Programme provide small financial support to survivors through the SGBV Crimes Unit but challenges remain enormous	UNDP
C.2.4.-Repeated outbreaks of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) in Liberia posing serious health risk to the safety and protection of staff and implementing partners during service delivery [linked to C2]	4	5	annual	Country office report	Observed public health protocols and national health and safety requirements. Most times in-persons meetings were canceled or rearranged for online while other times only restricted numbers were trained	UNDP
P3-1. Operating within a constrained environment due to COVID19 social distancing measures and limited partner's capacity the achievement of planned results might not be completely achieved [see P1, P3, I2, F1 for example]	3	4		Technical Working Group meetings, PMCU meetings, partners reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Desing and implement acceleration plans and measures 	RUNOs, RCO

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk Please include the mitigating and/or adaptation measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
[NEW] SURVIVORS' fear of stigma and discrimination: Women and girls face challenges in accessing services due to barriers and stereotypes established by socio-cultural norms and their fear of stigma and discrimination. Stigma and fear of discrimination also leads to significant under-reporting of cases of GBV and limits access to SRHR services and commodities, such that existing data only indicates the tip of the iceberg.	4	3	Regular	Field monitoring visits, assessments, reports	Strengthen activity involving community awareness and local ownership/by-in of local leaders and community gatekeepers, work with partners implementing under the prevention pillar to carry more campaigns and awareness on VAWG in high GBV prone communities, also work with service providers to strengthen reporting and referral; [accelerate implementation of the UNICEF led and GOV and CSO endorsed Social and behaviour change communication strategy (SBCC Strategy)]	UNFPA
Institutional risks						
I1-Weakened civil society	3	2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Strengthening of support to local women's and grass roots organizations as well as relevant national and regional women's organizations, including to strengthen prevention ●Strengthen advocacy, knowledge and capacity on issues 	
I2-Weak institutional coordination and collaboration, creating duplication	3	3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Strengthening of support to local women's and grass roots organizations as well as relevant national and regional women's organizations, including to strengthen prevention; ●Strengthen advocacy, knowledge and capacity on issues; 	
I3-Limited availability of data and limited capacities of state institutions to develop and analyse data	2	3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Adoption of common classifications and indicators to enable crossreferencing; ●Strengthen capacity of institutions on data collection, analysis and dissemination; ●Development of tool kits (SGBV model surveys, indicator sets and Creation of capacity enhancement strategies, ad hoc and agile coordination mechanisms; ●Continued policy dialogue and advocacy with key government institutions; ●Strengthening of institutions' capacities to ensure law enforcement and fight against impunity; ●Dialogue and cooperation between the legal system and duty bearers at community level protocols to coordinate the generation of information, map out actors, etc.); 	
I4-Weak, fragmented and low institutional systems, knowledge and capacity	3	3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Creation of capacity enhancement strategies, ad hoc and agile coordination mechanisms; ●Continued policy dialogue and advocacy with key government institutions; ●Strengthening of institutions' capacities to ensure law enforcement and fight against impunity; ●Dialogue and cooperation between the legal system and duty bearers at community level; ●Capacity enhancement of regional institutions, including relevant regional women's organizations to implement and/or monitor and report on progress of regional frameworks on EVAWG 	

Risk Assessment (All text in the Risk Management Report: Arial 10 point, normal)	Likelihood: Almost Certain – 5 Likely – 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely – 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Extreme – 5 Major – 4 Moderate – 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant – 1	Risk Monitoring: How (and how often) did your programme monitor the risk(s) during the reporting period?		Addressing the Risk Please include the mitigating and/or adaption measures taken during the reporting period.	Responsible Person/Unit
Risk Please include new risks, if any, denoting these with [New Risk]			Periodicity	Source for monitoring		
Fiduciary risks						
F1-The installation of DNA machine to enable sample testing and identification of perpetrators of rape/sexual abuse and related crimes is a challenge.	4	4	Regular	Follow-ups	According to the National Pathologist, One of the DNA machines develop a defect during installation and has already been shipped back to the supplier for repair/replacement	UNFPA
F2-Implementing Partners continue to demonstrate weak/ low capacity to utilize/ report/manage funds as agreed within Program documents and Joint workplans (linked to P1, P3)	4	4	Regular	In person trainig	Training was provided to both Gol and CSOs on UNICEF's financial management and procedual practices to ehance their capacity on accurate and timely reporting so as to avoid delays in funds disbursement and liquidation. Monitoring and reporting to find alternative implementation modalities.	UNICEF

Assumptions (CPD):

- Political stability and leadership commitment from Government, CSO, Partners, Private Sector, and Media to end SGBV/HP and promote SRHR
- Relevant laws and policies are amended and passed for implementation by the Legislature to eliminate VAWG and promote SRHR
- Ownership and mutual accountability by Government, CSOs, and partners on implementation and delivery of results
- Buy-in and participation from informal decision makers, including traditional and religious leaders, to serve as agents of change in their communities
- Resources are mobilized from donors and partners, and strong partnerships are built for upscaling of the LSI to the remaining 10 counties by GoL
- Change in attitudes and behaviours among communities including women, girls, men and boys to stop SGBV/HP and promote SRHR
- Strengthen technical and programme capacity and knowledge of the GoL, CSOs and private Sector on SGBV/HP/SRHR

Assumptions 2021:

1. Increased awareness and knowledge on prevention efforts (change in cultural norms and practices), reporting, referrals, stigma and discrimination that hinders access to SGBV/SRHR services by women and girl survivors etc. will be systematically matched and complemented with increased access to SGBV/HP/SRHR response services as part of an integrated package of services, prioritizing accessibility by women, girls, marginalized groups and those in the most difficult to reach rural communities. (UNFPA)
2. Leverage on the forensic architecture to enable efficient and effective collection, handling and transportation of evidence (for example semen, fluid, blood, etc.) to the forensic laboratory for DNA testing and confirmation will boost reporting and trial of GBV cases (UNFPA)
3. Accerleration of the implementation of the SBCC Strategy and Plan; including the developement of key messages, engagement with cross sections of community based structures, will faciliate change in attitudes/ behaviorals / norms which are negative towards women and girls, thus enhancing equity to promote gender and social equalities. (UNICEF)

Annex C

CSO Engagement Report

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
OUTCOME 1: Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of VAWG and harmful practices are in place and translated into plans.															
Output 1.1: National and regional partners have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and are in line with international human rights standards and treaty bodies' recommendations.															
OHCHR	1	1.1	Women Solidarity Incorporated (WOSI)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$75,400.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$75,400	\$75,400	Yes	New
OHCHR	1	1.1	LIBERIA NGOs NETWORK (LINNK)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$113,776.00	neither			0	\$91,021	\$91,021	Yes	New
	1	1.1													
Output 1.2: National and/or sub-national partners are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG in line with international human rights standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.															
OHCHR	1	1.2	Women Empowerment for Self-Employment (WE4SELF)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$94,480.00	neither	0%	0	16	\$75,584	\$75,580	Yes	New
	1	1.2													
Output 1.3: National, sub-national and/or regional partners have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.															
OHCHR	1	1.3	Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$23,300.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$23,300	\$23,300	Yes	New
	1	1.3													
OUTCOME 2: National and sub-national systems and institutions plan, fund and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG and harmful practices, including in other sectors.															
Output 2.1: Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, including in other sectors.															
UNDP	2	2.1	Medica Liberia	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$112,560.00	sub-granting	44%	8	0	\$50,000	\$50,000	Yes	Existing
	2	2.1													
Output 2.2: Multi-stakeholder national and/or sub-national coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened that are adequately funded and include multisectoral representation and representation from the most marginalized groups.															
	2	2.2													
Output 2.3: Partners (parliamentarians, key government officials and women's rights advocates) at national and/or sub-national levels have greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG.															
UN Women	2	2.3	Institute For Research and Democratic Development (IREED)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$202,250.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$202,250	\$202,250	Yes	New

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
OUTCOME 3: Gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviors change at community and individual levels to preventVAWG and HTPs.															
Output 3.1: National and/or sub-national evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in- and out-of-school settings.															
UNICEF	3	3.1	Liberia Crusaders For Peace	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$160,474.34	neither	N/A	None	21	\$160,474	\$160,474	Yes	Existing
UNICEF	3	3.1	Defence For Children International	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$109,524.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$109,524	\$109,524	No	New
UN Women	3	3.1	Maestral International	International	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$45,443.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$45,443	\$45,443	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.1	Medica Liberia	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$22,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$22,000	\$22,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.1	United Fund For Underage Mothers (UF-DUM)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$184,416.00	sub-contracting	35%	5	0	\$184,416	\$184,416	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.1	Assistance For Providing Aid, Inc (APA)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$15,229.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$15,229	\$15,229	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.1	Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized women and Girls (ADWANGA)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$13,190.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$13,190	\$13,190	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.1	Community Development Initiative, Inc (CDI)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$13,040.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$13,040	\$13,040	Yes	New
Output 3.2: Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem, and transforming harmful masculinities.															
UNICEF	3	3.2	Liberia Crusaders For Peace	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$107,327.38	neither	%	None	0	\$107,327	\$107,327	Yes	Existing
UNICEF	3	3.2	Defence For Children International	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$89,310.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$89,310	\$89,310	No	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Women in Peacebuilding Network	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$332,483.82	sub-contracting	10%	7	0	\$332,484	\$332,484	Yes	Existing
UN Women	3	3.2	HeForShe Crusaders Liberia	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$15,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$15,000	\$15,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Restoring our Children's Hope (ROCH)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$7,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$7,000	\$7,000	Yes	New

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
UN Women	3	3.2	Community Health Education & Social Services (CHESS)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$9,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$9,000	\$9,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	South-Eastern Women Development Association (SEWODA)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$14,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$14,000	\$14,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Lofa Women Network (LOWON)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$10,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Compassion Fund International (COFUL)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$10,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$10,000	\$10,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Inter-Faith Based Leaders Against Violence (IFBLAV)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$3,000.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$3,000	\$3,000	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Plan International	International	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$490,956.66	sub-contracting	63%	4	0	\$490,957	\$490,957	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Universal empowerment Mission (UEM)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Sub-Contractor	\$67,998.50	neither	N/A	None	0	\$67,999	\$67,999	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Women and Children Development Association (WOCDAL)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Sub-Contractor	\$89,047.20	neither	N/A	None	0	\$89,047	\$89,047	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Women Solidarity Incorporated (WOSI)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Sub-Contractor	\$69,061.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$69,061	\$69,061	Yes	New
UN Women	3	3.2	Women empowerment for Self-Employment (WE4Self)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Sub-Contractor	\$59,563.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$59,563	\$59,563	Yes	New
UNFPA	3	3.2	BRAC	International	Adolescent girls	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$140,097.73	neither	N/A	N/A	10	\$140,098	\$140,098	No	Existing
Output 3.3: Decision makers in relevant institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors, and women and girls' rights.															
UN Women	3	3.3	Women in Peacebuilding Network	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$109,011.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$109,011	\$109,011	Yes	Existing
UN Women	3	3.3	Female Journalist Association of Liberia (FeJAL)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$66,501.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$66,501	\$66,501	Yes	New

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
OUTCOME 4: Women and girls who experience violence and harmful practices use available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services, including for long-term recovery from violence.															
Output 4.1: Relevant government authorities and women's rights organizations at national and sub-national levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRHR services and access to justice, to women and girls' survivors of violence, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.															
UNFPA	4	4.1	Plan International	International	Adolescent girls	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$330,008.00	neither	NA	NA	10	\$215,015	\$215,015	No	Existing
Output 4.2: Women and girls survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer-term recovery services and opportunities.															
UNFPA	4	4.2	Plan International	International	Adolescent girls	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$584,752.09	neither	0%	None	10	\$424,500	\$424,500	Yes	Existing
UNDP	4	4.2	Carefound Liberia Inc	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$40,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$40,000	\$40,000	Yes	Existing
UNDP	4	4.2	Progressive Youth for Community Safety Initiative	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$40,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$40,000	\$40,000	No information available	Existing
UNICEF	4	4.2	Liberia Curaders For Peace	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$174,378.62	neither	N/A	None	0	\$174,379	\$174,379	Yes	Existing
UNICEF	4	4.2	Defence For Children International	National	Adolescent girls	Grantee	\$135,154.00	neither	N/A	None	0	\$135,154	\$135,154	No	New
UNFPA	4	4.2	Plan International												
	4	4.2													
OUTCOME 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of VAWG and harmful practices is collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.															
Output 5.1: Key partners, including relevant statistical officers, service providers in the different branches of government and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.															
	5	5.1													
	5	5.1													
Output 5.2: Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for the monitoring and reporting of the SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making.															
	5	5.2	Plan International	International	Adolescent girls	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$20,000.00	neither	N/A	N/A	10	\$20,000	\$20,000	yes	Existing
	5	5.2													
OUTCOME 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on gender equity and women's empowerment, and ending VAWG.															
Output 6.1: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, partner and jointly advocate for gender equity and women's empowerment, and ending VAWG, more specifically, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional and global levels.															
UNDP	6	6.1	My Voice My Safety	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$40,000.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$40,000	\$40,000	Yes	Existing
UNDP	6	6.1	Carefound Liberia Inc	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$33,880.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$33,880	\$33,880	Yes	Existing
UNDP	6	6.1	Progressive Youth for Community Safety Initiative	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$30,000.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$30,000	\$30,000	No information available	Existing

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
UNDP	6	6.1	Rescue Women Liberia	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$39,270.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$39,270	\$39,270	Yes	Existing
UNDP	6	6.1	Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$38,823.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$38,823	\$38,823	Yes	Existing
UN Women	6	6.1	Development Education Network - Liberia (DEN-L)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$217,266.92	neither	0%	-	0	\$217,267	\$217,267	Yes	Existing
Output 6.2: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs are better supported to use social accountability mechanisms to support their advocacy and influence on prevention and response to VAWG and gender equality and women's empowerment more broadly.															
UN Women	6	6.2	Development Education Network - Liberia (DEN-L)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$205,674.26	neither	0%	-	0	\$205,674	\$205,674	Yes	Existing
UN Women	6	6.2	Women and Development Youth Center (WODYEC)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$106,104.00	neither	0%	-	0	\$106,104	\$105,879	Yes	Existing
Output 6.3: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG.															
UN Women	6	6.3	Development Education Network - Liberia (DEN-L)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Implementing Partner (IP)	\$361,618.00	sub-granting	51%	25	0	\$361,618	\$361,618	Yes	Existing
UN Women	6	6.3	Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia (LEGAL)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network (DCFENET-WORK) Inc.	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Liberia Future Trust (LiFT)	national	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Montserrat CSOs SGBV Secretariat	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$6,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$6,000	\$6,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Formidable Initiative For Women and Girls (FIWG)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Child Education Aid (CEA)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
UN Women	6	6.3	Rural Women and Girls Promoter for Sustainable Development, INC (RWGP)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Partnership For Community Initiative (PCI)	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Inter Visionary Artist (IVA), Inc.	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Humanity Care Liberia (HCL)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Covenant foundation for Girls (COFGIRLS)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Nimba CSOs SGBV Secretariat	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$6,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$6,000	\$6,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Building Asset Sustainable Development (BASD)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Foya Rural Women Association, Inc.	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Foundation for Women and Children empowerment (FOWACE)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Peace Link Liberia	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Progressive Youth for Community Safety Initiative	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Lofa CSOs SGBV Secretariat	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$6,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$6,000	\$6,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Liberia Cross Border Women	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Agency for Sustainable Promoters (AFSP)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New

Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Modality of Engagement	Total Award Amount (USD)	Is the awarded CSO sub-granting or sub-contracting to other CSOs (or neither)?	What total percentage of this award is planned for sub-granting?	What is the estimated planned number of sub-grantee CSOs?	What is the percentage of the Award that is going to core institutional support to CSOs?	Total amount disbursed to the CSO by 31 December 2021	Total expenditure by the CSO by 31 December 2021	Is this CSO woman-led and/or women's rights organisation (WRO)/ feminist CSO?	Is the CSO a new or existing partner?
UN Women	6	6.3	Community Organized Against Hunger (COAH)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Tewor Women For Peace and Development	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Madina Development Association (MDA)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Grand Cape Mount CSOs SGBV Secretariat	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$6,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$6,000	\$6,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Respect - Liberia	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Rights and Rice Foundation (RRF)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Feeding House Organization (FHO)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Women and Children Development Education Secretariat (WOCDES)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Recovery and Development Initiative Organization (RADIO)	Local/Grass-roots	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
UN Women	6	6.3	Grand Gedeh CSOs SGBV Secretariat	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context	Grantee	\$5,000.00	neither	0%	None	0	\$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	New
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS (including pre-funding)															
	PMC	PMC	Liberia CS-NRG Budget is located here	National	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context			unclear					around 20k	yes	Existing

Type of CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>International CSOs</u> operate in two or more countries across different regions. • <u>Regional CSOs</u> operate in two or more countries within the same region (i.e. Africa, Latin America, Asia, Caribbean, Pacific). In this case, a regional CSO is not one that operates in a particular region within one country. • <u>National CSOs</u> operate only in one particular country. • <u>Local and grassroots organisations</u> focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD \$200,000); to be self-organised and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.
Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Under the principle of Leave No One Behind, Spotlight UN Country Teams are expected to ensure the representation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including by engaging with CSOs that service or advocate for these groups. If the award covers several vulnerable or marginalised populations, select one population that is primarily served by the award.
Modality of Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Implementing Partner (IP)</u>: Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement. • <u>Grantee</u>: Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding. • <u>Vendor</u>: Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activity.
Award Amount	In this context, an “Award” is any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement with a CSO.
Sub-granting	When a CSO issues grants to other CSOs who have submitted their own proposals for grant funding.
Sub-contracting	When a CSO contracts another CSO to carry out part of its own contract with a RUNO as part of a pre-defined TOR
Core institutional funding	The purpose of core institutional funding is not to finance the delivery of a programmatic activity, it also distinct from the overheads related to delivering said programmatic activity. It is usually used to support an organization’s overall institutional capacity covering general operations and core costs, such as paying staff salaries and office rent, buying equipment and ICT services, providing psychosocial support and health insurance for staff, to put in place new adaptative strategies and systems, or even to raise staff awareness and develop their capacities in technical areas. Institutional funding is multifaced and constantly evolving based on the organization’s needs.
Type of Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Implementing Partner (IP)</u>: Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement. • <u>Grantee</u>: Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding. • <u>Vendor</u>: Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activities.
Woman-Led and/or Women’s Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs	To be considered a “woman-led CSO,” the organisation must be headed by a woman. To be considered a “women’s rights or feminist organisation,” the organisation’s official mission/visions statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women’s rights. The organisation should aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate EAWG and gender based violence and work to transform these.
New or Existing Partner	(The rationale behind this question is to understand the extent to which RUNOs are expanding their outreach to CSOs beyond usual partners, giving opportunities to new CSOs) To be considered a “new partner”, the RUNO has not engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Programme. To be considered an existing partner, the RUNO has engaged the CSO in any partnership modality, prior to the start of the Spotlight Programme.
Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award	Under the principle of Leave No One Behind, Spotlight UN Country Teams are expected to ensure the representation of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including by engaging with CSOs that service or advocate for these groups. If the award covers several vulnerable or marginalised populations, select one population that is primarily served by the award.

Annex D

Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

State of a practice: good practice or promising practice?

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

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

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

Guidance and Template on Innovative, Promising and Good Practices

As a Demonstration Fund, the Spotlight Initiative aims to demonstrate how a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) and gender equality can make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs. It is thus critical that innovative, promising and good practices, in the field of EVAWG and in the context of implementing a “new way of working”, have the potential for adaptability, sustainability, replicability and scale-up¹. This is both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative. It is critical that these practices are documented and shared widely for uptake and continuous improvement to contribute to the evidence base and eliminate violence against women and girls.

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

Definition of an Innovative Practice

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

Definition of a Promising Practice

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

Definition of a Good Practice

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

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

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

³ Please refer to the “Spotlight Initiative Guidance on Innovation” for more information.

Summary:

Spotlight Initiative in Liberia continues to explore and employ innovation and good practices to accelerate transformative results for women and girls in both prevention and response to violence and harmful practices. This reporting year documents various areas of the programme where innovative, promising, and good practices were used and harnessed in activities through implementing partners and the beneficiaries alike.

Annex D of 2021 Annual Report summarizes these examples with evidence to show positive changes from which the programme learns lessons for ongoing and future implementation. Specific areas in which Spotlight practiced and or experienced the use of innovation, promising and good practices are: working with grassroots women's organizations, FGM practitioners and local/traditional leadership structures to tackle all forms of violence against women within communities; enhancing the capability of law enforcers beyond trainings to incorporate transportation to access remote villages and reach the farthest affected populations; supporting safe platforms for girls and women to report cases and to seek refuge; supporting safe homes which have also been used house abandoned abused male children which goes beyond the mandate of the homes. Liberia hereby presents the following:

A. Innovative, Promising and Good Practices:

- Working with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to Effectively Coordinate, Monitor, and Report SGBV Cases
- Empowering Law Enforcers to Effectively Coordinate, Monitor, and Report SGBV Cases – UNDP
- Female traditional practitioners of FGM (Zoes) provided Economic Support for their commitment in ending female genital mutilation in Liberia: UN Women
- Supporting Grassroots Women's organizations to sustain livelihoods for social change against SGBV and harmful traditional practices – UNDP
- Coordination of projects for effective results – UNDP, UNFPA
- Using an integrated Community Engagement approach - UNICEF

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Working with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to Effectively Coordinate, Monitor, and Report SGBV Cases (good)
Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?	The Liberia Civil Society National Reference Group (LCS-NRG) was established comprising of 16 individuals with diverse expertise, of which 3 members sit at the national steering committee level. A total of 44 Civil Society Organizations, including the 16 members of the CS-NRG, were involved and engaged in the drafting of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative Country Program. The group meets and reports regularly to the Spotlight Programme team regularly on their activities which include monitoring and evaluating the Initiative's projects in all five counties: carrying out advocacy and providing advisory services to implementing partners of spotlight projects. The participation of the NRG in LSI's programme is ongoing.
Objective of the practice	To strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with resources/support to effectively coordinate, monitor, advocate and report SGBV and HP (Harmful Practices) cases at national, subnational and community levels.
Stakeholders involved	44 Civil Society Organizations that, including the 16 members of the CS-NRG
What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?	CSOs have a thorough understanding of the country context and have the ability to tackle issues with technical and financial support. The role of Community based civil society organizations working to end Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Harmful Practices (HP) or address Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) needs of women and girls outside Monrovia, especially in hard-to-reach rural communities is crucial to achieving the goals of the Initiative.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	National restrictions to curb COVID-19 caused delays in CSOs engagement and activities.
Outputs and Impact	Output 1 As a result of the financial support provided as well as capacity building trainings given, CSOs now have the capacity and resources to independently implement their strategic plans with costed action plans to prevent and respond to SGBV/HP and SRHR issues within their respective counties.
Adaptable (Optional)	CSOs in general can serve as whistle blowers, advocates and overseers of LSI's activities across the country.
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)	Empowering and working with Grassroots CSOs based within the rural communities will help address the gap in reaching the hard-to-reach communities in which SGBV issues are predominant and unaddressed due to lack of mechanisms at that level.
Sustainable	Empowering community-based organizations to lead on Prevention and response of SGBV at community level. However, the empowerment strategy ought to have a sustainability plan such as farming and local savings groups for women groups as seen in the example of working with small Women's groups in Nimba country. This will be done through the implementation of the strategic plans developed during the project.
Validated (for a good practice only)	Yes, the practice has been validated. Based on the fact that there are increased in number of cases being reported and send to court. This clearly shows that family members or community dwellers are no longer compromising SGBV cases.
Additional details and contact information	Tamba Forkpah Jedidiah Johnson Founder and National Coordinator -He For She Crusaders Liberia (HEFOSEL) +231-886-605-678 / 0770-180-461

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Empowering Law Enforcers to Effectively Coordinate, Monitor, and Report SGBV Cases – UNDP (good)
Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address?	Nimba is reported to be the county having the most cases of SGBV especially rape of which most victims are underage girls. However, the women and children’s protection section of the police in the country can barely handle the cases due to lack of technical capacity. The Spotlight Initiative filled this gap with trainings for officers, the renovation of the dilapidated offices making them safe and friendly to the kind cases being handled and providing a motorcycle for the police to reach the furthest areas of the county in a timely manner to monitor and address cases.
Objective of the practice	To strengthen the capacity of Police (Women and Children’s Protection Unit) with resources/support to effectively coordinate, monitor, advocate, and report SGBV and HP (Harmful Practices) cases at national, subnational and community levels.
Stakeholders involved	Liberia National Police Nimba County
What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice?	The police can swiftly address SGBV cases especially in the farthest areas using the motorcycle; the police unit tackling cases of SGBV now have a safe place for survivors’ whose lives are often threatened by society. The new offices have waiting rooms for survivors’ who have come from far or have nowhere else to go due to fear of ostracization or additional violence.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	COVID-19 lockdowns delayed the completion, handover and use of the newly refurbished offices.
Outputs and Impact	Output 1 As a result of the financial support provided as well as capacity building trainings given, CSOs now have the capacity and resources to independently implement their strategic plans with costed action plans to prevent and respond to SGBV/HP and SRHR issues within their respective counties. Based on the desk reviewed conducted and gaps identified within the three national institutions, SGBV/HP and SRHR issues are integrated within the training curricula of three national institutions (LNP, LNFS and MOJ).
Adaptable (Optional)	CSOs in general can serve as whistle blowers, advocates and overseers of LSI’s activities across the country.
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)	Empowering and working with Grassroots CSOs based within the rural communities will help address the gap in reaching the hard-to-reach communities in which SGBV issues are predominant and unaddressed due to lack of mechanisms at that level.
Sustainable	Empowering community- based Organizations to lead on Prevention and response of SGBV at community level. However, the empowerment strategy ought to have a sustainability plan such as farming and local savings groups for women groups as seen in the example of working with small Women’s groups in Nimba country. This will be done through the implementation of the strategic plans developed during the project.
Validated (for a good practice only)	Yes, the practice has been validated. Because there are increased numbers of cases being reported and sent to court. This clearly shows that family members or community dwellers are no longer compromising SGBV cases.
Additional details and contact information	Cephas G. Cooper – Women and Children’s Social Protection (WACPS) Investigator-LNP, Sanniquellie, Nimba - 0777821906 Munah Meah - WACPS Commander-LNP, Sanniquellie, Nimba – 0886608287 Photos and [unedited] video interviews: https://bit.ly/3vP6U1u

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Female traditional practitioners of FGM (Zoes) provided Economic Support for their commitment in ending female genital mutilation in Liberia: UN Women (promising)
Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)	<p>Empowering female traditional Zoes with alternative economic support started in 2019, today, targeting Zoes across the five LSI counties. The objective was to ensure that FGM practitioners remain economically empowered, self-reliant and are gradually debunking FGM.</p> <p>Research shows that FGM has been practiced in Liberia not only as a cultural custom but also for economic gain, for generations. It is against this backdrop that LSI seeks to empower practitioners with alternative sources of income that are already systematically devaluing the practice in the Sande Society.</p> <p>The activity was launched in November 2019, giving momentum for the ongoing implementation. This intervention is considered a good practice and addresses Pillar 3 of the Spotlight Initiative and the principles of Leaving No One Behind and Doing No Harm and is set to scale up to the six remaining FGM practicing Counties in Phase II of the Programme following the gains made.</p>
Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?	<p>To facilitate Zoes who use the practice as source of income generating activity with skills, knowledge and resources for self-reliance other than FGM.</p> <p>The goals of the activity in the long term is to enhance a free and safe society where women and girls are free from FGM in order to achieve their full potential; and in the short term, to ensure zoes have alternative sources of income and are change agents in fighting FGM.</p>
Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.	<p>The beneficiaries or target group of the practice are female traditional practitioners. The process started by engaging the NACCEL leadership and MIA as well as MGCSP in addressing the UN Declaration on the elimination of FGM by 2030, following the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 5. The intervention followed a consultative dialogue held with the National traditional council of chiefs and Elders in Liberia (NACCEL), the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National FGM Working Group, who suggested that to end FGM in Liberia, an inventory of all bush schools and Zoes should be conducted, following which, economic empowerment be provided for the traditional Zoes that are committed to ending FGM. This process formed part of the inventory report that was validated by key stakeholders including CSOs, UN agencies, NACCEL and key line ministries led by MGCSP. Key interventions identified were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Climate-smart agriculture 2) Village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) 3) Literacy skills 4) Business development skills.
What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.	<p>The lives of targeted traditional practitioners are transforming because of economic empowerment projects being implemented with funding support from the LSI. Initially, female traditional practitioners used to struggle for financial support to do business and send their children to school but now this has changed because of the loans they are accessing from the village savings and loan schemes implemented in the community. Some practitioners have started businesses and are buying and selling various goods. Some have managed to expand their farming businesses, while some have even built houses from the proceeds of various business ventures. One of the beneficiaries testified thus:</p> <p>“The training on agriculture and financial management has helped me to change my life. I can now afford to take my children to school. We realized that FGM is not good for our girl children, and we have stopped it. But we also realized that not all traditional activities are bad. Some are good and the good ones should be upheld,” she said”.</p> <p>The economic empowerment activities aim to provide alternative means of livelihoods for traditional practitioners and equip them with new skills and sources of income to replace the money earned by practicing FGM.</p>
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	<p>While this project has proved sustainable for some traditional Zoes in the beneficiary Counties, the other remaining six FGM practicing Counties that are not targeted have had slow buy-in to the ending of the practice of FGM. In light of this, the LSI would like to scaleup to these remaining Counties to ensure holistic intervention and maximize impact.</p>

Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?	<p>Increased household incomes for traditional practitioners who are now sustaining their businesses, most of which have grown from small businesses to middle-level businesses. To further sustain their gains, the agricultural component commenced the planting of beans/peas, which will be exported to markets abroad, thus gaining more income for their village savings and loans program. When asked what gains she had made since enrolling in the economic empowerment project, one of the beneficiaries of the alternative financial support had this to say during the reporting period;</p> <p>“[The project] taught us how to write and spell our names. They also taught us how to make gardens. We harvested some corn and raised \$20,000 [Liberian dollars], which contributed to our village savings and loan scheme. “I am happy that I can now spell my name, and my business has also grown. Previously, it was unheard of for a traditional practitioner to write their name, but now, we can. I used to get L\$500 from the ‘bush business”, but now I can raise between L\$2000 and L\$3000. I am now able to pay school fees for my children,” explained Ms. Kromah.</p>
Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?	<p>The LSI is supporting the construction of vocational and heritage Centres in the 4 out of the 5 Spotlight Counties as was requested by the Traditional leaders during the consultative dialogues. This is anticipated as multipurpose Centres that will serve as an all-purpose Centre wherein Traditional Zoes can practice positive cultural norms without FGM and also not having to go to bush schools. In these centres, they will conduct their business and other alternative economic interventions. Girls will access formal education in these Centres as well as continue to learn positive cultural practices without going to bush schools.</p>
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?	<p>With the gains made so far, the LSI will scaleup to the six remaining FGM practicing Counties to ensure that there is holistic buy-in and commitment from traditional leaders in all FGM practicing counties on the zero tolerance of FGM in Liberia</p>
Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?	<p>Empowering traditional leaders with logistical support to monitor the closure of all bush schools especially in hard to reach areas. This practice was done in 2020 leading to positive results especially during the peak of the 3rd wave of COVID 19 wherein FGM could have been practiced clandestinely. But, with traditional leaders eyes on the ground following the empowerment received in the form of motorbikes to act as monitor in their communities, this was mitigated.</p>
Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	<p>Yes, the practice has been validated in 2019 at a National Launch that included Government key Ministers, NACCEL, CSOs, UN Agencies and Donor Parties.</p>
Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.	<p>Abu Macpherson, Programme Manager, Plan International Liberia</p> <p>Email: abu.machperson@plan-international.org</p> <p>Photos and [unedited] video interviews: https://bit.ly/3vP6U1u</p>

Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Supporting Grassroots Women's organizations to sustain livelihoods for social change against SGBV and harmful traditional practices – UNDP (promising)
Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)	<p>Community involvement is key in advancing Social Behavior change and communication, especially on SGBV and harmful practices such as FGM that are sensitive topics in Liberian societies deeply rooted in traditional norms and culture. Working with rural-based Women's Organizations like the Lorkiamon women's group in Sacleapea, Nimba county, has helped to create wider and better mass awareness and share information on SGBV and harmful practices.</p> <p>The work of these women peaking up and against SGBV with one voice has increased pressure on social and political structures in their communities to address SGBV issues better. The women also ensure that cases are followed, perpetrators are brought to book and victims/survivors adequately attended to. The women have created a savings scheme to support each other economically; many of them have established businesses through the scheme and own a collective farm to complement their sustainability strategy. Fighting against SGBV has created a sisterhood among the various women groups LSI works with.</p>
Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?	To ensure that community-based and led mechanisms effectively share vital information on SGBV/harmful practices reaches the most vulnerable and farthest; ensure that more cases are prevented through advocacy campaigns; ensure that cases are reported, addressed, and monitored so that survivors are survivors obtain justice.
Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.	Grassroots Women's Groups; CSOs (CHESS)
What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.	SGBV survivors can get holistic support to incorporate justice, safety, medical and psychosocial support.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	Safety and security of the women advocating against SGBV is increasing as patriarchal societies look at them as adversaries of tradition and culture. For their safety, the groups work closely with the Police and Chiefdom leadership.
Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?	Output 6 local Women's groups better equipped to prevent and respond to SGBV/HP and SRHR issues within their respective communities.
Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?	
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?	

Sustainable	Empowering women organizations to lead on prevention and response of SGBV at community level.
What is needed to make the practice sustainable?	
Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	Yes, the practice has been validated.
Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials, including photos/videos.	<p>Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS) - Sacleapea, Nimba, 0777176570</p> <p>Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE) - Sacleapea, Nimba, 0778899919</p> <p>Photos and [unedited] video interviews: https://bit.ly/3CmMPBb</p>
Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Coordination of projects for effective results – UNDP, UNFPA
Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)	<p>Nimba county is reported to have the most SGBV cases especially rape of which most victims are underage girls. LSI worked with the women and children's protection section of the police in the country to renovate and equip the unit to better handle the cases in terms of capacity and effectiveness.</p> <p>LSI in Nimba is also supporting a Safe Home that houses SGBV survivors.</p> <p>The two entities – the police and the Safe Home are working together to address challenges facing SGBV survivors.</p> <p>For example, the police unit in charge of the cases seeks support from the safe home to protect survivors' and witnesses, the police also work with the safe home to follow-up on cases especially those involving the rape of under-age children some of whom are three months old. The safe home is a safe refuge for survivors for which the police find vital to effectively addressing SGBV in the country. Whereas the safe homes work together with the police to follow on unreported or informally reported cases, survivors' reintegration and recovery. Together, they follow up on perpetrators using community-based networks and they follow up on court cases.</p>
Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?	To deliver as one.
Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.	UN Agencies, Liberia National Police, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs

<p>What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>SGBV survivors can get holistic support to incorporate justice, safety, medical and psychosocial support.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>Transportation to the farthest areas was a challenge addressed with the provision of the motorcycle. However, more support is required towards transport services to the organizations involved to reach and help more victims and survivors' as well as following up on perpetrators.</p>
<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>Output 1 As a result of the financial support provided as well as capacity building trainings given, CSOs now have the capacity and resources to independently implement their strategic plans with costed action plans to prevent and respond to SGBV/HP and SRHR issues within their respective counties.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional)</p> <p>In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</p>	
<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional)</p> <p>What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</p>	
<p>Sustainable</p> <p>What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</p>	<p>Empowering community-based Organizations to lead on Prevention and response of SGBV at community level.</p>

Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	Yes, the practice has been validated.
Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos.	Yah Belleh Suah - Gender Coordinator-MoGCSP, Sanniquellie, Nimba, 0886-474929
Title of the Innovative, Promising or Good Practice	Using an integrated Community Engagement approach – UNICEF (promising)
Provide a description of the innovative, promising, or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)	<p>Since the inception of the implementation of Spotlight Initiative in 2019, which has boosted acceleration in the number and types of community ‘Gate Keepers’ targeted to participate in awareness on prevention of negative social behavioral norms practices against women and girls and the need to promote equitable practices, have contributed to more young women and girls seeking and benefiting from social economic empowerment including life skills initiatives which has helped in building self-reliance and participation in national and sub national decision making processes.</p> <p>This Initiative is anchored under Pillar 3 / output 3.2 of the Spotlight Framework.</p>
Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?	The objective of this promising practice is to ensure sustainability through community ownership and enforcement of awareness and adherence to demonstrating positive social behavioural change practices.
Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.	GBV Observatories/ Child Welfare Committees/ Children’s Forum/ National Adolescent girls Working group/ Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Champions / National GBV Taskforce/ County level GBV Taskforces/ etc.

What makes this an innovative, promising, or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this an innovative, promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/ or in the context of the UNDS reform.	Some specific features which make this practice promising include: Integration / multi – sectoral actors/ engagement at both national and sub national levels.
What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?	The fact that members of these various groups / structures are volunteers, their membership is often fluid, and this leads to constant change in membership which compels the need to have ongoing trainings and increase in logistical support. Training of Trainers (ToT) is an approach used to have core group of trainers at the community level to provide refresher trainings/ coaching, mentoring, etc of new members.
Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?	This Initiative is anchored under Pillar 3 / output 3.2 of the Spotlight Framework. As a result of this level of community engagements, in 2021, an estimated 8489 persons across the five Spotlight counties were reached with GBV/ SEA / HP prevention messages and how to access services through the SGBV referral pathways. At least 2098 child survivors accessed one or more types of multi-sectoral case management services which has contributed or is contributing to their longer-term recovery and reintegration.
Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?	Encourage other agency/ actors to promote community engagement by sharing results/ experiences in working with these groups especially at community level.
Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?	None
Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?	More involvement of the community in every aspect of activities to include, meetings/ planning, training, evaluation/ Review
Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?	Yes, the practice has been validated. The promising practice is evident in the testimonials from direct beneficiaries of the project.

Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the innovative, promising, or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials, including photos/videos.	<p>The following persons were very key in demonstrating the promising practice on Using an Integrated community engagement approach in Nimba County (one of five Spotlight Counties)</p> <p>Bety Broh – 0555908415 – GBV Observatory Chairperson – Tapita District</p> <p>J. Lorme Tozay – 0886661243 CWC Chairperson</p> <p>Junior Payne- 0777.193150 Children’s Forum</p> <p>Photos and [unedited] video interviews: https://bit.ly/3KrgJqF</p>
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Section B: Knowledge Production

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

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

Types of Knowledge Products include the following:

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

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

Please list all Knowledge Products developed by the Spotlight Initiative Regional/Country programme below, as well as Knowledge Products in the pipeline.

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Training Manual for security institutions	Manual	<p>This Integrated Training Manual for the Liberia National Police (LNP), Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) and the Judicial Institute (JI) is a result of the desk review conducted under the UNDP Spotlight. The desk review was aimed at ascertaining whether sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), harmful practices (HP) and sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) issues were captured in the curriculum of the three institutions</p> <p>The objective is reinforcing the knowledge base of the personnel on the nature and impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on women, girls, men, boys and the entire community/society.</p> <p>To ensure that the Security Institutions, and the Criminal Justice System institutions, incorporate knowledge on SRHR, HPs and GBV in their training curricula.</p>	Completed in September 2021. It has not been published awaiting approval from UNDP for printing	Draft Copy
SGBV/ SRHR Integrated Essential Service Package Manual/ UNFPA	Capacity Development Modules	<p>The IESP is structured to provide practical information for service providers to ensure survivors receive comprehensive services from initial point of contact to treatment (including mental health service) to legal support.</p> <p>To successfully implement the IESP, critical relationships with key actors must be cultivated, strengthened, and preserved. The IESP can serve multiple functions. It is valuable for service delivery, training, advocacy, and policy setting. If implemented fully, the IESP would be a game-changer for SRHR and GBV service delivery in Liberia.</p>	December 2021	<p>To ensure that the IESP is grounded in evidence-based strategies and international best practices, many global guidelines and instruments were reviewed in the development process. Below are the key ones:</p> <p>Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (Core Elements and Quality Guidelines,</p> <p>UNFPA Planning and Implementing and Essential Package of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (Guidance for Integrating Family Planning and STI/RTI with other Reproductive Health and Primary Health Services).</p> <p>ADD LINK TO THE document MEANS OF VERIFICATIONS</p>

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for SGBV forensic sample investigation in Liberia. / UNFPA	Guidance notes	<p>This document aims at providing the proper procedure for the collection, handling, transport, testing and disposal of biological samples in SGBV cases for forensic laboratory analysis to provide scientific evidence (alleged perpetrator/accused DNA) that may prove or disprove a link between individual(s) - perpetrators and survivors of rape - and objects or places before a court of jurisdiction. The Forensic investigation will bring tangible evidence in the investigative approach to develop a strong evidence-based for successful prosecutions.</p> <p>This will also help to adjudicate SGBV cases expeditiously and provide justice for both survivors and alleged perpetrators/accused.</p>	December 2021	<p>This procedure should be read in conjunction with the National Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Liberia (2020-2024) and the National Specimens Referral Guideline 2020 “Transport of Biological Materials”.</p> <p>Add link.</p>
SGBV Key Highlights 2018-2020/ UN	Infographics	<p>To gain an understanding of the magnitude of the problem, a quantitative approach was used and involved:</p> <p>Trend analysis of SGBV cases over a number of years across Liberia.</p> <p>Capacity planning to forecast whether there is need for demand of certain services from service providers in regard to SGBV cases.</p> <p>Visualization to show how SGBV cases are spread across Liberia and in Spotlight Counties.</p>	August 2021	<p>Link</p> <p>GBV Baseline Prevalence Study: https://docs.google.com/document/d/10xS-KSAOpKWK0yN7-0evG-WFK6ufEn_Ki/edit</p>

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
SGBV Service Providers Mapping/ UNFPA	Infographics	<p>The goal of the mapping exercise was to identify the location of various SGBV service providers in the five EU Spotlight counties so as to have an accurate and reliable record (database) of various service providers. The rationale is to help determine the capacity, access, ability and the status of the service providers to enhance SGBV data collection.</p> <p>Findings revealed that there are 27 service provision centers with diverse cadres of service providers ranging from Psychosocial, health, justice, and protection. Psychosocial service is the most provided service for SGBV Survivors accounting for 41.9% followed by health 26.4%, justice 19.3 while protection accounts for the least 12.4% according to the report.</p>	October 2021	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MXjH5W8iSqkSsjCpDrAoCz-7qiu4p0c1e/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs
SGBV Accountability Capacity Assessment Report, UNFPA/ IOM	Assessments	<p>The mapping exercise focused on assessing the institutional and structural framework of the peace huts, that their networks support their functionality and responsiveness to SGBVs/HPs as well as their capacities to prevent and respond to SGBVs, HPs and SRHR violations.</p> <p>A mapping exercise was conducted to identify available services, gaps and challenges so that intervention could be either expanded or addressed to facilitate and enhance the capacity of the women peace huts to detect, prevent and respond to Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBVs) and Harmful Practices (HPs); promoting Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) information and services through the establishment and institutionalization of an early warning response mechanism.</p>	March 2020	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qHrsl4ahhhCidDtdE41eJ9U-CyleJLHIC/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs

Title of Knowledge Product	Product type(s)* (Select from the list above. If other, please specify)	Brief Description & Purpose	Date completed/published or expected to be	Link to Knowledge Product (if available)
Revised National Psychosocial Training Manual (2019-2023)	Capacity Development Modules	<p>The revised National Psychosocial Manual (2019) is an overarching tool that seeks to consolidate, harmonize and standardize various psychosocial approaches and services, building on the existing contents of the 2011 Psychosocial Manual and other manuals and instruments developed by members of the national PSS network. The manual itself aims to respond to the critical needs of vulnerable people and the citizenry at large.</p> <p>The overall goal of this manual is to contribute to the psychosocial development of persons at risk (survivors of various forms of abuse, trauma, and torture, as well as SGBV) in Liberia by ensuring that psychosocial practitioners are well-trained and have the requisite skills and knowledge to provide effective psychosocial interventions, comprising of rehabilitation support services and empowerment for persons with diverse needs.</p>	2019	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YH70Alo9ccsRnInPObOgljOje-Salb-
Social Behavioural Change Communication Strategy and Plan/ UNICEF	Guidance Note/ Capacity Development Modules	The strategy focuses on changing social and cultural norms, beliefs and practices, including gender-inequitable norms and behaviours that lead to violence, builds on ongoing violence prevention and response efforts and aims to enhance the communication efforts – both through use of the media and increased community engagement – to generate awareness, foster dialogue and engage key influencers in efforts to change norms that perpetuate violence.	19th June 2021.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K4MIH1rHE_EmMmoSllkAU-B409439rBtg?usp=sharing
7 Count Policy Statement Suspending FGM / UN Women	Policy Brief	The 7 County Policy by Traditional leaders and practitioners served as a binding document on traditional leaders and practitioners to suspend the practice of FGM for a period of one (1) year with the intent to afford key stakeholders and traditional leaders to address aspects of the Sande society that affects women and girls. The suspension resulted in the conduct of the inventory of traditional practitioners and their grooves as well as paved the way for the provision of alternative economic livelihood support for traditional leaders in the 5 Spotlight Counties.	June 25, 2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mt3wfJB-IYcQOCW-260gWP-4w3xfnm2tT/view?usp=sharing

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16 Days of Activism Campaign Launch Report	Brief/ Report	The Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection leads the observance of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in Liberia. With support from the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, the Ministry led several activities under the Global theme “Generational Equality Stands Against Rape!” and the National Theme “Still Blue: Enough is Enough! Stop Rape and Promote Equality!”	December , 2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RL-StfglCF2G8Hk7GZZ2-bLrSuZsnau_/view?usp=sharing
Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Document, UN Women	Capacity Development Module	<p>The Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Document aim to address gender-inequitable norms to reduce SGBV and HPs, including the promotion of SRHRs, with a specific objective to reduce the socio-cultural acceptability of domestic violence, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and female genital mutilation (FGM) against women, girls, including groups of those facing intersecting forms of violence such as the sexual minorities, the disabled and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Prevention Strategy takes into consideration potential and actual perpetrators and lays the road map to address the underlying root causes, gender inequality discriminatory norms and values, based on a thorough analysis of risk factors for the particular form of violence that the prevention strategy will address. These will promote change in social norms, attitudes and behaviors at all levels through initiatives.</p>	November, 2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iq3lx-hj-cidVZ6Qzpr5kifwoVnxCQz30/view?usp=sharing
Inventory of Traditional Grooves and Zoes Report	Research Paper	As a result of the 7 Count Policy Statement, the inventory of traditional practitioners and their grooves were conducted with the aim of mapping out the actual traditional practitioners and the grooves or “bush schools” as a means of preparing an evidence based report for the provision of alternative economic livelihood support as well as enable the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as the Traditional Council obtain first-hand information as it relates to those practicing FGM in the country.	November 2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AHY-xcnpHvRV_X36FZV40a_ZGynKH_2gi/view?usp=sharing https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/13O8FON-S-nUJBU_7bKN-V6rNsMq9hBOHK/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116316216069015295706&rt-pof=true&sd=true

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Media Training Manual on Gender Sensitive Reporting, UN-Women	Capacity Development Module	In an effort to build the capacity of media practitioners and their executives on issues of gender sensitive reporting, the manual serves as a guide to developing story ideas on SGBV, COVID-19 and its impact on SGBV, identify credible sources in order to accurately report on SGBV, and examine data with the goal of increasing awareness and shaping public opinion and response to the problem. The manual is based on lessons learned and the impact of the media engagement and advocacy, thus the need for increased capacity building training for media practitioners on Gender Sensitive Reporting under the Liberia Spotlight Initiative.	December 22, 2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DicE-gYG_Oct4F9vfQqTF-0S6v96RvXIG/view?usp=sharing
Simplified Version of the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy, UN-Women	Capacity Development Module	To ensure understanding of most of beneficiaries who are partly unlettered, the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy Development was simplified to afford the roll out and dissemination of the CPS Document in the communities. With this process, Action Plans are developed by communities and supported to sensitize community members on the prevention and referral of cases of SGBV, HPs and addressing SRHRs issues.	April, 2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZuAwVglq9_0DQcGhZctb-if-aJP7rKLSJ/view?usp=sharing
Liberia Spotlight Initiative Launch Report, UN Women	Brief/	<p>The Report highlights the activities undertaken in the launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative in Tienii, Tewor District Grand Cape Mount County on June 18, 2019.</p> <p>The Program was graced by the Vice President of Liberia, H.E. Jewel Howard-Taylor and other prominent key stakeholders as well as communities' leaders and members from the 5 Spotlight Counties. The launch of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative followed a multi stakeholder participatory and consultative process. that led to the co-designing of a comprehensive gender-based violence elimination programme.</p> <p>A CSO participant said, "The civil society was involved in the entire process of the design and development of the program". The process was led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) in collaboration with the European Union and the United Nation.</p>	2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pVp-GLSushIZsmp3KtIVH2VCJDylqewuy/view?usp=sharing

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Alternative Livelihood Project Report – Phase 1	Brief	The Report highlights work being done with over 300 traditional practitioners in the 5 Spotlight Counties in terms of alternative income source for FGM practitioners so as to eliminate the practice of FGM and empower traditional practitioners as change agents. The report covers the VSLA program, the Business Development and Literacy skills training as well as the Climate Smart Agricultural Program.	June 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/15QuMqbE8606x7JHRh8XJU-V32FD-ihH_2/view?usp=sharing
SGBV Training Manual	Capacity Development Module	<p>The manual is design to conduct training and educate beneficiaries on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Traditional Practices (HPs) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHRs) with the hope of mitigating and/or addressing these pervasive human rights issues that affect women and girls.</p> <p>It includes information/lessons on how to work both as individuals and communities to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, and on how victims and/or their relatives or third parties can seek redress for human rights abuse and violations.</p>	December, 2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kf-Cgjp8eP6ijeB7Wfq6jblkQTVRMG72F/view?usp=sharing
Social Accountability Training Report for Civil Society Organizations in Liberia	Assessments	The report is based on a capacity building training conducted for women's right advocates and relevant Civil Society Organizations to use social accountability mechanisms and strengthen their capacity on advocacy, management, administration, finance, HR, reporting and resource mobilization. The training was facilitated by West Africa Civil Society Institute (WASCI), a leading capacity development institute in the region	November, 2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X_WHKbmQ5Y0A8MWFmmQ7u4TiX-a2QzQ2S/view?usp=sharing
South-South Cooperation Report – Final Version.	Brief	The South South Cooperation Exchange Report sought to identify good practices in CSO Network/Multi-Stakeholder platforms to implement and advocate interventions related to multiple & intersecting forms of violence and discrimination.	October, 2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ne-cmZ1PE20PibsuHGRN-5VmoMRP7fsMX/view?usp=sharing

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Social Accountability Training Manual for Civil Society Organizations in Liberia	Capacity Development Modules	The manual focused on the importance of social accountability and the role of civil society organizations in holding duty bearers accountable. The manual is a learning material aimed at promoting appreciation and understanding of social accountability theory and practice in Liberia.	November 2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n1Tg_FydUAc0RW3A4gWH26IJWYE7ZvqN/view?usp=sharing
CSOs Mapping Report and other supporting documents	Assesment	The CSOs Mapping Report aimed to identify CSOs, CBOs and vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as the various sectors. The report captured information about functional CSOs and CBOs, Networks, Coalitions, marginalized and vulnerable groups including those with special needs groups, as well as findings on the prevalence of VAWG/SGBV and HPs in the counties. The report integrated findings from all counties, information about each county and is composed of annexes.	August, 2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1koS4KydcHyJe7M4camlvJC-1tHoNr6-i/view?usp=sharing https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H-NcZpyT3SpFti4Q7dfEvTetwV9Lx-FAUq/view?usp=sharing
Domestic Violence Act	Policy	The DV Act of 2019 seeks to provide protection, and relief of survivors/victims of domestic violence; to provide punishment and/or rehabilitation for perpetrators of domestic violence and to provide for the procedure and guidelines to be followed in relation to the protection and compensation of victims/survivors of domestic violence	2019	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PLO_l1PFAczBVPtOVugGPa7J3jfJwiif/view?usp=sharing
Draft Policy Brief on CSOs and Women Movement Engagement	Brief	The policy brief focused on ending violence against women and girls through civil society networks and Multistakeholder platforms. It highlights good practices, contributions, challenges and recommendations of civil society networks and Multistakeholder platforms of civil society organisations while addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Liberia and the West African Region.	2020	Draft
EVAW Brief	Brief	The Brief contained information on ending violence against women and girls in Liberia, providing a clear understanding of the EU/UN Spotlight Program and its objective to ending all forms of violence against women and girls.	2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iwa-916JfmhTPbFsv1vagj4NKOMJrFTVc/view?usp=sharing

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Event Report CSO Peer learning Session	Brief	The report highlights the Peer Learning Event to provide the space and opportunity for CSOs actors across the 5 Spotlight Counties to share their experiences in relation to their achievements, challenges, key learning, during the implementation phase in the spirit of learning from one another and improving their work as the project comes to an end. The report documents achievements, challenges and shared amongst themselves key recommendations that enhance their work.	March 15 – 16, 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mp-bzIChkPIb6UhSihfvI3WvPtEe3yVYB/view?usp=sharing
Event Report Multistakeholder Dialogue and Experience Sharing Conference.	Brief	The report on the Multistakeholder dialogue and experience sharing conference to support coordination, collaboration and networking amongst the stakeholders at all levels, discussed key achievements and challenges in the implementation of the program, and proffer recommendations that would inform the implementation of the next phase of the program.	March 12, 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JqQB-kdWNlyHoSootPu31sfymEd-POmPp/view?usp=sharing
Spotlight Initiative Final Success Story Document	Story	This report documents the project success stories as a result of the intervention with Civil Society Organisations and Women Rights Groups. The document registered success stories, challenges, lessons learned and key recommendation for progress towards program outcomes.	2020	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JUbtWVSLBejM9a286fDP473v4Ab-VKaLJ2/view?usp=sharing
Map of LSI Phase Two counties	Infographics - map	The Phase II of the Liberia spotlight initiative programme will expand its elimination of FGM component to additional six counties which practice FGM.	Sep 2021	See map here



Spotlight Initiative

