



ENDLINE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT, “PROMOTING INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS”

EVALUATION REPORT

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EVALUATION TEAM

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BVR	Biometric Voter Registration
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COPPWIL	Coalition of Political Party Women of Liberia
CPC	Community Peace Committees
CSO	Civil society organization
DI	Democracy International
ECC	Elections Coordinating Committee
EDA	Elections and Democracy Activity
ERG	Evaluation Reference Group
EWERM	Early Warning Early Response Mechanism
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GATE	Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use
GBV	Gender Based violence
GDD	Gender Disaggregated Data
GDI	Gender Development Index
GE&HR	Gender Equality and Human Rights (GE & HR)
GERAAS	Global Evaluation Report Assessment and Analysis System
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GoL	Government of Liberia
HDI	Human Development Index
IP	Implementing partner
KII	Key Informant Interview
LEON	Liberia Election Observation Network
LESP	Liberia Electoral Support Projects
LISGS	Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection
MoU	Memoranda of Understanding
MSP	Multi-stakeholders Platforms
NAP	National Action Plan
NEC	National Electoral Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHRAP	National Human Rights Action Plan
OECD/DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
ORWOCH	Organization for Women and Children
PAPD	Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PBF	Peace Building Fund
PBO	Peacebuilding Office
PMT	Project Management Team
RBM	Results Based Management
SC	The Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
ToC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNSCDF	United Nations Development Cooperation Framework
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VAWE/P	Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

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Executive Summary

Background and introduction

This report is the product of the end-line evaluation of the project “Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics. The project was jointly implemented by UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 2021 to 2023 with funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) to the tune of USD 2 million with a broad goal of promoting inclusive political participation and elimination of violence against women in politics in preparation for the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections. Specifically, the project aims to strengthen the coordination of peacebuilding, governance, and elections processes and stakeholders with a focus on greater participation of women in these processes.

Purpose and Scope

The main purpose of this evaluation is to contribute to improving UN Women and UNDP's approach to women's participation in politics and peacebuilding mechanisms programming. The key results, challenges, lessons learned, good practices, conclusions, and recommendations will inform future joint programming on women's political participation and preventing electoral violence, including violence against women in politics, and foster organizational learning and accountability. The evaluation covered the implementation period of the joint project from October 2021 to December 2023 (27 months).

Methodology

The evaluation applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, coherence, and sustainability. The evaluation also took into consideration gender equality and human rights as separate standalone criteria. These were used as the main analytical framework in line with the UN Women evaluation policy. The evaluation used a mixed-methods approach involving document review, interviews, and focus groups, and survey techniques to collect qualitative and quantitative data. Respondents included representatives of the project recipients, including the Members of the Women Peace Hut, County Peace Committee (CPC), women in politics, journalists' judiciary, security actors, implementing partners and the project team made up of UN Women and UNDP. The project covered 15 counties in Liberia, but the emphasis was placed on the counties with a history of electoral violence as well as counties where women's representation remained a huge challenge during the field mission. These counties were purposively selected with the help of the project team while also considering accessibility and time factors. A total of 139 questionnaires were retrieved out of the 150 targeted made up of 82.7 per cent females and 17.3 per cent males. Quantitative data

were analysed using descriptive statistics and thematic coding was used to analyse qualitative data. Findings from qualitative and quantitative data analysis were thus triangulated by the source before concluding. The intended users of the evaluation include UN Women, UNDP as well as PBF and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) more broadly.

Relevance

The evaluation confirmed that the project results addressed the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups to a large extent. Peacebuilding is a top development priority need in Liberia given the citizen's experience of the impact of violence especially from the Liberian civil war. The post-war recovery efforts in Liberia have recorded major achievements as exemplified by the successful transfer of security responsibilities from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to the Government of Liberia on 30th March 2018 and the successful conduct of presidential and legislative elections over the periods. Despite this progress, many issues identified as the root causes of Liberia's 14-year civil war have remained unaddressed. The equal participation of men and women in public life has remained elusive as women's participation in politics and decision-making has been on a downward trend dropping from 14.9 per cent (14/96) of the legislators in the 2006 elections to 12.6 per cent (13/103) in 2012, just 10.7 per cent (11/103) of the legislators in 2018 and 9.7 per cent in 2020. The result of these is that Liberia is ranked 161 out of 184 countries on the list of women in national parliaments as of February 2024. Additionally, in Liberia, women in politics have experienced multiple forms of violence against women in politics. The UNW Liberia and UNDP project was developed to address the above peace-building needs of the target groups and Liberia in general. Accordingly, the outcome of the project targeted at supporting increased women's political participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms in Liberia. The FGDs conducted among the project participants in the counties reveal that the project to a very large extent addressed their peacebuilding needs. The evaluation confirmed that the project activities were timely vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia.

Effectiveness

The evaluation found that the project was effective and made significant progress toward the achievement of the expected outputs and outcome of the project. The project was effective in the sustenance of the numerical representation of women in the legislature after the October 2023 election, with no change at 10.7 per cent. The project was also effective in building the capacities of political parties around issues of violence against women in elections by targeting 22 political parties closely working with the National Elections Commission and civil society partners. In addition, it also strengthened the capacity of the judiciary, security institutions, journalists and

local peacebuilding structures and developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for promoting women's political participation and reduction of violence against women in elections as well as provision of gender-disaggregated data by the National Elections Commission (NEC) for the first time for registered voters at the district level. Evidence from interviews and document reviews confirmed that the project's Theory of Change proved realistic and was implemented to a large extent. The evaluation found that several innovative practices were mainstreamed both in the design and implementation including the provision of legal aid to women candidates, and the coordination and implementation of the project along with similar projects such as the Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) and UN Women the Transformative Leadership and Community Engagement for Women's Political Participation project. External stakeholders including project targets participants were unanimous in expressing their satisfaction with the project results based on evaluative evidence from the quantitative survey and interviews conducted among the participants in the counties. For instance, about 88.5 of the participants noted that they were satisfied with the project results. By gender, 83.3 per cent of males and 89.5 per cent of female participants noted that they were satisfied with the results achieved by the project. The evaluation also found that the project to a large extent built synergies with other programmes implemented in the same context including the Electoral Support Project (LESP) and the Transformative Leadership and Community Engagement for Women's Political Participation project.

Efficiency

The evaluation confirmed that available resources were allocated strategically to achieve the project outcome. The project's duration lasted 27 months with a planned budget of USD 1,999,999.96. Of these funds, USD 1,638,955.96 was budgeted for project implementation activities which represents 82 per cent of the total budget while USD 361,044 was budgeted for personnel which represents 18 per cent of the total budget of the project. As of November 2023, 97.5 per cent of all allocated budgets for the project activities have been spent which represents a good absorption rate for the project. This was also good given that all planned activities of the project have been implemented using the allocated resources. The targets for most of the indicators were achieved by the project at the end of implementation which suggests that the resources of the project have been optimally utilized. Also, most of the disbursements and project expenditures are in line with the budgetary allocations to a large extent. The number of outputs and the types of activities implemented informed the allocation of resources. In addition, the project utilization of 82 per cent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 18 per cent on personnel is highly commendable by the evaluation. Also, evidence from interviews with the project team confirmed that the budget allocated for the entire duration of the project was adequate, and several measures were put in place to limit fraud while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently

utilized to conduct project activities and achieve the project's intended results. Some of the measures include the use of local facilitators for most of the capacity-building activities, use of local implementing partners for project implementation, regular joint monitoring of implementation activities by the project team and review of project expenditures supporting documents from implementing partners by finance before liquidation. Overall, the evaluator rated project implementation as cost-effective given the adopted measures to ensure cost effectiveness while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized.

Impact

The evaluation found that the project did not cause any social, environmental, or economic challenges. Rather the project contributed to addressing social challenges related to women's political participation across the counties. The project addressed conflict which is one of the social problems in the intervention counties. However, there was no evidence to show that the project created any environmental concerns in the counties and also no evidence to show that the project addressed any environmental concerns through its activities as this was outside the scope of the intervention. On the other hand, the project did not address any economic issues in the counties. However, the project provision of stipends for members of the early warning early response mechanism (EWERM) and CPC in the counties was commendable. Evidence also shows that the project contributed to institutional strengthening of political parties, enhanced awareness and capacities of electoral stakeholders (including electoral management bodies (National Elections Commission, political actors) which ensured the low level of violence against women during the last elections. The evaluation confirmed that the project to a large extent contributed to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace. Evidence shows that through the EWERM of Liberia's Peace Building Office, only two cases of violence against women in elections were reported. The evaluation found several positive indirect effects produced by the project on the target group in the counties. The project provided 44 women candidates with legal aid during the campaign nomination period. This support enabled most of the women candidates to easily complete the nomination form. The project also contributed to the generation of data on violence against women which is key to informed action. The project also contributed to sustaining the 10.7 per cent numerical strength of women in the legislature after the 2023 general election.

Sustainability

The evaluation found that right from the design of the project, there was evidence of mainstreaming sustainability measures into the project. For instance, the project was designed to focus on legal reforms, institutional strengthening, and capacity building which are key strategies for sustainability. The project was also embedded within the priorities of the National Elections

Commission, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Justice to promote government support and sustainable pursuit of the goal of the project. Also, the project has targeted the development of local ownership and capacities as a key strategy for the sustainability of the benefits of the project. The project identifying and working with existing local community peace-building structures was critical to sustaining the benefits of the project. In addition, the project has targeted capacity building of key stakeholders, development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and data generation which are critical elements that will ensure sustainability as they will be used by national actors. Evaluative evidence from internal and external stakeholders identified several components of the project that should be carried over to the next phase of the project and this includes the advocacy and awareness-raising activity of the project, legal aid provision to women experiencing violence during election, the VAWE platform and advocacy for the approval of the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the executive.

Coherence

Evaluative evidence indicates that the project-built synergies with several other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia. Evidence shows that the project built synergy with the Liberia Electoral Support project (LESP) which is an electoral basket fund jointly funded by PBF and other partners which helped in mainstream gender in elections. The project was also in synergy with the Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy. The "Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy" activity is an Irish Aid-funded project implemented by the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) to strengthen Liberia's Democracy through the promotion of credible elections and public confidence. The project also built synergies with the Democracy International (DI) project on Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA). The project works to assist Liberia in overcoming current challenges to the country's developing democracy.

Gender Equality and Human Rights

The evaluation confirmed that gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities implemented by the project were focused on promoting women's political participation. From the design, the project has targeted women as direct participants. Additionally, to strengthen political leadership, political party women's auxiliaries (women's leagues, congresses, and wings) were targeted and strengthened to demand their participation in decision-making and as candidates for their party. Also, all policy dialogues and reforms were aimed at enhancing women's political participation. The project also carried out the engagement of key stakeholders at the national, sub-national, and different groups to raise awareness of

women's political participation in politics. The project also targeted men and other community members in the counties to address the underlying socio-cultural norms in the intervention areas to change the dominant discriminatory attitudes, behaviours and practices that inhibit women's political participation. The engagement of community leaders at the county level was a deliberate effort to promote long-term change concerning women in decision-making processes. The project was therefore inclusive and non-discriminatory, with deliberate strategies to engage stakeholders and target participants at all levels, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind. Overall, the evaluation believed that the project has done well in the integration of gender and human rights into the project design and implementation to a large extent

Lessons Learnt

Lesson 1: Temporary Special Measures (mandatory gender quota law): Adopting temporary special measures (gender quotas) to achieve gender equality in the legislature is a priority to ensure increased women's representation.

Lesson 2: Future electoral reform bills: Future electoral reform bills should prioritize a broader scope of gender-sensitive measures, extending beyond candidate nomination alone. While past targets of 30% (1995) and 50% (CSW -65) for women representation are noteworthy, reforms should encompass additional aspects. These include financial incentives for gender-responsive political parties that can be channelled to support to women candidates can contribute to achieving greater gender parity in elected positions..

Lesson 3: CandidatesRegistration: Nomination requirements for independent candidates and candidates contesting on political party tickets should not be the same. Women candidates raise this disproportionately disadvantages women independent candidates. Additionally, centralized registration was also prohibitive considering time and financial investment to travel to Monrovia from remote areas.

Lesson 4: Political parties: There is a need to scale up engagement with political parties to support them to be more internally democratic, while linking them to women's groups and associations to help identify women who might be interested in participating in politics and already have a support base on which they can build.

Lesson 5: Coordination: The electoral support project led by UNDP with the overall coordination of the RC, UNDP and UN Women joint planning and implementation ensured a gender sensitive electoral process in Liberia.

Lesson 6: The joint implementation of the project and high-level coordination with other projects with similar goals expanded the resources available for the implementation of project activities.

The project was implemented along with similar projects such as the Liberia Electoral Support Projects (LESP) as well as the Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy project which ensured that multiple resources were available for the implementation of project activities. The developed legal aid guidance note for the project leveraged LESP funds which form the basis of the provision of pro-bono legal aid under the Promoting Inclusive Participation Project. This is an important lesson that should be replicated in future programming on promoting women's political participation.

Lesson 7: Targeting IPs with similar mandates and vision is crucial to the sustainability of project benefits at the end of implementation of project activities. Targeting partners with a shared vision and mandates as IPs in project implementation has been found to have a strong positive influence on the partnership success, satisfaction, and sustainability of benefits. The project engaged the Centre for Media Studies & Peacebuilding, Organization for Women and Children, and Media Liberia Naymote Partners in Democratic Development among others as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar visions and mandates with the promoting inclusive political participation project which implies that on their activities, they will continue to implement activities related to the goals and objectives of the project with or without UN Women/UNDP funding. This has a long-term effect on the sustainability of the project benefits.

Lesson 8: Capacity-building activities for project participants are necessary both for promoting ownership and sustainability of project benefits. The project has implemented capacity-building activities for both government bodies and community mechanisms specifically the Ministry of Justice, security institutions, Women Peace Huts, CPC, and journalists in the intervention counties. The capacity-building activities were unique for the different categories of the project participants. The capacity-building activities for journalists focused on gender-sensitive reporting for women in politics while another training for security institutions focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of the security sector including police, judiciary, and other rule of law/access to justice actors to recognize and respond appropriately to cases of VAWE/P. The approach of the project ensured that the knowledge gained remained with the participants after the close of the programme.

Lesson 9: The duration of an intervention focusing on addressing underlying causes of gender inequality is an important factor that contributes to the achieving project objectives and sustainability of benefits. Addressing deep-rooted underlying causes of gender inequality that is deeply ingrained in the minds of people requires a considerable amount of time. The promoting inclusive political participation project is a 27-month project with one key objective of increasing women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms. While the project made significant progress in this respect, the sustainability of the results is doubtful without

sustained awareness creation activities and long-term interventions to address the root causes of gender inequality in Liberia.

Lesson 10: The provision of legal aid to women aspirants during the nomination process for the October 2023 elections was instrumental in the sustenance of the numerical strength of women in the legislature.

The project provided legal aid to 44 women aspirants during the nomination process for the October 2023 elections. The legal support made a big difference to them as some indicated that they may not have completed the nomination process if the support was not provided under the project. This is an important lesson that should be sustained going forward.

Conclusions

The overarching conclusion of this evaluation is that the project remains relevant to the government aspirations and the targeted participants. The project contributed to promoting women's political participation and reduction of violence during the election. Despite the absence of mandatory gender quotas, the numerical representation of women in the legislature has been maintained overall after the October 2023 election, with no change at 10.7 per cent. The project established a national VAWE platform to collect data and make referrals for VAWE response together with EWERM which fostered an enabling environment for women's safe participation in the 2023 elections, as evidenced by low recorded incidences of VAWE in the electoral period. The project was found to be in total alignment with Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the UNSDCF and the specific government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding. The project approaches and strategies were innovative. The project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia. The project demonstrated efficiency in the allocation of and utilization of both human and material resources which was instrumental to the achievement recorded by the project in the targeted counties. The joint nature of the project was an important factor in the improved efficiency in the delivery of the project activities as it reduced duplication of activities. The evaluation established that the capacity-building elements of the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period once the project ends since the knowledge gained will remain with the participants. The evaluation found evidence to show that the intervention design includes an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy including promoting national/ local ownership, and use of local capacity to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention. The evaluation confirmed that gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation as all objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities in the project were focused on addressing the entrenched burden of socio-cultural constraints on women's leadership, patriarchy, and gender discrimination which has remained among the root causes of low women representation in

politics in Liberia. Building on the above findings, these conclusions aim to provide UN Women, UNDP, and PBF with actionable suggestions and recommendations to support its future programming in Liberia.

Recommendations

The evaluation has identified seven recommendations that are critical for UN agency's contribution to peacebuilding in Liberia. They have been sequenced by their importance, as perceived by the evaluation team. The recommendations are based on the evaluation framework, and the analysis that informed findings and conclusions. They were validated by key stakeholders in an Exit Workshop carried out at the end of the field mission and also through the review of the evaluation report.

Specific Recommendations	Responsibility	Priority
Programmatic recommendations:		
1. Institutionalize the various SOPs developed under the project: The project team should consider institutionalization and implementation of the various SOPs and protocols developed under the project in another phase of the project to promote their effectiveness and sustainability (Findings 4 & 18).	UN Women/UNDP	Intermediate
2. Introduce measures to ensure compliance with MOUs: The project team and key institutions like NEC should consider the introduction of mandatory temporary special measure to ensure compliance with MoUs on gender quotas by political parties and also penalties for non-compliance (Findings 21)	UN Women/UNDP/ NEC	Immediate
3. Sustain advocacy on electoral reform. This is necessary given the non-approval of the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the executive (Findings 4 & 18).	UN Women/UNDP/ NEC	Immediate
4. Sustain advocacy and awareness-raising activities: The project team should consider sustaining the advocacy and awareness-raising activities to address the underlying socio-cultural norms and practices that inhibit women's political participation reduction of violence against women in politics through another phase of the project (Findings 2 & 18)	UN Women/UNDP/ PBF	Immediate
5. Sustain capacity building on mediation, effective campaigns for women candidates: Consider continuing with the capacity building on mediation, effective campaigns for women candidates, advocacy skills for county peacebuilding structures as well as institutional strengthening of the EWER system in terms of human resource capacity (Findings 4, 7 and 16)	UN Women, UNDP	Immediate
6. Sustain working with multiple partners: The project team should consider sustaining the engagement of multiple partners and other stakeholders in the project implementation either as participants or as IPs. This will ensure that the barriers to effective women's political participation are tackled from multiple fronts contributing to the effectiveness of the intervention. It will also promote stakeholders' buy-in and ensuring the overall sustainability of the project (Findings 7)	UN Women, UNDP	Immediate
7. Continue to address key barriers to women's political participation: Sustain the implementation of activities to address persistent constraints and forms of backlash such as violence against women in politics, discriminatory socio-cultural norms and financial constraints that limits women's political participation (Findings 4 and 18).	UN Women, UNDP	Immediate
8. Provide better disability inclusion. Adequate provisions should be made for persons with disability (PWD) such as the provision of braille for blind participants and the provision of interpreters for persons with hearing impairments as well as other marginalized groups to promote inclusivity and leaving no one behind (Findings 22).	UN Women/UNDP /IPs	Immediate

1.0. Introduction

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commissioned an end-of-project evaluation of a twenty-seven-month project called “Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics” in Liberia hereafter referred to as “Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project or the project”. The project was funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund with a budget of USD 2 million. The project supported the Government and citizens of Liberia to promote inclusive political participation and elimination of violence against women in politics in preparation for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections and was implemented for a period of 27 months. Specifically, it aims to strengthen the coordination of peacebuilding, governance, and elections processes and stakeholders with a focus on greater participation of women in these processes. It also seeks to achieve more effective prevention and response to Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics (VAWiE/P) through building a peaceful and enabling environment for women's increased participation. This report presents the findings of the evaluation of the project.

1.1 Background and Context of the Evaluation Location and Demographic Characteristics

The Republic of Liberia is located on the Atlantic Coast in the southern part of West Africa on Latitudes 4° 20' to 8° 30' N and Longitudes 7° 18' to 11° 30' W and covers an area of 111,369 km². The country borders Côte d'Ivoire to the east, Sierra Leone to the west, Guinea to the north, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south with a 350-mile coastline. The provisional 2022 Census result released by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) revealed that the country's population stands at 5.2 million and 50.4 percent of the population is male, while the female population accounts for 49.6 percent, giving a national sex ratio of 101.5 males for every 100 females. The demographic scenario of an almost equal proportion of women to men in the total population demonstrates the need for inclusive political participation in Liberia.

Concerning the poverty scenario, available evidence from the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geoinformation Service in 2017 reveals that about 2.2 million Liberians are classified as poor. Poverty is higher in rural areas (71.6%) than in urban areas (31.5%). Around 39.1 per cent of the population is poor. Male-headed households are on average poorer than female-headed households with absolute poverty at 52.3 per cent and 46.3 per cent respectively. Since 2000, Liberia has maintained a general upward trend in its human development index. Between 2000 and 2019, Liberia's HDI value increased from 0.435 to 0.480, an increase of 10.3 per cent driven by life expectancy at birth which increased by 12.4 years (from 51.7 to 64.1), and the average number of years of schooling which increased by 1.3 years (3.5 to 4.8 years). Liberia's HDI for women and girls was 0.447 lagging behind that of men and boys, which was 0.513 in 2021.

Human Rights Treaties and Gender Inequalities in Liberia

The Government of Liberia (GoL) is a signatory to multiple human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was ratified in 2004, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also ratified in

2004 and the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified in 1976), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (ratified in 1984), the Convention against

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The Government of Liberia (GoL) is a signatory to multiple human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which was ratified in 2004, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights also ratified in 2004 and the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified in 1976), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (ratified in 1984), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified 2004), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified 1993), the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325) which was domesticated in 2009 through the development of the National Action Plan (NAP) for Women Peace and Security National Action Plan (WPS NAP),, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ratified in 2012). In 2007, Liberia ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003, The Maputo Protocol). Liberia is also a signatory to The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007), ECOWAS Protocol A/SPI/12/01 on Democracy and Good Governance and Supplementary Act on Equality of Rights between Women and Men for Sustainable Development in the ECOWAS Region (2015). These instruments have played important roles in the progression of gender equality and the protection of the rights of women and girls which was achieved by the integration of the instruments into Liberia's national actions.

Despite this, there is still widespread evidence of gender inequalities in Liberia. Gender inequalities and women's marginalization in Liberia are maintained by socio-cultural perceptions and practices that supporting female subordination and male superiority. Girls and boys, women and men are socialized into taking different roles in society. In turn, these roles are transferred to schools, public life, institutions, and workplaces. The combined women's roles in productive and reproductive work create an excessive burden of workload in the family as caretakers and providers and therefore curtails their participation in the formal economy. Women are constantly missing out on opportunities and participation in management and decision-making at all levels of society.

A review of the Gender Inequality Index (GII) shows that Liberia has a value of 0.760, ranking it 39 out of 143 countries in 2023. On economic opportunity and participation, the country recorded an index of 0.64 in 2014 and 0.895 in 2023 indicating a reduction in the gender gap with respect to economic opportunity and participation for women (Table 1). On political participation of women, the index ranged from 0.21 in 2014 to 0.225 in 2022 and 0.287 in 2023 where Liberia was ranked 50 out of 146 countries. This also indicates that for a period of ten years, little progress was made with respect to women's political participation in Liberia. However, the overall global index ranged from 0.65 in 2014 to 0.71 in 2022 0.760 in 2023 and ranking the country 39 out of 146 countries. General Liberia has made significant progress with a 50 per cent increase in the Global Gender Index Rank between 2022 and 2023.

take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women on equal terms with men, the right to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government” (Part II, Article 7b). These commitments collectively express that women's right to equality cannot be reached without equality in political decision-making positions. In 2020, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 65 summit, states agreed to) advocate and support the Government of Liberia to protect women's equal rights to engage in political activities, and public life as a whole free from violence and harassment; ii) support the implementation of measures and mechanisms, including appropriate mechanisms to track progress, to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels of elected positions; iii) support action by duty bearers in partnership with other stakeholders to respond to the growing impact of VAWP.

These global commitments recognize the benefits of women's political participation. Empirical evidence demonstrates the fact that women's political leadership has several societal benefits, such as inequality reduction, increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines, and increased prioritization of social issues, like health, education, parental leave, and pensions. Additionally, women's political participation has been shown to be particularly influential to women in their communities. Factors such as voter turnout, political participation, and public service responsiveness towards women have been found to have a positive relationship with the presence of women in decision-making positions across the public and private sectors. Women's parliamentary presence is also found to have a role model effect. A 2012 study conducted in India explained that the increased proportion of women village leaders had closed the “aspiration gap” between girls and boys by nearly 25 percentage points and had eventually erased or reversed the gender gap in educational outcomes.

Liberia made an important landmark by electing the first woman president in Liberia and Africa in 2005. However, state institutions remain largely male-dominated and, globally, Liberia is ranked 156th of 162 countries on the Gender Inequality Index and 163 out of 185 countries on the list of women in national parliaments. Whereas the average percentage of women in national parliaments is 26 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa and 17 per cent in West Africa, in Liberia, women make up less than 11 per cent of the 103 seats in the National Legislature. These statistics represent a crisis of under-representation given that women and girls comprise approximately 50 percent of the population. Without affirmative action and legislation to help address the exclusion of women from the national legislature, Liberia's democratic and developmental goals will not be achieved. Even though in 2014, Liberia revised its national elections law to promote gender representation on political party/coalition governing bodies and on the list of candidates to participate in elections, no political party had 30 or more percent of each gender representation on the party leadership and participation in elections as candidates, enshrined in the amended elections law.

Violence Against Women in Politics in Liberia

One of the emerging threats to women's political participation is violence against women in politics. VAWP is any act, or threat, of physical, sexual, or psychological violence that prevents women from exercising and realizing their political rights and a range of human rights. Violence against women in elections online and offline affects women voters, candidates, and electoral officials. It ranges from broad threats made against women who plan to participate in the voting process to personalized attacks against candidates. The range of violence is wide, from personal threats to threats to family and loved ones. It often leads to the same outcome: women retreat from the electoral process as officials, candidates, and voters and that means less participation by women, less influence for women, and less of a threat to the existing structures, from the perspective of those in power. In Liberia, the situation is not different as women in politics have consistently experienced violent attacks. In 2017, a woman representative candidate in District 13 in Montserrado County was intimidated, resulting in a violent confrontation between her supporters and supporters of the ruling party. A similar situation was experienced in 2019 in District 15 representative by-elections when woman candidate supporters were reportedly attacked leading to injuries and the destruction of property. During the 2020 mid-term senatorial election, another woman candidate was intimidated, and her supporters were terrorized in Gbarpolu County. In 2023, a woman representative candidate in District 6 was allegedly assaulted by the supporters of the male incumbent. A lack of political will and an absence of supportive legislative and institutional frameworks present significant obstacles to women's participation in politics. Furthermore, the socio-cultural, economic, and ideological barriers that impede women's leadership in politics and governance cannot be overlooked. Discriminatory gender norms and constrictive gender roles play a pivotal role in exacerbating these challenges. Traditional and religious leaders, often influential in the realm of aspiring politicians, frequently withhold their endorsements from female candidates. The dearth of political capital and networks, compared to their male counterparts, hinders women's ability to secure the necessary resources for their campaigns. Harmful stereotypes about women leaders persist, often perpetuated by the media and the public, influencing voters' decisions.

UNW Liberia and UNDP Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project was developed to address the above-identified challenges to women's political participation. Through the project, UN Women and UNDP worked to support the Government of Liberia (GoL) in promoting inclusive political participation and elimination of violence against women in politics" in preparation for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

1.2. Description of the Programme

The project, Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics, has the overall outcome of increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peace building mechanisms. The project aimed to strengthen the coordination of peacebuilding, governance, and elections processes and stakeholders with a focus on greater participation of women in these processes –

from the community to the national level. In the period heading towards the 2023 General Elections, the project focused on increasing awareness of the rights of women to participate in politics influencing attitude, norms, and behavioural change, strengthening policies, laws, and institutional frameworks, and adherence to national and international commitments to protect women's political and civic rights and promote women's meaningful participation and representation. It also aimed to achieve more effective prevention and response to VAWIE/P by strengthening institutional and civil society capacities for preventing, monitoring, reporting, and responding to VAWIE/P, thereby building an enabling environment for women's safe and free participation in politics and public life. The project has one outcome, and it aims to support increased women's political participation in elections, politics, public life, and peace-building mechanisms.

Outcome: Increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms

- Output 1.1 Political party and community engagements on women's political participation are promoted through dialogue.
- Output 1.2 Strengthened mechanisms for reduction of violence against women in elections, politics, and public spheres.
- Output 1.3 Strengthened capacity of women and youth to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding.
- Output 1.4 Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political, and peacebuilding processes.

The project implementation strategy is underlined by capacity building and institutional strengthening through working with community structures, and national and sub-national partners of peacebuilding and elections. The project design followed the electoral cycle patterns in that activities were designed to engage electoral stakeholders before, during, and after the 2023 elections. The Programme Theory of Change (ToC) is discussed in section 2.3 below. The primary stakeholders of the project are the Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding, Organization for Women and Children, Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, National Elections Commission, Messengers of Peace Liberia, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Liberia Peace Building Office. The specific activities of the stakeholders are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Stakeholders and Roles in Project Implementation

Name of Implementing Partner	Organisation Type	Activities Undertaken by Stakeholder
Center For Media Studies & Peacebuilding	Civil society	Training journalists on gender-sensitive reporting for women in politics
Organization For Women and Children	Civil society/women's rights organization	Providing legal aid to women experiencing Violence Against Women in Election/ Politics (VAWiE-P) and strengthening the institutional capacity of police, and judiciary for VAWiE -P response
Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia	Civil society/women's rights	Advocacy and engagement with political parties/women's leagues; train domestic elections

	organization	observation groups on VAWiE; legal and policy advocacy for reform/implementation of laws (30% candidate quota, VAWiE-P, etc.)
Liberia Initiative for Empowerment	Civil society	Engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation; Building women's leadership culture and advocating for inclusion in governance); Develop & disseminate gender-sensitive civic and voter education.
Naymote Partners For Democratic Development	Civil society	Engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation; Building women's leadership culture and advocating for inclusion in governance.
Messengers of Peace Liberia	Civil society	Engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation (1.1.4); Building women's leadership culture and advocating for inclusion in governance; Developing & disseminating gender-sensitive civic and voter education.
National Elections Commission	Government	Conduct a regular quarterly dialogue through the IPCC structure on VAWiE-P, and women's participation. Support political parties to implement the existing legal and policy provisions within their internal structures and externally.
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	Government	Conducting district and county-level gender dialogues on VAWiE-P and promoting women's increased leadership.
Liberia Peace Building Office	Civil society	Holding workshops with local statutory, traditional, and community leaders on women's political participation, violence against women in elections, political pluralism, and promotion of peaceful elections.

2.0. Objectives of the Final Evaluation

The main purpose of this evaluation is to contribute to improving UN Women and UNDP's approach to women's participation in politics and peacebuilding mechanisms programming. The key results, challenges, lessons learned, good practices, conclusions, and recommendations will inform future joint programming on women's political participation and preventing electoral violence, including violence against women in politics, and foster organizational learning and accountability. This evaluation is a mandatory component of project management, and the final evaluation report will be submitted to PBSO.

The objectives of the evaluation are to:

1. Assess the relevance of the intervention, strategy, and approach and UN Women and UNDP's added value in the thematic area.
2. Assess the effectiveness and efficiency in progressing towards the achievement of results as defined in the project document.
3. Assess how the human rights approach and gender equality principles are integrated into the design and implementation of the project.
4. Identify and validate lessons learned and good practices that would allow UN Women and UNDP to support the sustainability of results achieved in the thematic area as well as the replication and scaling up of programmes and projects in Liberia.

5. Provide actionable recommendations to inform future programming in the area.

2.1. Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation covered the implementation period of the joint project from October 2021 to December 2023 (27 months). The evaluation assessed the project's reach at national, county, and community levels. The geographic scope of the evaluation was decided in consultation with the evaluation team during the inception phase. The project was evaluated in relation to its progress towards achieving expected results, measured against the log frames and targets, and using project indicators. The evaluation identified and documented any short-term, intermediate, and long-term results achieved by the project. It also assessed progress towards achieving the project outcomes and potential impact by the end of the project's implementing period.

2.2. Stakeholders of the Evaluation

A stakeholder analysis using the UNEG Matrix was applied (Annex 1). The analysis indicated that there were three main levels of stakeholders. At the first level are the Evaluation Manager (EM), Evaluation Management Group (EMG), and Evaluation Reference Group (ERG). These first-level stakeholders will be involved in the joint evaluation of the project and will provide oversight function in the validation of the inception report by reviewing the draft report and participating in the validation workshop. They are also expected to contribute to the finalization of the draft report. In the second level are stakeholders at the national level such as the National Elections Commission and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. This category represents national institutions and ministries that participated in the project. The third level includes Civil Society Organizations including the Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding, Organization for Women and Children, Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia, Liberia Initiative for Empowerment, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, Messengers of Peace Liberia, and Liberia Peace Building Office. The CSOs helped in the implementation of the project. The last categories are the project participants at the national and county levels covered by the project. This list of stakeholders helped to identify key informants with whom in-depth and semi-structured interviews were conducted during the field mission. The project team is expected to provide a self-assessment of the project performance, challenges, and lessons learned. They are also expected to provide logistic support to the evaluation team by mobilizing the project participants at the National, district, county, and community levels. The implementing partners on the other hand are expected to support the mobilization of the project participants for interviews while also providing information on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the project benefits at the community level. The project participants on the other hand are expected to provide the needed information on the relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project benefits at the community level.

2.3 Users of the Evaluation

The main evaluation users include UN Women and UNDP in Liberia, as well as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) more broadly. Furthermore, other national stakeholders that will benefit from the evaluation will include the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), the National Elections Commission, the Women Legislative Caucus of Liberia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Peacebuilding Office (PBO), civil societies and women's rights organizations in Liberia. This evaluation should inform the implementation of the Government's Strategic Plan, new strategic documents such as the new United Nations Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF), and future programming actions of UN Women and UNDP including joint programming actions. The findings of this evaluation will also be used by the UN to further refine its approaches towards the promotion of Women's political participation and to inform the implementation of strategic documents including the 2020-2024 Strategic Note of UN Women Liberia CO. Ultimately, the results of the evaluation will be publicly accessible through the Global Accountability and Tracking of Evaluation Use (GATE) system for global learning and the PBF website.

2.4. Existing Data Availability

To understand the theory of change and provide a robust analysis of the results framework, the evaluation team relied on data shared by the UN Women Project team. Three annual reports were shared with the evaluation team. A review of the documents shared indicates that they are generally good and provide clear direction of the project's focus in design and activities implemented. More importantly, it shows progress and results achieved in the Result Framework of the project. Beyond this and most critically, all the progress reports show a disaggregation of data by sex of participants to activities and by county. The evaluation sustained the disaggregation of data by sex and county to gain deeper insights into the result of the project on different dimensions.

2.5 Theory of Change

Evidence from the preliminary review of the project documents, the PIPP project is anchored on a Theory of Change (ToC). This ToC represents the main hypothesis that this evaluation will be attempting to assess against the main evaluation questions in the evaluation matrix as follows:

If coordination and monitoring of peacebuilding mechanisms by grassroots networks (peace huts and peace committees etc.), CSOs, PBO, ZoA, is enhanced, and **If** NEC, community male gate keepers and political party leaders and other institutions and structures of governance in the executive, legislature and Judiciary are engaged and supported to prevent and respond to VAWIE-P, and to protect and support

women's equal rights to political participation and representation, and **If** legal frameworks and policies are made more robust and intentional towards gender responsiveness, and **If** women's political agency is strengthened to claim their rights and demonstrate transformative leadership competencies, and are linked to economic empowerment initiatives and **If** the media effectively challenges negative stereotypes and builds public

trust of women leaders, and high-level political lobbying takes place, **Then** there will be positive cultural shift from men as partners to engage and promote women leadership and greater participation of women in elections and public office contributing to lasting peace in Liberia. **Because** the deep-seated institutional and social barriers, would have shifted to appreciate and promote women as partners in leadership; coordination at the grassroots and national levels would have been strengthened to mainstream all efforts towards inclusive political participation, and legal and policy frameworks have become more gender-responsive.

The analysis of the ToC shows that it is

relevant as it shows a plausible, clear, and logical flow to describe how the project strategy intends to contribute to the desired changes at the outcome and impact level without any knowledge gap. The result statements are explicit and the time frame for the result is reasonable. Evidence from the TOC analysis also reveals that it was framed within the internationally agreed development goals, norms, and instruments which outline the necessary conditions and key actions required for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Also, the assumption and risks most relevant to whether the change will be realized were not specified in the ToC. Overall, the ToC is very germane to the goal of the project.

3.0. Approach and Methodology

3.1. Results-Based Management (RBM) Approach: Theory of Change

The project, Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics was evaluated against the Results Based Management (RBM) - Theory of Change Approach. Information sources from the project and other documents were reviewed. The notes from the review helped to promote a clear understanding of the project logic, inputs, and outputs as well as planned and expected outcomes. The notes were also used as a basis to develop detailed evaluation questions, guide the development of related methods and protocols, and analyze the broader progress to outcomes through the aggregation of available evidence on a broader scale and longer-term results.

3.2 Evaluation criteria elaboration of key questions

The evaluation applied the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, coherence, and sustainability. The evaluation also took into consideration gender equality and human rights, and disability inclusion, as separate standalone criteria. This was used as the main analytical framework in line with the UN Women evaluation policy. The evaluation questions that support the evaluators in the assessment are shown in Annex 2. These key questions were refined and expanded around the thematic evaluation areas in the evaluation matrix (Annex 3). In this evaluation, gender and inequality concerns were prioritized and were assessed in line with the UN Women's gender-responsive evaluation Policy. All data collected were gender-disaggregated and took into consideration the diverse needs of stakeholders including women, men, boys, and girls as well as those of vulnerable groups targeted

by the project. The evaluation followed United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards and UNEG Guidance on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality in Evaluations. The evaluation also applied the UN Women Evaluation Policy and the Ethical Guidelines for evaluations in the UN system. The final evaluation report was developed following the UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System (GERAAS) as recommended in the ToR. The evaluators identified and ensured that vulnerable sub-populations were included in the data-gathering process with the support of the IPs. These include women, girls, the elderly, youths, people living with disabilities, and others generally less included in political and peace-building mechanisms in the community.

Issues of potential biases that may arise in the selection of methods and stakeholders of the evaluation were avoided through the inclusion of a full range of stakeholder groups and a variety of data collection tools. To facilitate more transparent and participatory processes, enabling more equitable gender-balanced contributions by all stakeholders, and to facilitate capacity building of all stakeholders to contribute freely, evaluators addressed transparency, independence, evaluation ethics, and confidentiality issues, including sensitivity to language use during data collection.

With respect to transparency, the evaluation described the sources of information used (documentation, respondents, literature, etc.) to adequately assess the adequacy of the information. Also, complete lists of interviewees and documents consulted were included in the annexes to the extent that this does not conflict with the privacy and confidentiality of participants. To enhance the reliability of the data collected and the findings, the evaluation cross-validated and critically assessed the information sources used and the validity of the data using a variety of methods and sources of information. With respect to independence, the evaluators maintained a high level of independence during the evaluation process, and possible conflicts of interest were addressed openly and honestly. Relevant critical measures taken during data collection include gathering stakeholders in separate groups where they can express themselves freely. Evaluators also visited stakeholders in their counties and used appropriate cultural approaches and local languages to facilitate easy access and increased participation.

3.3. Methodological Approach

This evaluation has both formative and summative purposes (i.e., to inform UN Women and UNDP Liberia future programming in gender equality and women empowerment in Liberia as well as determining the extent to which the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project has met its planned goals and objectives). Accordingly, and in line with the Terms of Reference (ToR), the evaluation relied heavily on both quantitative and qualitative research methods and desk review of secondary data documents. Primary and secondary sources of data were utilized to inform the findings of the evaluation. This approach allowed for information to be triangulated and verified. Thus, a mixed methodological approach to data collection was used including document analysis, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and questionnaire administration. The key informants, focus group discussants, and questionnaire

respondents were representatives of the recipients of various interventions of the project, the IPs, and the project team. The data consists of both individual and institutional responses to the evaluation questions. This mixed approach ensured the collection of different types of data from different stakeholders and enriched data quality and ensured the evaluation is utilization-focused, gender-responsive, and explicitly integrates human rights-based approaches to data management. The evaluation utilized gender-sensitive participatory methods to capture relevant case studies.

The data were further disaggregated by age, sex, and category of stakeholders as well as counties. This helped to present findings by the dimension of the category of stakeholders. The adopted evaluation method allowed for complementarity and allowed for cross-verification, corroboration, and triangulation of evidence from different sources, thus enhancing the reliability and validity of the data collected.

3.4 Secondary Data Collection

The evaluation team carried out a desk review of all relevant documentation on the project. The documents were shared by the project team and were complemented by other sources where necessary. Preliminary content analysis of the Peacebuilding Fund Project (PBF) document, PBF Project Progress Report, PBF Semi-Annual (2022) Progress Report, PBF Semi-Annual (2022&2023) Progress Report, etc. documents reveal that the documents contain most of the relevant data. The document reviews were done in line with the key evaluation questions and the listed indicators in the project Result Framework using the content analysis method. This provided useful background information to the evaluation team in understanding the project and assessing the extent of project activity implementation. The information was used to verify and validate (triangulate) the data obtained from KII, FGD, and the questionnaire survey. The review therefore helped to provide evidence to meet some of the log frame indicators and the evaluation questions. The desk review was used during the inception phase, data collection, and triangulation stage. Its advantage is that it is inexpensive, and data is relatively fast and easy to obtain because of the project's rich literature and reports. The desk review also captured periodic information and data which were used to compare baseline values versus end-line values.

3.5 Primary Data Collection

The instruments deployed for data collection include a questionnaire, key informant interview guide, and focus group discussion guide. The questionnaire and the focus group discussion guide targeted project participants while the key informant interview guide targeted the implementing partners, government partners, and the project team. The evaluation team developed different tools for different categories of stakeholders depending on their roles in the design and implementation of the project.

The data collected using these different sets of tools covered all the evaluation questions raised across the evaluation criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts, and sustainability in addition to gender equality, human rights,

and disability inclusion. The combination of key informant interview guides, questionnaires, and focus group discussion guides was useful for this evaluation as it helped to generate both qualitative and quantitative data which facilitated the triangulation of data. The focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIs) provided qualitative data that are relevant in increasing the depth of issues relevant to the evaluation questions raised in the ToR. It also enabled the evaluation team to have a deeper understanding of the context of the evaluation. In addition, FGDs are preferred because they are very useful in obtaining detailed information about individual and group feelings, perceptions, and opinions while group interactions have the advantage of bringing out nuances of stakeholder dynamics. Also, it allows the evaluation team to obtain information in the participants' language while at the same time allowing the evaluation team to interact with the participants, which allows for follow-up questions. The questionnaire helped to generate quantitative data used for triangulation with the qualitative data.

3.6 Sampling and Data Collection

The evaluation used a census sampling approach to all key participating stakeholder institutions, communities/counties, and project implementing partners which allowed the evaluators to study and fully understand the roles played by each institution and the interventions they participated in (Table 3.2). Purposive sampling was utilized to choose specific individuals depending on their involvement. Using the stakeholder analysis matrix (Annex 2) that defined the roles, and nature of participation of stakeholders in various interventions, the evaluators purposively selected key stakeholders and communities/counties for data collection. From the project design, the intervention covered the 15 counties in Liberia, but the emphasis was placed on the counties with a history of electoral violence and VAWiE-P as well as counties where women's representation remains a huge challenge during the field mission. These counties were purposively selected with the help of the project team while also considering accessibility and time factors. Five counties including Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Nimba were visited during the field mission while other stakeholders in the other counties were reached virtually during data collection (Table 3.3). This approach provided the needed representation of all the stakeholders covered by the intervention as well as guaranteed the needed reliability, validity, and generalizability of the findings derived from the data collected. The project team, stakeholders at the national level, and counties were interviewed as key informants, and they were purposively selected guided by the nature of their involvement in the design and implementation of the project. The questionnaire targeted direct participants at the national level and the counties and respondents were purposively selected for questionnaire administration.

In all, a total of 9 FGDs and 34 KIs were conducted across the five counties while 139 questionnaires were administered to the project participants in the counties. Tables 3 and 4 below show national and county-level disaggregation of data collection.

Table 3: National Level Disaggregation of Data Collection

Name of Institution	Location	Method of Data Collection	No. of participants	Males	Females	Total
UNW and UNDP	Monrovia	KII	5	1	4	5
Center For Media Studies & Peacebuilding	Monrovia	KII	2	2	0	2
Organization For Women and Children	Monrovia	KII	2	0	2	2
Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia	Monrovia	KII	5	0	5	5
Liberia Initiative for Empowerment	Monrovia	KII	2	1	1	2
Naymote Partners For Democratic Development	Monrovia	KII	1	1	0	1
National Elections Commission (NEC)	Monrovia	KII	1	1	0	1
Messengers of Peace Liberia	Monrovia	KII	2	1	1	2
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	Monrovia	KII	2	1	1	2
Liberia Peace Building Office	Monrovia	KII	2	2	0	2
The Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH)	Monrovia	KII	2	0	2	2
Peace Building Fund (PBF)	Monrovia	KII	1	1	0	1
Total						27

Table 4: County Level Disaggregation of Data Collection

Location	Questionnaire	Method of Data Collection		No. of KIIs (Males)	No. of KIIs (Females)	No. of FGDs (Males)	No. of FGDs (Females)
		KII	FGD				
Grand Cape Mount	16	2	2	1	1	0	2
Grand Bassa	44	2	2	1	1	0	2
Margibi	37	2	2	1	1	1	1
Nimba	36	2	2	1	1	0	2
Montserrado	6	26	1	8	18	0	1
Total	139	34	9	12	22	1	8

3.7. Gender and Human Rights

Mainstreaming gender and human rights in evaluation requires including women, men, marginalized, and/or discriminated against in the evaluation process. This provided significant information on how the intervention is seen from the perspective of different participants of the intervention while ensuring that balanced and complete evaluation evidence is generated. Thus, the full range of stakeholder groups (including duty bearers and rights holders) were carefully selected and included for the evaluation to avoid biases such as gender, distance (including the less accessible), power (supporting less powerful interviewees to be able to speak freely by addressing privacy and confidentiality concerns), etc. One method used to foster this inclusion was to work with the Evaluation Reference Group to discuss the evaluation purpose, focus, and methodology during the inception phase of the evaluation.

Particular attention was paid to the inclusion of women and individuals/groups who are marginalized and/or discriminated against. The evaluation team also explored barriers these groups may face in their participation and strategies were devised to address the barriers. For instance, people living with disabilities were identified and visited by the evaluation team during the data collection while people in remote locations were visited by the evaluation team to allow them to participate in the evaluation process. Also, some rights-based and gender-sensitive indicators were incorporated into the evaluation questions to ensure the evaluation is gender and human-rights-responsive.

3.8. Validity and reliability of data

Validating the accuracy, clarity, and specificity of data collected is crucial for this evaluation due to its implication on the validity of findings and general inferences from the analysis of data. Therefore, measures were put in place to promote the validity and reliability of the data. One approach to the evaluation to achieve this important process was to design and administer different tools and all the tools, contain similar wordings for the same question. Also, representative samples and an adequate sample size were purposively selected from each of the identified stakeholder groups for the evaluation. While using multiple methods of data collection, the evaluation team also carried out data triangulation. The evaluation team also used appropriate and rigorous interpretative techniques and reported results accurately and transparently.

3.9. Data Analysis and Reporting

In this evaluation, data analysis ran through all the various stages of the evaluation process. Different analytical processes were adopted. During the inception phase, there was a systematic organization, comparison, and synthesis of information from various project documents using the content analysis method. After the completion of data collection, the evaluation triangulated data obtained from stakeholders using different data collection tools and sources of information to ensure robust findings. The evaluators made judgments based on the evidence from the findings. The evaluation report described the analytical process undertaken and the underlying rationale for judgments made. To increase the gender-responsiveness of evaluation findings, evaluators adopted a gender analysis framework that examined factors related to gender, assessed and promoted gender equality, and provided an analysis of structures of political and social control that create gender equality. This technique ensured that the data collected is analyzed in the following ways:

- ✦ Determining the claims of rights-holders and obligations of duty-bearers within the context of the project.
- ✦ Assessing the extent to which the intervention was guided by the relevant international (national and regional) normative frameworks for gender equality and women's rights, UN system-wide mandates, and organizational objectives including maintenance of peace and security, improved status for women and population, etc.
- ✦ Comparing data and information collected with existing information about human rights and gender equality in the country, etc.
- ✦ Identifying trends, common responses, and differences between groups of stakeholders (disaggregation of data), for example, using graphs or illustrative quotes (that do not allow for identification of the individual).
- ✦ Integrating into the analysis the context, relationships, power dynamics, etc.
- ✦ Analyzing the structures that contribute to inequalities experienced by women, men, girls, and boys, especially those experiencing multiple forms of exclusion within the context of the project.
- ✦ Assessing the extent to which participation and inclusiveness (with respect to rights-holders and duty-bearers) were maximized in the intervention

- ▶ planning, design, implementation, and decision-making processes.
- ▶ Triangulating information and sources of information to identify similarities and/or discrepancies in data obtained in different ways (i.e., interviews, focus groups, observations, etc.) and from different stakeholders (e.g., duty bearers, rights holders, etc.).
- ▶ Identifying the context behind the numbers and people (using case studies to illustrate broader findings or to go into more depth on an issue).
- ▶ Comparing the results obtained with the original plan (e.g., through the application of the evaluation matrix).
- ▶ Assessing the extent to which sustainability was built into the intervention through the empowerment and capacity building of women and groups of rights holders and duty bearers.

Quantitative Data Analysis – Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics to meet the objectives of the evaluation. Relevant tables and columns were developed showing disaggregated data by gender, age, county, category of beneficiary, and disability in drafting the various sections of the report.

Qualitative data analysis –The evaluation team utilized thematic coding to analyze qualitative data. The codes and themes followed the evaluation objectives and criteria. Examples of the themes include Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability as well as Cross-cutting issues and Disability inclusion. The content analysis method was employed in the desk review of all available reports, documents, and collected data sets. The evaluation team will review all relevant project documents and findings were triangulated and refined based on the comments of key informants and through cross-checking to ensure factual credibility. The findings from the qualitative and quantitative data analysis were triangulated by source and methods to obtain descriptive findings and conclusions relevant to the objectives of this evaluation. These were subsequently transformed into normative recommendations to address issues that are deemed sufficiently important and operational.

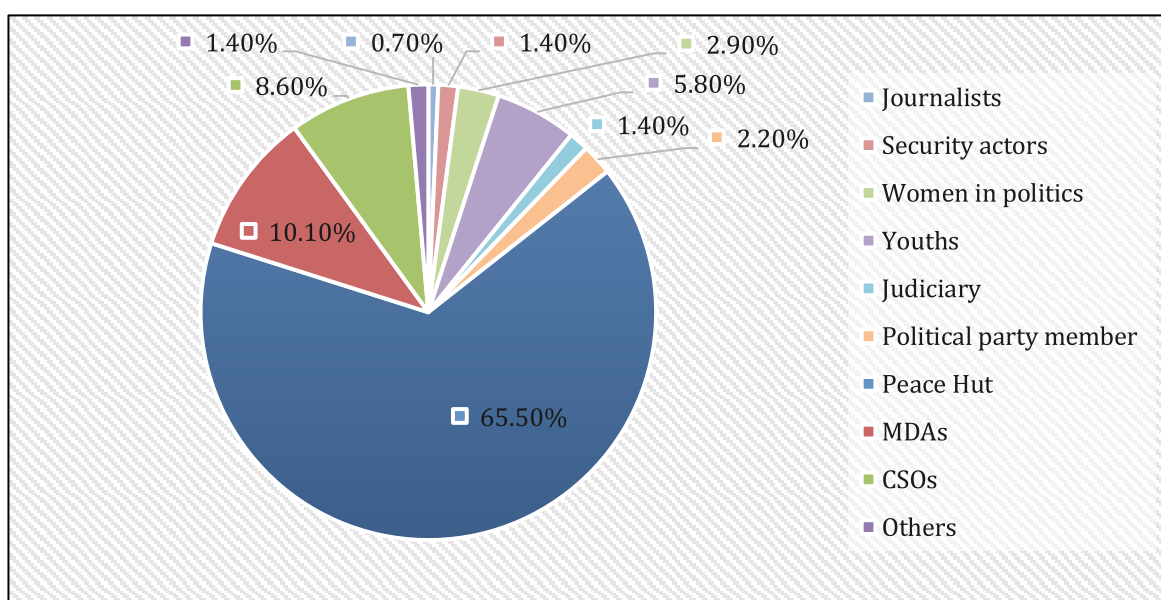
The following methods for data analysis were used:

- ▶ **Qualitative Content Analysis:** to evaluate patterns across multiple pieces of content of words, phrases or images to identify the frequency and patterns of deeper underlying interpretations.
- ▶ **Thematic Analysis:** examines the patterns of meaning in a data set of interviews or focus group transcripts by grouping them according to similarities/themes to derive the meaning of the content.
- ▶ **Budget and expenditure analysis:** analyze burn rate.
- ▶ **Descriptive analysis and trend analysis** were used for data available on project activities, and completion rates by partners.

A total of 139 questionnaires were retrieved out of the targeted 150 questionnaires which represent 92 per cent response rate. The analysis of the quantitative data collected from the questionnaire indicates that 82.7 per cent of the respondents were females while the males made up 17.3 per cent. The majority (56.1%) of the respondents are within the age bracket of 30-49 years while 28.8 per cent are

above 50 years of age. In terms of educational attainments, about 36 per cent and 26.6 per cent of the respondents have primary and secondary education respectively while 11.5 per cent of the respondents has no formal education. However, 25.9 per cent have tertiary educational qualifications. Evidence from Figure 3.1 shows that the majority (65.5%) of the respondents were members of the Women Peace Huts while 10.1 per cent and 8.6 per cent of the respondents are members of MDAs and Women in Politics respectively (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents by Categories of participants



3.10. Ethical Considerations

The evaluation team adhered fully to the ethics and principles for research and evaluation. In addition, the evaluation team also adhered strictly to the UN Evaluation (Group UNEG) standards for evaluation, the UN Women Evaluation policy as well as the ethical Guidelines for evaluations in the UN System. Once finalized, the evaluation report was quality assessed based on the UN Women Global Evaluation Reports Assessment and Analysis System. Specific safety considerations were put in place to promote the safety of both the respondents and the evaluation team during data collection. These include:

- ✦ Data collection tools were designed in a way that is culturally appropriate and does not create distress for respondents.
- ✦ Data collection visits were organized at the appropriate times and places to minimize risk to respondents.
- ✦ The rights of the respondent, including privacy and confidentiality were ensured during and after the data collection exercise.
- ✦ The evaluation team is trained in collecting sensitive information, and where the topic of the evaluation may touch on violence against women, evaluators have previous experience in this area.
- ✦ The evaluators are competent in identifying the complexity of cultural identities and identifying power dynamics between and within different groups.

Also, rights, peace, and security issues can be sensitive information, and therefore the respondents' anonymity, as well as the non-attribution of their answers, were carefully safeguarded. The evaluators also ensured that interviews were conducted "safe space" during the interaction with respondents so that different categories of participants who may have felt excluded from ongoing peace and security processes or are otherwise vulnerable, are able to speak up. For each participant, informed consent to participate in the evaluation was ensured. The evaluation team followed the UNEG Ethical Guidelines and Code of Conduct, as listed below:

- ✦ Respect for dignity and diversity
- ✦ Right to self-determination
- ✦ Right to participate or withdraw at any time.
- ✦ Fair representation.
- ✦ Alignment with codes for vulnerable groups
- ✦ Redress
- ✦ Confidentiality
- ✦ Avoidance of harm.

3.11. Risks and Assumptions

The Risk Management Table summarizes critical risks to the evaluation, along with the adopted mitigation measures (Annex 4). Risk level refers to the likelihood of the risk occurring (low, medium, high), while risk impact describes the degree of potentially negative impact (low, medium, high) the risk would have on evaluation quality and feasibility.

4.0. Evaluation Findings

This section focused on the presentation of the major findings of the evaluation based on the analysis of various qualitative and quantitative data collected. The findings are organized according to the OECD/DAC's evaluation criteria, with a focus on key priority questions identified for this evaluation.

4.1. Relevance

Finding 1: The extent the project results addressed the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the country.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and key informant interviews confirmed that the project results addressed the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups to a large extent. Peacebuilding is a top development priority need in Liberia given the citizen's experience of the impact of violence especially from the Liberian civil war. The project contributed to strengthening the coordination of peacebuilding, governance, and elections processes with a focus on greater participation of women in these processes. The project also helped in increasing awareness of the rights of women to participate in politics influencing attitudes, norms, and behavioural change as well as strengthening policies, laws and institutional frameworks, and adherence to national and international commitments to protect women's political and civic rights. It also contributed to achieving more effective prevention and response to VAWE/P thereby

building an enabling environment for women's safe and free participation in politics and public life.

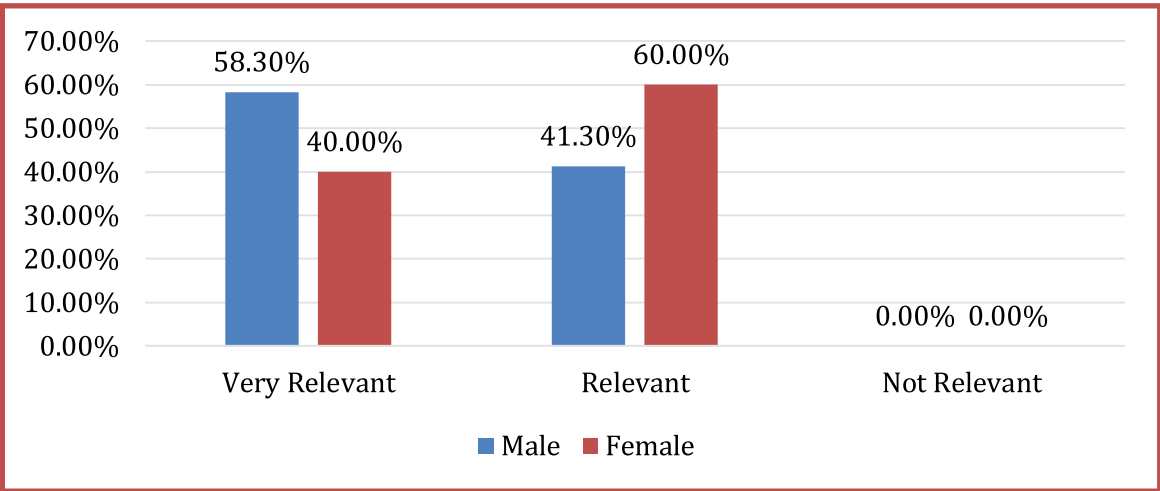
The FGDs conducted among the participants in the counties reveal that the project to a very large extent addressed their peacebuilding needs as shown in these excerpts:

One of the major things this project brought to this community is peace. Before now, conflict was the order of the day between communities and among households. With the training from this project, we have learned to mitigate conflict because of the early warning training. The women peace hut has also received training on how to settle disputes in the community. People now prefer the alternate dispute resolution mechanisms from the women's peace hut to report[ing] the case in court or police station.(Sic)⁴⁰

This project has helped to increase awareness of women's political participation. In the past, many women were not interested in politics. This has changed and during the last 2023 general election. Three women won their election into the legislature in Cape Mount which has never happened before. Because of this, I will say that the project has contributed to addressing our peacebuilding needs (Sic).⁴¹

Evidence from the quantitative survey among the participants indicates that the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project was very relevant to their priority needs (Figure 2). About 98.3 per cent of the respondents noted that the project was very relevant to them. By gender, evidence shows that 100 per cent of the male and female respondent noted that the project was relevant to their needs.

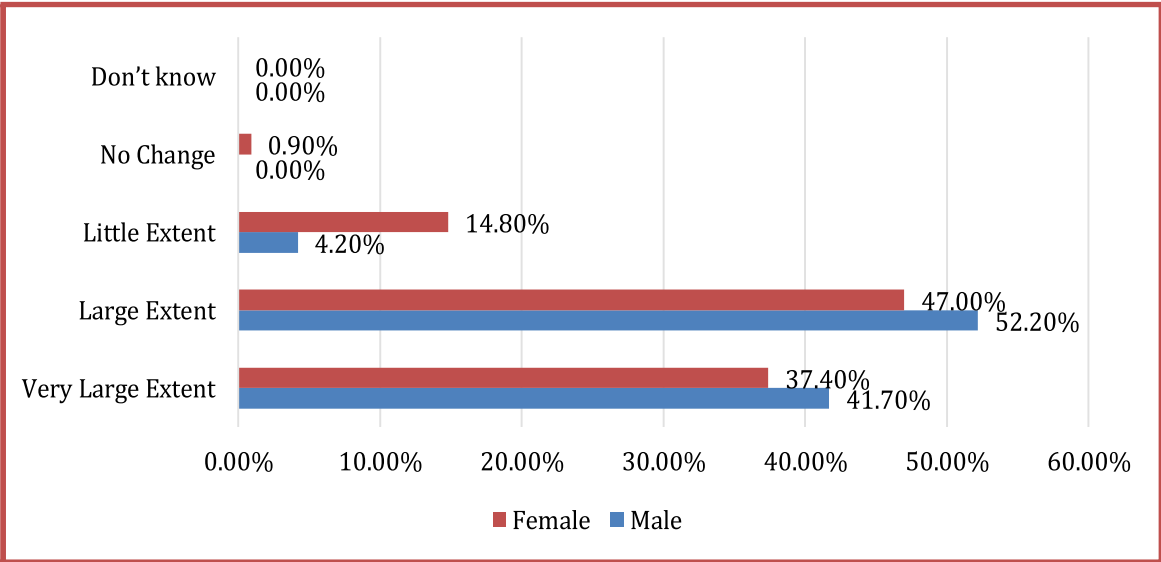
Figure 2: Relevance of the Project to the Participants by Gender



Similarly, findings from Figure 3 which analyses the extent the project results address the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the Country reveal that 79.1 per cent of the participants noted that the project results address the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the Country to a very large extent. By gender, about 84.4 per cent and 93.9 per cent of the female and male

respondents respectively agreed that the project results address the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the country to a very large extent. To this extent, it is plausible to conclude that the project results addressed the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the country to a large extent.

Figure 3: The extent the Project Results Address the Major Peacebuilding Needs of the Target Groups and of the Country



Finding 2: Timeliness and urgency of the project vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia and effectiveness in the utilization of political opportunities.

Evidence from the review of project documents and interviews with the project team and survey respondents indicate that the project activities were timely vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia. Several pieces of evidence attest to this fact. First, the project started at a time when there was a decreasing trend in women's political participation as evident in the decline of women's political participation from 14.9 per cent in 2006 to 10.7 per cent in 2017. There were also documented cases of increasing violence against women in politics across the counties as mentioned earlier which constitute a major barrier to women's political participation. The project was also implemented before the 2023 general election. This provided the opportunity for the project to focus on addressing barriers to women's political participation such as violence against women in politics and the low awareness of the importance of women's political participation across the counties.

The evaluation also perceived the project to be timely because it came at a time when the country was organizing the first general election after the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia formally ceased operations on 30th March 2018. This implies that the security logistics were entirely borne by the country's security institutions. In addition, the project was implemented during the period of the implementation of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) (2018 to 2023) strategy document for Liberia. Pillar three of the PAPD focused on sustaining peace in Liberia while Pillar four focused on good governance and transparency which are the overarching objective of the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project. The evaluation also confirmed that the project has

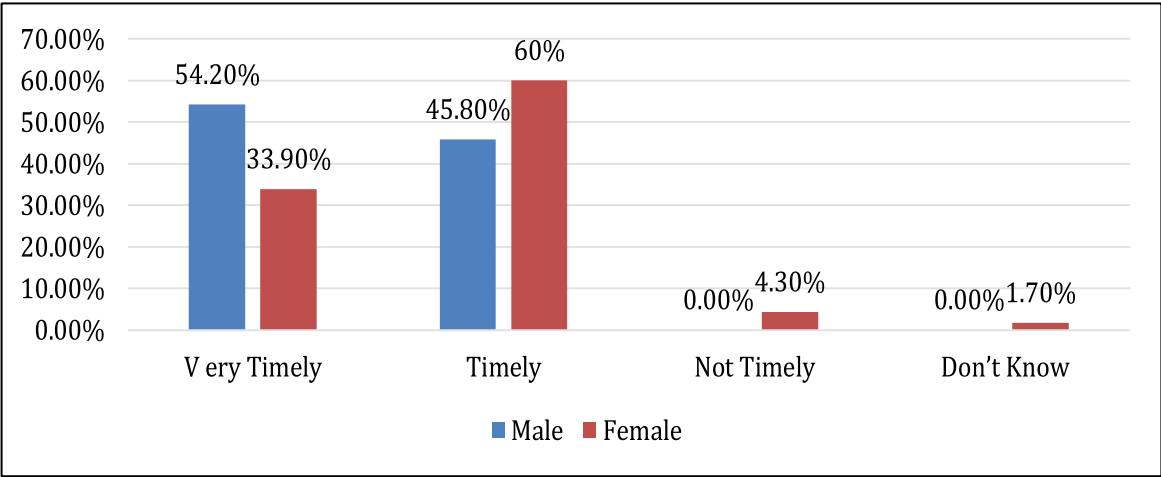
been able to effectively utilize political opportunities by implementing the project activities before the 2023 general election which enabled the project team to implement several activities germane to increasing women's political participation and reduction of violence against women during the election. Examples of such activities include the training of journalists on gender-sensitive reporting for women in politics, the provision of legal aid to women experiencing violence against women in election/ politics, advocacy activities and engagement with political parties/women's leagues, engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation, among others. Beyond this and most critically, evidence from FGDs conducted among the participants also confirmed the timeliness and urgency of the project vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia as shown in these excerpts:

The project's timing was crucial during the elections, educating us on respecting everyone's rights. We learned to hold leaders accountable for their followers' actions. The peaceful transition experience without international peacekeepers was significant. The incumbent president or government accepts defeat before the NEC's official announcement. Overall, I am pleased with the ...project as it addressed gaps the government couldn't handle (sic).⁴³

The project was very timely with respect to women's political participation. It provided a safe space for women's political participation during the 2023 general election (sic).⁴⁴

In addition, evidence from the survey indicates that 95.0 per cent (Figure 4) of the project participants surveyed indicated that the project was timely and urgent vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia. By gender, 114 (94%) and 25 (100%) of the female and male respondents respectively agreed that the project was timely vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia (Figure 4). However, several external stakeholders that participated in the various training programmes stated that the duration of the training was too short usually between one to two days which was not enough to impact the advocacy and awareness creation skills of the participants. Other participants maintained that the training activities should be sustained and not only organized close to the elections. Despite this and based on the above evidence, the evaluation believed that the project was not only timely but very proactive in its design and implementation.

Figure 4: Timeliness and Urgency of the Project vis-a-vis the Sustaining Peace Context in Liberia



Finding 3: Alignment of the project to Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the UNSDCF and to the specific government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding.

The Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project was found to be in total alignment with Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperative Framework (UNSDCF) and the specific government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding. The foundation of the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project is laid on the national plans, policies, and strategies. The outcome and outputs of the project fall under the pillars and priority areas of several national plans, policies, and strategies. Starting with the Liberia National Gender Policy, the project outcome (Increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms) aligns with several Priority Areas of the National Gender Policy. For instance, it aligns with Priority Area 6 (Human Rights and Gender Based Violence), 8 (Political Participation and Decision-Making Positions for Women), and 10 (Peace and National Security)⁴⁵.

In addition, the project aligns with Pillar 3 (Sustaining the Peace—Promoting a cohesive society for sustainable development) of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) 2018 to 2023. It also aligns with Pillar 3 (Participation of women, young women, and girls in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts and countering terrorism) of the Second National Action Plan (NAP) on Women's Peace and Security.

Concerning Human Rights, the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project also aligns with the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) (2018-2023) which aims to promote and protect human rights and improve the human rights situation throughout Liberia. Evidence also indicates that the project strongly aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Liberia for the period 2020-2024 especially Outcome 3 (Sustaining Peace, Security and Rule of Law). Overall, the evaluation found strong evidence of alignment of the project to national development plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD, UNSDCF, and other specific government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding.

4.2. Effectiveness:

Finding 4: Assessing the success of the project in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected outcomes and outputs.

Progress on results at outcome and output levels was measured in line with indicators in the results framework. Progress on the outcome and outputs are discussed below.

Outcome 1: Increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms

Evidence from Table 5 indicates that three indicators were used to measure progress on the outcome of the project. The first indicator (indicator 1.1a) measures the perception of women candidates on the risks in terms of presenting themselves and the political party support for them. This was measured by three proxy indicators. The first indicator borders on the percentage of respondents that indicated that there is discrimination against women in politics with a baseline of 63 per cent and the end-of-project target of 50 per cent. This was not achieved as 80 per cent of respondents believed there is discrimination against women in politics in Liberia based on the perception survey conducted in March 2023 before the general election.

The second indicator measures the percentage of respondents that believe that it is easier for men to get elected to political offices with a baseline of 57 per cent and a target of 50 per cent. This was also not achieved based on the data from the March 2023 perception survey which indicates that 57 per cent of respondents believe that it is easier for men to get elected to political offices. The third indicator measures the percentage of respondents that would vote for the best candidate regardless of their gender with a baseline of 45 per cent and a target of 50 per cent. Also, this was not achieved as the March 2023 perception survey indicates that 45 per cent of respondents indicated that they would vote for the best candidate regardless of their gender.

It is pertinent to note that a more accurate determination of the achievement of these indicators will be a post-election survey of the 2023 election which is yet to be conducted at the time of the evaluation. However, evidence from interviews with various stakeholders including the implementing partners, NEC, and the project participants reveals that there was no discrimination against women during the election.

Indicator 1.1b (Table 5) on the percentage of women voters, candidates, and elected was also measured by two indicators. The first measures the percentage of women candidates with a baseline of 16 per cent in 2017 and a target of 30 per cent. This was not achieved as the project recorded 14.5 per cent for women candidates during the 2023 general election. The second indicator under indicator 1.1b measures the percentage of women elected members with a baseline of 10.7 per cent and a target of 30 per cent. This was also not achieved as the project recorded 10.7 per cent at the end of the 2023 general election. Despite this, the project made important contributions in terms of supporting the candidacy of women by providing 44 women aspirants with legal aid during the nomination process for the October 2023 elections. Also, some stakeholders interviewed identified some factors responsible for the non-attainment of this indicator including the non-passage of the electoral reform bill which would have ensured the implementation of a 30 per cent gender quota. Also mentioned was the persistent patriarchal norms and practices which caused a lack of political will for legal reforms including candidate gender quotas as well as voluntary party quotas and other measures to address the very real barriers to women's equal political participation.

Indicator 1.1c (Table 5) focuses on the increase in the percentage of institutional

judiciary/security sector, and political party actions that redress cases of VAWIE-P (Table 5). The baseline for this indicator is 0 while the target is 20 per cent. Evidence from project documents and interviews with project participants indicate that relevant stakeholders were equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively implement the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing VAWIE/P in elections (Table 5). However, this was not quantified hence it was difficult to determine the extent the project achieved this indicator.

On a general note, the outcome level indicators look ambitious especially indicator 1.1a. This outcome level indicator measures the changes in public perception of women candidates which from the evaluation point of view is not achievable within 27 months of project implementation given the deep-rooted nature of the barriers to women's political participation as earlier stated. Apart from indicator 1.1b, the other two outcome indicators (1.1a and 1.1c) did not specifically measure the project outcome which is "Increased women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms".

Table 5: Accomplishment of the Project Outcome Indicators

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Status
Indicator 1.1a Perception of women candidates on the risks in terms of presenting themselves and the political party support for them.	63% -of respondents indicated there is discrimination against women in politics	50% believe there is discrimination against women in politics	80 ⁴⁷ % believe there is discrimination against women in politics	Not achieved
	57% -of respondents believe it is easier for men to get elected to political offices,	50% of Liberians believe that it is easier for men to get elected to political office than women. (Measures increase in perception)	57% -of respondents believe it is easier for men to get elected to political offices	Not achieved
	45% of respondents would vote for the best candidate, regardless of their gender	50% of respondents would vote for the best candidate, regardless of their gender	45% of respondents would vote for the best candidate, regardless of their gender	Not achieved
Indicator 1.1b Percentage of women voters, candidates, and elected	(2017) 17% of women candidates (2021) 9.7% of Women elected members and 10.7% after the bye-election	By (Oct 2023) 30% of women candidates 20% of women elected members	By (December 2023) 50.05% of women voters 14.5 % of women candidates 10.7 % of women elected members	Not achieved
Indicator 1.1c Increase in the percentage of institutional (NEC), judiciary/security sector, and political party actions that redress cases of VAWIE-P	0	20%	Relevant stakeholders were equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively implement the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing VAWIE/P in elections.	Unknown

Output 1.1. Political party and community engagements on women's political participation are promoted through dialogue.

Evaluative evidence from Table 6 indicates that the performance of the project on output 1.1 was measured by three indicators. The first indicator (Proportion of registered political parties signed onto and implementing the Protocol on Prevention and Response to VAW/P) with a baseline of 0 and a target of 80 per cent was achieved by the project with an end of project achievement of 85.7 per cent. The second indicator on the number of awareness-raising campaigns organized by young men and women on the right and incentives for young women to participate in public life and politics with a baseline of 0 and a target of 15 was achieved by the project with the end of the project achievement of 16. The third indicator (Number of media institutions and outlets engaging in gender-responsiveness media coverage) with a baseline of 10 and a target of 30 was also achieved by the project with end of project achievement of 51. Overall, all the indicators in output 1.1 were achieved by the project recording over 100 per cent achievements in all.

Table 6: Accomplishment of the Project Output 1.1 Indicators

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Status
Indicator 1.1.2 Proportion of registered political parties signed onto and implementing the Protocol on Prevention and Response to VAW/P.	0	At least 80%	85.7% (36 of 42)	Achieved
Indicator 1.1.4. The number of awareness-raising campaigns organized by young men and women on the right and incentives for young women to participate in public life and politics.	0	15	16 cumulative (6 in the last reporting period and 10 in the current period).	Achieved
Indicator 1.1.5: Number of media institutions and outlets engaging igender-responsiveve media coverage	10	30	51	Achieved

Output 1.2: Strengthened mechanisms for the reduction of violence against women in elections, politics, and public spheres

Evidence from Table 7 indicates that the performance of the project on output 1.2 was measured by three indicators. The first indicator (Number of political parties in the National Legislature publicly committed and engaged to reduce violence against women) with a baseline of 0 and a target of 5 was achieved by the project with end-of-project achievement of 8. The second indicator (Number of gender response provisions and initiatives developed, implemented, and undertaken by electoral stakeholders) with a baseline of 0 and a target of 3 was also achieved by the project with end of-project achievement of 3. The third indicator (Number of reported cases of VAWiE-P registered and submitted to relevant authorities) with a baseline of 0 and a target of 25 was achived as only two cases were reported in the EWRM.. Overall, the project made significant progress in achieving the indicators in output 1.2.

Table 7: Accomplishment of the Project Output 1.2 Indicators

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Progress to Date	Status
Indicator 1.2.1: Number of political parties in the National Legislature publicly committed and engaged to reduce violence against women	0	5	8	Achieved
Indicator 1.2.3: Number of gender response provisions and initiatives developed, implemented, and undertaken by electoral stakeholders	2021): 0 Codes of Conduct and Protocols	(2023) 3	3	Achieved
Indicator 1.2.5: Number of reported cases of VAWiE-P registered and submitted to relevant authorities	0	25	2	Achieved

Output 1.3: Strengthened capacity of women and youth to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding

Evidence from Table 8 shows that the performance of the project on output 1.3 was measured by three indicators. The first indicator (Number of women and youth (boys and girls) whose capacity is enhanced to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding) with a baseline of 275 and a target of 500 was achieved by the project with end-of-project achievement of 2364. The second indicator (Number of political parties recommitting to non-violent elections) with a baseline of 22 and a target of 15 was also achieved by the project with 36 registered political parties, alliances, and coalitions that contested the 2023 elections signed the Farmington Declaration. The third indicator on this output (Gender disaggregated data from the CFM platform on women participation analysed) is not smart. It is not well-defined and cannot effectively be measured to track the progress of the output. Overall, the project made significant progress in achieving the indicators in output 1.3.

Table 8: Accomplishment of the Project Output 1.3 Indicators

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Status
Indicator 1.3.1 The number of women and youth (boys and girls) capacity enhanced to formulate and implement measures to promote women's participation in elections and peacebuilding	275	500	2364	Achieved
Indicator 1.3.2 Number of political parties recommitting to non-violent elections	Ganta and Farmington declarations signed by 22 registered political parties committing to non-violent elections	At least 15 political parties recommitting to non-violent elections	36 of 36 registered political parties, alliances and coalitions contesting in the 2023 elections signed the Farmington Declaration.	Achieved
Indicator 1.3.3 Gender disaggregated data from the CFM platform on women's participation analysed	2020 voters' roll	NEC collects at least 4 types of gender-disaggregated data for 2023 elections (on observers/party agents, poll workers, candidates, voters) the last reporting period and 3 in the current period).	Women comprised just over 50% of the total voters registered for the 2023 elections (50.06% or 1,237,257 are women as compared to 49.94% or 1,234,360 men).	TBD

Output 1.4: Strengthened strategies of national institutions and county structures to promote inclusive participation in electoral, political, and peacebuilding processes

Evaluative evidence from Table 9 indicates that the performance of the project on output 1.4 was measured by three indicators. The first indicator (Number of VAWE/P risk assessments available to all relevant institutions) with a baseline of 0 and a target of 3 was achieved by the project with end of project achievement of 10. The second indicator (SOP on women participation available to media and law enforcement) with a baseline of 0 and a target of one SOP was equally achieved by the project with the development and adoption of one SOP for media and law enforcement on women's participation. The third indicator (Number of women organizations in each county trained in mediation) with a baseline of 1 and a target of 5 was achieved by the project with 14 women-led organizations trained in mediation and conflict resolution at the end of project implementation.

Table 9: Accomplishment of the Project Output 1.3 Indicators

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress to Date	Status
Indicator 1.4.1: Number of VAWE/P risk assessments available to all relevant institutions	0	At least 3 institutions' personnel trained on VAWE/P risk assessments	10	Achieved
Indicator 1.4.2: SOP on women participation available to media and law enforcement	One conference held for law enforcement and media to strengthen collaboration and protect citizens during elections (2020)	One SOP for media and law enforcement on women's participation was developed and adopted	This indicator is achieved. One (cumulative) SOP for media and law enforcement on women's participation was developed and adopted.	Achieved
Indicator 1.4.3 Number of women organizations in each county trained in mediation	Mediation role played by women organizations in two electoral disputes involving women candidates (2020)	By 2023 at least five women organizations trained in mediation	14 (cumulative) women-led organizations trained in mediation and conflict resolution.	Achieved

Overall, the project made significant progress towards the achievement of the expected outcome and outputs. Summarily, the project contributed to the achievement of the following results:

- ◆ The passage of the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the Legislature.
- ◆ Provision of gender-disaggregated data by the Elections Commission (NEC) for the first time for registered voters at the district level and candidates by political party during the candidate nomination period.
- ◆ The signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) by NEC and political parties on women's participation by 22 political parties and coalitions, in May 2023.

- ◆ Attainment of gender parity in the biometric voter registration (BVR) process, which was implemented for the first time in Liberia.
- ◆ The signing of the revised Farmington River Declaration by 26 political parties which reaffirms the VAWE/P Protocol, committing signatories to address electoral violence, including violence against women in politics.
- ◆ The sustenance of the numerical representation of women in the legislature after the October 2023 election, with no change at 10.7 per cent with historic victories of women in two counties:

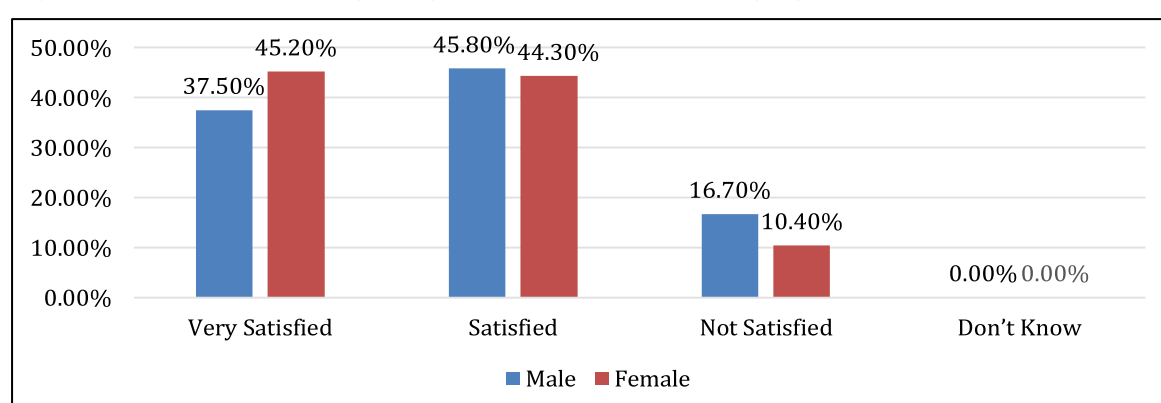
Grand Cape Mount and Grand Gedeh. Grand Cape Mount, which had never elected a woman representative.
- ◆ The implementation of the Violence Against Women in Election and Politics (VAWIEP) which contributed to low VAWE incidence.
- ◆ Development of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for media and law enforcement on women's political participation.

While the development of various SOPs and Protocols is commendable by the evaluation, the implementation of the SOPs and Protocols is critical to its effectiveness and sustainability and this is where institutionalization of the instruments becomes germane. For instance, the SOP manual for ensuring a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing VAWE/P in elections developed for the justice and security actors can be mainstreamed into the training curricular of the security institutions such that new entrants into these sectors are equipped with these knowledge so that as older officers leave the service, the recruits will continue to run with the knowledge.

Finding 5: The extent that the participants are satisfied with the project results.

External stakeholders including project participants were unanimous in expressing their satisfaction with the project results based on evaluative evidence from the quantitative survey and interviews conducted among the participants in the counties. For instance, about 88.5 of the participants noted that they were satisfied with the project results. By gender, 83.3 per cent and 89.5 of male and female participants respectively noted that they were satisfied with the results achieved by the project.

Figure 5: The extent that the participants are satisfied with the project results.



The following excerpts from FGDs conducted among the participants in the counties also helped to support the above finding.

This project is a welcome development for this community. If it is only the peaceful election we enjoyed last year, I am satisfied. Before the election, several people in the community were scared of violence but UN women trained our people on how to avoid violence during the election. Every day we went to different parts of the community telling them why they should shun violence during the election and it paid off. No single violence was recorded in my community and it is all thanks to this project. I am very satisfied with the performance of the project in our community (sic).⁴⁸

I am very satisfied with the results achieved by the project because it came during the preparation for the 2023 general election. The project helped women in the county by providing support for them including training. This made some of the women to win the election. I am really satisfied with the project, and I hope the project will continue from now until the next election (sic)⁴⁹

Finding 6: The extent that the projects Theory of Change proved realistic and implemented.

Evaluative evidence from the review of project documents and interviews with the project team confirmed that the project's Theory of Change proved realistic and was largely implemented. The first evidence identified by the evaluation is the fact the project team focused on the implementation of activities relating to the "IF" conditions stated in the Theory of Change. The first "IF" condition relates to enhancing coordination and monitoring of peacebuilding mechanisms by grassroots networks (Women Peace Huts and Community Peace Committees (CPC) etc.), CSOs, and PBOs. In this respect, the project team targeted the implementation of activities to enhance the coordination and monitoring of peacebuilding mechanisms by grassroots networks across the 15 counties in Liberia. The project team thus targeted Women Peace Hut, Community Peace Committee, Rural Women Structure, and Liberian Market Association and provided capacity building programs for the various groups in the areas of advocacy skills for violent free elections and importance of women's political participation in the counties. The project team through the project partners coordinated and monitored the activities of these grassroots organizations towards the achievement of the project outcomes.

The second "IF" condition relates to engaging and supporting the community male gatekeepers, political party leaders, and other institutions and structures of governance in the executive, legislature, and Judiciary to prevent and respond to VAWE/P and to protect and support women's equal rights to political participation and representation. Again, this condition was pursued by the project team by the implementation of activities to support these institutions. Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team reveal that the project implemented strategic planning meetings with the Coalition of Political Party

Women of Liberia (COPPWIL), and political party women's auxiliaries and held lobbying meetings with political party executives to influence the percentage of women on candidate listings and prevention and protection of women against violence in elections and politics (VAWE/P). The project partners also provided training for domestic elections observation groups to monitor, document, and report on VAWE. All these were implemented by the project team to achieve this “If” condition.

The third “If” condition relates to strengthening the capacities of existing legal frameworks and policies to be more robust and intentional towards gender responsiveness. Our evidence set confirmed that the project implemented activities to strengthen the existing legal frameworks and policies to be more robust and intentional toward gender responsiveness. In this respect, the project supported the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidate lists which was passed by the Legislature. The project also supported the Revised Farmington River Declaration, which reaffirms the VAWE/P Protocol, committing signatories to address electoral violence, including violence against women in politics. In addition, the project supported political parties to implement the existing legal and policy provisions within their internal structures and externally

The fourth “If” condition relates to strengthening women's political agency to claim their rights and demonstrate transformative leadership competencies and are linked to economic empowerment initiatives. Again, the evaluation findings reveal that the project team implemented several activities in this respect including providing free legal aid and information to women including those experiencing violence in election and politics (VAWE/P) as well as strengthening the institutional capacity of the security sector including police, judiciary, and other rule of law/access to justice actors to recognize and respond appropriately to cases of VAWE/P.

The fifth “If” condition relates to strengthening the media to effectively challenge negative stereotypes and build public trust in women leaders. Evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team and participants reveals that the project provided training for journalists and media personalities on gender-sensitive reporting for women in politics, providing opportunities for women aspirants and leaders to engage the media, and producing and disseminating media products to promote positive portrayal of women in politics. As revealed in findings 4 above, all the output indicators relating to these “If” conditions were achieved by the project. Evaluative evidence confirmed that all the “If” conditions were realistic and activities were implemented by the project team to fulfil these conditions. Overall, the evaluation rates the project's Theory of Change as realistic and also confirms that activities were implemented to realize the conditions to a large extent.

Finding 7: The extent that the project approaches and strategies were innovative.

The evaluation revealed that the project successfully mainstreamed several innovative practices in both its design and implementation. Notably, the recognition of the crucial roles played by multiple stakeholders in the promotion of women's political participation and the reduction of violence against women in politics was considered innovative by the evaluation. Thus, in the design and

implementation of the project, several stakeholders including the Ministry of Gender, Justice, security institutions, National Election Commission, Liberia Peace Building Office, political parties, and several non-government organizations (NGOs), as well as community-based organizations including women's peace huts, County Peace Committees, , rural women's associations, and Liberian Marketing Association as well as community leaders, were considered and integrated into the project either as participants or as IPs. This approach ensured that the barriers to effective women's political participation were tackled from multiple fronts contributing to the effectiveness of the project. Integrating these multiple partners into the project's design and implementation was not only innovative but also crucial in fostering stakeholders' buy-in and ensuring the overall sustainability of the project. By leveraging the expertise and collaboration of these key stakeholders, the project could achieve its objectives more effectively.

The second innovative practice identified by the evaluation was the implementation modality adopted by the project team. The project was implemented along with similar projects such as the Liberia Electoral Support Projects (LESP) as well as the Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy project which ensured that multiple resources were available for the implementation of project activities targeted at promoting women's political participation and reduction of violence against women in politics. For instance, the developed legal aid guidance note developed with LESP funds which form the basis of the provision of pro-bono legal aid under the Promoting Inclusive Participation Project. This approach not only expanded the resources available for the project but also reduced the duplication of project activities. Similarly, the project was implemented along with UN Women's supported project, "Supporting Community Engagement on Women's Political Participation Project which is aimed at strengthening the capacity targeted women groups on transformative leadership and peace-building. The project was designed as a complementary project to the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project and was carried out in six counties (Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Lofa, Bomi, and Gbarpolu) where the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project had limited activities.

Thirdly, the provision of legal aid to women candidates by the project was not only considered innovative but action oriented by the evaluation. The project provided 44 women aspirants with legal aid during the nomination process for the October 2023 elections. The legal support made a big difference to them as some indicated that they may not have completed the nomination process if not for that support from the project. The following excerpt from the women candidates who benefited from the legal support helps to buttress this finding.

*"I think if there is anything that I appreciated during the pre-election period, it was the legal aid provided. They were so professional, and the service was great. I appreciated it so much, especially at the time when I didn't even know if I would be able to manage the registration requirements but they helped me to get through it. (Sic)"*⁵³

*"I want to appreciate the Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH) for the support in the candidate nomination. In everything you do, you have help, but this was a huge weight off us. It was a little help that made a big difference. (sic)"*⁵⁴

The project design builds upon the results and lessons learned from past UN projects such as the Liberia Women Political Empowerment and Leadership project (2017-2022), the Sustainable and Inclusive Peace in Liberia through Promoting Women Leadership and Participation in Civic and Political Life Project (2021-2022) and Liberia Decentralization Support Programme (LDSP) implemented by UNDP (2013-2019). The integration of key lessons into the project design was considered a commendable practice by the evaluation. These lessons played a crucial role in ensuring the effective implementation and successful delivery of the project outcome and outputs by the end of the implementation period.

In addition, the project implementation strategy underlined by policy-level and legal reform interventions, capacity building, and institutional strengthening of national institutions in the justice and security sectors as well as democratic structures was innovative and good practice. The project approach not only promoted government buy-in but also strengthened the institutional capacity of the security sector including police, judiciary, and other rule of law/access to justice actors to recognize and respond appropriately to cases of VAWE/P. Furthermore, the project team has targeted partners with a shared vision and mandates like the goal of promoting inclusive political participation project as partners in project implementation. This approach has been found to have a strong positive influence on the sustainability of benefits. The project engaged the National Elections Commission, Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding, Organization for Women and Children, and Medica Liberia/Power Liberia, Liberia Peace Building Office, Messengers of Liberia, Naymote Partners in Democratic Development as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar vision and mandates with the goal of the project which implies that in their other activities, they will continue to implement activities related to the goals and objectives of the project with or without UN Women/UNDP funding. Overall, on a scale of 1-5 with 1 indicating low innovation and 5 indicating high innovation, the evaluation rated the project 4 suggesting that the evaluation considers the project approaches and strategies as largely innovative.

Finding 8: The extent the project-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia.

The review of project documents and interviews with the project team shows that the Inclusive Political Participation project to a large extent-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia. Several of these programmes include the Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) which supported the Government of Liberia through the National Elections Commission (NEC) to conduct credible, transparent, inclusive, and peaceful elections in line with the Government of Liberia Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and a comprehensive UNDP Governance Portfolio. The project also built synergy with the Irish project "Promoting Inclusive and Peaceful Democratic Processes in Liberia". The project was implemented by the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC). The project aims at deepening political and development cooperation in election and political governance. The project also built synergy with the UN Women "Transformative Leadership and Community Engagement for Women's Political Participation" project which is aimed at strengthening the capacity of targeted women groups on transformative leadership and peace-building.

The project, Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics was also in synergy with the Democracy International's multiyear Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA). The activity, which was funded by USAID, aims to help Liberia overcome the most serious threats to its democracy and foster inclusive, sustainable democratic political development. EDA works with civil society organizations (CSOs), the National Elections Commission (NEC), and the Government of Liberia to cultivate accountable elected representatives who govern in the interest of their constituents⁵⁷

As noted by one of the project team members, one factor that strengthened the synergy building by the project was the different levels of coordination among implementing partners. At the United Nations level, there was a high level of coordination among UN Women, UNDP, and the PBF which ensured that the project activities were implemented as planned. One typical example of this coordination is the monitoring of project activity implementation, which was done by each agency and also jointly by the UN Women, UNDP, and the PBF which promoted the effectiveness of monitoring of project activities while preventing the duplication of efforts and other resources. There was also another coordination mechanism among UN Women, UNDP, and other development partners working on election such as DI, and NDI this has promoted synergy and maximized the use of resources during implementation. . Overall, the evaluation found that the project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia to a large extent.

Finding 9: Evidence of use of monitoring data for management action and decision-making

Evidence from interviews with the project team and document reviews indicate that the project has a monitoring plan covering the entire implementation period that indicates the date of monitoring, type of monitoring and the partner to be monitored. The project team utilized both physical visits and remote monitoring approach for the monitoring of project activities. Evidence from the review of project documents indicates that five monitoring missions were undertaken in addition to the participation of the project team in activities led by partners. For instance, a joint monitoring mission was held by UN Women, UNDP, and National Elections Commission from 17 – 23 November 2022 to conduct a spot-check on the baseline study and public perception survey of the project mainly on enumerators and verify that areas designated for the survey were visited, interview enumerators to ascertain the quality of the data collected, and if the right data collection tools were used during the survey.⁵⁸

Also, there was a joint monitoring mission to Buchanan Grand Bassa County from May 5 to 6, 2023 in Buchanan Grand Bassa County. The mission's objectives were to technically support the National Election Commission (NEC) and monitor consultation between the NEC and political parties on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Section 4.5 of the Elections Law, which governs the nomination of candidates. Beyond this and most critical is the fact that monitoring data were used for management action and decision making. Two key examples of

monitoring influencing project activities include monitoring of VAWE cases documented by the project (ORWOCH) and the decision to expand pro-bono legal aid from VAWE legal redress to legal support for nomination. Another example is around advocacy strategies. Monitoring of legal reform influenced decision to advocate with parties to take on voluntary quotas (medica/POWER) and develop the guidance note for political parties. . Overall, the evaluation notes the use of monitoring data for management action and decision-making by the project team to improve project performance.

Finding 10: Effectiveness of the monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards achievement of results.

The evaluation found that the monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress toward achievement of results was good. The monitoring framework was adopted from the PBF monitoring framework template. The monitoring framework has a monitoring checklist stating the IPs to monitor their activities and date. The monitoring framework was able to record the achievements of the project and listed in the PBF Project Progress Report for November 2023). The achievements of the project were gleaned from the PBF project progress report for November 2023 as shown previously in Tables 5 to 9. The successful showing of the project achievements by the monitoring mechanism of the project only confirmed that the monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards achievement of results was effective.

Finding 11: Assessment of the effectiveness of the project's organizational structure, managerial support, and coordination mechanisms including partner's coordination and UN Partner coordination in the delivery of the project results.

The management set-up of the project can best be described as a line management structure characterized by flows of authority from top to bottom toward achieving the goals of the intervention. In the implementation of the project, coordination and oversight arrangement is composed of two main layers:

The Joint Steering Committee JSC is co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning. Below the JSC is the Project Management Board (PMB) made up of the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, NEC Chairperson, and Minister of Justice in addition to the Country Representatives of UN Women and UNDP and one member of the IPs with a National Project officer serving as the secretary. The project also benefited from the National Steering Committee (NCC), chaired by the Ministry of Justice/Attorney General, the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The NCC met monthly since its setup until the election date in October 2023. Membership also included UN Agencies (UNDP and UN Women), media representatives, civil society observer networks, CSOs, and International Community/Development Partners. This committee played a crucial role in ensuring coordinated efforts among key stakeholders during the preparation and execution of the successful 2023 elections. They actively identified and assessed critical electoral issues and risks, subsequently mobilizing technical and political resources to address them promptly. Furthermore, the committee facilitated joint solutions to challenges,

eliminated duplication of efforts, maximized synergies, strategically leveraged available resources in a resource-constrained environment, and ensured linkages across electoral institutions, monitored commitments to the electoral process, and coordinated concrete actions to support the National Elections Commission (NEC) in delivering credible, transparent, and inclusive elections in Liberia.

Below the PMB is the Project Management Team. The Project Management Team (PMT) is led by UN Women in terms of reporting and coordination while both UN Women and UNDP receive fund directly from PBF to support project implementation. Members include the UNDP Technical Adviser (LESP), focal persons from government institutions and CSOs. The PMT coordinates and manages the Project, developing joint plans and reporting to the Steering Committee on the implementation of activities, achievement of results, and financial accountability of the project. The PMT also coordinates activities between the UN Agencies, Government agencies, and the Implementing partners ensuring that all the activities are complementary, and that implementation and monitoring of the project is in line with the endorsed work plan and M&E framework. The PMT also works closely with the Government and CSO partners providing technical support where needed in gender and elections and prevention and mitigating violence against women in elections. The project has well established coordination mechanism, and UN Partner coordination meeting which holds quarterly where all partners come to share progress, result and challenges. Overall, the evaluation rated the management structure of the project as good and with all the potential to deliver on the overall goal of the project.

Efficiency

4.3. **Finding 12: Have resources been allocated strategically to achieve project outcomes?**

The review of project documents and interview with the project team confirmed that available resources were allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes. The project's duration lasted 27 months with a planned budget of USD 1,999,999.96 (Table 10). Of these funds, USD 1,638,955.96 was budgeted for project implementation activities which represents 82 per cent of the total budget while USD 361,044 was budgeted for personnel which represents 18 per cent of the total budget of the project (Table 10). As of November 2023, 97.5 per cent of all allocated budgets for the project activities have been spent which represents a good absorption rate for the project. This was also good given that all planned activities of the project have been implemented using the allocated resources.

Evidence from the budget analysis also reveals that UN Women received the highest budget allocation of USD 1,150,000 which represents 57.5 per cent of the total budget while UNDP received a total budget allocation of USD 850,000 representing 42.5 per cent of the total budget. A review of the activities implemented by output shows that UN Women through its partner's implemented 14 activities (output 1.1 and 1.2) while UNDP also implemented 14 activities (output 1.3 and 1.4). As noted from interviews with the project team, the types of activities implemented informed the allocation of resources. For instance, activities relating to attitudes and behavioral changes towards greater women's participation (Output 1.1) which are ingrained and

require intense advocacy and awareness were strategically allocated USD 438,000 which is the highest allocation among the four outputs of the project.

As noted previously, the targets for several of the indicators were achieved by the project at the end of implementation which suggests that the resources of the project have been optimally utilized. Also, from Table 10, most of the disbursements and project expenditures are in line with the budgetary allocations to a large extent. In addition, the project utilization of 82 per cent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 18 per cent on personnel is highly commendable by the evaluation. Considering the above finding, it is fair to conclude that the financial resources of the project were strategically allocated to achieve the project outcome.

Table 10: Total Budget Spent by Sector

CATEGORIES	PROJECT TOTAL	Overall Expenses	Overall delivery of the Total budget (%)
1. Staff and other personnel	361,044.00	383,577.10	106%
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	94,000.00	20,897.39	28%
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	40,000.00	14,893.27	37%
4. Contractual services	465,392.54	161,834.02	35%
5. Travel	154,722.30	142,612.39	92%
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	674,000.00	703,198.00	104%
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	80,000.00	269,231.95	482%
Sub-Total Project Costs	1,869,158.84	1,696,244.11	97%
8. Indirect Support Costs (must be 7%)	130,841.12	99,719.40	100%
TOTAL	1,999,999.96	1,795,963.51	97.5%

Finding 13: Were resources sufficient to enable the achievement of the expected outputs

Evaluative evidence confirms that the resources were sufficient to enable the achievement of the expected outputs. As noted previously, all planned activities of the project were implemented. Also, all budget allocations for different activities were implemented as primarily planned which suggests that the resources were sufficient to enable the achievement of the expected outputs. Beyond this, some of the project activities such as the developed legal aid guidance note was done with LESP funds which form the basis of the provision of pro-bono legal aid under the project. This expanded the resources available for the project implementation. However, some of the implementing partners interviewed noted that the budget allocation for project implementation was meagre which limited their capacity to engage more staff and participants in some of the training workshops organized under the project. Despite this, given that all activities of the project have been implemented as planned, the evaluation believed that project resources were sufficient to enable the achievement of the expected outputs.

Finding 14: Assessing whether the joint project and its components were cost-effective and whether activities and outputs could have been delivered with fewer resources without comprising project quality.

Our evidence set from document reviews and interviews with the project team including the IPs confirmed that the joint nature of the project contributed to improving the efficiency in delivery of project outputs. The joint nature of the project ensured a reduction in the duplication of project activities since the project activities were derived from the joint work plan developed by the UN Women and UNDP. In the work plan, the activities to be implemented by each of the agencies were clearly defined which helped in the reduction of duplication of effort. The joint nature of the project also promoted joint monitoring of project activities which also ensured that there was no duplication of project activities by the implementing partners.

Evaluative evidence from interviews with the project team also reveals that all goods and services were competitively procured to ensure value for money and were negotiated to ensure savings where possible and cost-effectiveness. There is also evidence that the project converted the available inputs into results, as revealed by the number of outputs achieved by the project. As previously mentioned, actual expenditures were reasonable, well within the approved budget, and in conformity with the UN financial management regulations. Also, most of the members of the Women Peace Huts, CPC, and other structures were drawn from the local communities; they undertook voluntary peacebuilding activities at no extra cost to the project. Also, evidence from interviews with the finance team confirmed that the budget allocated for the entire duration of the project was adequate, and several measures were put in place to limit fraud while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized to conduct project activities and achieve the project's intended results. Some of the measures include:

- ◆ The use of local facilitators for most of the capacity-building activities.
- ◆ The use of local implementing partners for project implementation
- ◆ Regular joint monitoring of implementation activities by the project team.

Overall, the evaluator rated project implementation as cost-effective given the adopted measures to ensure cost effectiveness while ensuring that the project's inputs were efficiently utilized.

Finding 15: Assessing how the joint nature of the project improved efficiency in terms of delivery, including reduced duplication, reduced burdens, transactional costs, and the influencing factors

Collaboration is a key factor in the successful delivery of humanitarian aid. The evaluation findings indicate that the joint nature of the project contributed to improved efficiency in the delivery of project outputs. One of the advantages associated with the joint nature of the project was that it allowed resources and expertise to be pooled together which helped to maximize the impact of the project. For instance, the two UN agencies leveraged their comparative advantage in the delivery of the project activities. For instance, UN Women utilized its approaches to support efforts to achieve

gender equality and empower all women into project activity implementation while UNDP focussed on strengthening key governance and democratic institutions for effective women's political participation in politics and reduction of violence during elections.

The joint nature of the project also ensured a reduction in the duplication of project activities since the project activities were derived from the one joint work plan developed by the UN Women and UNDP. In the work plan, the activities to be implemented by each of the agencies were clearly defined which helped in the reduction of duplication of effort. The joint nature of the project also promoted joint monitoring of project activities which also ensured that there was no duplication of project activities by the implementing partners. However, the evaluation did not find any evidence to show that the joint nature of the project promoted the reduction of burdens and transaction costs as the project activities and costs were defined in the joint budget of the project.

Finding 16: Whether partnerships (with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the media) established by the project can foster sustainability or results.

The evaluation found that the project was designed and implemented on a partnership basis. This to a large extent contributed to the sustainability of the project benefits. Evaluative evidence from the review of project documents and interviews reveals that the project has established partnerships with governments, UN, donors, civil society organizations, and community leaders during the implementation of the project which has raised the project's potential for sustainability. The partnership occurs in different forms with different stakeholders. With government partners, the project has partnered with NEC to organize quarterly dialogue through the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC) on the Violence Against Women in Election and Politics (VAWE/P) Protocol and 30 per cent gender quota. The project also partnered with the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection in organizing the Women Let's Move Caravan which involves county and district-level dialogues on inclusive participation and violence against women in elections. The project through partners also worked with the Ministry of Justice and security institutions on preventing and mitigating VAWE. This level of engagement with government entities not only promoted government buy-in of the project but also contributed to sustainability as these government institutions will continue to advocate for these gender issues as they are aligned with their institutional mandates.

The project has also partnered with CSOs and women's rights organisations that serve as implementing partners for the various components of the project across counties. The implementing partners on the other hand provided capacity building for local community structures including Women Peace Hut, Early Warning and Early Response (EWER), County Peace Committees, , among others. The capacity building including strengthening of the EWER system in terms of human resource capacity and other rural structures is likely to be sustained and built upon after the intervention in subsequent elections. Individual capacity building in mediation and leadership, particularly of young people is also likely to be sustained, as many of

them have gained interest and will continue to participate in political life and peacebuilding, particularly in elections, because of skills and knowledge acquired during the training.

The project also strengthened the capacity of the media to challenge negative stereotypes about women and youth participation in elections and to report on women in politics in a gender-responsive manner. Some of the journalists who participated in the training notes:

This training for the journalist was really good and relevant to me. I am very satisfied with the training programme as a journalist. Before now I didn't ensure that women's issues were covered or even balanced with that of the men. That has changed now after I participated in the training. Now I deliberately look for women's news to cover in my programmes (sic).⁶¹

This training is useful to me, and I learned so much for the training. I can say that my reporting has changed as gender issues are mainstreamed into all my reporting (sic).⁶²

As a female broadcast journalist, the training has helped me gain an understanding of the gender gap, highlights problems women face in politics, and how to give a positive portrayal of women's candidates (sic).⁶³

Overall, the evaluation notes the partnerships (with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the media) established by the project has good potential to foster sustainability of results.

4.4. Sustainability

The likelihood of a continuation of project results after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

Finding 17: Assessing the likelihood that the results from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period once the project ends.

Evidence from document reviews and interviews indicates that right from the design of the project, there was evidence of mainstreaming sustainability measures into the project. For instance, the project was designed to focus on legal reforms, institutional strengthening, and capacity building which are key strategies for sustainability. The project was also embedded within the priorities of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection and Ministry of Justice to promote government support and sustainable pursuit of the goal of the project. Also, the project has targeted the development of local ownership and capacities as a key strategy for the sustainability of the benefits of the project. In this respect, the project partnered with local existing structures and CSOs to strengthen their capacity and awareness of the importance of women's political participation. In addition, to address the patriarchal influence in the intervention counties, traditional and religious institutions were identified and involved in the various town hall meetings organized under the project. The project identifying and working with existing local community peace-building structures was critical to sustaining the benefits of the project.

However, the evaluation notes that one critical factor necessary to sustain the benefits of the project in the long term is to adopt and utilize the electoral cycle approach in the design and implementation of the project. While it was stated in the project design document that the project would fully consider the electoral cycle approach, all project activities were mainly pre-electoral. This suggests that there were little or no electoral and post-electoral activities. Given the entrenched burden of socio-cultural constraints on women's leadership, patriarchy, and gender discrimination which has remained among the root causes of the low representation of women in decision-making bodies in Liberia, a project like this must consider the full implementation of the electoral cycle approach to address these barriers to women's political participation. Capacity building to key stakeholders, Key knowledge products, SOPs, protocols, data and statistics ensures sustainability as they will be used by national actors.

Finding 18: Assessing the components of the project that should be carried over into the next phase.

Evaluative evidence from internal and external stakeholders interviewed identified several components of the project that should be carried over to the next phase of the project. The first component is the advocacy and awareness-raising activity of the project. This was targeted at changing the socio-cultural norms and practices supporting female subordination and male superiority in Liberia. Given the deep-rooted nature of the barriers to women's political participation, these activities need to be sustained hence the need to carry it over to the next phase project.

Some of the stakeholders interviewed in the counties stressed the need to sustain these activities in the counties as shown in these excerpts:

The awareness-raising activities on women's political participation should be sustained so that people can change their perceptions about women's political participation. Before now women were not recognised in the community structures and participation in leadership based on the belief of the people. This is changing now gradually due to these awareness-raising activities. But it needs to continue to make this change permanent for now (sic).⁶⁴

The awareness-raising activity on the reduction of violence against women in politics needs to be sustained. It should not be an activity that will be implemented only close to the election. This component^{t is ve}ry important to eradicate violence in our county during elections (sic).⁶⁵

According to reports, many women face barriers to accessing free legal aid. Such barriers include gender-biased or subjective assessment of their claims, evidential difficulties, lack of knowledge among women about their rights and available legal avenues and remedies, cumbersome procedural requirements, and documentation requests. In Liberia, women are affected by these obstacles even more so due to their limited access to information and available support to access to justice. To address this challenge, the project targets providing legal aid to women experiencing violence during the election. For instance, 44 women candidates

accessed ORWOCH's legal aid clinic during the campaign nomination period between June and July 2023. The legal support made a big difference to them as some indicated that they may not have completed the nomination process. Given the importance of this support to women, it is important that this component of the project is carried over to the next phase.

Harassment in social media and intimidation of women in politics is a major challenge in Liberia and the availability of data on violence against women is key for informed action and critical for understanding the magnitude of the problem, informing policies and programmes, advocating for change, and monitoring progress. The inclusive political women participation project played a leading role in strengthening the collection of data on violence against women across the counties through the establishment of the VAWE platform. The national VAWE platform collects data, and makes referrals for VAWE response, together with EWERM. These collective efforts fostered an enabling environment for women's safe participation in the 2023 elections, as evidenced by low recorded incidences of VAWE in the electoral period. To ensure that trend data on violence against women in elections are available, this component needs to be carried over to the next phase of the project.

Furthermore, the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates was passed by the legislature but did not receive Executive approval. There is the need to sustain the advocacy and lobbying at the Executive to provide mandatory temporary special measure for 30 per cent gender quota for women candidates. Thus, it is important that this component is carried over to the next phase. Many of the stakeholders interviewed including the implementing partners and government institutions such as NEC and the Ministry of Justice have stressed the need for this component to be carried over to the next phase of this project. Overall, the evaluation believed that the barriers to women's political participation are deeply entrenched and hence these identified components should not only be carried over to the next phase but the activity implementation should be intensified in the next phase.

Finding 19: Evidence that the intervention design includes an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/local ownership, use of local capacity, etc.) to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention.

The evaluation found valuable evidence to confirm that the intervention design included an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/ local ownership, use of local capacity, etc.) to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention. Starting from the design, there is evidence of mainstreaming of sustainability measures into the project. The project has targeted the development of local ownership and capacities as a key strategy for the sustainability of the benefits of the project. As earlier stated, the project promoted national ownership through partnering with government institutions and aligning the project goals with national priorities of the government. Key government institutions such as the NEC, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, PBO, and security institutions were targeted by the project either as an IP or direct beneficiary of the project. The

project has also targeted existing local peace-building structures in the counties for capacity building and supporting the project advocacy and peace-building activities in the counties. This approach of promoting ownership of the project by duty bearers and right holders is a valid sustainability and exit strategy which have been integrated into the design of the project.

Another appropriate sustainability and exit strategy included in the project design is the various capacity-building programmes that targeted different stakeholders including duty bearers and right holders. The project enhanced the GEWE knowledge and capacity of national stakeholders, especially members of the judiciaries, security actors, political parties, and the media. All these capacity-building components of the project contributed to strengthening the capacities of both duty-bearers and right-holders to promote and advocate for women's political participation in politics. Respondents to interviews maintained that they would continue to apply the knowledge gained from the training in advancing women's political participation in politics.

In addition, the design of the project has also targeted NGOs with similar visions and mandates to the goal of the project. Evidence from the literature confirmed that engaging partners with similar visions and mandates in project implementation promotes the sustainability of project benefits. This is premised on the fact that the implementing partners will continue to implement similar projects after the end of the project. Overall, the evaluation confirmed that the intervention design included an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/ local ownership, use of local capacity, etc.) to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention.

4.5. Gender Equality and Human Rights (GE&HR)

Finding 20: The extent gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation.

The evaluation confirmed that gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities implemented by the project were all focused at promoting women's political participation. From the design, the project has targeted women as direct participants.

Women in politics were targeted to enhance their political skills. Additionally, political leadership women's wings were targeted and strengthened to demand their participation in decision-making and as candidates for their party. Also, all policy dialogues and reforms were aimed at enhancing women's political participation. The project also carried out the engagement of key stakeholders at the national, sub-national, and different groups to raise awareness on women's political participation in politics.

The project also targeted men and other members of the communities in the counties to address the underlying socio-cultural challenges in the intervention areas to change

the dominant traditional cultural perception of women's political participation. The engagement of community leaders at the county level was a deliberate effort to promote long-term change in the communities concerning women in decision-making processes. The project was therefore inclusive and non-discriminatory, with deliberate strategies to engage stakeholders and target participants at all levels, in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.

Another key evidence of gender consideration is the support provided by the project for the passage of the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the legislature. The Bill aims at ensuring a minimum 30 per cent quota for female politicians in Liberia. The project also contributed to strengthening the capacity of the media to challenge negative stereotypes about women and youth participation in elections and to report on women in politics in a gender-responsive manner. The project also supported the development of the Violence Against Women in Election/Politics (VAWiE-P) Protocol for political parties. The VAWiE-P Protocol, championed by the National Election Commission is aimed at addressing electoral violence, including violence against women in politics. This was a significant milestone that demonstrated the commitment of political parties to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Evidence from documents reviews and interviews with participants indicate that all categories of persons were involved in the project including women, men, and youths as well as persons with living disabilities. Beyond this and most critical, a woman's right to live free from violence is upheld by international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. This project and its activities contribute to reducing violence against women in politics in Liberia. Also important to note is the fact that the project allocated 86.5 per cent of the budget towards promoting gender equality or women's empowerment. Overall, the evaluation believed that the project has done well in the integration of gender and human rights into the project design and implementation to a large extent.

Finding 21: Whether there were constraints or facilitators (e.g., political, practical, bureaucratic) to addressing GE&HR issues during implementation

The evaluation found that there were both constraints and facilitators to addressing GE&HR issues during implementation. One of the main political constraints to addressing GE&HR issues during implementation was the non-approval of the mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidate lists from the Executive arm of government. This constraint contributed to the non-implementation of the mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidate lists by the political parties. It has been reported that only two parties met the quota in the 2023 elections. The party, however, did not win any seats⁷³.

Similarly, through the support of the project, all the 36 political parties and the National Elections Commission (NEC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding which signalled political parties' commitment to nominating women in a minimum of 30 per cent of their candidate listings. The commitment by political parties to this process was intended to pave the way for increased women's political participation,

promoting gender equality and enhancing the representation of women at the national legislative level. Despite having signed the MOU on a 30 per cent gender quota provision, Liberia political parties failed to reach the target number of women during the candidate nomination exercise. While the signing of the MoU is a significant milestone achievement of the project, there was no measure to ensure compliance or penalty for non-compliance by political parties. The laissez-faire approach to the implementation of the MoU is also considered a constraint to addressing GE and HR issues during the implementation period. However, these constraints were not addressed at the close of the project but continuous advocacy and awareness-raising activities among stakeholders are necessary to address these challenges.

The evaluation also identified several facilitating factors including the existence of peace-building structures at the counties which the project leveraged to implement the advocacy and awareness raising on women's political participation and violence-free election was an important factor for addressing GE&HR issues during the implementation of the project. The support provided by NEC as the election management umpire in Liberia and supported the development Violence Against Women in Election and Politics (VAWIE/P) Protocol is considered an important factor for addressing GE&HR issues during the implementation of the project.

Finding 22: Whether the processes and activities implemented during the intervention were free from discrimination to all stakeholders.

The evaluation found that there was no discrimination of any kind as all stakeholders were carried along in the implementation of the project. The implementation of the project has brought on board government and non-government partners together to work towards promoting women's political participation. On the part of the government, the project engaged all relevant ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Peacebuilding Office (PBO), NEC, and security institutions.

On the other hand, the project has worked with several non-government stakeholders including all the implementing partners and local community structures in the implementation of the project. The project demonstrated commendable inclusivity in engaging various stakeholders including women, men, boys, girls, and persons with disabilities throughout its implementation. Interviews with the IPs indicate that stakeholders were carefully selected for the various capacity-building programme to ensure that no one is left behind. Special considerations were made for people with disability to easily participate in the programme. Interviews with project participants in the counties confirm that no discrimination occurred, and all interested individuals had the opportunity to participate in the project freely without any discrimination.

Furthermore, evidence highlights those diverse stakeholders, encompassing women, men, boys, girls, and people with disabilities, actively participated in the implementation of the project. The inclusion of individuals with disabilities serves as a strong indication that the project thoroughly integrated gender and human rights considerations into its overall framework. However, the evaluation found that the involvement of persons with disability was limited to their participation in

training, most of the developed SOPs were not transcribed in Braille which reduces the inclusiveness of the SOPs. Despite this, the evaluation conclusively attests that the project's activities were conducted without any form of discrimination.

4.6. Coherence

Finding 23: Whether the project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia.

Evaluative evidence from document reviews and interviews with the project team indicates that the project-built synergies with several other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia. Evidence shows that the project built synergy with the Just Liberia Election Support project (LESP). The project aims at promoting a more inclusive, participatory, and accountable democracy in Liberia. It responds to the challenges of democratic governance in the country including weak institutions and electoral systems, underrepresentation of youth and women in political processes, and marginalization of vulnerable groups. The project also addresses some of the challenges of weak legislative oversight and secretariat functions. Similarly, the project was built synergy with the UN Women's supported project, "Supporting Community Engagement on Women's Political Participation Project. The project was designed as a complementary project to the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project and was carried out in six counties (Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Lofa, Bomi, and Gbarpolu) where the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project had limited activities.

Evidence also reveals that the project is in synergy with the Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy. The "Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy" activity is an Irish Aid-funded project implemented by the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) to strengthen Liberia's Democracy through the promotion of credible elections and public confidence. The project aims to promote inclusiveness and civic participation of first-time voters, increasing communities, citizens, and security engagements to promote public trust and confidence and promote peaceful elections.

Also, evidence from interviews with the project team reveals that there was high-level coordination among the various project teams which ensured that the projects were able to build synergy while avoiding duplication of activities.

Finding 24: The extent the project's intervention was consistent with the interventions of others in the same context.

As noted in findings 23, the project's intervention was consistent with several interventions of others in the same context. The Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project was consistent with the LESP. One of the expected outcomes of the LESP project is to enhance participation and inclusion of women and marginalized groups in political

processes which aligns with the outcome of the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project. The project's intervention was consistent with the interventions of the Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy" activity. The Promoting Inclusive Political Participation and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Politics project was consistent with Pillar One of the project (Citizens' participation, electoral integrity, and electoral security). The evaluation notes that to a large extent, the project's intervention was consistent with the interventions of others in the same context.

Finding 25: The extent the project is complimentary, harmonized, and coordinated with other interventions in this area.

Evaluative evidence reveals that the project was complimentary, harmonized, and coordinated with other interventions in this area. The project was implemented in coordination and collaboration with similar projects supporting women's political participation and the reduction of violence against women in politics. This was achieved through the monthly partner coordination meetings and the quarterly coordination meetings for all PBF partners. As noted previously, the project was complimentary to the LESP as well as the Irish project "Promoting Inclusive and Peaceful Democratic Processes in Liberia" which was implemented by the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC). This level of coordination helped to avoid duplication of effort among the various partners working on election related interventions in Liberia.

4.7. Impact.

Finding 26: Whether the project identified and addressed social, environmental, and economic effects of the intervention that are longer-term

Findings from document reviews and interviews with project team indicate that the project did not cause any social, environmental, and economic challenges. Rather the project contributed to addressing social, challenges related to women's political participation across the counties. The project addressed conflict which is one of the social problems in the intervention counties. As earlier mentioned, the project activities on advocacy and awareness creation on violence-free election and violence against women in politics undoubtedly contributed to the reduction of violence against women during the 2023 general election in Liberia.

However, there was no evidence to show that the project created any environmental concerns in the counties and no evidence to show that the project addressed any environmental concerns through its activities as this was outside the scope of the intervention. On the other hand, the project did not address any economic issues in the counties. However, the project provision of stipends for members of the EWERM and CPC in the counties was commendable but this needs to be sustained and strengthened. Other rural structures such as the Women's Peace Hut need to be supported economically. During the FGD sessions, many of the discussants expressed the need for them to be empowered economically to enable them to carry out their peace-building activities on a sustainable basis.

However, there was no evidence to show that the project created any

Finding 27: The extent the intervention contributed to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace

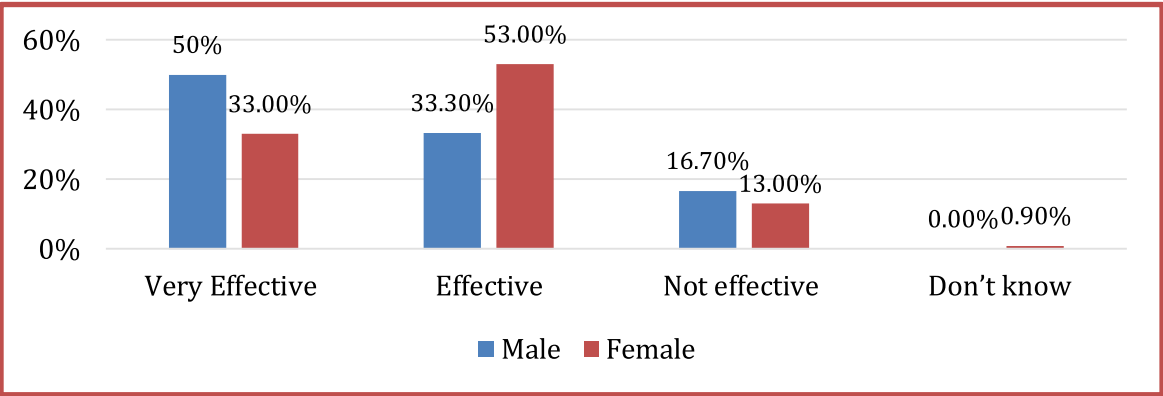
Evaluative evidence from document review and interviews with the project participants confirmed that the project to a large extent contributed to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace. Evidence shows that through the Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism of Liberia's Peace Building Office, only two cases of violence against women in elections were reported. However, it was reported that the actual data for this indicator will be collected post-election to ensure that accurate data is collected from the various elections monitors which has not been done at the time of the evaluation. Despite this, many of the project participants interviewed confirmed that the project contributed to the reduction of violence to a large extent. The following excerpts from FGDs help to buttress this finding.

One of the notable outcomes of the project was the peaceful election it facilitated. By allowing women to participate more actively and freely in the electoral process, the project contributed to creating a more inclusive and harmonious environment for elections. Additionally, by increasing mutual interactions and reducing violence in the community, the project played a crucial role in fostering social cohesion and stability (sic).⁷⁹

In Porkpa and Golakoneh Districts of Cape Mount which is known for violence during elections recorded no single case of violence during the last general election. It has never happened like this before and it was all due to the impact of this project (sic).⁸⁰

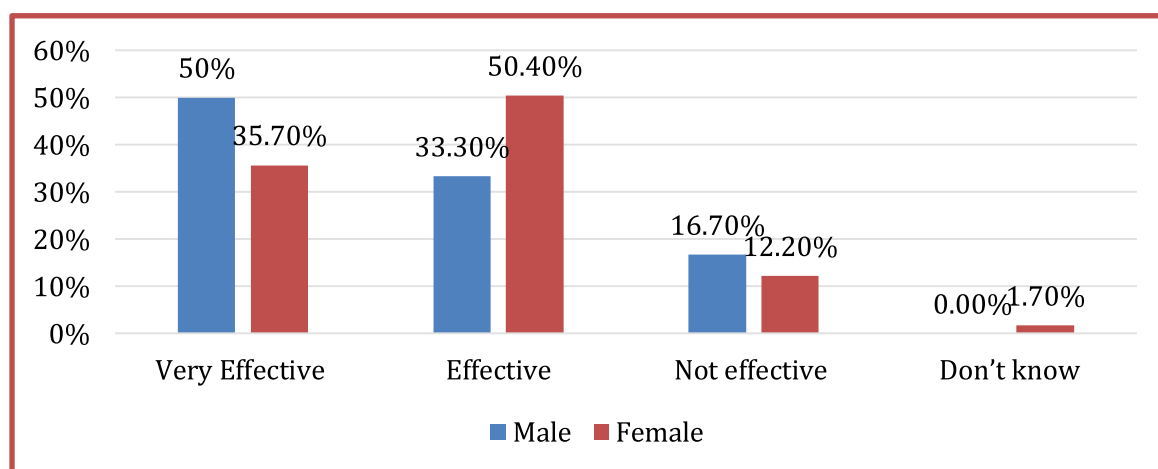
Also, evidence from the survey conducted among the participants confirmed that the project contributed to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace. For instance, Figure 6 which shows the extent the project results address the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the country reveals that both male and female participants confirmed that the project results contributed to addressing the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the country to a large extent as reveal by over 83 per cent and 86 per cent for male and female respondents respectively.

Figure 6: Effectiveness of the project as a Mechanism for Promoting Women's Political Participation



Findings from the quantitative survey also reveal that over 83 per cent of both male and female respondents noted that the project was effective as a mechanism for reducing violence against women in politics (Figure 7)

Figure 7: The effectiveness of the project as a mechanism for reducing violence against women in politics



Finding 28: Indirect, secondary and potential consequences of the intervention captured

The evaluation found several positive indirect effects produced by the project on the target group in the counties. The project contributed to the passage of the electoral reform bill on the mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the Legislature and the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) by NEC and political parties on women's participation by 36 political parties and coalitions. It is on record that for the first time, two political parties complied with the 30 per cent gender quota for candidate nominations.

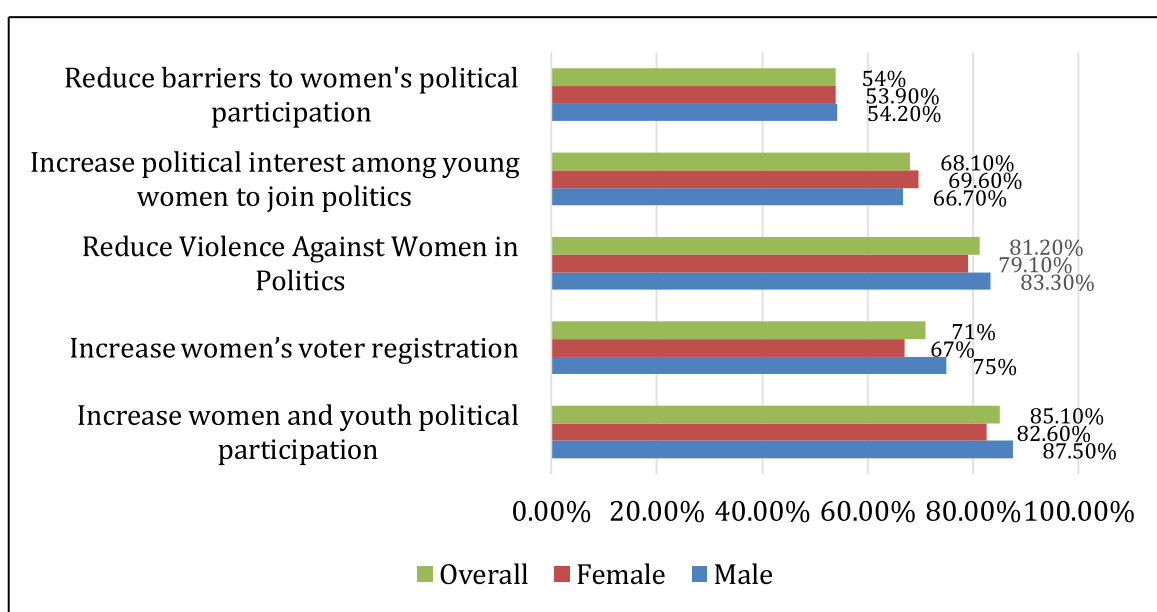
Another significant consequence of the project is the signing of the revised Farmington River Declaration by 25 political parties which reaffirms the VAWE/P Protocol, committing signatories to address electoral violence, including violence against women in politics. This was a major milestone of the project as this contributed to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics. As earlier mentioned, only two cases of violence against women in elections were reported during the 2023 general election.⁸¹

As earlier stated, the project provided 44 women candidates with legal aid during the campaign nomination period. This support enabled most of the women candidates to easily complete the nomination form. This contributed to increasing the number of women candidates for the 2023 general election. The project also contributed to the generation of data on violence against women is key to informed action. However, there is no evidence of the use of the data or plans on how to use the data for planning purposes. The evaluation sees this effort as a major contribution of the project towards the reduction of violence against women in politics. To increase the percentage of women elected as members of the legislature, the project was able to sustain the 10.7 per cent status at baseline after the

2023 general election. This is commendable given the several issues affecting women's political participation especially the non-passage of the 30 per cent gender quota by the executive arm of government.

Figure 8 shows the perceptions of the participants on the changes produced by the project by gender. Evidence from Figure 8 indicates that 85.1 per cent of the respondents indicated that the project contributed to increasing women's political participation. By gender, 82.6 per cent and 87.5 per cent of the female and male respondents indicated that the project contributed to increasing women and youth political participation. Also, 81.2 per cent of the respondents indicated that the project contributed to reducing violence against women in politics. By gender, 79.1 per cent and 83.3 per cent of the female and male respondents respectively indicated that the project contributed to reducing violence against women in politics.

Figure 8: Respondents Perceptions on the Changes Produced by the Project by Gender



5.0. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

The overarching conclusion of this evaluation is that the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project remains relevant to the government aspirations and the targeted participants. The project made significant progress in contributing to women's political participation and reduction of violence during the election.. With respect to inclusive participation, women comprised just over 50.06 per cent of the total registered voters. Despite the absence of mandatory gender quotas, the numerical representation of women in the legislature has been maintained overall after the October 2023 election, with no change at 10.7 per cent. The project established a national VAW platform to collect data and make referrals for VAW response together with EWERM which fostered an enabling environment for women's safe participation in the 2023 elections, as evidenced by low recorded incidences of VAW in the electoral period. The project contributed to this being the first election where timely gender-disaggregated data (GDD) for candidate and voter registration and elections workers was provided by the National Elections

Commission (NEC), and the first time the NEC provided GDD for registered voters at the district level and candidates by political party during the candidate nomination period. The findings above provide the basis for the overall conclusions and emerging recommendations resulting from this evaluation. Building on the above findings, these conclusions aim to provide UN Women, UNDP, and PBF with actionable suggestions and recommendations to support its future programming in Liberia. The specific conclusions are given below:

Relevance of the Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project in addressing peacebuilding needs and timeliness and urgency of the project vis-a-vis sustaining peace context in Liberia.

Conclusion 1: (Based on Findings 1-2 on Relevance)

The Promoting Inclusive Political Participation project implemented at national level and in nine counties was relevant to addressing peacebuilding needs in the targeted counties and was very timely although capacity building trainings to political parties, male leaders and awareness raising interventions at community level should be systemic with follow up and refresher intervention to ensure systemic change to ensure increased women political participation in Liberia.

While post-war recovery efforts in Liberia have recorded major achievements as exemplified by many factors including the successful transfer of security responsibilities from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to the Government of Liberia on 30th June 2016 and the successful conduct of presidential and legislative election over the periods, issues identified as the root causes of Liberia's 14-year civil war have remained unaddressed as evident by unequal participation of men and women in public life, violent attacks on women in politics and constitutes serious obstacles to women's meaningful political participation as voters, candidates, observers, and election workers. This scenario has serious implications for sustaining peace and stability in Liberia given that women and girls comprise approximately 50 per cent of the population. The UNW Liberia and UNDP promoting inclusive political participation project was developed to address the above peace-building needs of the target groups and Liberia in general. Thus, the outcome of the project targeted at supporting increased women's political participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms in Liberia. The project contributed to addressing these peacebuilding needs by strengthening the coordination of peacebuilding, governance, and elections processes with a focus on greater participation of women in these processes. The project also helped in increasing awareness of the rights of women to participate in politics influencing attitudes, norms, and behavioural change. It also contributed to achieving more effective prevention and response to VAWIE/P thereby building an enabling environment for women's safe and free participation in politics and public life. The project was timely because it was implemented at a time when there was a decreasing trend in women's political participation, and when the country was organizing the first general election after the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Liberia formally ceased operations. However, the short duration of the training activities usually one-two days was a major limitation of the project in effectively addressing the identified needs of the targeted participants.

Conclusion 2: (Findings 1-2 on Relevance)

Resistance to women's political participation remains a salient issue, and it requires comprehensive and sustained efforts to preserve gains. The approach to address this issue can benefit from developing longer-term, strategic programming that goes beyond typical election cycle-based initiatives.

Conclusion 3: (Based on Findings 3 on Relevance)

The project aligned with the national plans on gender promotion, the PAPD and the UNSDCF, and other government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding

The promoting inclusive political participation project was found to be in total alignment with Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the UNSDCF and the specific government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding. The outcome and outputs of the project fall under the pillars and priority areas of several national plans, policies, and strategies including the Liberia National Gender Policy Priority Areas (6- Human Rights and Gender Based Violence), (8-Political Participation and Decision-Making Positions for Women), and (10-Peace and National Security). It also aligns with Pillar 3 (Sustaining the Peace—Promoting a cohesive society for sustainable development) of (PAPD) and Pillar 3 (Participation of women, young women, and girls in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts and countering terrorism) of the Second National Action Plan (NAP) on Women's Peace and Security. It further aligns with the NHRAP (2018-2023) which aims to promote and protect human rights and improve the human rights situation throughout Liberia as well as UNSDCF for Liberia for the period 2020-2024 especially Outcome 3 (Sustaining Peace, Security and Rule of Law). Overall, the evaluation found strong evidence of alignment of the project to national development plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD, UNSDCF, and other specific government priorities on women's political participation and peacebuilding.

Effectiveness of the Programme in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected results

Conclusion 4: (Based on Findings 4-6 on Effectiveness)

The project was successful as major outputs and outcome of the project were mostly achieved. Major interventions that contributed to the achievement of the project outcome and outputs include capacity building, advocacy, and mediation skills for young people, leaders, women peace huts, journalists, security actors, and judges as well as strengthening coordination of peacebuilding, governance, and elections processes. The project's Theory of Change proved realistic and was implemented to the satisfaction of the direct participants.

The promoting inclusive political participation project was successful in terms of the progress made towards the achievement of the expected outcome and outputs of the project. The project made an important contribution to creating awareness of the rights of women to participate in politics and the reduction of violence against

women in politics. The project also made an important contribution to building the capacities of young people, women leaders, Women Peace Huts journalists, security actors, and judges on gender mainstreaming in their various sectors. The project also made important contributions in the provision of gender-disaggregated data by NEC, the Attainment of gender parity in the biometric voter registration (BVR) process, signing of the revised Farmington River Declaration by 36 political parties, and the sustenance of the numerical representation of women in the legislature after the October 2023 election. The evaluation confirmed that the project's Theory of Change proved realistic and was implemented. Evidence of this is the implementation of activities to achieve all the "IF" conditions in the Theory of Change including enhancing coordination and monitoring of peacebuilding mechanisms by grassroots networks (Women Peace Huts and Community Peace Committees (CPC) etc.), CSOs, and PBO, engaging and supporting the community male gatekeepers, political party leaders, and other institutions and structures of governance in the executive, legislature, and Judiciary to prevent and respond to VAWIE-P, strengthening the capacities of existing legal frameworks and policies to be more robust and intentional towards gender responsiveness, to strengthening women's political agency to claim their rights and strengthening the media to effectively challenge negative stereotypes and build public trust of women leaders. Overall, the evaluation rates the project's Theory of Change as realistic and confirms that activities were implemented to mostly realize the conditions.

Conclusion 5: (Based on Findings 7-10 on Effectiveness)

The project approaches and strategies were innovative. The project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia. The evaluation found evidence of project adaptation and management action and decision-making made based on the recommendations from the monitoring activities.

The evaluation found that several innovative practices were mainstreamed both in the design and implementation of the project. This includes the recognition of the crucial roles played by multiple stakeholders in the promotion of women's political participation and the reduction of violence against women in politics, the implementation modality adopted by the project team by implementing the project along with similar projects such as the Liberia Electoral Support Projects (LESP) and UN Women Transformative Leadership and Community Engagement for Women's Political Participation project as well as the project implementation strategy which is underlined by policy-level and legal reform interventions, capacity building, and institutional strengthening of national institutions in the justice and security sectors were considered to be innovative by the evaluation. The project to a large extent-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at the country level LESP and UN Women Transformative Leadership and Community Engagement for Women's Political Participation project. One factor that strengthened the synergy building by the project was the different levels of coordination among implementing partners.

The efficiency of the project in terms of resource allocation measures taken to ensure that resources are efficiently used.

Conclusion 6: (Based on Findings 12-14 on Efficiency)

The project resources were allocated strategically and were efficiently utilized to achieve the Programme outcomes.

The promoting inclusive political participation project demonstrates efficiency in the allocation of and utilization of both human and material resources which was instrumental to the achievement recorded by the project in the targeted counties. The project allocated 82 per cent of the total budget to project implementation activities and 18 per cent budgeted for personnel. At the end of implementation, 97.5 per cent of all allocated budgets for the project activities had been spent and this was good given that all planned activities of the project were implemented using the allocated resources. However, the project utilization of 82 per cent of the total budget on project implementation activities compared to 18 per cent on personnel is highly commendable by the evaluation. The joint nature of the project contributed to improving the efficiency in the delivery of project outputs as it ensured a reduction in the duplication of project activities since the project activities were derived from the joint work plan developed by the UN Women and UNDP. The use of local facilitators for capacity-building activities and local IPs in addition to regular joint monitoring of implementation activities by the project team ensured that resources were effectively utilized and promoted the cost-effectiveness of the project. Although financial resources were used sufficiently and efficiently, in the mid to long term those resources are not adequate to serve UN Women's mandate and its partners regarding programming for women's political participation in Liberia.

Conclusion 7: (Based on Findings 15-16 on Efficiency)

The joint nature of the project was an important factor in the improved efficiency in the delivery of the project activities as it reduced duplication of activities. The evaluation also establishes that the partnerships (with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the media) established by the project were relevant and with potential to foster sustainability of results.

The evaluation findings indicate that the joint nature of the project contributed to improved efficiency in the delivery of project outputs. One of the advantages associated with the joint nature of the project was that it allowed resources and expertise to be pooled together which helped to maximize the impact of the project. The joint nature of the project also ensured a reduction in the duplication of project activities since the project activities were derived from the one joint work plan developed by the UN Women and UNDP. The evaluation found that the project was designed and implemented on a partnership basis. This to a large extent contributed to the sustainability of the project benefits. The project has partnered with NEC and the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. This level of engagement with government entities not only promoted government buy-in of the project but also contributed to sustainability as these government institutions will continue to advocate for these gender issues as they are aligned with their institutional mandates. The project has also partnered with NGOs that serve as implementing partners for the various components of the project across counties. The implementing partners on the other hand provided capacity building for local community structures including Women Peace Hut, Early Warning and Early Response (EWER), County Peace Committee, Rural Women Structure, and Liberian Market Association among others.

The capacity building including strengthening of the EWER system in terms of human resource capacity and other rural structures is likely to be sustained and built upon after the intervention in subsequent elections. Individual capacity building in mediation and leadership, particularly of young people is also likely to be sustained, as many of them have gained interest and will continue to participate in political life and peacebuilding, particularly in elections, because of skills and knowledge acquired during the training. Overall, the evaluation notes the partnerships (with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, and the media) established by the project has good potential to foster sustainability of results.

Conclusion 8: (Based on Findings 17-19 on Sustainability)

The evaluation established that the capacity-building elements of the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period once the project ends since the knowledge gained will remain with the participants. The evaluation found evidence to show that the intervention design includes an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy including promoting national/ local ownership, and use of local capacity to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention.

The design of the project took into consideration sustainability measures including legal reforms, institutional strengthening, and capacity building which are key strategies for sustainability. The project was also embedded within the priorities of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Justice to promote government support and sustainable pursuit of the goal of the project. Also, the project has targeted the development of local ownership and capacities as a key strategy for the sustainability of the benefits of the project. In this respect, the project partnered with local existing structures, CSOs, and traditional and religious institutions to strengthen their capacity and awareness of the importance of women's political participation. However, the evaluation notes that one critical factor necessary to sustain the benefits of the project in the long term is to adopt and utilize the electoral cycle approach in the design and implementation of the project. Given the entrenched burden of socio-cultural constraints on women's leadership, patriarchy, and gender discrimination which has remained among the root causes of the low representation of women in decision-making bodies in Liberia, a project like this must consider the full implementation of the electoral cycle approach to address these barriers to women's political participation.

Conclusion 9: (Based on Findings 17-19 on Sustainability)

There has been various advocacy efforts to ensure mandatory gender quota law is in place in Liberia. However these efforts that predates the project period didn't bring a result. Evidence from data collection and project team believed mandatory quota coupled with capacity building is a key driver of higher number of women in political positions.

Conclusion 10: (Based on Findings 20-22 on Gender Equality and Human Rights Mainstreaming)

The evaluation confirmed that gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities highlighted in the project are focused on addressing the entrenched burden of socio-cultural constraints on women's leadership, patriarchy, and gender discrimination which has remained among the root causes of low women representation in politics in Liberia.

The evaluation confirmed that gender and human rights considerations were integrated into the project design and implementation. All objectives, strategies, approaches, and activities implemented by the project were focused at promoting women's political participation. From the design, the project has targeted women as direct participants. The project also targeted men and other members of the communities in the counties to address the underlying socio-cultural challenges in the intervention areas to change the dominant traditional cultural perception of women's political participation. The engagement of community leaders at the county level was a deliberate effort to promote long-term change in the communities concerning women in decision-making processes. The project was therefore inclusive and non-discriminatory, with deliberate strategies to engage stakeholders and target participants at all levels, in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind. Also important to note is the fact that the project allocated 86.5 per cent of the budget towards promoting gender equality or women's empowerment. However, the evaluation found that the non-approval of the mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidate lists from the Executive arm of government was a major political constraint to addressing GE&HR issues during the implementation period.

Coherence

Conclusion 11: (Based on Findings 23-25 on Coherence)

The evaluation that the project built synergies with several other programmes being implemented at the country level by the United Nations, International NGOs, and the Government of Liberia. This includes the Liberia Election Support Project (LESP), the Deepening and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy, Democracy International (DI) project on Elections and Democracy Activity (EDA) as well as The Promotion of Women's Empowerment and Rights Programme" (POWER). Thus, the project was consistent with all these other programmes in terms of the overall goal which is promoting women's political participation and women's empowerment in general. Evaluative evidence reveals that the project was complimentary, harmonized, and coordinated with these other interventions. This was achieved through the monthly partner coordination meetings and the quarterly coordination meetings with partners. This level of coordination helped to avoid duplication of effort among the various partners working on election-related interventions in Liberia.

The impact produced, positive and negative, intended, or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)

Conclusion 12: (Based on Findings 26-28 on Impact)

The evaluation confirmed that the project did not cause any social, environmental, or economic challenge. Rather the project contributed to addressing social,

challenges related to women's political participation across the counties. The project addressed conflict which is one of the social problems in the intervention counties. The project did not address any economic issues in the counties. However, the project provision of stipends for members of the EWERM and CPC in the counties was commendable but this needs to be sustained and strengthened. The evaluation found several positive indirect effects produced by the project on the target group including the passage of the mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the Legislature and the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) by NEC and political parties on women's participation by 36 political parties and coalitions. It contributed to the signing of the revised Farmington River Declaration by 36 political parties which reaffirms the VAWE/P Protocol. This contributed to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics during the election. The project contributed to the maintenance of the numerical representation of women in the legislature after the October 2023 election, with no change at 10.7 per cent.

5.2. Lessons Learnt

Lesson 1: Temporary Special Measures (mandatory gender quota law): Adopting temporary special measures (gender quotas) to achieve gender equality in the legislature is a priority to ensure increased women's representation.

Lesson 2: Future electoral reform bills: Future electoral reform bills should prioritize a broader scope of gender-sensitive measures, extending beyond candidate nomination alone. While past targets of 30% (1995) and 50% (CSW -65) for women representation are noteworthy, reforms should encompass additional aspects. These include financial incentives for gender-responsive political parties that can be channelled to support to women candidates can contribute to achieving greater gender parity in elected positions.

Lesson 3: Candidates Registration: Nomination requirements for independent candidates and candidates contesting on political party tickets should not be the same. Women candidates raise this disproportionately disadvantages women independent candidates. Additionally, centralized registration was also prohibitive considering time and financial investment to travel to Monrovia from remote areas.

Lesson 4: There is a need to scale up engagement with political parties to support them to be more internally democratic, while linking them to women's groups and associations to help identify women who might be interested in participating in politics and already have a support base on which they can build.

Lesson 5: Coordination: The electoral support project led by UNDP with the overall coordination of the RC, UNDP and UN Women joint planning and implementation ensured a gender sensitive electoral process in Liberia.

Lesson 6: The joint implementation of the project and high-level coordination with other projects with similar goals expanded the resources available for the implementation of project activities.

The project was implemented along with similar projects such as the Liberia.

Electoral Support Projects (LESP) as well as the Deeping and Consolidating Liberia's Democracy project which ensured that multiple resources were available for the implementation of project activities. The developed legal aid guidance note for the project leveraged LESP funds which form the basis of the provision of pro-bono legal aid under the Promoting Inclusive Participation Project. This is an important lesson that should be replicated in future programming on promoting women's political participation.

Lesson 7. Targeting IPs with similar mandates and vision is crucial to the sustainability of project benefits at the end of implementation of project activities

Targeting partners with a shared vision and mandates as IPs in project implementation has been found to have a strong positive influence on the partnership success, satisfaction, and sustainability of benefits. The project engaged the Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding, Organization for Women and Children, and Medica Liberia Naymote Partners in Democratic Development among others as partners in project implementation. These partners share similar visions and mandates with the promoting inclusive political participation project which implies that on their other activities, they will continue to implement activities related to the goals and objectives of the project with or without UN Women/UNDP funding. This has a long-term effect on the sustainability of the project benefits.

Lesson 8: Capacity-building activities for project participants are necessary both for promoting ownership and sustainability of project benefits.

The project has implemented capacity-building activities for both government bodies and community mechanisms specifically the Ministry of Justice, security institutions, Women Peace Huts, CPC, and journalists in the intervention counties. The capacity-building activities were unique for the different categories of the project participants. The capacity-building activities for journalists focused on gender-sensitive reporting for women in politics while another training for security institutions focused on strengthening the institutional capacity of the security sector including police, judiciary, and other rule of law/access to justice actors to recognize and respond appropriately to cases of VAWE/P. The approach of the project ensured that the knowledge gained remained with the participants after the close of the programme.

Lesson 9. The duration of an intervention focusing on addressing underlying causes of gender inequality is an important factor that contributes to the achieving project objectives and sustainability of benefits.

Addressing deep-rooted underlying causes of gender inequality that is deeply ingrained in the minds of people requires a considerable amount of time. The promoting inclusive political participation project is a 27-month project with one key objective of increasing women's participation in elections, politics, public life, and peacebuilding mechanisms. While the project made significant progress in this respect, the sustainability of the results is doubtful without sustained awareness creation activities and long-term interventions to address the root causes of gender inequality in Liberia.

Lesson 10. The provision of legal aid to women aspirants during the nomination process for the October 2023 elections was instrumental in the sustenance of the numerical strength of women in the legislature.

The project provided legal aid to 44 women aspirants during the nomination process for the October 2023 elections. The legal support made a big difference to them as some indicated that they may not have completed the nomination process if the support was not provided under the project. This is an important lesson that should be sustained going forward.

6.0. Recommendations

The evaluation has identified eight recommendations that are critical for UN agency's contribution to peacebuilding in Liberia. They have been sequenced by their importance, as perceived by the evaluation team. The recommendations are based on the evaluation framework, and the analysis that informed findings and conclusions. They were validated by key stakeholders in an Exit Workshop carried out at the end of the field mission and also through the review of the evaluation report.

Table 6.1: Recommendations with the specification of action and timeframe

Specific Recommendations	Responsibility	Priority
Programmatic recommendations:		
9. Institutionalize the various SOPs developed under the project: The project team should consider institutionalization and implementation of the various SOPs and protocols developed under the project in another phase of the project to promote their effectiveness and sustainability (Findings 4 & 18).	UN Women/UNDP	Intermediate
10. Introduce measures to ensure compliance with MOUs: The project team and key institutions like NEC should consider the introduction of mandatory temporary special measure to ensure compliance with MoUs on gender quotas by political parties and also penalties for non-compliance (Findings 21)	UN Women/UNDP/ NEC	Immediate
11. Sustain advocacy on electoral reform. This is necessary given the non-approval of the electoral reform bill with a mandatory 30 per cent gender quota for candidates by the executive Findings 4 & 18).	UN Women/UNDP/ NEC	Immediate
12. Sustain advocacy and awareness-raising activities: The project team should consider sustaining the advocacy and awareness-raising activities to address the underlying socio-cultural norms and practices that inhibit women's political participation reduction of violence against women in politics through another phase of the project (Findings 2 & 18)	UN Women/UNDP/ PBF	Immediate
13. Sustain capacity building on mediation, effective campaigns for women candidates: Consider continuing with the capacity building on mediation, effective campaigns for women candidates, advocacy skills for county peacebuilding structures as well as institutional strengthening of the EWER system in terms of human resource capacity (Findings 4, 7 and 16)	UN Women, UNDP	Immediate
14. Sustain working with multiple partners: The project team should consider sustaining the engagement of multiple partners and other stakeholders in the project implementation either as participants or as IPs. This will ensure that the barriers to effective women's political participation are tackled from multiple fronts contributing to the effectiveness of the intervention. It will also promote stakeholders' buy-in and ensuring the overall sustainability of the project (Findings 7)	UN Women, UNDP	Immediate
15. Continue to address key barriers to women's political participation: Sustain the implementation of activities to address persistent constraints and forms of backlash such as violence against women in politics,	UN Women, UNDP	Immediate

discriminatory socio-cultural norms and financial constraints that limits women's political participation (Findings 4 and 18).		
Provide better disability inclusion. 16. Adequate provisions should be made for persons with disability (PWD) such as the provision of braille for blind participants and the provision of interpreters for persons with hearing impairments as well as other marginalized groups to promote inclusivity and leaving no one behind (Findings 22).	UN Women/UNDP /IPs	Immediate

Annex 1: Roles of stakeholders

WHO	WHAT Role in the Programme	WHY Purpose of involvement in the evaluation	PRIORITY Level of importance in the evaluation	WHEN Stage of their involvement in the evaluation	HOW The extent to which they participated
UNW and UNDP	The project was implemented by UNW and UNDP	UNW and UNDP project teams will be engaged during the evaluation to assess the programme achievements, implementation challenges, and lessons learned.	Their involvement was extremely important for assessing the context in which the project was designed and implemented.	UNW and UNDP project teams will be engaged at all stages of the evaluation.	They will participate in inception meetings, and data collection and will supervise the evaluation. They will provide input to the evaluation report and will use findings for future interventions.
Center For Media Studies & Peacebuilding	Training journalists on gender-sensitive reporting for women in politics	They will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. The evaluation team will have face-to-face meetings and group discussions with their representatives.	Center For Media Studies & Peacebuilding will be actively involved in the evaluation as they serve as one of the implementing partners of the project	Center For Media Studies & Peacebuilding will be engaged during data collection and will be reviewing the evaluation report, particularly its findings and recommendations.	Stakeholders from the Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection
Organization For Women and Children	Provided legal aid to women experiencing Violence Against Women in Election/ Politics (VAWiE-P) and strengthened institutional capacity of police, and judiciary for VAWiE-P -P response	Organization For Women and Children will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	Organization For Women and Children will be actively involved in the evaluation as they serve as one of the implementing partners of the project	Organization For Women and Children will be engaged during data collection	Stakeholders from the Organization for Women and Children will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection.
Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia	They carried out advocacy and engagement with political parties/women's leagues; train domestic elections observations groups on VAWiE; legal and policy advocacy for reform/implementation of laws (30% candidate quota, VAWiE-P, etc.)	Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia will be included in the evaluation to provide evidence to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation team will organize a face-to-face meeting and group discussions with their representatives.	Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia will actively involve in the evaluation as they were one of the implementing partners for the project.	Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia will be engaged in all the stages of the evaluation	Medica Liberia with POWER Liberia will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection.
Liberia Initiative for Empowerment	Engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation; Build women's leadership culture and advocating for inclusion in governance); Develop & disseminate gender-sensitive civic and voter education.	They will be included in the evaluation in order to assess the project relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability and impact. The evaluation team will have face to face meetings and group discussions with their representatives.	Their involvement will be extremely important for the purpose of assessing the context in which the project was designed and implemented.	They will be engaged during data collection	They will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection.
Naymote Partners For Democratic Development	Engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation; Build women's leadership culture and advocate	Stakeholders from Naymote will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection.	Naymote inclusion in the evaluation is highly important for the purpose of assessing	They will be engaged during data collection	Naymote will take part as key informant interviews.

	for inclusion in governance		their perspective on the project implementation.		
National Elections Commission (NEC)	Conduct a regular quarterly dialogue through the IPCC structure on VAWiE-P, women's participation. Support political parties to implement the existing legal and policy provisions within their internal structures and externally	NEC will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	Their involvement will be extremely important for the purpose of assessing the context in which the project was designed and implemented.	They will be engaged during data collection	NEC will take part as key informant interviews.
Messengers of Peace Liberia	Engaging youth in peacebuilding and political participation (1.1.4); Build women's leadership culture and advocate for inclusion in governance; Develop & disseminate gender-sensitive civic and voter education. They will be included in the evaluation to provide evidence to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability	The Messengers of Peace Liberia will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	Messengers of Peace Liberia inclusion in the evaluation is highly important for the purpose of assessing their perspective on the project	They will be engaged during data collection	Messengers of Peace Liberia will take part as key informant interviews.
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	Conducting district and county-level gender dialogues on VAWiE-P and promoting women's increased leadership	The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection inclusion in the evaluation is highly important for the purpose of assessing their perspective on the project	They will be engaged during data collection	The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will take part as key informant interviews.
Liberia Peace Building Office	Holding workshops with local statutory, traditional and community leaders on women's political participation, violence against women in election, political pluralism and promotion of peaceful elections.	Liberia Peace Building Office will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	Liberia Peace Building Office inclusion in the evaluation is highly important for the purpose of assessing their perspective on the project	They will be engaged during data collection	Liberia Peace Building Office will take part as key informant interviews.
The Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH),	Equipped electoral stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively implement the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring a consistent and coordinated approach to addressing VAWiE/P in elections	ORWOCH will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. The evaluation team will have face-to-face meetings and group discussions with their representatives.	ORWOCH will be actively involved in the evaluation as they serve as one of the implementing partners of the project	ORWOCH will be engaged during data collection and will be reviewing the evaluation report, particularly its findings and recommendations.	Stakeholders from ORWOCH will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection
National Commission of Disabilities (NCD), National Organization Union for Disabilities (NOUD), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Liberia Institute for Human Rights (LIPRIDE), Rural Women Liberia, Peace Hut Women, Traditional	Representative from the organizations were participants of training programme on how to effectively implement the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).	Member of each of the organization will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	Their inclusion in the evaluation is highly important for the purpose of assessing their perspective on the project	They will be engaged during data collection	Purposely selected members will take part as key informant interviews.

Liberia National Police, Armed Forces of Liberia, Liberia Immigration Services.	Representative from the security institutions participated in training on VAWE	They will be included in the evaluation as participants to get their perspective on the relevance of the project	As participants of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	The security actors will be engaged during data collection to provide diverse data for the evaluation.	Stakeholders from the security actors will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection
Political Parties	Political parties and alliances signed the Farmington Declaration solidifying their commitment to preventing and addressing Violence against Women in Election and Politics (VAWE) and reaffirming their adherence to the VAWE/P Protocol.	They will be included in the evaluation as participants to get their perspective on the relevance of the project	As participants of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	The political parties will be engaged during data collection to provide diverse data for the evaluation.	Stakeholders from the political parties will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection
Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC),	Participated in a dialogic organized by the National Elections Commission (NEC) which was aimed at encouraging political parties to nominate at least 30% women as candidates and to ensure compliance with Violence Against Women in Election and Politics (VAWE/P) Protocol for the 2023 elections.	They will be included in the evaluation as participants to get their perspective on the relevance of the project	As participants of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	IPCC will be engaged during data collection to provide diverse data for the evaluation.	Stakeholders from the IPCC will serve as key informant interviewees during data collection
Coalition of Political Party Women of Liberia (COPPWIL), the NEC'S efforts	COPPWIL actively advocated for and supporting political parties to adopt and implement gender-responsive policies complementing	COPPWIL will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	As part of the implementing partner of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	They will be engaged during data collection	COPPWIL will take part as key informant interviews.
Media Outlets (FrontPage Africa, Liberia Broadcasting System, Daily Observer, Prime FM, Spoon, Inquirer Newspaper, Women's Voices, Press Union of Liberia, Women's TV, Public Trust Media Group, OK FM, KMTV, and ECOWAS Radio.	Participated in a high level engagement aimed to influence media leaders towards implementing stronger editorial standards when reporting of women in politics and violence against women in politics.	Representative from media outlets will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	As part of the stakeholders of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	They will be engaged during data collection	The media outlets will take part as key informant interviews.
Media Associations (Press Union of Liberia, the Reporters Association of Liberia, the Female Journalists Association of Liberia, and the Publishers Association of Liberia).	Participated in a high level engagement aimed to influence media leaders towards implementing stronger editorial standards when reporting of women in politics and violence against women in politics.	Representative from media organizations will be included in the evaluation to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	As part of the stakeholders of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	They will be engaged during data collection	The media organizations will take part as key informant interviews.

Domestic elections observers (National Centre for Coordination of Response mechanisms (NCCRM), Liberia Election Observation Network (LEON), Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) and Women Situation Room/Angie Brooks International Centre (ABIC))	Participated in training to enhance their capacity of observers to identify, document and report electoral violence against women	Representative from Domestic election observers will be included in the evaluation as participants to assess the project's relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability.	As part of the participants of the project, they will be actively involved in the evaluation	They will be engaged during data collection	The domestic observers will take part as key informant interviews.
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Annex 2: Evaluation Questions

Relevance: The extent to which the objectives of the Joint Programme are consistent with national evolving peacebuilding needs and priorities of the participants, partners, and stakeholders and are aligned with programme country government, regional and global priorities as well as with UN Women and UNDP policies and strategies.

- ✦ Did the project results address the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and the country, more broadly?
- ✦ How timely and urgent was the project vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia and how did it effectively utilize windows of political opportunities?
- ✦ How does the project reflect and align with Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the UNSDCF and to the specific government priorities of women's political participation and peacebuilding?

Effectiveness: The extent to which the project's objectives were achieved or are expected/ likely to be achieved.

- ✦ What has been the progress made towards the achievement of the expected outcomes and outputs? What results were achieved?
- ✦ To what extent are participants satisfied with the results?
- ✦ To what extent did the project's Theory of Change prove realistic and was implemented?
- ✦ To what extent are the project approaches and strategies innovative? What types of innovative practices have been introduced? What are the unsuccessful innovative practices?
- ✦ Has the project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at country level by United Nations, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia?
- ✦ How was data from monitoring used for management action and decision making?
- ✦ Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards achievement of results?
- ✦ Have the project's organizational structures, managerial support and coordination mechanisms effectively supported the delivery of the project?

Efficiency: A measure of how economically resources / inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results. It is also a measure of the operational efficiency, i.e. management and timeliness.

- Have resources been allocated strategically to achieve project outcomes?
- Were resources sufficient to enable achievement of the expected outputs?
- Is the joint project and its components cost-effective? Could activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without comprising project quality?
- Were the project's organizational structure, management and coordination mechanisms effective in terms of project implementation and monitoring? Are there any recommendations for improvement?
- Has the joint nature of the project improved efficiency in terms of delivery, including reduced duplication, reduced burdens, and transactional costs? If so, what factors have influenced this?
- How have partnerships (with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, the media) been established to foster sustainability of results?

Sustainability: The likelihood of a continuation of project results after the intervention is completed or the probability of continued long-term benefits.

- What is the likelihood that the project results will be of use in the long term? What is the likelihood that the results from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time once the project ends?
- Which components of the project should be carried over into the next phase, and are there any recommendations for their improvement? Which positive /innovative approaches have been identified if any and how can they be replicated?
- Did the intervention design include an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/ local ownership, use of local capacity, etc.) to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention? To what extent were stakeholders involved in the preparation of the strategy?

Gender Equality and Human Rights (GE&HR)

- To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?
- Were there any constraints or facilitators (e.g., political, practical, bureaucratic) to addressing GE&HR issues during implementation? What level of effort was made to overcome these challenges?
- Were the processes and activities implemented during the intervention free from discrimination to all stakeholders?

Coherence. Includes internal coherence that addresses the synergies and interlinkages between the intervention and other interventions carried out by the same institution as well as the consistency of the intervention with the relevant international norms and standards to which that institution adheres. External coherence considers the consistency of the intervention with other actors' interventions in the same context. This includes complementarity, harmonization and co-ordination

with others, and the extent to which the intervention is adding value while avoiding duplication of effort.

- ◆ Have the project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at country level by United Nations, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia?
- ◆ To what extent has the project's intervention been consistent with interventions of others in the same context?
- ◆ To what extent is the project complimentary, harmonized and coordinated with other interventions in this area?

Impact. addresses the ultimate significance and potentially transformative effects of the intervention. It seeks to identify social, environmental, and economic effects of the intervention that are longer term or broader in scope than those already captured under the effectiveness criterion.

- ◆ Has the project identified and addressed social, environmental, and economic effects of the intervention that are longer term?
- ◆ To what extent did the intervention contribute to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace?
- ◆ What indirect, secondary and potential consequences of the intervention were captured?

Annex 3: Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Key question(s)	Indicators for measuring progress	Collection Method(s)	Data Source	Assumptions
Relevance	To what extent is the implementation strategy relevant?	Evidence that the implementation strategy is relevant to attaining the objective of the project and to the project participants	-Document Analysis -KIIs and FGDs with project participants -Questionnaire administration	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts, survey data	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data.
	Did the project results address the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and of the country, more broadly?	Evidence that the project results addressed the major peacebuilding needs of the target groups and of the country, more broadly	-Document Analysis -KIIs and FGDs with project participants -Questionnaire administration	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts, survey data	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent has the project been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life?	Evidence that the project has been catalytic in addressing some of the barriers to women's political participation, especially those limiting support for women in politics and public life.	-Document Analysis -KIIs and FGDs with project participants -Questionnaire administration	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts, survey data	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	How does the project reflect and align to Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the UNSDCF and to the specific government priorities women political participation and peacebuilding?	Evidence that the intervention is aligned with Liberia's national plans on gender promotion as well as the PAPD and the UNSDCF and to the specific government priorities women political participation and peacebuilding	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	How timely and urgent was the project vis-a-vis the sustaining peace context in Liberia and how did it effectively utilize windows of political opportunities?	Evidence that all the activities and outputs of the project are consistent with the intended impacts and effects.	-Document Analysis -KIIs and FGDs with project participants -Questionnaire administration	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts, survey data	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent are human rights recognized and addressed as priorities through the project and its implementation to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments?	Evidence that human rights are recognized and addressed as priorities through the project design and its implementation to comply with CEDAW and other international commitments.	-Document Analysis -KIIs with project team and IPs.	Project documents, KII Transcripts.	All reports are readily accessible, and all stakeholders are ready and willing to provide needed data.
Effectiveness	What has been the progress made towards the achievement of the expected outcomes and outputs? What results were achieved?	Evidence that the project has made progress towards the achievement of the expected outcomes and outputs and results were	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners	Project documents, KII and FGD	All IPs, government partners, project teams, and participants are ready and

		achieved intervention areas assist in increasing women's political participation	-KII with IPs -FGD with project participants -Questionnaire survey with participants	Transcripts and Survey data	willing to provide needed data
	To what extent are participants satisfied with the results?	Evidence that the participants satisfied with the results	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, and participants are ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent did the project's Theory of Change prove realistic and was implemented?	Evidence that the project's Theory of Change proved realistic and was implemented	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders	Project documents, KII transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams ready and willing to provide needed data
	To what extent are the project approaches and strategies innovative? What types of innovative practices have been introduced? What are the unsuccessful innovative practices?	Evidence that the project approaches and strategies were innovative	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project team are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Has the project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at country level by United Nations, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia?	Evidence that the project built synergies with other programmes being implemented at country level by United Nations, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	How was data from monitoring used for management action and decision making?	Evidence that data from monitoring was used for management action and decision making	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Does the project have effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress towards achievement of results?	Evidence of effective monitoring mechanisms in place to measure progress toward results	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team
Efficiency	Have resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve the project outcomes?	Evidence that resources (financial, human, technical support, etc.) have been allocated strategically to achieve the Programme outcomes	-Document reviews -KIIs with the Project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Were resources sufficient to enable the achievement of the expected outputs?	Evidence that resources were sufficient to enable the achievement of the expected outputs	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Have the outputs been delivered promptly?	Evidence that the outputs have been delivered promptly	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to

			implementing partners		provide the needed data
		Evidence of cost-effectiveness of the program and its components	Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Is the joint project and its components cost-effective? Could activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without comprising project quality?	Evidence that the project and its components were cost-effectively implemented	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
		Evidence that the activities and outputs have been delivered with fewer resources without reducing their quality and quantity			
	Were the project's organizational structure, management and coordination mechanisms effective in terms of project implementation and monitoring? Are there any recommendations for improvement?	Evidence that the project's organizational structure, management and coordination mechanisms effective in terms of project implementation and monitoring	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team --KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team
	Has the joint nature of the project improved efficiency in terms of delivery, including reduced duplication, reduced burdens and transactional costs? If so, what factors have influenced this?	Evidence that the joint nature of the project has improved efficiency in terms of delivery, including reduced duplication, reduced burdens and transactional costs	- Document reviews -KIIs with the project team --KII with IPs	Project documents, KII Transcripts from IPs	All project documents and monitoring tools are shared with the evaluation team
	How have partnerships (with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, the media) been established to foster sustainability of results?	Evidence that partnerships with governments, UN, donors, NGOs, civil society organizations, religious leaders, the media have been established to foster sustainability of results	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
Impact	longer-term	Evidence that the project identified and addressed social, environmental, and economic effects of the intervention that are longer term	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	To what extent did the intervention contribute to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace?	Evidence that the intervention is contributing to the reduction of violence including violence against women in politics and the promotion of peace	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, and participants are ready and willing to provide needed data

	What indirect, secondary and potential consequences of the intervention were captured?	Evidence of the indirect, secondary and potential consequences of the intervention were captured	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with IPs -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs, the project team and participants are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	What are the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society)?	Evidence of the the effects produced, positive and negative, intended or unintended, directly (target groups) and indirectly (larger society) by the project	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants -Questionnaire survey with participants	Project team IPs, participants	All IPs, the project team and participants are ready and willing to provide the needed data
Sustainability	What is the likelihood that the project results will be of use in the long-term? What is the likelihood that the results from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time once the project ends?	Evidence of likelihood that the project results will be of use in the long-term.	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants -Questionnaire survey with participants	Project team IPs, participants	All IPs, the project team and participants are ready and willing to provide the needed data
		Evidence of the likelihood that the results from the project will be maintained for a reasonably long period of time once the project ends	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants -Questionnaire survey with participants	Project team IPs, participants	All IPs, the project team and participants are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	Which components of the project should be carried over into the next phase, and are there any recommendations for their improvement?	Evidence of components of the project should be carried over into the next phase.	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Which positive /innovative approaches have been identified if any and how can they be replicated?	Evidence of positive /innovative approaches that can be replicated	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Did the intervention design include an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/ local ownership, use of local capacity, etc.) to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of the intervention?	Evidence that the intervention design includes an appropriate sustainability and exit strategy (including promoting national/ local ownership, use of local capacity, etc.) to support positive changes, including in Gender Equality and Human Rights after the end of	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data

		the intervention.			
	To what extent were stakeholders involved in the preparation of the strategy?	Evidence of Stakeholders involvement in the preparation of the strategy	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with IP	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams are ready and willing to provide needed data
Coherence	Has the project-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at country level by United Nations, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia?	Evidence that the project the project-built synergies with other programmes being implemented at country level by United Nations, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team, IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	To what extent has the project's intervention been consistent with interventions of others in the same context?	Evidence that the project's intervention been consistent with interventions of others in the same context	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data
	To what extent is the project complimentary, harmonized and coordinated with other interventions in this area?	Evidence that the project is complimentary, harmonized and coordinated with other interventions in this area	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team and implementing partners	Project team and IPs	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to provide the needed data.
Gender Equality and Human Rights	To what extent have gender and human rights considerations been integrated into the project design and implementation?	Evidence that gender and human rights, considerations have been integrated into the project design and implementation.	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs government partners, project teams, and participants are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Were there any constraints or facilitators (e.g., political, practical, bureaucratic) to addressing GE&HR issues during implementation? What level of effort was made to overcome these challenges?	Evidence of constraints or facilitators (e.g., political, practical, bureaucratic) to addressing GE&HR issues during implementation	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners	Project documents, KII Transcripts	All IPs, government partners, project teams, are ready and willing to provide needed data
	Were the processes and activities implemented during the intervention free from discrimination to all stakeholders?	Evidence that the activities implemented during the intervention were free from discrimination to all stakeholders	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants	Project documents, KII and FGD Transcripts	All IPs government partners, project teams, and participants are ready and willing to provide needed data
Disability	What portion of participants were persons with disabilities?	% of project participants that are persons with disabilities	Document reviews -KIIs with the project team	Project documents, KII	All IPs and the project team are ready and willing to

<i>Inclusion</i>				from the project team and IP transcripts	provide the needed data.
	To what extent does the project align or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)? What recommendations can the project adopt to capture LNOB information within the existing performance monitoring framework?	Evidence that the project aligns or not with the systematic approach of leaving no one behind (LNOB)	Document reviews -KIIs with the project team	Project documents, KII from the project team and IP transcripts	
	How has the program contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities?	Evidence that the project contributed to addressing the priorities and changing the quality of life of people with disabilities	-Document reviews -KIIs with the project team -KII with government partners -KII with Community leaders -FGD with project participants	Project documents, KII, and FGD Transcripts	All IP government partners, project teams, and participants are ready and willing to provide needed data

Annex 4: Risks and Assumptions

Assignment execution risks	Impact on objective	Likelihood of occurrence	Owner (managed by)	Risk contingencies in place or to be put in place
Access and availability of key stakeholders and secondary data: Poor and Limited access to implementing partners and stakeholders.	High	Medium	UN Women and consultants	Consistent communication with the UN Women and UNDP team to have access to missing information. In addition, the consultants will engage with stakeholders/participants that are available.
Changes in government personnel due to coming in of a new administration	High	Low-Medium	UN Women /UNDP	The consultant will liaise with the project team to ensure that all relevant stakeholders of the project with adequate knowledge of the project are available during the field mission
Busy schedules of the project team	High	Medium	UN Women /UNDP	The evaluation team will utilize both physical and virtual approach in reaching the project team and other stakeholders
The large spatial coverage of interventions	High	Medium	Consultants	Increase the number of days of data collection and conduct some data collection remotely

Annex 5: Work Plan and Deliverables

No.	Planned Activities	Deliverables	Roles and Responsibilities	Starting date	Deadline
Task 1: Desk Review and development of a consultancy Work Plan and an Inception Report that describes the methodology to be used for the Evaluation					
1.1	Inception meeting with Evaluation Manager (EM), Evaluation Management Group (EMG) and Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) and conduct a desk review of all relevant project documents.	Orientation meeting held	EM, EMG, ERG and Evaluators	16 th December 2023	5 th ==30 January 2024
1.2	Development and submission of a draft detailed Inception Report	Desk review and preliminary consultation were held.	EM, EMG, ERG and online	16 th December 2023	Jan. 2024
1.3	Address feedback from EM, EMG, ERG and submit the final inception report	The inception report was finalized and submitted	Evaluators		16 th Jan. 2024
Task 2: Data collection both in-country, face-to-face, and/or virtual (telephone, video conferencing) interviews					
2.2	Data collection in field and virtual (telephone, video conferencing) interviews	Data gathered on women's participation and leadership in politics and peacebuilding	Evaluators	4 th February 2024	15 th February 2024
Task 3: Analysis and presentation of preliminary findings and draft report					
3.2	Development of interim Evaluation Report	Interim report developed	Consultant	16 th February 2024	26 th February 2024
3.3	PowerPoint Presentation of preliminary findings to the Reference Group	PowerPoint developed and presented	Evaluators		27 th February 2024
Task 4: Development and submission of final Evaluation report					
4.1	Development of Final Evaluation report - Addressing comments from the Evaluation Reference Group	final evaluation report developed	Evaluators		28 th February 2024
4.2	Submission of Final Evaluation Report	Evaluation report submitted	Evaluators		4 th March 2024 February 2024