



Iniciativa Spotlight

*Para eliminar la violencia
contra las mujeres y las niñas*



Liberia

Annual Narrative Progress Report

01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



Programme Title & Programme Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s)/ Strategic Results¹																					
<p>Programme Title: Liberia Spotlight Initiative</p> <p>MPTF Office Project Reference Number²: 00112285</p>	<p>Country/Region: Liberia</p> <p>Priority area(s)/Strategic results</p> <p>The Programme will target five counties: Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado. These are prioritized because of the high prevalence of SGBV/HTPs and less SRHRs.</p>																					
Recipient Organization(s)	Partners																					
UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and OHCHR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice; Law Reform Commission; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Internal Affairs; and Independent National Human Rights Commission and National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders - Associated UN Agencies: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration - Non-governmental organizations and CSOs: 16 CSOs and CBOs listed in the CSO national reference group 																					
Programme Cost (US\$)	Programme Duration																					
<p>Total approved budget as per Spotlight Country/ Regional Programme Document: USD 18,665,681 (Phase I)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="167 1305 810 1637"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of RUNO</th> <th>Spotlight Phase I (USD)</th> <th>UN Agency Contributions (USD)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td>3,097,358</td> <td>1,086,844</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>4,363,521</td> <td>717,328</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNICEF</td> <td>1,745,875</td> <td>511,419</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UN Women</td> <td>5,610,859</td> <td>257,067</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OHCHR</td> <td>1,026,387</td> <td>249,023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>15,844,000</td> <td>2,821,681</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of RUNO	Spotlight Phase I (USD)	UN Agency Contributions (USD)	UNDP	3,097,358	1,086,844	UNFPA	4,363,521	717,328	UNICEF	1,745,875	511,419	UN Women	5,610,859	257,067	OHCHR	1,026,387	249,023	Total:	15,844,000	2,821,681	<p>Start Date: 26.07.2018</p> <p>End Dat: 31.12.2022</p>
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¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) and Spotlight Country/Regional Programme Document

² The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF) Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Evaluation	Report submitted by: Coordination and Technical Coherence Officer
Assessment/Review - if applicable (please attach) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-Term Evaluation Report - if applicable (please attach) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Chencho G. Dorjee Title: Spotlight Coordinator e-mail address: chencho.dorjee@one.un.org Name: Pearl Atuhaire Title: Technical Specialist e-mail address: pearl.atuhaire@unwomen.org

Acronyms

CBO	Community-based organization
CPS	Comprehensive Prevention Strategy
CSO	Civil society organization
EU	European Union
EVAWG	Ending violence against women and girls
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBV-IMS	Information Management System on Gender-Based Violence
GoL	Government of Liberia
GRPB	Gender-responsive planning and budgeting
HTP	Harmful traditional practice
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexual and queer
LSI	Liberia Spotlight Initiative
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NACCEL	National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSC	One Stop Center
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
RUNOs	Recipient United Nations organizations
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SRHRs	Sexual and reproductive health rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
WACPS	Women and Children Protection Section (Liberia National Police)

Executive Summary

Liberia is at crossroads, moving from a humanitarian to a development footing in a very fragile social, cultural and financial context that creates major challenges to ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG). In the spirit of Delivering as One, the Liberia Spotlight Initiative (LSI) piloted innovative operational and programmatic collaboration across outcomes and between United Nations (UN) agencies, demonstrating enhanced implementation, advocacy and sensitization, and laying a strong foundation for EVAWG in Liberia.

In 2019, relentless efforts by partners, collaboration with government and engagement with the Legislature led to passage of the **much-anticipated Domestic Violence Act in August 2019, a major legislative outcome for LSI**. The Act is a landmark for gender equality in Liberia and seeks to address physical, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse; dowry-related violence; offenses against the family; and harassment. Accelerating implementation of the Act – including advocacy and awareness-raising – requires major investment but will be key for the promotion of women’s and girl’s rights in Liberia. LSI has also resulted in enhanced capacities of over 156 representatives of key government entities and civil society organizations (CSOs) on a human rights-based approach to legislative reform, the Domestic Violence Act, Rape Law and Inheritance Law in three LSI counties (Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Nimba).

While the female genital mutilation (FGM) clause was excluded from the Domestic Violence Act, through continuous advocacy by the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, CSOs, local authorities and communities in the five LSI counties for a separate law to criminalize FGM (practiced in 11 of the 15 counties of Liberia), a **strong commitment from the government on such a draft FGM law** was ensured during the reporting period and LSI is supporting the law’s drafting with CSOs.

To sustain multisectoral, targeted gender-sensitive interventions, **gender-responsive planning and budgeting (GRPB) has been piloted in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP)** by establishing GRPB offices to ensure the government’s Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (the long-term national development agenda) incorporates GRPB principles. **This has contributed to increased commitment and resource allocation to address gender-based violence (GBV) in Liberia.**

LSI has also resulted in a Comprehensive Prevention Strategy (CPS) being

developed and its action plan validated.³ **The CPS heralds a new approach emphasizing prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) rather than reacting to incidents. It will be the main tool informing all SGBV prevention and preparedness efforts, coupled with proactive response for swift, smooth support of SGBV survivors in Liberia. The CPS is being piloted as the first of its kind in the region among UN partners.** Until recently, FGM was not openly discussed but it was discussed extensively during the development of the CPS. The CPS has become the key tool informing all prevention actions across the six outcome areas at individual, family, community and institutional levels. It is focused to achieve strengthened community engagement, commitment and coordinated action in the prevention of SGBV/harmful traditional practices (HTPs) and promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHRs).

Since the national launch⁴ of LSI in June 2019, the programme has also resulted in more high-level commitments from government and non-government actors – especially the influential National Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders (NACCEL) – to review existing legislation, institutional capacity, and prevention and response mechanisms to eliminate SGBV and HTPs and promote SRHRs. Traditional leaders' greater commitment to addressing HTPs led to the August 2019 Government of Liberia (GoL) **signing of the 'Seven-Count Policy' suspending all Sande⁵ interventions, including FGM, for one year.** Some 112 traditional leaders from the five LSI counties⁶ participated in the signing, with unanimous approval of the policy statement. Policy implementation and monitoring will be supported by LSI.

LSI covers 75% of the Liberian population as target beneficiaries in five counties. A comprehensive multisectoral approach to institutional capacity development identified key actors in preventing and responding to SGBV. Their capacities in coordination, prevention and response were strengthened, especially at county level where the system is ineffective because of remoteness and lack of government resources. In 2019, a total of 47,635⁷ direct and 142,532⁸ indirect beneficiaries were reached. These county-level trainings led to a two-day national colloquium on SGBV prevention and response, **the first of**

³ A CPS document and its action plan were developed and validated with 215 participants (178 women and 37 men) with government ministries (MGCSP, MIA, MoH, Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, and MoFDP), CSOs, traditional and religious leaders, women and youth groups including members of the LGBTIQ community.

⁴ LSI launch report attached.

⁵ Traditional bush schools for females practicing FGM.

⁶ Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado.

⁷ Women 10,422; girls 18,716; men 6,311; boys 12,186.

⁸ Women 21,346; girls 49,616; men 22,450; boys 49,120.

its kind in Liberia. Some 387 participants (156 males, 229 females) from the five LSI counties – representing government authorities; youth; traditional and community leaders; media; CSOs including human rights advocates, women rights groups and marginalized groups; and community-based organizations (CBOs) – attended the event, which highlighted the challenges Liberia faces in fighting SGBV and HTPs and promoting SRHRs, and led to the adoption of **critical recommendations** by the government and stakeholders.

The recommendations highlighted the need to institute a holistic educational and awareness approach targeting homes, communities, villages, towns, cities, schools, marketplaces, churches, mosques, and private and public institutions to prevent increases in cases of SGBV. For effective response to SGBV crimes, it was recommended that the government and partners establish ‘One Stop Centers’ (OSCs) and assign prosecutors for SGBV cases in all 73 districts in the 15 counties in the country. In addition, recommendations were made for the deployment of officers from the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) of the Liberia National Police in all political districts. Some of these recommendations are already being implemented, including strengthening of coordination mechanisms, training of WACPS officers and rehabilitation of OSCs in the Spotlight counties.

LSI recognized the need to include formal and informal actors, primarily NACCEL and religious leaders. They exercise substantial influence – even over legislators – because of their deep-rooted role in protecting social and cultural practices. Under the prevention and social norms outcome, **LSI has gradually built a culture of trust with NACCEL, reciprocated with increasing buy-in and commitment from them. This was highlighted by a joint (NACCEL, UN and government) comprehensive mapping (inventory) of all existing FGM practitioners and Sande schools.**

In total, 822 female zoes⁹ and practitioners were recorded in the LSI counties, to be monitored and supported with alternative livelihood options at community level, which will be critical to reduce FGM in Liberia. The list will also help monitor implementation of the Seven-Count Policy, which is not yet effective because of limitations in monitoring mechanisms and provide alternative socioeconomic livelihood skills. Another milestone was **a joint (Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), NACCEL and UN) identification of alternate locations to replace Sande schools with Heritage Centers** that will promote positive traditional practices.

⁹ Female traditional elders who also practice FGM.

SGBV response services remain in high demand. Major challenges include coordination between different line ministries and the absence of a functional case management system¹⁰. Key benchmarks achieved through LSI under the services outcome include that **6,289 direct beneficiaries** (2,186 women, 2,803 girls, 1,058 men, 242 boys) accessed multisectoral services at county and national levels. Innovative and targeted interventions like counseling, referrals, fistula campaigns, family planning and survivor responses (case management, counseling, access to justice and economic empowerment) were provided to survivors and perpetrators in partnership with MGCSP and CSOs. **An SGBV Response Services Survey** identified gaps, the existing Psychosocial Support Manual was harmonized, Coping Centers and Safe Homes were constructed and refurbished, and market booths re-established.

A national coordinated and functional database is one of the planned outcomes for SGBV. Data collection on violence against women and girls (VAWG) has improved in Liberia, while further analysis and coordination between different government entities is critical to inform programmes and policies. **LSI continues to strengthen coordination and data collection and analysis to inform SGBV prevention and response interventions through support to the GBV Information Management System (GBV-IMS) database.** Government analysis of 2018 and 2019 GBV-IMS data indicates an increase in SGBV cases in 2019. The analysis reveals increased awareness and reporting of SGBV incidents but simultaneously acknowledges that most incidents go unreported and unaddressed.

According to the GBV-IMS, **2,643 SGBV incidents were reported in 2019**, compared to 2,105 in 2018. Some 1,803 rape cases were reported in 2019 (1,345 in 2018), an increase of 458, with 77% of survivors being girls under 18. In 2019, 84 perpetrators were convicted (13 in 2018). The number of cases settled or resolved outside court also increased, from 116 in 2018 to 178 in 2019. However, further analysis of the mechanisms used for resolution is needed. Some 2,143 survivors received medical care in 2019 (1,493 in 2018). A prevalence study was conducted in the five counties to fill gaps in the LSI baseline to ensure relevant data was available to measure results for the LSI counties in 2019. The study revealed the incidence of rape to be 46% in Lofa and 42.5% in Nimba, two of the five LSI counties, and only 19% of the 1,739 respondents to the study were aware that rape within marriage is illegal.

LSI implementation has underscored the need to work in new ways with

¹⁰ The aim is to ensure the provision of quality multidisciplinary services in an organized, efficient and effective manner in line with survivors' assessed needs.

CSOs. Given limited government capacity and geographic outreach, and CSOs' reach and community-based approach, CSOs are key implementation partners for LSI. **LSI allowed for rebuilding and reinforcing partnerships and collaboration, especially between the government and CSOs using the CSO national reference group platform.** Importantly, it gave recognition of their roles in the counties and their strengths to support limited government capacities in preventing and responding to GBV. This partnership was strongly advocated by European Union (EU)/UN senior management through high-level political engagements with government leadership, outlining the need for flexible and clear national policies and guidelines for national CSOs while also engaging with international non-governmental organizations to align with national CSOs and support the capacity development of smaller national CSOs and CBOs.

A major LSI achievement was **mapping 779 CSOs and CBOs in the five LSI counties, which is contributing to strengthened coordination among civil society in joint advocacy and response on EVAWG in Liberia.** Accordingly, five CSO Secretariats were established in those counties to advocate and report on and respond to SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs. These Secretariats will also conduct advocacy and outreach sessions in communities prone to violence to address social norms, attitudes and behavior. Some 45% of the LSI budget will be implemented by CSOs. A total of seven CSOs collaborated to implement 17 activities for US\$1.7 million in 2019.

In addition to being a Demonstration Fund for UN Reform, LSI is a joint partnership between the UN and the EU under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. By pooling the resources and the expertise of the UN and EU Delegation in Liberia, the country programme has the capacity, expertise and reach to achieve a greater impact and better results. This key strategic partnership allows the country programme to be more effective, efficient and innovative in its delivery.

In parallel to programme implementation, the LSI governance structure and mechanisms were established and operationalized, including the National Steering Committee. This Committee is jointly chaired at the highest level by the Resident Coordinator and the Gender Minister, with the EU Ambassador playing a central role.

Summary and Context of the Action

The present report pertains to LSI for the period 1 January – 31 December 2019. The Spotlight Initiative’s investment in Liberia aims to reduce the prevalence of SGBV and HTPs and increase women’s and girls’ access to SRHRs, in accordance with its objectives. The programme operates in the five most-affected counties and focuses on the following six pillars.

- Pillar 1: Legislative and Policy Frameworks (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)
- Pillar 2: Strengthening Institutions (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP))
- Pillar 3: Prevention of SGBV/HTPs (UN Women)
- Pillar 4: Quality and Essential Services (United Nations Population Fund)
- Pillar 5: Data Availability and Capacities (United Nations Population Fund)
- Pillar 6: Women’s Movement (UN Women)

Following its national launch in June 2019, LSI is largely on track with respect to the six outcomes planned for the first six months. Important groundwork to raise visibility nationwide on VAWG issues, secure buy-in and ownership of LSI by the GoL and galvanize social action for change was undertaken, with the majority of interventions implemented following the launch. Therefore, for the reporting period, implementation has been ongoing for only six months.

While LSI reaped significant gains during the reporting year, its inception phase was largely affected by the new government that was established in 2018 with spillover effects to 2019, thus affecting implementation. Most of the staff in various government ministries, agencies and commissions were either laid off or reshuffled, leaving either a capacity gap in the line ministry or a need for orientation of newly recruited staff on LSI, which led to delays in implementation.

Secondly, the protracted rainy season from May to November 2019 affected LSI implementation because roads became impassable during this period. As a result, fieldwork was either postponed to a later date when roads were more passable, or partners had to spend longer periods in the field to ensure that they achieved the desired result. This led to delayed implementation,

leading to re-phasing of interventions to 2020 and the need for accelerated efforts in 2020.

Coordination and collaboration among the CSOs has largely improved through capacity strengthening, despite challenges related to coordination that resulted in certain delays. CSOs' capacities had to be strengthened on strategic and technical issues, programme management, monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with the EU/UN. Coordination was enhanced by the establishment of CSO Secretariats in the five LSI counties.

Through LSI, 2019 quantitative and qualitative data on VAWG indicated gaps and opportunities for the program. Regular monthly and quarterly data reports on SGBV through the national GBV-IMS led by MGCSP were enhanced through coordinated collaboration and training among national stakeholders. The prevalence study undertaken through LSI confirmed that FGM is practiced in 11 of the 15 counties and rape remains prevalent in Lofa (46%) and Nimba (42.5%). Most respondents (88.3% in Montserrado, 81.3% in Grand Cape Mount and 81.3% in Grand Gedeh disagreed with the statement that a woman being forced to have sex with her husband constitutes rape.

In the spirit of Delivering as One, LSI piloted innovative operational and programmatic collaboration across outcomes and between UN agencies that demonstrated that despite initial hesitation, gradual consensus was built to enhance implementation, advocacy, sensitization and communication targeting the same beneficiaries and locations. Examples include joint implementation of activities to ensure synergy. For instance, the training on legislation was also used to train participants on sexual assault and protection for adolescent youth, especially girls, and was also provided for the other pillars to bring technical synergy. Operational collaboration was displayed through joint field trips by recipient UN organizations (RUNOs) with government (minimizing transport needs, cost and number of visits). Examples of preventing duplication of procurement processes include that consultants hired by one RUNO were used by other agencies for similar assignments, and monthly planning of activities by RUNOs to identify opportunities for synergy and prevent duplication. For the **first time, LSI Programme Management and Coordination is co-located in one office, which allows for closer programme planning and implementation** for coherence and to promote Delivering as One, sharing the operational cost of all services. **This is in contrast to other joint programmes** where programme officers sit with their parent organizations.

Programme Partnerships

Government

LSI benefited from the strong partnerships between the government and the various RUNOs and the EU. To reinforce a rights-based approach in laws, policies and regulatory frameworks and align them with international standards, LSI strengthened partnerships with the Law Reform Commission, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and Legislative Drafting Bureau personnel. These partnerships focused on strengthening capacities to design and implement interventions, and rights-based approaches in bill drafting and advocacy.

To underscore the institutionalization and sustainability of GRPB, partnerships were also strengthened with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP), MGCSP and MoJ. In addition, the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (a CSO) collaborated with MoFDP to strengthen the capacities of CSOs, women's rights organizations and legislators in GRPB. Partnership with MGCSP was enhanced to **strengthen coordination and monitoring with government entities**. This was reinforced by strengthening collaboration between NACCEL, MIA and MGCSP, which together monitor and oversee cultural practices, especially FGM, in Liberia.

Civil Society

LSI in Liberia has established a number of partnerships with seven CSOs, and has engaged in a new way of working by undertaking extensive civil society mapping, engaging civil society in programme implementation, and through the national civil society reference group which serves as an advisory and accountability body to the programme. CSOs implement 45% of the LSI budget. CSOs' capacities were enhanced on strategic and technical issues, programme management, monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with the EU/UN. Coordination was enhanced by the establishment of CSO Secretariats in the five LSI counties. Following reports that CSOs had challenges applying for proposals, the RUNOs organized open days to explain and train CSOs. Similarly, the Resident Coordinator met with international non-governmental organizations as requested and facilitated closer collaboration with national CSOs in implementation of programme

activities, particularly in thematic areas where national CSO capacity was limited, such as response activities with Safe Homes, OSCs and shelters for survivors and at-risk women and girls.

Accordingly, the UN has partnered with CSOs to implement several LSI interventions. For instance, civil society has been engaged in planning with government entities to facilitate economic empowerment interventions for traditional practitioners¹¹, simplify and translate the CPS for rollout to communities and promote gender-sensitive reporting¹² on the causes and consequences of SGBV. Support to Safe Homes and OSCs was outsourced to CSOs under the guidance of government ministries. This has helped address the challenge of national government absorptive capacity and the remoteness of these county service centers, and empowered local communities and authorities to provide services to survivors swiftly. In addition, partnership with a women's rights group was facilitated to strengthen the capacities of several CSOs to develop costed action plans with concrete actions aimed at eliminating SGBV and HTPs and promoting SRHRs.

A key benchmark was the **extensive mapping of 779 CSOs, done to identify CSO networks and improve their coordination, collaboration, reporting and working together with relevant local authorities in LSI target counties.** This will inform the current **UN reform process to increase partnerships with CSOs** in order to take interventions to inaccessible communities because of weak government capacity and lack of basic services, including SGBV services, in the counties.

The CSO national reference group has also been crucial in raising concerns and gaps in collaboration with the government and EU/UN, which has led to corrective actions such as information-sharing and stricter joint planning and monitoring of LSI interventions. Without LSI, UN coherence and collaboration to partner with and involve CSOs beyond just implementation to include them as partners at the technical programme and management levels would not be possible. Nonetheless, limited CSO capacity and coordination remains a challenge, particularly because it is a developing sector. The UN will address this in 2020 through capacity development initiatives including the use a single recruitment portal in 2020.

¹¹ With traditional actors, identified different alternative livelihood interventions to be provided include enhancing beneficiaries' business development, and literacy and skills trainings for traditional practitioners; community awareness on FGM; and small grants for economic empowerment – village savings and loan agreements.

¹² Developing jingles, messages, and skits on GBV-related issues; engaging media managers for their support in SGBV-related media activities.

Inter-agency Collaboration

In the spirit of Delivering as One under the UN reforms, LSI has piloted innovative operational and programmatic collaboration across outcomes and between UN agencies, demonstrating enhanced implementation, advocacy and sensitization, and laying a strong foundation for EVAWG in Liberia. As the first UN programme in line with the reform, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, inter-agency partnership among RUNOs to align with the UN reform process has required time and planning to demonstrate coherence in coordination and technical synergy, especially to jointly plan and implement, and bring all actions into one activity.

Under the services pillar, collaboration on case management, protection of survivors and access to justice was strengthened between agencies and different government entities such as MoJ and MGCSP. In addition, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, RUNOs recognized potential cost saving actions through joint implementation and sharing of budgets. For example, improving DNA forensic support to SGBV survivors – a necessity to enable prosecuting cases – was initially planned with partial and segregated actions under different RUNOs but with guidance and consultations, RUNOs agreed on joint implementation. This encouraged the EU/UN to request similar collaboration on DNA forensic support from MoH, MoJ and John F. Kennedy Medical Center in using and maintaining the equipment and supplies provided.

European Union

LSI underscored close collaboration between the government, CSOs, the EU and UN. Collaboration with the EU Delegation in technical, programme and management discussions helped identify the value of building synergies, especially as the EU supports multiple programmes on SGBV with CSOs. This helped prevent duplication and strengthened synergy, information-sharing and joint targeted communication on SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs. The political advocacy with the government led by EU/UN leadership was also critical in making the programme gains possible.

For Liberia, collaboration with the EU delegation was inclusive and close, starting from the development of the programme at the technical and leadership levels. This has continued into implementation, with the EU a member of the pillar working group and technical and steering committees,

including the CSO national reference group. The EU/UN leadership has been strongly promoting and advocating for LSI. For example, the EU Ambassador, UN Resident Coordinator and Representatives of the RUNOs jointly met with the President to advocate and lobby for the approval of the LSI programme document and request high-level visibility and representation at the LSI launch. In addition, regular bilateral discussions were held between the EU/UN leadership on operational and programmatic progress and delays in implementation to provide guidance to the RUNOs.

Results

Overarching Narrative: Capturing Broader Transformation

LSI has contributed to the elevated political positioning of VAWG in Liberia with strategic political will and commitment. For example, during the launch, strong political statements from state and key non-state actors including traditional leaders were made, positioning VAWG issues in Liberia. During the Launch, the Vice President stated that, “the expired Executive Order 92 on FGM will be extended... and the Domestic Violence Bill will be passed”. On behalf of the community, Chief Zanzan Karwar, the Chairman of NACCEL, expressed the full commitment of traditional elders to adopt positive changes in cultural and traditional practices and beliefs. Additionally, the President during his Third Annual Message delivered to the 54th National Legislature alluded to the gains made by Liberia, including **the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill, the CPS and all key interventions achieved under LSI.**

Given the gravity of VAWG in Liberia, a rights-based approach to protecting survivors has been a key focus, resulting in a comprehensive intervention with the government, CSOs and communities to increase awareness, understanding and claiming of rights. LSI interventions in Liberia have created **a platform to advocate for increasing voice, participation and representation of vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind – a key principle of Spotlight.** For example, **for the first time albinos, disabled people and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexual and queer persons (LGBTIQs) were represented in LSI SGBV interventions.**

LSI has also resulted in **greater multisectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration among government entities** to implement actions on the ground through LSI. As a result of the strengthened abilities of justice and security actors such as WACPS, the judiciary and the SGBV Crimes Unit to improve institutional capacities, coordination and implementation of

prevention and response services, a **new approach to joint planning and implementation for government, CSO and UN actors to maximize outcomes and minimize costs, and identify gaps and areas for improvement, was introduced**. UN agencies further strengthened coherence by conducting joint trainings and activities.

LSI has also for **the first time focused and increased awareness on existing and new legislation**, and commitment to creating an enabling legislative and policy framework on EAWG. This was done through the **passage, publication and dissemination of the Domestic Violence Act (adopted in August 2019)**, Rape Law and Inheritance Act at national and county levels, as well as drafting of an FGM bill and a commitment from the private sector on creating an enabling policy environment for EAWG. An assessment of private sector prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) indicated there was no regulatory framework or policy and abuse was widespread, underscored by lack of knowledge about rights and duties. The private sector described PSEA as a new phenomenon and committed to developing a policy.

LSI has also resulted in **increased commitment to EAWG through increased resource allocation** following consistent and continuous advocacy on GRPB. The government **for the first-time allocated resources** for the 2019/20 fiscal year to mainstream, sustain and institutionalize GRPB. Pilot interventions in MoFDP, MGCSP and MoJ strengthened capacities on GRPB.

Spotlight is contributing to **strengthened community engagement, commitment and coordinated action in the prevention of VAWG in Liberia**. Spotlight ensured the development of a CPS with an action plan that has become the key tool informing all prevention actions across the six outcome areas at individual, family, community and institutional levels.

Continuous collaboration with MIA and NACCEL resulted in signing of the Seven-Count Policy. However, monitoring has proven difficult, with communities still reporting noncompliance. To strengthen collaboration with NACCEL, alternative actions were taken to discourage HTPs, including creating Heritage and Vocational Centers, taking an inventory of traditional practitioners (zoes) and identifying alternative economic activities for them.

Efforts were made to engage with both duty bearers and right holders, using campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism. Those engaged included adolescent boys and girls, and existing community-based structures (GBV Observatories, Child Welfare Committees). The aim was to reinforce information-sharing and understanding of the effects of SGBV/HTPs and SRHRs on women and girls; raise awareness of gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors;

raise self-confidence and self-esteem; and transform harmful masculinities.

LSI has resulted in **integrated multisectoral response services in conjunction with ongoing SGBV and rule of law joint programmes to ensure cross-fertilization and coherence**. The outcome interventions indicated huge gaps in government capacity to respond swiftly, which has been mitigated by involving CSOs in implementation and facilitation. For the first time, community and national dialogs on comprehensive services – involving justice, security, health, education and gender stakeholders, and including county-level non-formal stakeholders such as CSOs, community elders and chiefs, youth and women’s groups, and disabled and marginalized groups – focused on gender-equitable norms and prevention to lessen the burden on response services.

Breaking down social norms and identifying gaps is extremely difficult without accurate and real-time data, especially as LSI aims to change practices that are secretive and harmful. LSI support under the data outcome laid the foundation for a coordinated national data management system, including analysis within the government and making available data on VAWG prevalence. This included coordinating on information-sharing and one data system with key government partners in MoJ, MoH and MGCSP, which has been very difficult. To address this challenge, all stakeholders were encouraged to use the GBV-IMS information-sharing protocol, which requires all GBV service providers to submit all reports under one coordinating body (MGCSP). It is now a norm to publish the quarterly GBV-IMS data and share it with all SGBV stakeholders, with the intention to share this data nationally in 2020. A prevalence study helped develop baselines which showed the need for a systematic and coordinated approach on data collection, analysis and reporting.

LSI has also contributed to strengthened civil society engagement during the reporting period as a result of nationwide mapping and development of innovative civil society secretariats in LSI counties. Accordingly, **some 779 CSOs were mapped (and a database created)** to identify existing strengths, gaps and capacities. This mapping is a critical tool that has informed actions to improve communication and coordination on monitoring and implementation of LSI actions. **Five CSO Secretariats were established in the LSI counties for advocacy, reporting and response on SGBV and HTP incidents and SRHRs**. These Secretariats have improved communication and information-sharing by CSOs across the five LSI counties. The group is also sharing information through social media, including WhatsApp, which has improved coordination with government survivor response services, referrals and follow-ups in collaboration with security, health, gender and county authorities.

Capturing Change at Outcome Level

Outcome 1: Legal and Policy Framework

The legislative environment has become increasingly favorable to supporting actions to end VAWG. This was clearly demonstrated by the passage of the Domestic Violence Act in August 2019 and drafting of the FGM bill in Liberia. The Act is an important instrument to deliver justice, filling a significant gap. It allows LSI to determine the rights and responsibilities of individuals and authorities and sensitize them about their rights. It is cardinal to note that the **Domestic Violence Act** is a milestone for gender equality in Liberia and strives to address dowry-related violence; harassment; offenses against the family; and emotional, physical, psychological and verbal abuse. It serves as an advocacy and awareness-raising tool to promote women's and girls' rights in Liberia. The Act further imposes preventive or corrective measures that must be ordered by a judge and that seek to guarantee immediate and effective protection for victims, including women and girls found to be at imminent risk.

To achieve this, LSI contributed by embarking on a number of activities, including a training of trainers for stakeholders including 23 officials (11 females and 12 males) from the Law Reform Commission, Legislative Drafting Bureau and CSOs, among others, on integrating a human rights-based approach to legislative reform with a focus on laws relating to women and girls. The training materials and messages were further translated into clear and succinct messages to help educate and sensitize duty bearers and rights holders. Information-sharing and outreach sessions led to increased knowledge among participants. The outreach events engaged over 123 members (94 women and 105 men) of 18 communities in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Nimba Counties. These outreach consultations **were the first of their kind ever conducted in Liberia** that provided community members with a unique forum to exchange information, clarify understanding and most importantly identify gaps in the laws, while at the same time collating proposals for amendment and/or drafting of laws relating to women and girls. All actions were performed jointly with different government, CSO and UN entities.

In addition, LSI strengthened the capacities of 40 Independent National Human Rights Commission field officers, five national-level staff and CSOs on

a methodological framework for investigations, documentation and reporting on allegations of human rights violations related to SRHRs and SGBV/HTPs. As a result, these officials have broader understanding of human rights standards and are now better able to monitor and report issues related to SRHRs.

During this reporting period, an FGM bill was drafted through an inclusive process, bringing on **board unconventional partners – like CSOs and NACCEL – who play a very influential role in social and cultural practices such as FGM**. The draft FGM bill needs to garner substantial political commitment from political leaders, local constituencies and community leaders, including the community chiefs, paramount chiefs and elders who hold immense power and influence in the practice and upholding of social and cultural values and beliefs. However, given the context of Liberia, accelerating the passage of the bill into law will afford women and girls the opportunity to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health while at the same time advocating for their rights and holding duty bearers accountable for violations.

Through LSI, an assessment was conducted on private sector compliance with PSEA in five counties. It is noteworthy that the evaluation showed that the private sector has no PSEA policy or engagement with senior management on the subject. The assessment resulted in an agreement for the drafting of a **PSEA regulatory framework for the sector**. **The framework will** adhere to international human rights norms and standards, and will be critical in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse in the private sector.

Outcome 2: Institutions

During the reporting period, LSI facilitated **solid partnerships and coordination mechanisms between line ministries, CSOs, local authorities and communities to prevent and respond to SGBV and HTPs** and promote SRHRs, leading to effective and timely redress of VAWG. LSI has also contributed to more gender-responsive sectors (MoFDP, MGCSP, MoJ and security) through improved integration of GBV in action plans, investigation of cases and resource allocation on GBV.

This was achieved through various initiatives. Accordingly, the capacities of eight national CSOs and three national security institutions – the Liberia National Police, Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency and Ministry of National Defense – to develop institutional strategies and costed action plans were

strengthened. Some 41 criminal justice chain actors (24 females and 17 males) such as SGBV prosecutors, nurses, Liberia National Police/WACPS Officers, social workers, CSOs, County Attorneys and traditional leaders **are now better able to respond and are more accountable because their capacities to handle SGBV cases were strengthened.** This has been evident through improved performance in both **crime scene investigation and monitoring reported cases** through to prosecution. Stakeholders' capacities to support the prosecution of SGBV crimes and HTP cases in Liberia as well as to prevent SRHR violations, including documentation of those cases at the county level in a well-coordinated manner, have been strengthened. Results from the interventions show that actors are able to identify gaps and challenges within their respective institutions that had been hindering coordination, reporting, investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases.

In the five LSI counties, the prevention and response capacities of 110 security and justice actors and other decision makers – including CSO representatives, legislators, WACPS officers, County Superintendents, traditional and religious council chiefs and elders, men, women, youth and students – were strengthened. To reinforce county-level multi-stakeholder SGBV coordination mechanisms, reporting and prosecution, five two-day regional capacity development events were organized for 85 male and 82 female criminal justice actors, gender officers, health workers and CSO representatives from the five LSI counties. Finally, 387 people (158 males and 229 females) including government, CSOs, media, youth and vulnerable groups, participated in a **national colloquium on prevention and response**, as reported in Annex D.

In addition, LSI has strengthened the capacity of MoFDP, MGCSP and MoJ in the institutionalization of GBV programmes in these sectors, including resource allocation for the first time. This was achieved by establishing GRPB units in these sectors which will be coordinating, planning and monitoring GRPB for the sustainability of gender interventions. GRPB is a new concept embedded in the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and the government has established a national GRPB coordination unit in the Department of Budget because GRPB was recognized as pertinent to sustain development efforts for gender mainstreaming. However, the unit has limited capacity and resources, which will be important to address.

To increase advocacy and knowledge on GRPB, 40 **CSOs' capacities were enhanced on gender, budget planning and monitoring of resource expenditures to promote and advocate for GRPB.** This included monitoring and examining government budgets and plans to ensure gender equality, inclusiveness and GRPB, and advocating for change given that in the current

US\$526 million budget (2019/20) there is no GRPB allocation. However, in 2019 the government agreed to allocate US\$70,000 for GRPB piloting. In addition, 40 legislators (six female and 34 male) were identified to be educated, informed and sensitized about GRPB. They developed a costed action plan as part of the event, which aimed to build critical knowledge in legislators responsible for deliberating and approving the annual national budget, **underscoring the need for them to examine and promote GRPB as a key component of national development sustainability.**

Outcome 3: Prevention and Norm Change

During the reporting period, **LSI has made considerable gains in community engagement and strengthened commitment from all stakeholders to prevent VAWG and HTPs in Liberia.** This was achieved through the development and adoption of the CPS, mobilization of over 11,500 community members (including women, men, boys, girls, traditional leaders and teachers), an inventory of traditional groves and zoes, reaching 822 traditional practitioners, and setting up of Heritage and Vocational Centers critical for ending FGM.

The **CPS¹³ and its action plan** were developed, validated and endorsed by the GoL, CSOs and GBV stakeholders **for the first time.** The CPS aims to change the current sociocultural acceptability of domestic violence, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and FGM, including for groups facing intersecting forms of violence, such as sexual minorities and the disabled. The **CPS focuses on a holistic approach incorporating all six outcomes at individual, community, institutional and society levels, underlining prevention as key to ending violence, instead of the current practice of reacting to individual incidents.** Targeted prevention actions will reduce costs, enhance the efficacy of overburdened and under-resourced government SGBV survivor response services and bring in new partners such as the community and CSOs. The CPS will be implemented in 2020, supported with a comprehensive communication for development strategy, which will be accompanied by an operational plan, budget and monitoring and evaluation plan.

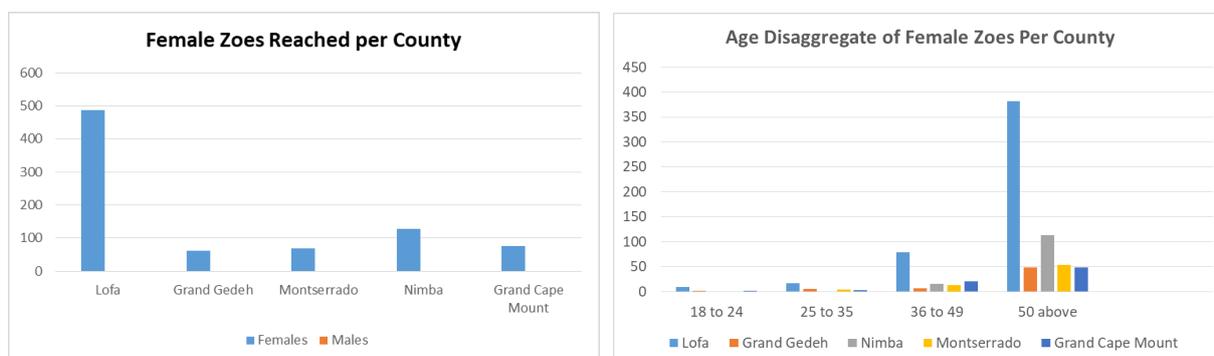
Some 1,033 stakeholders (mostly women) have a new commitment to raising awareness about addressing and preventing VAWG following several dialogs and sensitization sessions. This was done to buttress their commitment to end VAWG, especially ending FGM. As a result, the **Seven-Count Policy** was

¹³ Attached in the documents folder.

adopted¹⁴. The Seven-Count Policy statement aims to address certain aspects of the Sande society (traditional women’s bush school), often considered by human rights organizations as a ‘harmful tradition’. The policy was signed in June 2019, **suspending all Sande interventions including FGM**, which will ensure practitioners focus more on the positive aspects of culture and put a stop to negative ones such as FGM.

To support monitoring of the Policy, an extensive and comprehensive inventory of traditional groves and zoes¹⁵ was conducted in 28 administrative and statutory districts in the five LSI counties. The inventory targeted 320 traditional practitioners and zoes but 822 were ultimately reached¹⁶.

Figures 1 and 2 present a breakdown of the zoes and practitioners reached by number/age per county.



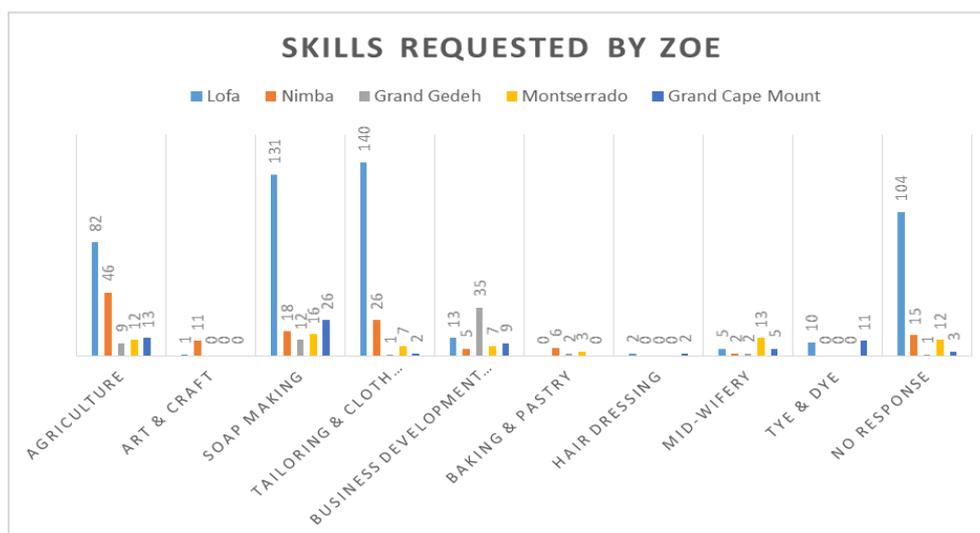
One of the breakthrough prevention outcomes was **identifying sites for four Heritage and Vocational Centers** that will provide alternative economic and livelihood activities and training for former zoes. Four 35-acre locations were identified under the leadership of community chiefs and elders, led by NACCEL and MIA. Construction will begin in 2020 in four LSI counties (excluding Montserrado). The Centers will be **used to promote positive traditional practices** alongside alternative livelihood skills trainings. They will be managed and maintained by community zoes. The inventory was used to identify alternative livelihoods for zoes as motivation to stop practicing FGM, which is currently their main source of income. Nine alternative livelihood skills were requested (see figure 3).

14 Reports on the reinforcement of this Policy in communities have been documented (link: <http://frontpageafricaonline.com/county-news/liberia-several-sande-zoes-arrested-in-nimba-for-defying-traditional-council/>).

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

16 The project initially targeted 320 zoes and female practitioners but instead reached a total of 822. Nimba County targeted 100, but reached 134; Lofa, targeted 100 but reached 500; Montserrado targeted 50 but reached 65; Grand Gedeh targeted 50 but reached 62; and Grand Cape Mount targeted 20 and reached 75.

The 16 Days of Activism conducted 25 November–10 December 2019 and use of existing community structures (Child Welfare Committees, GBV Observatories and the Liberian Children’s Forum) led to **increased community awareness and knowledge about social norms, gender equality, education on sexuality and reproduction, and the transformation of harmful masculinities**. For example, **8,895 children (5,338 boys and 3,557 girls) were reached** through interventions aimed at increasing community dialogs, and information and awareness-raising sessions in and around schools. The Ministry of Education conducted six days of training in which 12 master trainers were trained in comprehensive sexuality education. These master trainers then facilitated three regional trainings benefiting 750 teachers. Other Campaign activities included daily outreach and awareness activities held in targeted communities to deliver preventive messages on SGBV and the referral pathway to report incidents of SGBV and HTPs.



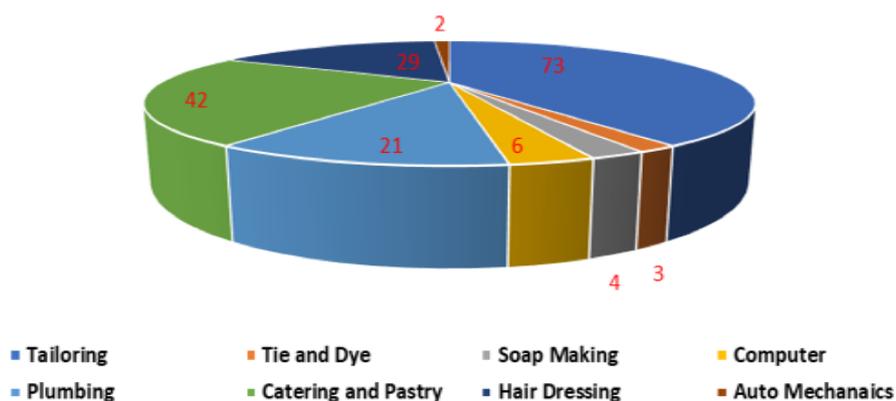
Outcome 4: Quality Services

LSI has played a critical role in making available quality and comprehensive services to women and girl survivors of violence during the reporting period. This was achieved through strengthened MoH operational capacity, setting up and refurbishment of OSCs and shelters, and revising the integrated comprehensive service package and its operating procedures, among others. Accordingly, **over 6,231 women and girls accessed quality and essential services during the reporting period. Of these, over 3,369 were provided with SRHR services.**

MoH capacity to deliver quality and essential services was strengthened through the procurement of medical supplies and equipment, benefiting 1,534 people, the majority being survivors and at-risk groups, in the LSI counties. Some 32 women and girls (two were rape survivors) benefited from fistula repair surgeries. Following assessment of the only DNA machine in Liberia, technical expertise was provided to identify the actions needed to make it functional, to aid prosecution of SGBV crimes. It will be operational in 2020.

Six OSCs and two Safe Homes were refurbished and services like clinical examination, treatment, preparation of medical reports, psychosocial support and temporary safe shelters were provided to survivors in four counties. In addition, 75 SGBV response actors received transportation and communication support to enable timely response. LSI enabled 2,300 survivors to access medical and counseling services from the six OSCs, often multiple times. The Safe Homes provided services to 41 survivors and 32 new cases who were kept there to access services, and 32 survivors from the Safe Homes have been reintegrated back into society.

Most of the 262 victims and witnesses of sexual violence reported by the SGBV Crimes Unit **accessed justice and psychosocial support**. Of these, 79 rape cases involving girl victims were indicted, 45 of those were prosecuted, and legal representation for 87 witnesses of rape was supported. Some 180 adolescent girls – 20 victims/survivors of SGBV (who also received case management services) and 160 at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation – were identified to receive long-term sustainable socioeconomic/vocational skills training. Trainings in financial literacy and small business management were also given (see figure 4).



A maternal waiting home was refurbished and market booths constructed to provide counseling, referrals and family planning services in Lofa and Nimba Counties, with 2,983¹⁷ youth and adults benefiting. A medical mobile

¹⁷ Some 457 boys, 1,156 girls, 579 men and 791 women were reached.

outreach service targeting youth and adolescents reached 376¹⁸ persons in Grand Cape Mount County. A baseline response service assessment in LSI counties determined capacity and readiness to provide integrated services (see figure 5). Fifteen schools and 27 health facilities were assessed.

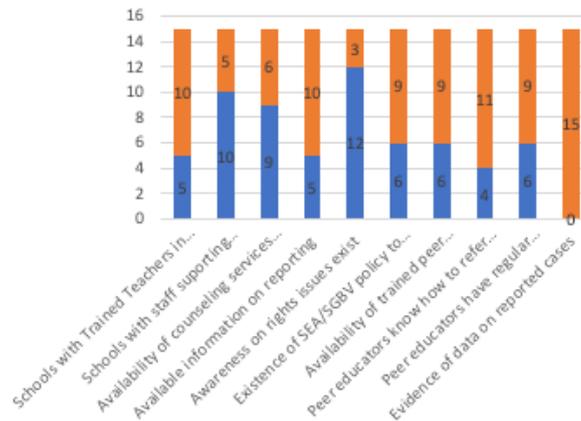


Figure 5: Essential standards of SRHR/SGBV activities in schools

Three¹⁹ county health team service providers' capacities in integrated comprehensive service provision were strengthened. Sixty WACPS frontline officers received specialized SGBV response training. Capacities in proper case file building and management; timely response; investigating cases reported for accurate evidence collection; confidence when testifying in court; accurate statement and report writing; and interview techniques were enhanced. In 2019, WACPS successfully investigated and sent to court for prosecution over 25 SGBV cases.

A mapping of Peace Huts²⁰ was initiated to support survivors to access justice, especially in remote communities. Led by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, 10 two-bedroom shelters were constructed for refugee female-headed households, survivors and at-risk women in Nimba County.

To rehabilitate perpetrators, MoJ, supported by a CSO, trained 52 prisoners (four females, 48 males) in Monrovia Central Prison in life skills. A new Coping Center was constructed in Nimba Prison Compound, where 75% of the inmates²¹ were reported as repeat SGBV offenders because they could not find gainful employment.

¹⁸ In total, 289 females and 87 males reached.

¹⁹ Lofa, Nimba and Grand Cape Mount.

²⁰ Peace Huts have been a successful intervention to support peacebuilding and reconciliation. LSI will explore ways to use this lesson to support eradication of violence, especially in remote and inaccessible communities.

²¹ Liberia National Police reports show that most men revert to crime on release and rehabilitation training or courses are not available.

Outcome 5: Data

During the reporting period one of the main outcomes on data was the publication of national (all 15 counties) **quarterly reports generated by the national GBV-IMS²²**, despite limited capacity and gaps in collection at county level. The reports are circulated regularly with key SGBV government, CSO and development partners to inform and identify gaps on VAWG, particularly for LSI programme planning. Data is presented to the steering committee to track progress and advocate for stronger coordination between MoJ, MoH and MGCSP. LSI contributed to strengthening the ability of national actors to collect and analyze data on VAWG and HTPs in line with international and regional standards. This initiative and many others informed the National Domestic Violence Policy. LSI also supported the procurement of an online GBV-IMS data server within MGCSP to facilitate data quality and availability.

Data collection and evidence analysis and reporting on SGBV/HTPs and SRHR violations is difficult because of the lack of updated and uniform data and information and different sources of information from MGCSP, MoJ and MoH. LSI, in conjunction with other UN agencies, supported strengthening of the **online GBV-IMS with MGCSP**, to ensure effective and safe collection, storage, analysis and ethical sharing of GBV data.

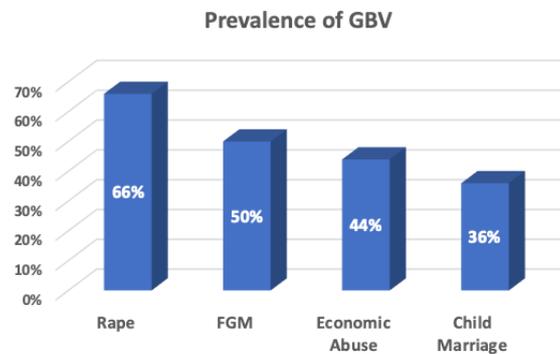
In collaboration with the World Bank, LSI trained government and UN staff on Open Data Kit geographic information system-enabled software to map GBV services available in Nimba County. This is critical to allow for real-time data so survivors and at-risk groups can access services. This is expected to be online in 2020.

LSI also made available quality data on SGBV and HTPs, which will be critical to inform policies and programmes. An SGBV prevalence study conducted through LSI in December 2019 provided critical findings and confirmed that the practice of FGM is widespread: 11 of the 15 counties and 13 of the 16 tribes in the country practice it. Liberia Demographic and Health Survey 2008 data showed FGM prevalence to be 50% and child marriage 36%.

In addition, the prevalence study indicated that incidents of rape are more common in Lofa (46%) and Nimba (42.5%) Counties. Economic abuse is common in Grand Gedeh at 44% and Montserrado at 34.4%. Most respondents (88.3% in Montserrado, 81.3% in Grand Cape Mount and 81.3% in Grand Gedeh) disagreed with the statement that a woman being forced to have sex

²² The GBV-IMS is the national online data system established to collect, analyze and report on SGBV/HTPs/SRHRs and is managed by MGCSP.

with her husband constitutes rape. Only 19% of the 1,739 respondents in the study were aware that rape within marriage is illegal. These findings will be used to measure LSI achievements over time.



In order to align with international human rights standards, the UN supported MGCSP to revise the confidentiality guidelines for GBV-IMS tools through regional consultative working sessions on information-sharing protocols to help illustrate trends in reported incidents, highlight gaps, and strengthen advocacy for improved programming. This is particularly critical for the purposes of standardizing GBV data, quality and collection across GBV service providers to facilitate multisectoral actions aimed at preventing GBV, and to ensure the provision of accessible, timely and survivor-centered GBV response services. Furthermore, technical expertise and equipment (servers, laptops, etc.) were provided to generate real-time and functioning data.

Using the GBV-IMS data for 2019, reports from MGCSP indicate an increase of 538 SGBV cases from the 2018 report. There were 2,105 GBV incidents reported in 2018, which increased to 2,643 incidents in 2019. Rape cases remain the highest category of SGBV incidents. A total of 1,345 rape cases were reported in 2018 and 1,803 in 2019, an increase of 458. More disturbing is that 77% of survivors are girls under 18 years of age. A total of 84 perpetrators were convicted in 2019, compared with 13 in 2018. The number of cases settled or resolved outside of court also increased, from 116 in 2018 to 178 in 2019. However, further analysis is needed on how such cases are resolved. Some 2,143 survivors received medical care in 2019, compared with 1,493 in 2018.

Outcome 6: Women's Movement

During the reporting period, Spotlight has **strengthened partnership and collaboration with CSOs and CBOs through countywide mapping, development of innovative civil society secretariats and support** to the implementation of interventions, particularly to support limited government capacities in the counties in prevention and response activities such as advocacy, sensitization, awareness-raising, construction and service delivery in all six pillars. LSI has allowed for **increased collaboration, particularly building cooperation between the government and national CSOs** as a critical partner to end VAWG.

In particular, LSI has helped **strengthen capacities and coordination** of CSOs, women's rights groups and CBOs in the design and implementation of VAWG programmes and in joint advocacy in Liberia. This was achieved through an extensive mapping of **over 770 CBOs and CSOs, the first of its kind, and capacity-building of over 350 representatives of CSOs.**

To enhance partnerships and collaboration among CSOs and networks, 779 CBOs and CSOs in the five LSI target counties (including 45 networks/coalitions, 11 groups of people with disabilities, one albino group and 13 LGBTIQ groups) were identified and mapped (see Table 1).²³

Overall, civil society in Liberia consists of over 1,500 formal organizations registered under the umbrella of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, and countless informal organizations. The mapping and capacity-building of CSOs indicated that the CSOs were confronted with numerous challenges, including limited capacities to plan, implement, monitor, report and advocate on SGBV/HTP and SRHR issues at national and county level. CSOs were also fragmented, which made it difficult for the sector to build collaboration and partnership and is a major deterrent toward achieving the common goal of ending SGBV/HTPs and promoting SRHRs.

In order to build a strong and empowered civil society and autonomous women's movement that can effectively advocate on the issue of VAWG on the national and international agendas as well as being instrumental in driving legislative and policy change, a mapping of CSOs and networks in Liberia was imperative. Following this mapping, selected CSOs in the five LSI counties were capacitated in various areas where gaps were identified. The exercise was the first of its kind to bring all CSOs in this sector under an umbrella programme and strengthen their capacities.

²³ CSO mapping report attached.

The mapping of CSOs provided information on location as well as thematic and organizational setup. This enabled the programme to identify CSOs that can be strategic and creates the ability to direct resources to areas where they are most needed.

These CSOs were later organized in networks and clusters to ensure that issues of fragmentation are resolved and that CSOs can jointly advocate for EAWG, make recommendations and jointly monitor government policies on EAWG. Furthermore, CSO Secretariats have been set up in the five LSI counties. This has improved communication and information-sharing by CSOs across the five LSI counties and improved response to SGBV/HTP cases through timely referral and follow-ups in those counties. Overall, all these efforts have led to improved relationships both between the government and CSOs and among CSOs in a more coordinated and collaborative manner.

Table 1: Summary of CSO mapping in LSI counties

County	CBOs/ CSOs	Networks/ coalitions	Disabled	HIV -affected	Albino group	LGBTIQ groups	Disadvantaged youth
Cape Mount	54	4	2	1	0	2	0
Montserrado	508	23	3	3	1	5	5
Lofa	58	8	3	1	0	2	0
Nimba	58	4	2	1	0	2	1
Grand Gedeh	101	5	1	1	0	2	1
Total	779	45	11	7	1	13	7

In addition, some 392 CSOs and women's rights groups' representatives from 30 CSOs **have strengthened capacities to advocate and promote actions to end VAWG following capacity-building they received during the reporting year.** Findings from the training show an average increase in relevant knowledge of 30%.²⁴ These capacities were enhanced by training and building capacity in communications, advocacy, organizational strengthening, proposal development, leadership, GBV awareness, networking and collaboration, and conflict management, as indicated in the report.

Some 63 women's rights groups, 15 youth groups and 12 marginalized groups had their capacities to design, implement and monitor programmes on SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs enhanced through training/workshops. These entities are

²⁴ Capacity training report attached.

now better able to design, implement and monitor programmes on VAWG and on women's and girls' SRHRs.

A total of 17 activities across the five pillars were implemented by seven CSOs in partnership with the RUNOs. These activities including facilitation, construction, training and drafting of strategies and policies as outlined in Annex C.

Beneficiaries.

The figures reported are based on the total targeted direct and indirect (planned) beneficiaries for the entire LSI implementation period as outlined in the country programme document. **Note:** the beneficiaries recorded (direct and indirect actual) are those reached in the six-month implementation period for Liberia.

Indicative numbers	Direct (targeted)	Indirect (targeted)	Direct (actual) consolidated	Indirect (actual) consolidated	Comments/justifications
Women (18 yrs. and above)	333,449	396,783	10,422	21,346	Direct: Includes survivors who received medical care, accessed multisectoral services like counseling, referrals, fistula campaigns, family planning and survivor responses, access to justice, economic empowerment, and support to alternative livelihood options, etc. Accessed OSCs + trained fistula repairs + life skills programme, survivors reunified with family, assorted family planning commodities. Indirect: Includes women reached through awareness-raising engagement, which included community outreach, distribution of flyers and other related activities held in four counties.
Girls (5-17)	353,926	478,268	18,716	49,616	Direct: Includes survivors who received medical care, access to multisectoral services like counseling, referrals, fistula campaigns, family planning and survivor responses, access to justice and economic empowerment, etc. Girls indirectly reached during this period were through public awareness, street theater performances and radio programmes. Indirect: 11, 212 reached. ²⁵
Men (18 yrs. and above)	58,748	674,462	6,311	22,450	Men reached during the period included traditional leaders, paramount chiefs, county inspectors, local authorities, etc. These beneficiaries were reached through consultative meetings and the inventory of zoes and traditional practitioners. Direct: Teachers trained in sexual education + 48 benefited from life skills programmes. Men benefited from assorted family planning commodities. Indirect: Assuming siblings of each family (1 × 4 siblings were indirectly reached (reference the national household population index of 5 children to a family). Also, assuming a pair of parents of each child (2x) indirectly benefited. Total direct actual was those engaged through trainings, meetings, conference/colloquium and capacity assessment at justice and security institutions. Men were directly targeted because in many cases they are the perpetrators of GBV. Therefore, the need arose to include them in order to increase their knowledge so they can serve as agents of change within their communities. They were directly reached through consultative meetings, working sessions and workshops. They include representatives from the Law Reform Commission, Legislature, CSOs, Independent National Commission on Human Rights and traditional leaders, among others. Men were indirectly reached through awareness-raising engagement which included community outreach, distribution of flyers and other related events held in four counties.
Boys	73,289	683,859	12186	49,120	Direct: The number of sodomy cases supported, and boys who benefited from assorted family planning commodities. Indirect: Boys were indirectly reached through awareness-raising engagement, which included community outreach activities, distribution of flyers, public awareness, street theater performances, radio programmes and other activities.
TOTAL	819,412	2,233,372	47,635	142,352	

²⁵ Reference the national household population index of five children to a family and both parents of each child (2x) indirectly benefitted. Therefore, four siblings of each of the 2,803 children (2,803 × 4 siblings = 11,212) were indirectly reached.

Challenges/Difficulties Encountered and Measures Taken

Challenges

Some of the challenges during the reporting period include limited coordination and government absorptive capacities at the county level, which created major challenges to implementation, sustainability and ownership of LSI. The government had competing priorities, which delayed feedback and resulted in implementation bottlenecks. However, constant engagement and technical support to government focal persons was conducted to ensure that implementation was done per the plan and on time. In addition, bad road conditions exacerbated by harsh weather during the rainy season made it difficult to access counties that are remote, leaving a limited seasonal window for implementation.

The capacity of County Gender Coordinators – who compile reported cases of SGBV in the county through the GBV-IMS, thus identifying girl survivors who could be recruited to activities – was low. To mitigate this challenge, data collectors at county level received training to enhance their capacities in data entry on SGBV cases. Limited availability of qualified local and international consultants was also a challenge for LSI.

The limited capacity of CSOs to apply for Calls for Proposals was also a challenge for LSI. Once the advertisements were announced, some had to be re-advertised or the deadline had to be extended due to the limited number of applications or proposals received because national CSOs felt that they did not have the required expertise to respond. To address this challenge, the UN carried out orientations for interested CSO partners on announced Call for Proposals to encourage more applications. In addition, to address these challenges through LSI, the RUNOs will use the UN Partnership Portal, which is a common platform to collectively identify and certify CSOs. It will have one template for all RUNOs, making it easy for CSOs to express interest online. This will be utilized in 2020.

There were also challenges related to civil society coordination which required extensive and inclusive planning and sharing of information to ensure proper coordination and mutual accountability at the start of the programme. This was time-consuming, resulting in extended timelines and re-advertising of requests for proposals. Limited CSO capacity remains a

challenge, particularly because it is a developing sector. Most Liberian CSOs and CBOs are located outside Monrovia and face major issues pertaining to transportation, communication and access. Coordination is a problem and sustainability of interventions post-LSI remains a concern.

Some mitigating measures that have been or will be taken

- At LSI coordination meetings and during the implementation of all activities, the importance of LSI and the benefits to women, girls and society as a whole were emphasized.
- Hold activities during the dry season in areas with bad road conditions.
- Building on lessons learned about the limited number of adolescent girls who are eligible for vocational training among victims/survivors, and challenges faced by county gender teams in following up with survivors and victims, the selection process will be reviewed.
- Stronger links will be created with the case management process managed by social workers, as well as MoJ Victim Assistance Officers and Case Liaison Officers.
- Constant reminders and follow-up with partners on actions and feedback.
- Re-advertise requests for proposals to recruit qualified consultants.
- Collaborate with other UN agencies and internal programmes to build synergies.
- To prevent unintended delays in implementation, partners agreed on a turnaround timeline to review and give feedback. RUNOs held open days for CSOs to share information on the proposals advertised and encourage them to apply.
- Outcome six provided training in proposal writing, design and application in the five LSI counties.
- Counseling and transportation services need to be provided to the families of survivors, who usually come from poor and vulnerable backgrounds, so they can pursue their legal cases. Long-term solutions such as relocating families should be considered as a viable option.

New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

LSI as the Demonstration Fund for UN Reform created opportunities for the UN to pilot joint programming using very different approaches compared with conventional joint programmes under the UN. LSI programme management and coordination co-located in one programme office to encourage cross-fertilization of ideas and closer working arrangements without UN agency boundaries, and prevent duplication. LSI had 75 activities for 2019 and each activity was discussed by the RUNOs in terms of how to improve synergy and efficacy, often requiring RUNOs to step out of mandate zones and recognize that, albeit with more time required, results were better and stronger as one programme addressing the complex issues around SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs.

In advancing relevant policy frameworks and action plans such as the CPS and the Seven-Count Policy suspending all Sande interventions including FGM, and passage of the Domestic Violence Act, it is important to mobilize political will and get buy-in from a wide range of stakeholders to inform the design and support the implementation and monitoring of programmes to ensure effective delivery as well as national ownership and sustainability of results. To this end, the programme will advance consultative and inclusive approaches in programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

Alternative economic support for female traditional zoes is a good approach to addressing and engaging in discussions on FGM in Liberia. In order to reach out to female traditional practitioners who fear that their culture will be eliminated, there is a need to engage them with alternative economic livelihood support and agriculture so that they embrace discussions on ending FGM practice.

For the families of survivors that are deeply affected, holistic care and protection from stigma, shame and intimidation is required. Further, flexible funding should be in place so that girls can continuously attend training sessions on VAWG and reporting mechanisms

As immediate barriers to survivors' attendance at support centers were encountered – such as physical accessibility for disabled survivors, and survivors' need to feed and care for their infant children – timely support was provided to ensure survivors' continuous attendance. **National actors, governments, traditional leaders, elders and communities need to be enabled to take practical and tangible actions toward changing social norms and addressing behavioral change.** This means empowering CSOs to

break existing social and cultural norms that are embedded in secret societies and fed by fear and intimidation when norms are not observed.

It is critical to work with local communities and authorities with enough time for due process to be followed. Local authorities are the most influential in ensuring that people adhere to laws and policies in the interest of promoting human rights and peace. Engagement with local authorities and direct beneficiaries at all levels of the project, including the implementation phase in the field, adds more value to the project while also enhancing use of a human rights-based approach with a focus on **leaving no one behind**.

Innovation and Promising or Good Practices

LSI has been instrumental in allowing for proper planning for a comprehensive approach to end violence, which required substantial time. However, even with the limited timeframe, the programme has produced some innovative and promising practices building on past lessons. These include the inventory of traditional practitioners to identify alternative economic livelihoods, coordination with joint security sector actors to practically plan response and prevention at the field level, the national colloquium on SGBV prevention and response, and the joint CSO mapping exercise. These activities must be done in conjunction to bring about a holistic approach in the sectors and work with all key actors at both national and local level. Three promising practices have been recorded in Annex D.

Alternative economic empowerment of traditional practitioners (*zoes*) who initiate young women and girls into adulthood, including by performing FGM, is a promising initiative aimed at achieving zero tolerance of FGM in Liberia. Traditional leaders recommended implementation of alternative economic activities as a way of addressing the ‘do no harm’ principle of LSI. Research shows that FGM is not only practiced as a cultural heritage but also for economic gain. It is against this backdrop that LSI seeks to **empower** practitioners with alternative sources of income that will systematically devalue the practice of FGM in the Sande Society. A simple rite of passage will also be developed by traditional leaders to ensure that girls are initiated into womanhood without having to undergo FGM. The launch of the economic empowerment intervention, held on 16 December 2019 in the Cultural Village in Tienne, Grand Cape Mount County, garnered support for alternative economic support for practitioners to debunk FGM.

Nationwide mapping of CSOs for coordinated and joint advocacy and response on EVAWG: Given the coordination and capacity challenges within

CSOs, collaboration with them has involved a steep learning curve, but a necessary one given weak government capacity combined with the need to work outside the limits of the capital city Monrovia to reach the unreached in LSI counties. The programme outcome on strengthening CSOs seeks to build the capacity of CSOs and women's rights groups as well as integrate them into coalitions and networks. This was achieved through a nationwide mapping of CSOs, CBOs and networks/coalitions, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, in which 779 CSOs and CBOs covering the five LSI counties were identified. These include, among others, 45 networks/ coalitions, 11 groups of people with disabilities, seven groups of people affected by HIV/AIDs, one albino group and 13 LGBTIQ groups in all the LSI counties.

Upon completion of the mapping, these CSOs were integrated into **thematic groups** with the sole purpose of building their capacity in various fields including advocacy, management, proposal writing, resource mobilization, report writing, etc. The initiative (mapping and capacity-building sessions) is the first in Liberia and started on 28 June 2019 and was completed on 20 August 2019. The exercise was the first of its kind to bring all CSOs in this sector under an umbrella programme and strengthen their capacities as a whole. The mapping of CSOs provides information on location as well as thematic and organizational setup. This enables the programme to identify CSOs that can be strategic and creates the ability to direct resources to areas where they are most needed. Importantly, CSOs have been vital to ensuring LSI leaves no one behind, as they work with the most marginalized and remote because of their presence in the counties.

Please see Annex D (attached).

Below is a summary of the key activities that will be implemented

- The CPS and its action plan will be simplified and rolled out to the five LSI counties.
- Following finalization of the CPS and action plan, capacity development actions on community awareness about social norms and behavior, and an attitudinal change communication strategy (using communication for development as a key approach/ process) on VAWG is planned and will be developed. This will include a monitoring and evaluation plan and a detailed implementation plan as well as capacity-building initiatives (training of trainers and county-level training, widely conducted for partners including religious and traditional leaders, CSOs, youth leaders, schools/parent-teacher associations and male networks) to facilitate the

rollout of the strategy in the five LSI counties.

- Heritage and Vocational Centers to be constructed and alternative economic livelihood skills-building to be done for zoes. Identify alternate rites of passage in consultation with NACCEL.
- Continue public awareness, information and knowledge-sharing programmes through the sensitizing of communities on existing laws and policies on SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs, and access to legal redress by survivors.
- A DNA forensic unit will be operationalized with training and equipment provided to the government.
- An integrated curriculum including specialized capacities on SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs will be developed for training of security sector stakeholders.
- GBV-IMS data will be made uniform on reporting, collection and publication at the national level.
- Another 16 women-headed household shelters will be constructed.
- RUNOs will have a joint UN Partnerships Portal to identify CSOs' expressions of interest for LSI under each outcome, replacing five different processes.
- CSOs will be further trained in coordination, advocacy and programme implementation on SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs.

Stories from the Field

Change Story 1: Transition from Circumcision to A Better Livelihood Opportunity Alternative Economic Livelihood Programme Transforms the Life of a Traditional Practitioner in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia – After 35 years of operating *Sande* bush schools and initiating young women and girls into adulthood, Yatta Fahnbulleh (65) from Grand Cape Mount, a county in north-western Liberia, finally decided to close the bush schools and use alternative means of survival. Mrs. Fahnbulleh, owner of one of the largest bush schools in Tienne, Grand Cape Mount County, initiated more than 200 women and girls into adulthood every year through a series of activities that included FGM, which is practiced in 11 out of 15 counties in Liberia. According to the World Health Organization, FGM is a harmful practice that involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is a violation of the basic right to achieve the best standards of health, including the right to sexual and reproductive health. In Liberia, an estimated 50% of women and girls aged between 15 and 49 have undergone FGM. FGM is not only practiced as a cultural heritage but also for economic gain.

In order to provide alternative sources of income to traditional practitioners, on 16 December 2019, UN Women in collaboration with other partners working under the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, launched alternative economic livelihood activities and held the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a Vocational and Heritage Center. The Center will train traditional practitioners who operate bush schools in alternative livelihoods so they can have a different source of income instead of FGM. The Spotlight Initiative is a project that seeks to eliminate all forms of VAWG. The provision of alternative means of livelihood was a welcome development for traditional practitioners like Mrs. Fahnbulleh, an influential custodian of culture and tradition and a very respectable person in the community and the county at large. She had this to say.

“The time has come for me to change after 35 years in the business of bush activities. Many people have asked me to leave bush business (FGM) but my question has always been, what will I do next at least to help my family? Now that you people have answered my question, I will join you to carry out more awareness on the Vocational and Heritage Center and the new livelihood project for us, the traditional zoes.”

The launch of the Vocational and Heritage Centers presents many opportunities for self-empowerment of traditional practitioners in Liberia, as they are set to benefit from training in climate-smart agriculture, business development, literacy, catering, soap-making and tailoring skills, among others. Mrs. Fahnbulleh added, “I feel good about the opportunity to learn and to earn regular income outside of the usual thing I have been doing for years. I see the new project as a good opportunity that all the traditional practitioners across Liberia should be proud to receive with both hands.”

During the launch, Mrs. Fahnbulleh got an opportunity to put her acquired skills into practice. “To serve as caterer, where everybody enjoyed the food I cooked and to receive payment, I consider this an initial life change leading toward greater ones, to learn and to get income from different activities away from FGM.”

Mrs. Fahnbulleh had constructed three-roomed apartments in order to accommodate more women and girls at her bush school. However, with the launch of the alternative economic livelihood program, she has now waived her rights to the piece of land and the bush school she controlled for 35 years so that a Vocational and Heritage Center can be constructed. Four Vocational and Heritage Centers are set to be constructed in Nimba, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado Counties in Liberia under the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative.

Impact Stories: Results from local CSOs’ capacity enhancement

Spotlight Project helps to address early marriage

A family in Baloma, Lofa County has abandoned plans to give their 16-year old daughter to a man in marriage following the intervention of the Yezebu CSO implementing activities of the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative. The decision was the result of a training and outreach awareness campaign conducted by the organization on child marriage, SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs. Sixteen-year-old Hawa was part of the training which highlighted the effects of early marriage. She was led to reveal her family’s plans, seeking Yezebu’s help. “I asked the team to explain to my family how they could also be affected if they married me out early,” Hawa said.

Following discussions between the parents and Yezebu about the consequences of child marriage, the family abandoned plans to go ahead

with the arrangement. Hawa is currently in school. One of the most common forms of violence affecting adolescent girls and young women in Lofa County is child marriage. Local CSOs working on SGBV and HTPs make efforts to help curtail this issue in many ways.

Yezebu often conducts awareness-raising activities to sensitize communities on the different forms of VAWG, including HTPs. Members engage local residents, informing them about the effects of child marriage and other types of VAWG, and encouraging changes in attitudes.

Imam acknowledges the rights of women and girls

Imam Alhaje Gabriel Saad openly admits that a training on SRHRs, SGBV and HTPs against women and girls has changed his mindset on the rights of this gender. The training was conducted through the CSO Aiding Disadvantaged Women and Girls in Tappita, Nimba County, under the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative being implemented by the UN in Liberia.

The imam of the Tappita Central Mosque is among several traditional leaders within society that hold on to strong gender norms and beliefs of unequal power, roles and responsibilities regarding women. “I used to overlook my daughters and give more rights and opportunities to my boys. The training has changed my understanding that both sons and daughters must have the same rights and opportunities,” Iman Saad noted. He also promised to spread the word on the rights of women and girls and the dangers of SGBV to other Muslims during their regular Friday prayers.

Testimonials

Change Story 2: Leaving no one behind

Jennifer Handshaw, Executive Director of the Liberia Lesbian and Gay Association, narrates her story below:

Culture and tradition as well as the constitution of Liberia forbid any sexual relationship except that which is naturally endowed between a man and his wife. This has made it difficult for almost all citizens in Liberia to come to the realization that those involved in other sexual practices (including lesbianism, homosexuality, bisexuality, etc.) are also human and that they too need to enjoy fundamental human rights and other constitutional rights. Due to the national mindset, discrimination and stigmatization, it has been quite difficult to have this group captured in many national data for public presentation; however, the Spotlight Initiative implemented by the Development Education Network–Liberia with support from UN Women and the EU is working to ‘show the other side of the coin’; that is, to ensure that the human rights of LGBTIQ people are respected. This was exemplified by the mapping process and the findings presented to more than 100 CSOs’ representatives registered as well as many others who could not register their names.

I am very glad to be a part of the process that we have long been awaiting. We are today a part of very important data that anyone in Liberia and elsewhere can access and acknowledge our existence in Liberia. This mapping report is extremely important for us. For the first time we have seen people walk into our office, patiently wait while we were busy with other things and later collect our information and include us in the National Civil Society Registry. Not only that, I was present and verified our names in the mapping report during the presentation at the UN conference hall in Monrovia. Additionally, Spotlight gave us the opportunity to provide the names of our contact persons in the Spotlight counties and their names are included in the report. I believe that the Spotlight Initiative is and will be helpful in working with us and our (LGBTIQ) community to end VAWG. We want to thank Spotlight for their bold step and decision to include us in the process. Let us all understand that people who are lesbians and gays are also humans, and that we must try to respect their human rights”.

Communications and Visibility

During the reporting period under review, the UN communications team working in collaboration with partners supported various communications and visibility materials, including the development of a press release about the 20 June 2019 launch, a media advisory, media engagement with editors and reporters, a two-minute pre-launch video and the production of two large banners (11 × 7 ft) and four roll-up banners with messaging and general information related to LSI.

The video featuring the challenges facing women and girls in Liberia and how LSI intends to address the problem was the major highlight of the launch event. Liberia's Vice President Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor launched the event, which attracted more than 600 people to Tienne, Grand Cape Mount County.

The Voice of Cape Mount and Radio Piso, two of the leading radio stations in Grand Cape Mount County, broadcast the programme live. The event was also widely covered by the Liberian media including the Daily Observer, Frontpage Africa, The Inquirer, Bush Chicken, New Republic, Economic Community of West African States Radio, Liberia Broadcasting System and KMTV Online.

Here are links to some of the local media coverage:

- <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/govt-partners-launch-spotlight-initiative/>
- <http://newrepublicliberia.com/liberia-benefits-us500-million-eu-un-spotlight-initiative/>
- <https://kmtvliberia.com/gol-eu-and-un-launch-spotlight-initiative-as-vp-howard-taylor-assures-full-application/>
- In addition to local news coverage, the launch was also featured on the Global Spotlight Initiative website. <https://www.spotlightinitiative.org/press/spotlight-initiative-launched-liberia>
- The launch event was also featured prominently on UN Women's Facebook page with hashtag links to other UN agencies, the EU, #globalspotlight and #spotlightendviolence
- Since the launch, UN agencies implementing LSI activities have engaged media outlets to cover their events and featured those events on the Facebook pages and hash tagged the EU and other implementing agencies

Here are links to some of the LSI events covered by local media.

- **27 June 2019:** Traditional Leaders Sign Resolution to Suspend “Bush School” Activities: <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/front-slider/liberia-traditional-leaders-agree-to-suspend-bush-school-activities/>
- **4 July 2019:** Two-day workshop to empower counties to investigate SGBV cases: <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-eu-funded-spotlight-initiative-2-day-county-level-workshop-focuses-on-managing-sgbv-harmful-practices/>
- **13 September 2019:** Training on prosecuting SGBV cases: <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-chain-actors-trained-to-effectively-prosecute-cases-in-court/>
- <https://www.theinquirernewspaper.com/2019/09/03/medica-liberia-undp-launch-sgbv-capacity-building-coordination-project/>
- **4 November 2019:** National Colloquium on SGBV Response in Liberia: <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/national-colloquium-on-sgbv-prevention-and-response-in-liberia/>
- <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/gol-eu-others-hold-2-day-national-colloquium-on-sgbv-prevention/>
- <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/un-eu-assure-continued-support-to-end-sgbv/>
- <https://www.theinquirernewspaper.com/2019/11/11/undp-partners-host-colloquium-on-sgbv/>
- **14 November 2019:** UN Women Signs Agreement with Female Journalists Association: <https://www.theinquirernewspaper.com/2019/11/14/fejal-gets-eu-un-spotlight-initiative-project/>
- **14 November 2019:** Spotlight Initiative Provides Logistical Support to MoFDP: <https://www.theinquirernewspaper.com/2019/11/14/finance-ministry-expresses-gratitude-to-eu-un-sweden/>
- **20 November 2019:** Psychosocial training on SGBV: <http://newrepublicliberia.com/medica-liberia-trains-stakeholders-on-sgbv-in-nimba/>
- **21 November 2019:** Validation of the CPS on SGBV: <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/national-colloquium-on-sgbv-prevention-and-response-in-liberia/>

- **18 December 2019:** Groundbreaking and Launch of the Alternative Economic Activity for Traditional Leaders (part of an effort to end FGM) <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/alternative-economic-activities-for-traditional-practitioners-launched/>
- UN agencies also feature LSI activities on their Facebook pages and websites
- LSI is engaged with about a dozen media organizations who cover LSI events
- **Spotlight Launch Draft Media Release:** https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QhTLdXNFGRJdrUSfuYBCxlzTkNwoE_VY
- **Spotlight Roll Up Banner:** <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1i5CX4dRSb7bQXFKPSolK4CdT4u9XdSdx>
- **Spotlight Launch Banner:**
- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1g6tQbdgTXNy7EHXiljsSFS0VRo7cwn7L>
- With continued advocacy following the passage of the Seven-Count Policy, NACCEL and the government have affected reinforcement of the policy by arresting some of the violators in Nimba, as evidenced in the link below: <http://frontpageafricaonline.com/county-news/liberia-several-sande-zoes-arrested-in-nimba-for-defying-traditional-council/>
- UN Women engaged in radio talk shows on SGBV and HTPs on Economic Community of West African States radio with MGCSP, MIA and NACCEL and CSO representatives. Below is a link to the recordings:
- **12_12_19_SGBV_Front.MP3** Although video was not produced during the period under review, key visibility materials developed by UNDP and CSO partner communications units include the following:
- UNDP engaged partners in a two-day county-level workshop held in Sanniquellie, 21–22 November 2019, to operationalize and enhance coordination between WACPS and the SGBV Crimes Unit. The objective was to enable WACPS and SGBV Crimes Unit officers to effectively investigate and provide psychosocial counseling to victims/survivors of SGBV and HTPs. Trainees emphasized that the project increased awareness of all activities among key actors to strengthen social accountability for effective implementation. <https://www>.

[lr.undp.org/content/liberia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/spotlight-initiative-project-emphasizes-response-to-sgbv-crimes-.html](https://www.lr.undp.org/content/liberia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/spotlight-initiative-project-emphasizes-response-to-sgbv-crimes-.html)

- The two-day national colloquium on SGBV prevention and response led by the SGBV Crimes Unit, MoJ was held in partnership with the GoL, the EU and the UN through its Spotlight Initiative, as well as CSOs <https://www.lr.undp.org/content/liberia/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/sgbv-is-a-pervasive-and-devastating-human-rights-violation-says-.html>
- <https://www.lr.undp.org/content/liberia/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/voices-of-young-people-amplified-at-forum-on-sgbv.html>
- Criminal justice chain actors' capacity developed to strengthen response and accountability for SGBV and HTPs, and SRHR violations. <https://www.lr.undp.org/content/liberia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/chain-actors-trained-to-effectively-prosecute-cases-in-court-.html>
- Link to activity implemented by CSO partner (medica Liberia) under LSI https://www.facebook.com/gssntliberia/posts/590705758133460?__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARC7Pmc1j6OInt_IQ_UZqZ1EfGca3m2h3gP212NPfId1_D7gYwATqL4W2bxTPaKElh33-IFHLBdix0JvYc_aO4K0viOSXYOIVj2Ej3sk7vhf4bCn_SKdd3wDO8EgdUPcMkbKNGoFKkE70Gr1jWmJcFjEJk_VB0sbADHqGS4IKHG0-oE6pal0EGQdup9OEY-yU5VB0w4EfUmi-pbYs9zm26411SYRq9_KUPL6ug9ZhJ0mLIsdw0-MwRHleE4reA2R3eWhKHOlsZmNkizCWew_6TWAuRMEHyEifLxl6V3XZzuwGJBFG4Ad9hXNondExSLYX3ZOAxfoPEJZT8g1lZps&__tn__=K-R

All Annual Reports and Annexes can be found [here](#).

Annex A

Liberia Outcome 1 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes	
Indicator 1.1 Proportion of target countries with laws and policies on VAWG/HP that adequately respond to the rights of all women and girls, including exercise/ access to SRHR, and are in line with international HR standards and treaty bodies' recommendations	Yes		1.1 Legal Age of Marriage				
		1.00	1.00	0.75	0.00		
				Parental Authority in Marriage			
		0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00		
				Parental Authority in Divorce			
		1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00		
				Inheritance Rights of Widows			
		1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00		
				Inheritance Rights of Daughters			
		1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00		
				Laws against Domestic Violence			
		1.00	0.75	0.50	0.00		
				Laws against Rape			
0.75	0.75	0.75	0.00				
		Laws against Sexual Harassment					
1.00	1.00	0.75	0.00				
Indicator 1.2 National/and/or sub-national evidence-based, costed and funded action plans and M&E frameworks on VAWG/HP that respond to the rights of all women and girls and are developed in a participatory manner are in place	Yes	Evidence-based	Evidence-based	Evidence-based Costed Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development	Evidence-based Costed Funded Rights of all women & girls Participatory Development	Evidence based, costed, partially funded Liberia National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR)1325 Developed. The preparation entailed participation of women, girls and youth	
Indicator 1.3 Laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, autonomous social movements, CSOs and women human rights defenders/feminist activists to advance the human rights agenda are in place	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Programme is working with national counterparts to improve the quality of existing legislations. Related activities are ongoing and will continue throughout programme implementation	

Ouptut Indicator		Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of new and/or strengthened laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination developed that respond to the rights of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination and are in line with international HR standards			Developed			Name : Domestic Violence Act, Date adopted: August 13, 2019
	Yes	0	1	1	2	
			Strengthened			
		0	1	1	2	
Indicator 1.1.3 Proportion of draft laws and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination which have received significant inputs from women's rights advocates within the last year	Yes	0%	50%	50%	100%	Name of Laws/Policies: Domestic Violence Act, Sector or Topic: , Significant Inputs from Advocates?: Yes, Date ratified or approved: 08/13/2019 Name of Laws/Policies: FGM Bill, Sector or Topic: , Significant Inputs from Advocates?: Yes, Date ratified or approved (still pending)
Indicator 1.1.4 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination, within the last year	Yes	0	0	4	45	Plans are ongoing to conduct special targetd training aimed at strengthen capacity of women rights advocates. 9 women rights advocates participated in LRC and partners training and 15 women rights advocates participated in the awareness-raising activities held on three national laws(Rape law, Inheritance Law and Domestic Violence Act)
Indicator 1.1.5 Number of Parliamentarians and staff of human rights institutions with strengthened capacities to advocate for, draft new and/or strengthen existing legislation and/or policies on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination and implement the same, within the last year			Parliamentarians			Engagement with the members of the parliament and relevant partners for the implementation of specific activities are ongoing. The 3 persons capacity enhanced in connection to the parliament are from the Legislative Drafting Bureau.
	Yes	0	50	3	100	
			Women Parliamentarians			
		0	11	0	11	
			Human Rights Staff			
		0	25	23	50	
Indicator 1.1.6 Number of assessments completed on pending topics and strategic litigation implemented by women's rights advocates, within the last year			Women Human Rights Staff			1 Assessment is being conducted by a women's rights advocate on Compliance of PSEA in Private Sector. This is expected to lead to the development of a PSEA national regulatory framework,
	Yes	0	1	1	2	

Indicator 1.2.1 Number of evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG developed that respond to the rights of all women and girls, have M&E frameworks and proposed budgets within the last year			National			2009-2013 Liberia National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 which provided a framework to strengthen and develop protection, response and prevention policies, mechanisms, programs and procedures to guarantee security for women and girls personally and at the national level and promote their human rights was reviewed. A second National Action Plan (NAP) was passed in 2019 and is set to cover the period 2019- 2023
	Yes	0	1	1	2	
			Sub-National			
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to draft and costed action plans on ending VAWG and accompanying M&E frameworks, within the last year.			Government Officials			plans are ongoing for the implementation of specific activity were held for government official on drafting and costing action plan.
	Yes	0	0	0	100	
			Women Government Officials			
	0	0	0	40		
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to draft and costed action plans on ending VAWG and accompanying M&E frameworks		0	15	0	45	No activity has commenced on the subject
	Yes					
Indicator 1.3.3 Number of key government officials with increased awareness of human rights standards and obligations and strengthened capacities to develop laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda, within the last year			Government Officials demonstrate awareness			
	Yes	0	25	18	50	
			Women Government Officials demonstrate awareness			
		0	20	10	50	
		those Officials who participate in developing laws & policies				
		0	0	10	50	
	Women Officials who participate					
	0	0	5	20		
Indicator 1.3.4 Number of women human rights defenders with strengthened capacities to contribute to the development of laws and policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defender to advance the human rights agenda			Women Human Rights Defenders demonstrate awareness			
	Yes	0	0	10	45	
			Contribute to developing laws and policies			
	0	0	0	45		

These programme tables were generated by the Spotlight Initiative Online Platform, which is currently in pilot phase. In some cases, individual programmes' data has been modified to standardize the presentation across all Spotlight countries and regions. The wording of indicators and other narrative references in the tables are drawn from the Global-level theory of change and are not aligned to respective programme contexts or to local specificities. For these reasons, each programme is encouraged to present the specific Programme results framework to the National Steering Committee.

Liberia Outcome 2 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.1 Functioning national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the highest level for addressing VAWG/HP that includes representation from marginalized groups	Yes		Coordination Mechanism?			Baseline data: 1 functional National and 15 partially functional Sub-national GBV Task force Milestone 1: 1 GBV taskforce at county level along with national GBV taskforce
			LNOB?			
		No	No	Yes	Yes	
Indicator 2.2 Percentage of national budget being allocated to the prevention and elimination of all forms of VAWG/HP	Yes		Is there a national budget allocation?			
		No	No	No	Yes	
		0.00%	1.00 %	1.00 %	2.00%	
Ouptut Indicator		Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of government institutions, at the national or sub-national levels, that develop strategies, plans and/or programmes to prevent and respond to VAWG, including for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination	Yes		National Level			Name of Plan: SGBV Strategy and Workplan, Name of Institution: Ministry of Defense, Sector: Security, National/Sub-National: national Name of Plan: SGBV Strategy and Workplan, Name of Institution: National Armed Forces of Liberia, Sector: Security, National/Sub-National: national Name of Plan: SGBV Strategy and Workplan, Name of Institution: Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency, Sector: Justice, National/Sub-National: national
		0	2	3	7	
			Sub-National Level			
		0	2	3	7	
Indicator 2.1.5 Percentage of targeted national and subnational training institutions for public servants that have integrated gender equality and VAWG in their curriculum, as per international standards	Yes	1	2	3	3	Name of Training Institute: Liberia Bureau of Corrections , : National, Sector: Justice Name of Training Institute: Ministry of National Defense-Armed Forces of Liberia, : National, Sector: Security Name of Training Institute: Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency, : National, Sector: Security
Indicator 2.1.7 Number of key government officials with strengthened capacities to develop and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, within the last year.	Yes		Government Officials			At the request of Government, specific activities have been undertaken in the first year, although this had not been planned originally.
		0	0	170	170	
			Women Government Officials			
		0	0	40	40	
Indicator 2.1.9 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to support the integration of ending VAWG into the development plans of other sectors	Yes	1	10	40	40	

Indicator 2.2.1 Proportion of supported multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened, and are composed of relevant stakeholders, with a clear mandate and governance structure and with annual work plans, within the last year.	Yes	None	Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders With a clear mandate and governance structure	Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders With a clear mandate and governance structure	Established at the highest level Composed of relevant stakeholders With a clear mandate and governance structure	During the reporting period, 5 county-level multi-stakeholder VAWG coordination mechanisms were established and strengthened, composed of relevant stakeholders and governance structures
Indicator 2.2.2 Proportion of national and sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination	Yes	0	1	5	5	Name of the Mechanism: County Level GBV Taskforce, Sector: Gender, Including LNOB?: Yes, : NationalSub-National
Indicator 2.2.4 Number of meetings of national and/or sub-national multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, within the last year	Yes	0	National Level Meetings			
			12	12	12	
			Sub-National Level Meetings			
		0	12	6	48	
Indicator 2.3.2 Percentage of Parliamentarians with strengthened knowledge and capacities to hold relevant stakeholders accountable to fund and implement multi- sectoral programmes to address VAWG, within the last year.	Yes	0	Parliamentarians			
			70%	100%	100%	
			Women Parliamentarians			
		0	91%	100%	100%	
Indicator 2.3.3 Number of key government officials with greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG, within the last year	Yes	0	Parliamentarians			
			10	10	60	
			Women Parliamentarians			
		0	5	5	25	
Indicator 2.3.4 Number of women's rights advocates with greater knowledge and capacities on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG	Yes	1	10	40	40	

Liberia Outcome 3 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1 Percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife/intimate partner (to violence), by sex and age	Yes	67.00%	67.00%	67.00%	42.00%	Survey was not done in the first year of the programme. LDhS data were collected towards the end of 2019 and results will only be available in 2020. Thus, we can state that there is no significant change in the percentage of people who think it is justifiable for a man to (subject) beat his wife.
Indicator 3.2 a) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl to FGM (in areas where FGM takes place). b) Percentage of people who think it is justifiable to subject a woman or girl child marriage	Yes	49.8 %	FGM 45.0 %	49.8	39.5 %	The survey was not implemented in the First Year. It will be done in subsequent years. However, prior to and during the development of the Comprehensive Prevention Strategy (CPS), FGM is now openly discussed as compared to two years ago. Without the survey to capture the change in perception, the baseline remains as the best evidence for the reporting period.
		36.0 %	Child Marriage 36.0 %	36.0 %	15.0 %	
Indicator 3.3 At least 3 evidence-based, transformative/comprehensive prevention strategies/programmes that address the rights of those marginalized and are developed in a participatory manner	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	One evidence-based, transformative, national comprehensive prevention strategy that addresses the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups developed with the participation of all key stakeholders including government line ministries, CSOs, Women's Rights groups, Youth Groups, vulnerable and marginalized groups in a participatory manner.
Ouptut Indicator		Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 3.1.1 Draft new and/or strengthened Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Ministry of Education conducted six days of training in which 12 master trainers were trained in comprehensive sexuality education, who then facilitated three regional trainings benefiting 750 teachers.

Indicator 3.1.2 Number of young women and girls, young men and boys who participate in either/both in- and out-of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights, within the last year.	Yes		In-School Programmes			8,895 children (5,338 boys and 3,557 girls) were reached through interventions aimed at increasing community dialogues, and information and awareness-raising sessions in and around schools. Targets were estimates, though under-represented as there was no baseline data available to indicate the participation of the mentioned key beneficiaries programmes that address gender equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and SRHRs.	
		0	0	5,337	1,260		
		In-School Programmes Girls					
		0	0	2,134	610		
		In-School Programmes Boys					
		0	0	3,203	650		
		Out-of-School Programmes					
		0	0	3,558	250		
		Out-of-School Programmes Girls					
0	0	1,423	0				
Out-of-School Programmes Boys							
0	0	2,135	250				
Indicator 3.2.1 Number of women, men, girls and boys who regularly attend community programmes to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women's and girls' sexuality and reproduction, within the last year	Yes		Women			These include traditional leaders, female zoes, paramount chiefs, town chiefs, locals and youth in communities in the Spotlight Counties. The milestones were projection made in the absence of baseline information. Milestone for women didn't tally with target in the baseline questionnaire. Revision will be required.	
		0	150	1,040	4,970		
		Men					
		0	300	104	1,200		
		Girls					
		0	200	3,557	1,000		
Boys							
0	200	5,338	800				
Indicator 3.2.2 Number of people reached by campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, within the last year.	Yes		Women			The annual 16 Days of Activism Campaign was held in 20 communities in strategic areas in Montserrado, Lofa and Nimba Counties under a global Theme "Generational Equality Stands Against Rape", with national theme "Enough is Enough; Stop Rape" Campaign activities commenced with a candle light vigil, officially launching start of the 16 Days of Activism. The vigil was organized to mourn in solidarity of women and girls who died as a result of sexual gender based violence in the Country. Following the official opening of the activism, daily community outreach and awareness sensitization in targeted communities on preventative messages of sexual gender based violence, encouraging residents to utilize the referral pathway in reporting incidents of SGBV and other harmful practices.	
		0	150	3,500	500		
		Men					
		0	300	1,700	1,200		
		Girls					
		0	200	700	1,000		
Boys							
0	200	500	800				

Indicator 3.2.3 Number of men and boys who regularly attend gender transformative programmes addressing violent masculinities and men's violence towards women and girls in community centres, schools and other relevant spaces, within the last year.			Total			
	Yes	0	400	2,200	1,800	
		Men				
		0	200	1,700	800	
		Boys				
0	200	500	1,000			
Indicator 3.2.4 Number of communities with advocacy platforms established and/or strengthened to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction		24	0	3	30	3 communities in Montserrado County have advocacy platforms established.
	Yes					
Indicator 3.2.5 Number of campaigns challenging harmful social norms and gender stereotyping, including of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, developed and disseminated during the past year.		3	1	1	9	Campaign Title: 16 Days of Activism, Sector: , Communication Channel: Radio Social Media/Online Print Media Community mobilisation
	Yes					
Indicator 3.2.6 Number of networks of men and boys developed and/or strengthened to advocate against VAWG and stand for promoting gender equitable values and behaviours during the past year		21	2	0	10	This activity was adjusted and will be implemented in Quarter 1 & 2 of 2020
	Yes					

Liberia Outcome 4 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 4.2 a) Number of VAWG cases reported to the police, b) the proportions of cases reported to the police that are brought to court, c) proportions of cases reported to the police that resulted in convictions of perpetrators, all during a specific time period (e. g., past 12 months)	Yes		Reported			
		2,105	2455	2,643	5,455	
			Brought to Court (%)			
		6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	70.00%	
			Convictions			
		5.00%	6.00%	3.10%	70.00%	
Output Indicator		Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 4.1.2 Number of women and girls with access to programmes developed to integrate VAWG response into SRH, education and migration services	Yes		Women			
		0	164	76	396	
			Girls			
		0	0	80	0	
Indicator 4.1.4 Number of government service providers who have increased knowledge and capacities to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year	Yes		Government Service Providers			80 government service providers +122 LNP/ WACPS officers were trained to deliver quality and coordinated essential services to women and girl survivors of violence, within the last year.
		0	80	202	200	
			Women Government Service Providers			
		46	60	60	165	
Indicator 4.2.1 Number of women and girl survivors of violence that have increased a) knowledge of and b) access to quality essential services, within the last 12 months	Yes		a) Girls with Knowledge of ES			
		120	386	386	920	
			a) Women with Knowledge of ES			
		80	144	144	580	
			b) Girls with Access to ES			
		794	1680	2789	6,210	
	b) Women with Access to ES					
		1,104	2116	3451	8,974	

Indicator 4.2.2 Number of women and girl survivors/ victims and their families, including groups facing multiple and intersecting forms or discrimination, that have increased a) knowledge of and b) access to accompaniment/support initiatives, including longer- term recovery services, within the last 12 months		a) Girls with Knowledge of Recovery Services			
	Yes	0	1572	1078	4,234
		a) Women with Knowledge of Recovery Services			
		0	1113	886	3,635
		b) Girls with Access to Recovery Services			
		0	0	769	2,649
		b) Women with Access to Recovery Services			
	0	0	113	350	

Liberia Outcome 5 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 5.1 Globally comparable data on the prevalence (and incidence, where appropriate) of VAWG/HP collected over time			Prevalence			The Programme is working to improve the quality of existing systems
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
			Incidence			
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Output Indicator		Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 5.1.1 Number of National Statistical Offices that have developed/adapted and contextualized methods and standards at national level to produce prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG	Yes	0	0	0	1	
Indicator 5.1.4 Number Government Personnel from different sectors, including service providers, with enhanced capacities to COLLECT prevalence and/or incidence data, including qualitative data, on VAWG in line with international and regional standards			Government Personnel			Unplanned activities were undertaken at the request of the Government. Targets will be adjusted. WACPS Officers including investigators within the spotlight counties were trained and have specialized knowledge and capacities on sexual and gender – based violence including harmful practice, protection and prevention. Government personnel supported to provide services to survivors
	Yes	0	0	135	0	
			Women Government Personnel			
	0	0	70	0	0	
Indicator 5.1.5 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities to collect prevalence and/or incidence data, and qualitative data, on VAWG	Yes	0	2	0	2	Nothing done as yet in this regard
Indicator 5.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making, within the past 12 months			Knowledge products			Knowledge product development in process
	Yes	0	4	0	16	
Indicator 5.2.4 Number of women's rights advocates with strengthened capacities on analysis and dissemination of prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG, within the last year	Yes	0	2	0	8	Nothing done as yet in this regard

Liberia Outcome 6 Summary table

Outcome Indicator	Measuring?	Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1 Number of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have increased their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate for EAWG	Yes	0	100	145	390	26 (20 CSOs and Women's Right Groups and 6 Networks) conducted a mass advocacy action under the auspices of the Lofa CSO Secretariat in Lofa County and issued one advocacy statement on issues affecting women and girls in the county. 145 (115 CSOs and Women's Right Groups, 4 CBOs and 26 Networks) conducted a mass advocacy action in their respective locations.
Indicator 6.2 Was there an increased use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in EAWG efforts	Yes	0	0	1	6	This activity will be implemented in 2020 but was completed through the conduct of UPR Re Though the activity was planned for 2020, CSOs was able to draft the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) in 2019
Indicator 6.3 Proportion of women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, including those representing youth and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, report having greater influence and agency to work on EAWG within the last 2 years	Yes	0	0	75	50	From the Capacity Assessment, Mapping and Capacity Building trainings conducted for 145 CSO and Women Rights Organisation, including those representing youth, 75 CSO has proven capacity and greater influence based on their work on EAWG in the past two years. in their various locations. Target was based on estimates.
Output Indicator		Baseline	Milestone 1	Results for Reporting Period	Target	Reporting Notes
Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations on ending VAWG produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year	Yes	0	0	0	15	Activity planned for implementation in 2020 which will finalize the recommendations from the 5 Multi-stakeholder dialogues
Indicator 6.1.2 Number of official dialogues about ending VAWG with relevant government authorities that include the full participation of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, within the last year	Yes	0	5	5	10	CSOs in the 5 Spotlight Counties undertook 5 Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues held with 26 relevant government authorities from Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Ministry of Gender, etc. at the county level in the 5 spotlight Counties. Participants included 122 CSOs and Women Rights Groups, 2 CBOs, 24 different Networks and 9 groups of traditional leaders which includes representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Indicator 6.1.3 Number of CSOs representing youth and other groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that are integrated with coalitions and networks of women's rights groups and civil society working on ending VAWG, within the last year.			Youth CSOs			15 youth groups integrated into coalitions and networks across the 5 Spotlight Counties. Out of the 12 trained, 5 CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that were integrated into coalition and networks included the LGBTIQs, Albinos, Association of the Blind, Groups representing persons with disabilities, and groups representing persons affected with HIV/AIDs,
	Yes	0	0	15	15	
			LNOB			
		0	0	5	6	
Indicator 6.1.4 Number of women's rights groups, networks and relevant CSOs with strengthened capacities to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG at local, national, regional and global levels, within the last year			Government Service Providers			36 CSOs and Women's Rights groups and 26 Networks across all the 5 Spotlight Counties have strengthened capacities after participating in capacity building training on advocacy, leadership, organisational development, conflict management and mitigation, networking and collaboration. Milestones and target were based on estimates.
	Yes	0	5	62	30	
Indicator 6.2.1 Number of supported women's right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy around ending VAWG, within the last year						Activity will be implemented and reported on in 2020.
	Yes	0	0	0	30	
Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on ending VAWG, within the last year.			CSOs with strengthened capacities			36 CSOs and Women Rights Groups have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluation their own programmes on EAWG.
	Yes	0	30	36	30	

Annex B

Risk Management Report

Risks	Risk Level Very high	Likelihood Almost certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact Extreme - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Unit/ Person
Contextual risks					
Fragility of the peace, civil unrest 7 June demonstration due to economic instability in the country	Low	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong emphasis on peace process by the UN Role the African Union/UN/Economic Community of West African States and international partners played to prevent the 7 June demonstration from getting violent 	RCO/African Union/ Economic Community of West African States/donors
Humanitarian emergency due to natural or human-made disaster Example: COVID-19 pandemic emergency disrupts LSI implementation	Low	3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulating joint response in partnership and coordination with partners, Government of Liberia (GoL), RUNOs and EU, strengthening capacities and accountability Joint UN response with GoL Ensuring implementation of essential LSI activities to prevent and respond to SGBV incidents 	RCO RUNOs
Inadequate policy/legal framework	Medium	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for passage of pending bills through targeting leadership of the executive, judiciary and legislative branches to draft/amend frameworks Partnerships with civil society supporting participation in the development/review of national legislation on SGBV/HTPs, and advocate to amend inadequacies Good offices of UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) Domestic Violence Bill was passed in 2019 	RUNOs/EU CSOs RCO Donors
Change in national commitment, political will	Low	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close and regular political engagement with new government focal persons Strengthened policy dialogue on gender issues Advocacy with government actors beyond the those working directly on gender, and with other sectors, in collaboration with CSOs and other actors Dissemination of information on the strategy and the advantages of addressing SGBV/HTPs 	RCO

Risks	Risk Level Very high	Likelihood Almost certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact Extreme - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Unit/ Person
Resistance from traditional and religious leaders	Medium	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused and continuous engagement and dialogue with traditional and religious leaders, especially traditional chiefs and elders, using lessons learned • Sensitization and empowerment of female traditional and political leaders to understand, mobilize against and desist from engaging in HTPs such as FGM, child marriage and intimate partner violence • Dissemination of information on the strategy and the advantages of addressing SGBV/HTPs 	RUNOs GoL CSOs
Programmatic risks					
Limited absorption capacity of national stakeholders to deliver results	Low	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity assessment of needs and gaps, and capacity development strategies through direct participation of civil society and all national partners • Regular monitoring and provision of technical support 	RUNOs
Challenges in resource mobilization to cover identified gaps	Medium	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource mobilization strategies for Spotlight Country Programmes at country level are developed and implemented • The UN Resident Coordinator works with development partners in-country to mobilize additional resources, including Government cost-sharing • Build on existing structures to sustain the interventions and engage with alternative partners like civil society and the private sector 	RUNOs GoL Partners
Challenges in implementation and delivery of results	Low	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of clear implementation, monitoring and reporting deliverables • Regular monitoring and evaluation to enable corrective action to be taken jointly by GoL, partners and UN agencies • Regular updates provided to the National Steering Committee and the Spotlight Initiative Operational Steering Committee for decision-making and guidance • RUNOs' operations agree to use one procurement process 	RCO RUNOs GoL CSOs
Effectiveness of proposed model/approaches; alternative sources of income for FGM practitioners	Low	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned to inform and design approach and pilot • Pilots of innovative models in a few selected coverage areas • Build ownership through inclusive consultative multi-stakeholder platforms with formal and informal actors to build consensus 	RUNOs CSOs Traditional leaders
Institutional risks					
Weakened civil society	Medium	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of support to local women's and grass-roots organizations as well as relevant national and regional women's organizations, including to strengthen prevention • Strengthen advocacy, knowledge and capacity on issues 	RUNOs CSOs

Risks	Risk Level Very high	Likelihood Almost certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact Extreme - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Unit/ Person
Weakened civil society	Medium	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of support to local women's and grass-roots organizations as well as relevant national and regional women's organizations, including to strengthen prevention Strengthen advocacy, knowledge and capacity on issues 	RUNOs CSOs
Weak institutional coordination and collaboration, creating duplication	Medium	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of coordination structures and regular monitoring at national and county levels Regional best practices Regular sharing of information and knowledge, as well as regular dialogue among CSOs, partners and UN agencies Coordination with the government, UN, EU and CSO national reference group to jointly review, guide and prevent duplication, and ensure synergy with other non-Spotlight SGBV programmes 	RCO RUNOs/EU GoL CSOs
Limited availability of data and limited capacities of state institutions to develop and analyse data	Medium	2	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of common classifications and indicators to enable cross-referencing Strengthen capacity of institutions on data collection, analysis and dissemination Development of toolkits (SGBV model surveys, indicator sets and protocols to coordinate the generation of information, map actors, etc.) Prevalence study done to fill gaps in baselines for the programme 	RUNOs GoL CSOs
Weak, fragmented and low institutional systems, knowledge and capacity	High	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of capacity enhancement strategies, ad hoc and agile coordination mechanisms Continued policy dialogue and advocacy with key government institutions Strengthening of institutions' capacities to ensure law enforcement and fight against impunity Dialogue and cooperation between the legal system and duty bearers at community level Capacity enhancement of regional institutions, including relevant regional women's organizations, to implement and/or monitor and report on progress of regional frameworks on ending VAWG 	RUNOs GoL CSOs
Assumptions:					

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

Annex C

CSO Engagement Report

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led? Is this CSO a women's rights organisation (WRO) or feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
OUTCOME 1: Legislative and policy frameworks, based on evidence and in line with international human rights standards, on all forms of VAWG and HTPs are in place and translated into plans.								
Output 1.1: National and regional partners have strengthened evidence-based knowledge and capacities to assess gaps and draft new and/or strengthen existing legislations on ending VAWG and/or gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of the most groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of								
1	1,1							
1	1,1							
1	1,1							
1	1,1							
1	1,1							
Output 1.2: National and/or sub-national partners are better able to develop evidence-based national and/or sub-national action plans on ending VAWG in line with international HR standards with M&E frameworks, increase financing and allocate appropriate budgets for their implementation, including for those groups facing								
Output 1.3: National, sub-national and/or regional partners have greater knowledge and awareness of human rights obligations and are able to draft laws and/or policies that guarantee the ability of women's rights groups, CSOs and women human rights defenders to advance the human rights agenda.								
OUTCOME 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices is collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.								
Output 2.1: Key officials at national and/or sub-national levels in all relevant institutions are better able to develop and deliver evidence-based programmes that prevent and respond to VAWG, especially for those groups of women and girls facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, including in other sectors.								
2	2.1.1	Medica Liberia	National	\$ 19.952	UNDP	Grantee	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Other marginalized groups relevant in national context
2	2.1.2	Medica Liberia	National	\$ 117.235	UNDP	Grantee	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Other marginalized groups relevant in national
Output 2.2: Multi-stakeholder national and/or sub-national coordination mechanisms established at the highest level and/or strengthened that are adequately funded and include multi-sectoral representation and representation from the most marginalized groups.								

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led? Is this CSO a women's rights organisation (WRO) or feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
2	2.2.3	Medica Liberia	National	\$ 20.113	UNDP	Grantee	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Rural women and girls
2	2,2							
Output 2.3: Partners (Parliamentarians, key government officials and women's rights advocates) at national and/or subnational levels have greater knowledge, capacities and tools on gender-responsive budgeting to end VAWG.								
2	2,3	Institute For Research and Democratic Development (IREDD)	National	\$ 40.354	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner (IP)	No information available	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
OUTCOME 3: Gender-equitable social norms, attitudes and behaviours change at community and individual levels to prevent VAWG and HTPs.								
Output 3.1: National and/or subnational evidence-based programmes are developed to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in line with international standards, for in and out of school settings.								
3	3,1	Maestral International	International	\$45.443	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	No information available	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
3	3,1	Medica Liberia	National	\$22.000	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
	3,1	United Fund for Underage Mothers. (UFDUM)	National	\$160.000	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	No information available	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
Output 3.2: Community advocacy platforms are established/strengthened to develop strategies and programmes, including community dialogues, public information and advocacy campaigns, to promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours, including in relation to women and girls' sexuality and reproduction, self-confidence and self-esteem, and transforming harmful masculinities.								
3	3,2	West African Network in Peace Building (WANEP)	National	\$194.789	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
3	3,2	Plan International	International	\$490.957	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
Output 3.3: Decision makers in relevant institutions and key informal decision makers are better able to advocate for implementation of legislation and policies on ending VAWG and for gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours and women and girls' rights.								
3	3,3	West African Network in Peace Building (WANEP)	National	\$36.510	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
3	3,3	Female Journalist Association of Liberia (FeJAL)	National	\$66.500	UNWOMEN	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
OUTCOME 4: Women and girls who experience violence and HTPs use available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services including for long-term recovery from violence.								

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led? Is this CSO a women's rights organisation (WRO) or feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
Output 4.1: Relevant government authorities and women's rights organizations at national and subnational levels have better knowledge and capacity to deliver quality and coordinated essential services, including SRHR services and access to justice, to women and girl survivors of violence, especially those facing multiple and.								
4	4.2.4	Plan International	International	\$161.755	UNFPA	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Women and girls living in poverty
Output 4.2: Women and girl survivors of violence and their families are informed of and can access quality essential services, including longer-term recovery services and opportunities.								
4	4.2.4	Plan International	International	\$161.755	UNFPA	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Women and girls living in poverty
4	4.2.5 a	Liberia Prevention of Maternal Mortality (LPMM)	National	\$61.193	UNFPA	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Women and girls living in poverty
4	4.2.5 b	Medical Teams International (MTI)	International	\$47.895	UNFPA	Implementing Partner(IP)	No information available	Adolescent girls
4	4.2.6	Plan International	International	\$27.000	UNFPA	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led and WRO/feminist CSO	Women and girls living in poverty
4	4.2.7	Plan International	International	\$57.500	UNFPA	Implementing Partner(IP)	Woman-led	Women and girls living in poverty
OUTCOME 5: Quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on different forms of VAWG and HTPs is collected, analysed and used in line with international standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.								
Output 5.1: Key partners, including relevant statistical officers, service providers in the different branches of government and women's rights advocates have strengthened capacities to regularly collect data related to VAWG in line with international and regional standards to inform laws, policies and programmes.								
5	5,1							
Output 5.2: Quality prevalence and/or incidence data on VAWG is analysed and made publicly available for monitoring and reporting of SDG target 5.2 indicators to inform evidence-based decision making.								
5	5,2							
OUTCOME 6: Women's rights groups, autonomous social movements and CSOs, including those representing youth and groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization, more effectively influence and advance progress on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), and ending VAWG.								
Output 6.1: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs have increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, networks and partners, and jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, more specifically, with relevant stakeholders at subnational, national, regional and global levels.								
6	6,1	Development Education Network Liberia (DEN-L)	National	\$ 217.267	UN Women	Implementing Partner (IP)	No information available	Other marginalised groups relevant in national context
6	6,2							
Output 6.3: Women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement and monitor their own programmes on ending VAWG.								

Outcome	Output	Name of Civil Society Organisation (CSO)	Type of CSO (see definition below table)	Total Award Amount (USD) (see definition below table)	Name of Recipient UN Organisation (RUNO) funding the CSO	Modality of Engagement (see definition below table)	Is this CSO woman-led? Is this CSO a women's rights organisation (WRO) or feminist CSO? (see definition below table)	Primary Vulnerable/Marginalised Population Supported by Award (see explanation below table)
6	6,3							
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COSTS								
1		Technical Programme Specialist	International	\$ 246.854,00				
2		Programme Analyst	National	\$ 63.660,00				
3	Office Space Allocated	Rent		\$ 8.800,00				
N/A	Mid Term Review			\$ 148.075,00				
N/A	N/A							
TOTAL AWARDS TO CSOs				\$1.870.432	include a formula-based sum here			

Type of CSOs

- International CSOs operate in two or more countries across different regions.
- Regional CSOs operate in two or more countries within the same region (i.e. Africa, Latin America, Asia, Caribbean, Pacific). In this case, a regional CSO is not one that operates in a particular region within one country.
- National CSOs operate only in one particular country.
- Local and grassroots organisations focus their work at the local and community level and do not have a national scope. They tend to have a small annual operational budget (for example, under USD \$200,000); to be self-organised and self-led; and to have a low degree of formality.

Award Amount

In this context, an “award” is any financial grant, contract, or partnership agreement with a CSO.

Type of Engagement

- Implementing Partner (IP): Programmes may contract out particular activities for a CSO to implement.
- Grantee: Programmes may issue a broad Call for Proposals to which CSOs submit proposals for grant funding.
- Vendor: Programmes may engage with CSOs through a procurement process, such as purchasing services from a CSO or hiring a CSO for a training or other activity.

Woman-Led and Women's Rights Organisation (WRO)/Feminist CSOs

To be considered a “woman-led CSO,” the organisation must be headed by a woman. To be considered a “women's rights or feminist organisation,” the organisation's official mission/visions statements must reflect its commitment to addressing multiple/intersecting forms of discrimination and advancing gender equality and women's rights. The organisation should aim to address the underlying drivers/systems/structures, including patriarchy and gendered power dynamics, that perpetuate EAWG and gender based violence and work to transform these.

Please select only “Woman-led” if the CSO is headed by a woman, but no information is available or it is not known if the CSO is a WRO/feminist CSO.

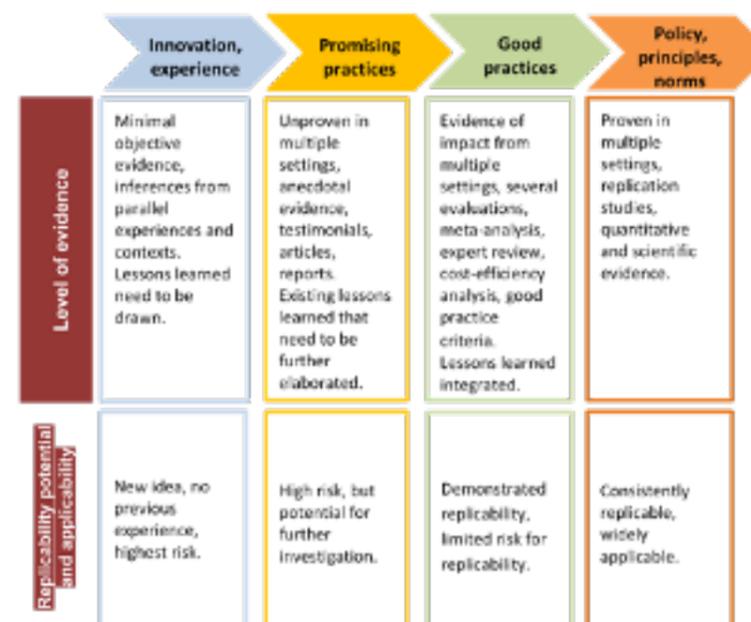
Please select only “WRO/feminist CSO” if the CSO is a WRO or feminist organisation, but no information is available or it is not known if the CSO is headed by a woman. Please select “No information available” if no information is available on or it's not known if the CSO is headed by a woman or is a WRO/feminist CSO.

Annex D

Promising or Good Practices Reporting Template

State of a practice: good practice or promising practice?

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



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

Guidance and Template on Good and Promising Practices

As **demonstration fund**, the Spotlight Initiative will demonstrate the evidence base that a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in gender equality can make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs. It is thus critical that promising and good practices that have the **potential for adaptability, sustainability, replicability and scale-up¹** in the field of EAWG and chart a new way of working, both within the UN system and with various stakeholders to maximize the transformative potential of the Initiative are documented and shared.

This brief guidance and template is thus developed to ensure a common understanding of “**Promising and/or Good Practices**” in Spotlight, provide a set of criteria to determine whether a practice is a good practice or promising and a template for documentation. As Spotlight Initiative is in its early stages of programming and a mid-term review is yet to be undertaken, it is anticipated that countries will be documenting promising practices at this stage. Please see definition below and a diagram for further clarification.²

Definition of a Promising Practice^a

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

Definition of a Good Practice

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

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

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

Good Practice: Outcome Institutional Strengthening

Title of the Promising or Good Practice	National Colloquium for SGBV prevention and Response
<p>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</p>	<p>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is prevalent in Liberian society and has been accepted as an integral part of gender relations (UN/GoL 2014 Report). During the long years of devastating civil conflict, this situation was worsened as rape was used as a weapon of war driven by unequal gender relations. For many Liberian women and girls, the appalling violence they experienced during the civil war is still evident as physical and mental scars. Reports between 2014-2016 from the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) indicate a general acceptance of the most common types of sexual and gender-based violence by communities include: rape, child marriage, offensive touching, wife beating, denial of resources, acid attacks as well as the subtler and hidden forms of violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Thus, there has been a considerable public mistrust in the delivery of appropriate services to effectively address the structural causes of the high incidence of SGBV and related problems, fostering a culture of impunity. Additionally, there has been limited access to justice for the survivors of these violence and noticeable weakness in the judiciary system. There is lack of rehabilitative programs for perpetrators and survivors.</p> <p>With a theme “Promoting Coordination to enhance Prosecution of SGBV Crimes, Harmful Practices and promoting access to SRHR in Liberia” the colloquium was intended to draw on best practices and lessons learnt on prosecution of SGBV crimes, HPs and SRHRs violations both within Liberia, regionally and globally. It was also anticipated that major outcomes will proffer recommendations to improve coordination, networking, information sharing amongst the participants (stakeholders) which will contribute to increased access to legal services, timely trials, adjudication of cases including punity measures against perpetrators.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice SGBV Crimes Unit coordinated the activities of the colloquium which was conducted over a two-day period November 4-5, 2019 in Monrovia. It provided an overview of SGBV offenses and laws, case management and referral pathway as well as sharing of best practices, identifying measures or strategies to strengthen coordination mechanism among stakeholders, improving networking and establishment/presentation of recommendations and conclusions for ongoing programming and support in justice service deliveries.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a space for information sharing of best practices and lessons learnt on prosecution of SGBV Crimes, HPs and access to SRHRs from Experts in the field • To create awareness on the rape law • Strengthen coordination, understanding the different actors to identify key drivers of support to compliance with domestic and international human rights obligations by national government and other duty bearers with specific focus on women and girls’ rights. • To identify challenges inherent in the prosecution of SGBV crimes, advocate on procuring witnesses and proffer recommendations for improve coordination, networking, information sharing amongst the participants (stakeholders)
<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>A total of 387 (158 males and 229 females) participants representing the Vice President Office , the Swedish Ambassador, EU Delegation to Liberia, Ministers of Health, Justice, Gender, Youth and Sports, the Independent National Human Rights Commission, UN agencies representatives, WACPS/LNP Officers, Prosecutors, immigration officers, Armed Forces of Liberia, SGBV Crimes Unit staff, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection staff, Civil Society Organizations, Education practitioners, health practitioners, Traditional leaders, Religious leaders, Youth, Media, Persons living with disabilities, Human Rights activists from all selected Spotlight Project counties.</p> <p>The National Colloquium created an opened and safe environment for constructive engagements and discussions. It was characterized by presentations, participatory discussions between expert facilitators and participants as well as working group sessions. There were booths outdoor for exhibition of IEC materials and services by partners for wider information and disseminations on SGBV, HTPs & SRHRs.</p>

<p>What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>It provided an opportunity for frank and open dialogue among key stakeholders on the challenges that institutions are facing in the fight against SGBV, HTPs & SRHRS. Additionally, it provided an opportunity for the Government to demonstrated ownership and commitment as duty bearer through the various Ministries and Agencies (MACS) representatives. For example, the Acting SGBV Director, Ministry of Justice highlighted the limited time for grand jury sitting (currently 21 days), compromises of cases within families, communities and Institutions, delay in reporting of complaints of sexual violence by some victims and their families resulting in the destruction of evidence as well as limited trained police officers and logistics are some of the major challenges facing the fight against SGBV in the country. He concluded by recommending to the government to institute a holistic educational and awareness approach targeting homes, communities, villages, towns, cities, schools, markets places, churches, mosques and private and public institutions to prevent the increase in the cases of SGBV. For effectiveness in the response to SGBV crimes, he encouraged the government and partners to establish “One stop Centers” in the 73 political districts, establish specialized courts for sexual offenses in the remaining fourteen (14) counties and assigned prosecutors for SGBV cases in the remaining seven (7) counties. In addition, he made recommendation for the deployment of WACPS officers in all 73 political districts and provide logistical support (vehicles, motor bikes, recorders, office equipment etc. This recommendation was buttressed by the various stakeholders highlighting the limited knowledge, logistics train personnel and the uncoordinated approach hampers the fight against SGBV. The commitment by all the key stakeholders at the end of the Colloquium to harness their resources and coordinate efforts is something that must be sustained</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the Colloquium, a plenary session was held incorporating groups discussions. The groups were requested to come with challenges faced with respect to sexual gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices accompanied by accountability scheme and recommendations. Some of these recommendations are already being implemented through the Spotlight programme. For example, strengthening coordination mechanisms at the county level among all the key stakeholders.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</p>	<p>A periodic meeting among key stakeholders to reflect on the challenges and opportunities to enhance the fight against SGBV is something that should be maintained. This may include even among the UN agencies beyond the Spotlight programme.</p>
<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</p>	<p>By conducting it yearly where partners and actors can review gaps identified in the previous conference and impact of resolutions/ recommendations made.</p>
<p>Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</p>	<p>Commitment, ownership from government partners and other stakeholders as a platform for accountability, information sharing and best practices.</p>
<p>Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/ users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>Yes. In a loud and resounding voice at the end of the two-day National Colloquium on SGBV Prevention and response, young people attending the event appreciated the platform and call to attention the Government of Liberia, parents, teachers, communities, traditional and local leaderships as well as the justice system, medical practitioners, and psycho-social Counselors etc. to step up efforts aimed at combating SGBV at all levels. «Parents, step up for your children! Teachers step up for your children! Traditional leaders step up for your children! Liberians step up for your children!» Mama Liberia’s future depends on them,” they said. Fully involved in the two-day deliberation, young people posed questions to Facilitators and formed working groups to propound SGBV issues that continue to pervade the Liberian Society, urging Stakeholders not to give lip service to such life- threatening acts. At the close of the forum, eight (8) working groups reported on the categories of Challenges, Best Practices, Accountability and Recommendations. Some of the issues put forth include; Strengthening Coordination Mechanisms; increased awareness on SGBV especially in schools across the country; Training and building skills and expertise of Women and Children Protection Units, police officers, nurses and psycho-social Counselors among others; establishment and decentralization of one-stop centers and services for survivors and victims; speedy adjudication of SGBV cases; access to essential drugs; revisit court terms in order to respond promptly to SGBV Cases; set up mobile Criminal Court E Courts to reduce cases of SGBV on the docket; ensure functionality of DNA machine to assist investigation process; setting up suggestion boxes in schools to report on SGBV; parents must desist from turning their children into bread winners; schools to have safe spaces where they can meet with peers to share concerns; Children/young people should not allow anyone to touch them inappropriately; setting up mentorship programs etc.</p>

Detalles adicionales e información de contacto: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos	Ernree Bee-Neeplo Programme Analyst Spotlight Focal Point UNDP +231779002644 ernree.neeplo@undp.org
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Good Practice: Prevention and Social Norms

Title of the Promising or Good Practice	Economic Empowerment of traditional leaders an alternative source of livelihood
<p>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</p>	<p>Economic empowerment of traditional practitioners who initiate young women and girls into adulthood including, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an initiative aimed at achieving zero tolerance to FGM in Liberia. Traditional leaders recommended implementation of alternative economic activities as a way of addressing ‘the Do No Harm’ principle of the Spotlight Initiative. Research shows that FGM is not only practiced as a cultural heritage but also for economic gain. It is against this backdrop that the Spotlight Initiative seeks to empower practitioners with alternative sources of income that will systematically devalue the practice in Sande Society. A simple rite of passage will also be developed by the traditional leaders to ensure that girls are initiated into woman hood without having to undergo FGM.</p> <p>The launch of economic empowerment intervention was held on December 16, 2019 in the Cultural Village in Tienne, Grand Cape Mount County. More than 300 people, including traditional leaders, zoes, community members, County Officials, Government officials, representatives from the United Nations attended the launch. Some testimonies were given by practitioners on how the messaging was life changing for them and how they intend to debunk the practice and earn from other sources of income. One of the practitioners had this to say:</p> <p>“The time has come for me to change after 35 years in the business of bush activities,” said Mrs Fahnbulle. “Many people have asked me to leave bush business (female genital mutilation) but my question has always been, what will I do next at least to help my family? Now that you people have answered my question, I will join you to carry out more awareness on vocational and heritage center and the new livelihood project for us, we the traditional zoes.”</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>To raise awareness on the impact of FGM through launching of economic alternative support Initiatives for traditional Zoes and a ground ceremony for the construction of heritage and vocational centers in the four Spotlight Counties</p>
<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>Traditional leaders and Practitioners (zoes) led by Chief Zanzan Karwor, the head of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCCEL, community members, County Officials, Government officials, representatives from the United Nations. The traditional practitioners are the primary beneficiaries of this initiative while traditional leaders are a target group. The launch acted as a platform for consultations and awareness raising wherein traditional leaders raised their voices along other stakeholders to call for a zero tolerance of the practice. Traditional leaders conducted a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of heritage and vocational centers that will act as multipurpose centers where alternative sources of livelihood will be carried out in the four selected Spotlight Counties.</p>
<p>What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The commitment and buy-in of community members especially traditional leaders and practitioners to debunk FGM once they are supported economically to earn an income from other sources. This is also backed up by the 7-Count policy statement signed by 112 (47 women and 65 Men) traditional leaders from all the 11 FGM Practicing Counties in Liberia in June 2019, a policy that suspends all Sande interventions including FGM for one year.</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>Misconception from community members around the elimination of the Sande Society interventions, which is renowned to have both good practices that help girls into adulthood and the negative ones such as FGM. Awareness was raised to inform communities that the initiative is only replacing the negative practices of FGM. This received buy in and support from community members on condition that cultural heritage on positive practices is maintained. Political commitment from government leadership was difficult for the same reason and loss of culture and traditions. Advocacy and gradual commitment garnered by working with the council of chiefs, zoes and elders and government leadership to support and respect the positive traditional practices.</p>

<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>To advance this support to traditional practitioners, during the reporting year, an Implementing Partner was contracted and also the International Consultant to develop the designs and Bill of Quantity (BoQs) for the construction of heritage and Multipurpose centers in four spotlight Counties was hired. The design was approved by the key Line Ministries (Internal Affairs, Gender) and NACCEL. Construction will commence in the second quarter of 2020 once a construction firm has been identified.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</p>	<p>The practice was piloted in the initial SGBV program and was further adapted and adjusted to the Spotlight building on lessons to consolidate ownership and readiness to change by the community zoes responsible for practicing FGM. Adaptations required for contextualization and applicability.</p>
<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</p>	<p>It is replicable as it builds on local existing livelihood skills and capacities.</p>
<p>Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</p>	<p>Community ownership of the vocational and heritage centers for example community committed to identify and allocate 35 acres of land and clear the land for construction, involvement in the planning and design of the structure using existing materials and skills, renewable energy. Once construction is complete, maintaining the facilities will be key which will be done by the economic livelihood skills like agriculture, soap and dye making etc by the residents to generate income and sustain the center. Government ownership through monitoring and additional support to the initiative will be also be underscored as important.</p>
<p>Validado (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>Yes, the initiative was launched in December 2018 by the Government of Liberia, the NACCEL, EU/UN and CSOs and has received continuous buy-in from community members and leaders.</p>
<p>Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos</p>	<p>Dhogba Mabande, Program Officer UN Women email Dhogba.mabande@unwomen.org Isaac B. Gbarpue, Program Coordinator, National Council of Chiefs and Elders <bgarpueisaac@gmail.com></p>

Outcome on Civil Society Organisations

<p>Title of the Promising or Good Practice</p>	<p>Nationwide mapping of civil society for coordinated and joint advocacy and response on EVAWG</p>
<p>Provide a description of the promising or good practice. What pillars/principles of the Spotlight Initiative does it address? (When did the activity begin? When will it be completed or is it ongoing?)</p>	<p>Given the coordination and capacity challenges within CSOs, collaboration with them has involved a steep learning curve, but a necessary one given the government capacity challenges combined with the need to work outside the limits of the capital city Monrovia to reach the unreached in LSI counties. The program outcome on strengthening CSOs seeks to build the capacity of CSOs and women's rights groups as well as integrate them into coalitions and networks. This was achieved through a mapping of CSOs, CBOs and networks/coalitions, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, in which 779 CSOs and CBOs covering the five LSI counties were identified. These include, among others, 45 networks/ coalitions, 11 groups of people with disabilities, seven groups of people affected by HIV/AIDs, one albino group and 13 LGBTIQ groups in all the LSI counties. Upon completion of the mapping, these CSOs were integrated into thematic groups with the sole purpose of building their capacity in various fields including advocacy, management, proposal writing, resource mobilization, report writing, etc. The initiative (mapping and capacity-building sessions) started on 28 June 2019 and was completed on 20 August 2019. This was the first time such an exercise has been undertaken in Liberia and included all CSOs involved in SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs.</p>
<p>Objective of the practice: What were the goals of the activity?</p>	<p>The goal of the practice was to firstly identify the various CSOs, CBOs and networks/coalitions in the LSI counties. It aimed to determine their functionality and ability to prevent and respond to SGBV, HTPs and other forms of violence in the counties. It was evident that due to fragmentation, CSOs could not hold the government accountable to international and national protocols that ensure the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence, including SGBV and HTPs. Thus, identifying them, integrating them into coalitions/networks and strengthening their capacities based on their identified needs were indeed key to future progress. Geographic locations, organizational gaps and thematic areas of intervention at the community level were also mapped.</p>

<p>Stakeholders involved: Who are the beneficiaries or target group of the practice? Describe how all relevant stakeholders were engaged.</p>	<p>The beneficiaries of the practice are the Government of Liberia through MGCSP, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, the CSO National Reference Group, county authorities and the Liberia NGO Network, as well as LSI, because the mapping exercise identified CSOs within thematic areas.</p> <p>Following the briefing of these organizations, a methodology was devised, including a desk review (of existing relevant documents on CSOs, the women's movement and marginalized and vulnerable groups in the target counties) and key informant interviews targeting the aforementioned key stakeholders. This was followed by focus group discussions with various CSOs in their locations. Triangulation of data using these key data collection tools was mainly to ensure the validity of information gathered.</p>
<p>What makes this a promising or good practice? Identify distinguishing feature(s) that make this a promising or a good practice in the efforts to EVAWG and/or in the context of the UNDS reform.</p>	<p>The key reasons for it being a best practice is because CSOs and women's rights groups, although very active in advocacy and outreach activities, are fragmented and tend to work in silos, which has resulted in weak advocacy and an uncoordinated approach to prevention of and response to SGBV and HTPs. Identifying CSOs and women's rights groups, including those representing marginalized groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, is key to bridging these gaps because in most cases, these group are not recognized by the government (e.g. LGBTIQs) and are discriminated against in communities and by the public. The exercise was the first of the its kind to bring all CSOs in this sector under an umbrella program and also to strengthen their capacities as a whole. The mapping of CSOs provides information on location as well as thematic and organizational setup. This enables the program to identify CSOs that can be strategic and creates the ability to direct resources to areas where they are most needed. Importantly, CSOs have been vital to ensuring LSI leaves no one behind, as they work with the most marginalized and remote because of their presence in the counties. They understand the social and cultural context better than most stakeholders because they come from within the community. The mapping will also be used to inform and guide the UN country team operationalization of field offices and collaboration with CSOs for the recently signed UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework (2019–2024).</p>
<p>What challenges were encountered and how were they overcome?</p>	<p>A key challenge was identifying LGBTIQs, in the spirit of leaving no one behind. In most communities these groups are not visible, even though they exist. This is because of low acceptance of LGBTIQs in Liberia. To overcome this challenge, the team engaged a member of the CSO Reference Group who is a key member of the LGBTIQ community to reach out to other CSOs, and also used the exercise to sensitize other CSOs and CBOs about the need to ensure inclusivity in SGBV interventions.</p>
<p>Outputs and Impact: What have been the results thus far? Do they contribute to long-term impact?</p>	<p>In the five LSI counties, CSOs, women's rights groups, youth groups, marginalized groups and advocates are jointly advocating for zero tolerance of all forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls in Liberia. They have enhanced capacities and capabilities to design, implement and monitor programmes on VAWG and on women's and girls' SRHRs and voice them in relevant forums. CSOs, women's rights groups and advocates have improved coordination through the establishment of CSO Secretariats at county level. This has improved communication and information-sharing by CSOs across the five LSI counties. Besides the CSO Secretariats, the group is sharing information through social media, including WhatsApp, with groups having been created for each county. This has improved response to SGBV/HTP cases through timely referral and follow-ups conducted by the CSOs in the LSI counties. The mapping will also be used to inform and guide UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework (2019–2024) implementation to ensure no one is left behind.</p>
<p>Adaptable (Optional) In what ways can this practice be adapted for future use?</p>	<p>This exercise can be used to map CSOs in other areas and also be adapted to context and need because it uses a simple participatory approach.</p>
<p>Replicable/Scale-Up (Optional) What are the possibilities of extending this practice more widely?</p>	<p>Rather than replication, the option will be to encourage scale-up by updating the database as more issues, thematic areas of their engagement and increasing partnerships are built with other government sectors beyond SGBV, HTPs and SRHRs.</p>
<p>Sustainable What is needed to make the practice sustainable?</p>	<p>Sustainability of the CSOs is challenging, especially for smaller CSOs, because of capacity issues and turnover of staff. It will be necessary to provide capacity-building for a wider range of CSOs rather than a sample of these to a create a multiplier effect, combined with logistical/operational support/advice on how to sustain their organizations.</p>
<p>Validated (for a good practice only): Has the practice been validated? Is there confirmation from beneficiaries/users that the practice properly addressed their needs and is there expert validation?</p>	<p>Yes, through a CSO and Government of Liberia validation session that proved that the practice helps in the coordination of CSOs, networks and coalitions and ensures that the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable groups are met.</p>

Additional details and contact information: Are there any other details that are important to know about the promising or good practice? Please provide contact details of a focal person for this practice as well as any additional materials including photos/videos

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