



Country programme work plan in Liberia 1 January 2020 – 30 June 2021

Total budget requested

**US\$ 945,000 (Nine Hundred
Forty-Five Thousand United States
Dollars)**

Beneficiaries to be reached with this contribution

*Since the inception of the joint
programme in Liberia, a total of 9,050
direct beneficiaries (exactly 8,083
females / 967 males) have been targeted.
With the new contributions, a total of
3,757 (exactly 3,324 females / 433
males) new beneficiaries will be
reached. Also, 912 old women
beneficiaries will be reached with the
new contributions.*

Duration of project:

1 January 2020 – 31 December 2021

1. Background Information

The extent of gender inequalities varies throughout Liberia regarding status, region, rural/urban areas, and traditional cultures. Generally, women have less access to health care, education, property, and justice when compared to men. Liberia has a Human Development Report ranking of 174 out of 187 and a Gender Inequality Index rank of 154 out of 159 countries.¹

Though some progress has been made since the end of civil conflict in 2003, the country remains one of the poorest countries in the world with high levels of poverty and deprivation, exacerbated by a fragile economy, high exchange rates and increasing food prices.

¹ UNDP Human Development Report.: (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII>, 2017.

Liberian women and men have clear gender divisions of labour visible in society. In this context, women typically clean, cook, and provide caregiving for the children, however their increasing contributions to the family are hardly recognized as work. Men are still considered the head of households and the breadwinners. On the other hand, women especially those in rural areas are held back in society due to biases in land ownership, education, health care, and credit, along with cultural practices like pre-arranged marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM). These factors constrain women from entering the workforce.

The gender roles that have restricted women from achieving equality in Liberia have begun to change. In the past, there was little to no participation of women in positions of power, organizations or in government. Currently, there are over 100 women's organizations that are documented in the country according to the Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL). These organizations serve to feed funds to local powerful women leaders. In comparison to other countries affected by wars, women in Liberia have been successful in making their voices heard in politics despite male resistance.²

Though Liberia has made some progress in order to achieve the commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals on No Poverty, Zero Hunger and Gender Equality, there are some critical areas to improve such as addressing the gender discrimination in law, unequal job opportunities and wage gaps as well as a lack of equal women's participation in decision making processes.

For Liberia, rural women continue to play a key role in the agriculture sector. Around 80% of agricultural labour force are women according to Liberia's National Gender Policy (NGP). The Policy puts women participation in cash crop and food production at 76% and 93% respectively. Women also play 85% role in marketing and trading. Traditionally for rice farming in Liberia, women are responsible for 'scratching' of farms (planting rice), driving birds, weeding grass and 'cutting the rice' (harvesting). Women also clean the rice and prepare meals for the family and workers. They often do these activities in small all-women cooperatives call Kuu. They also undertake food fetching when the farms fail: fetching wood and water, transporting and marketing activities, and shouldering greater responsibility for the family.

In spite of the high participation and critical role women play in agriculture, women's agriculture productivity is still limited due to number of constraints including: limited human capacity, restricted access to and control over land/productive resources, limited access to technology and absence of enabling policy environment and investments. Women farmers, like their male counterparts are affected by the limited opportunities available for value-added prospects, modern technologies, and market information but in the case of women, they have a double disadvantage: as women and as subsistence farmers. For instance: 13% of male-headed farm households have access to improved and hybrid seeds compared to only 8% of women-headed households.³ With women farmers having limited or no entrepreneurial skills, their capacity to undertake agro-processing of their produce is adversely impacted. This ultimately influences their productivity.

² is the Time to Get in Front: Changing Roles and Opportunities for Women in Liberia ³ Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation and Agriculture Project (CCAAP, 2011).

FGM remains prevalent in some ethnic groups throughout Liberia. The civil conflict led to a decrease in female genital mutilation due to upheaval of life in rural areas, but the practice is still common. A 2007 study indicates that 52.8% of women ages 15–29 in the Sande Society have been subjected to female genital mutilation. The majority of victims do not speak out against the practice for fear of being ostracized or killed by community members.³

Boys are favored over girls to go to school when it comes to education in the county. The education for boys is in most cases funded by the extended family but rarely for girls. The reason for education inequality of boys over girls is typically families believe an educated woman will take her education to her husband's family, resulting in a loss to their family. Regardless of sex, if the family can pay for a child's education, they are usually steered toward gender specific occupation. Boys are taught the sciences and mathematics while girls are taught nursing and teaching.⁴

Literacy (and education in general) is very much connected to women's ability to establish social relationships on the basis of equality and to achieve the important social good of self-respect.⁵

In 2012, primary school enrolment in urban areas was recorded 63.7% for girls and 86.8% for boys, while in rural areas it was 33.1% for girls and 44.9% for boys.⁶

Maternal mortality is a major problem in Liberia. The devastating civil conflict destroyed the country's health infrastructure. Even finding accurate numbers on maternal mortality is difficult because most cases go unreported, along with problems recording traditional births.⁷

In areas where women are not allowed to own land, they have less of an ability to practice safe sex without risking fear of abandonment.⁸ In Liberia, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has provided over \$24 million in funding to aid in the treatment of individuals with HIV/AIDS, many of which were victims of sexual violence.⁹

Under the civil law, men and women share the same legal rights. Women are able to inherit land or property, take out bank loans, and have custody over children. Under customary law women cannot inherit land or property and have no rights to custody or parental authority.¹⁰

³ Atlas of Gender and Development: How Social Norms Affect Gender Equality in non-OECD Countries, OECD Publishing, 2010. p 237.

⁴ Gender Roles, Marriage and Family: Culture and Customs of Liberia

⁵ Women's Education: A Global Challenge

⁶ In Poverty and the Policy Response to the Economic Crisis in Liberia

⁷ A critical analysis of maternal morbidity and mortality in Liberia

⁸ Race, Sex, and the Neglected Risks for Women and Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa

⁹ Sexual Assault Recovery in the Aftermath of the Liberian Civil War: Forging a Sisterhood between Feminist Psychology and Feminist Theology

¹⁰ OECD Atlas of Gender and Development: How Social Norms Affect Gender Equality in non-OECD Countries, OECD Publishing, 2010. p 236.

There are gender inequalities in marriage law because the minimum legal age of marriage is 18 for women and 21 for men. One third of married women in the age group 15-49, are in polygamous marriages.¹¹ While polygamy in Liberia is illegal under civil law, customary law allows men to have up to 4 wives.¹² Customary law restricts a married woman's rights to inherit property from her spouse. When widowed, women are at the mercy of the customary laws that are not subject to the civil courts.¹³

The Liberian law does not protect a woman's bodily integrity. Though violence against women and girls is illegal, the levels of domestic violence and sexual assault remains high. The definition of rape was broadened in 2006 to make spousal rape a criminal offense.¹⁴

Liberia has a number of gender-sensitive and responsive policy instruments and frameworks that are aligned with the Liberia United Nations Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) within the context of the implementation of SDGs 1: No Poverty; 2: Zero Hinger; 3: Good Health and Well-being; 4: Quality Education; 5: Gender Equality; 8: Decent Work; 10: Reduced Inequality; 13: Climate Action; and 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

These include the a.) National Health and Social Welfare Policy and Plan (NHSWP, 2011–2021) on good health and its link with nutrition, with a focus on vulnerable rural women; b.) National Policy on Nutrition (2008) addressing the adequate nutritional intake and utilization for people living in rural areas, especially the most vulnerable women and children, to ensure health and well-being for sustainable economic growth and development; c.) National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (2010) on substantially reducing food insecurity and improving nutrition in Liberia for women and men, girls and boys; d.) Food and Agriculture

Policy and Strategy (2008) on rehabilitating Liberia's Agriculture sector within the overall context of transforming the country's agriculture from "Subsistence to Sufficiency"; and e.) National Gender Policy (2018 - 2022) on achieving the full participation of both women and men in the development process at all levels in order to ensure sustainable development and attainment of equity and equality between sexes in Liberia.

In the framework of the Joint Programme and its alignment with the above-mentioned policy instruments and frameworks, work in Liberia will continue to be supported around ensuring food and nutrition security, increasing income, enhancing leadership and participation, and promoting an enabling environment for the economic empowerment of women and girls living in rural areas.

In addition, there are several other gender-sensitive policy documents on improving food and nutrition security. These include a School Health and Nutrition Strategy through the Ministry of Education,

¹¹ OECD Atlas of Gender and Development: How Social Norms Affect Gender Equality in non-OECD Countries, OECD Publishing, 2010. p 236.

¹² Olukoju, Ayodeji. "Gender Roles, Marriage and Family. "Culture and Customs of Liberia. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2006. p 97.

¹³ Olukoju, Ayodeji. "Gender Roles, Marriage and Family. "Culture and Customs of Liberia. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2006. p 98.

¹⁴ OECD Atlas of Gender and Development: How Social Norms Affect Gender Equality in non-OECD Countries, OECD Publishing, 2010. p 237.

Multisectoral National Nutrition Implementation Plan through the Ministry of Health (MoH), and a Zero Hunger Strategic Plan and Common Reporting Framework (2017), all of which are aligned with the Joint Programme's priorities as it relates to food and nutrition security for rural women and their households.

Liberia has also made significant progress in advancing national legislations (e.g. Land Rights Act 2018 and the Local Governance Act) and public policies (e.g. National Land Rights Policy, Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy, National Gender Policy, National Trade Policy, etc.) to promote gender equality and women's rights in agriculture. The country's policy frameworks on agriculture are consistent with regional and international instruments that promote gender in agriculture. In addition, building the relevant knowledge and skill set to mainstream gender into development priorities is vital for national development.

Furthermore, limited national gender disaggregated data in agriculture sector creates huge gap in baseline data against which policies and programmes can be monitored for progress and change. Financial services to reduce poverty for rural women are predominantly based on microfinance, but the percentage of rural women who access this source is uncertain, as such facilities are not readily available to rural women in certain cases. Women and men usually possess different types of knowledge in food production value chains due to segregation of labour, leading to a knowledge gap that needs to be addressed.

The Joint Programme continues to support ongoing national efforts on the implementation of the Government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD 2018 - 2023). In support of national priorities, the Liberia Joint Programme has reached a total of 9,050 direct beneficiaries (exactly 8,083 females / 967 males) and over 31,600 household members that have been indirectly supported (29,995 females / 1,605 males) across 6 of Liberia's 15 counties, ensuring a joint, integrated delivery of interventions since 2015.

The Joint Programme has contributed to national priorities around gender equality and poverty reduction by supporting advocacy-level work around Land Rights Act for the implementation of gender commitments therein (e.g. women land rights and ownership of land for agricultural production, etc.). In September 2018, the Land Rights Act was enacted into Law by the Liberian President. With support for women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes, rural women are taking active leadership roles in Land Committees at local level for promoting women's land rights and ensuring that rural women are exercising their tenure rights for agriculture production amongst other things. The priority here is that rural women have voice and agency as it relates to respect for their land rights.

The Joint Programme has also contributed to addressing food insecurity and poor nutrition being experienced by rural women and their households to promote good health and well-being. The overall goal here has been the rehabilitation of the agriculture sector within the context of transforming the agriculture sector from "Subsistence to Sufficiency", thereby alleviating poverty with rural women and their households in the most vulnerable and neglected communities being targeted by the Joint Programme.

Since the inception of the Joint Programme, work at county level has seen:

- Social norm change – engaging men and boys including community leaders; and building the capacity of grassroots women leaders and organisations to challenge and change attitudes and Behaviour towards women, their value, roles, and responsibilities.
- Agricultural development – women’s access to land for investing in agriculture, rural credit, agricultural inputs, and services.
- Skills building (e.g. literacy and numeracy, vocational skills, peacebuilding, and conflict mitigation, etc.) trainings for women and adolescent girls, especially the most vulnerable.
- Business development and management skills for women in agriculture; and
- Strategic private sector partnerships for women’s economic empowerment with Coca Cola (Coca Cola 5BY20 Initiative)¹⁶ and Orange Liberia (Orange Money).¹⁷

Liberia is facing yet another pandemic, the Corona virus disease. Realizing the gravity of the situation, the Liberian government begun undertaking special steps to fight against the pandemic mostly with non-pharmaceutical measures involving social distancing and self-isolation in March 2020. In addition, restrictions in travel and trade are being implemented in Liberia to limit the spread of the virus. All these combat against the pandemic has vastly affected the major economic sectors such as Agriculture. The latter serves as the most important economic sector in the country endorsing food security and human development. The pandemic protocols and provisions have interfered with the supply chain of the market with impaired production and distribution accompanied with lack of labor and supply of inputs. This has vastly affected livestock, poultry, fishery as well as vegetable production. The planting of crops like rice, cassava, corn, etc. and open field vegetable cannot be operated amidst the pandemic. Thus, the pandemic has seeded a serious impact on the food security due to distortion of the supply chain which is needed to be addressed quickly by the government.

Key results achieved so far include:

Outcome 1: *Rural women have improved food and nutrition security*

Output 1.1: *Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security*

- Over 45 communities with over 3,694 women beneficiaries in Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties are exercising their land rights for equal access to and ownership of land for agricultural production.
- Advocate with governments and financial institutions for rural women’s increased access to financial services and products such as savings, credit, insurance, domestic payment services and remittances, and promote better linkages between informal and formal financial services
- Over 1,309 women beneficiaries from across 25 communities in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties have increased access to sustainable financial services through Orange Money (partnership with Orange Liberia with over LD\$ 5,850,000 (US\$ 30,000) in direct investment from the private sector on access to finance)

- Partnership with private sector (Orange Liberia) has seen over 1,309 women beneficiaries from across 25 communities in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties accessing direct marketing services through Orange Liberia SMS Messaging Service and Orange Money
- Since start of the Joint Programme in 2014, over 5,908 women farmers have gained access to critical inputs for agricultural production like farming tools, high quality seeds including machinery (e.g. rice and cassava processing machines, generators, power tillers, etc.)

Output 1.2: *Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves*

- The Joint Programme, alongside the Ministry of Agriculture, has invested in the establishment of five Community Grain Reserves (CGRs) that are equipped with labour-saving technologies (e.g. rice and cassava processing machines, power tillers, etc.) including WASH facilities. The CGRs are currently being accessed by over 4,837 active women farmers who are investing in agriculture as a source of livelihood and are also being used to protect them from grain (e.g. rice) production shortfalls Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Sinoe and River Gee Counties. Additionally, these women beneficiaries have increased knowledge on good nutrition for better health and well-being and are engaged in nutrition-sensitive agriculture (e.g. planting vegetables and fruits) with support from Ministry of Agriculture through its extension workers; and
- The productive capacities of over 1,011 women beneficiaries actively utilizing the five established CGRs have been strengthened through the promotion and improvement of food processing and storage, using innovative and productivity enhancing acceptable technologies (e.g. rice and cassava processing machines, power tillers, de stoner, water pumps, etc.)

Outcome 2: *Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods*

Output 2.1: *Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products*

- A total of 8,083 women beneficiaries have benefitted from entrepreneurship, literacy and business development skills trainings in 45 communities across Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Sinoe and River Gee Counties.
- Over 3,741 women beneficiaries from Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties have gained access to marketing and market information through the use of ICT (Orange Liberia SMS Messaging Service and Orange Money).
- The Liberia National Rural Women Structure, the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, the Liberia Marketing Association amongst others developed and are currently managing a total of 252 Village/Savings and Loan Associations (V/SLAs) comprising of over 6,310 women beneficiaries in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Sinoe and River Gee Counties respectively. These associations are providing sustainable and community-owned financial services to their members. The financial independence being gained through V/SLAs is increasing women's participation in decision-making processes at the household and community levels.

Output 2.2: *Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities*

- As a result of strategic partnership with the private sector (Orange Liberia) in the ICT sector, a total of 35 women beneficiaries have accessed employment opportunities as mobile money agents in Montserrado and Margibi Counties while additional 737 other women beneficiaries have gained employment with concession companies in southeast Liberia (Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe Counties)

Outcome 3: *Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes*

Output 3.1 *Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance*

- A total of 983 national and county leaders from the Liberia National Rural Women Structure, the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, the Liberia Marketing Association, Adolescent Girls Clubs have voice and agency and are actively engaging national government, development partners and private sector in support of addressing their concerns (e.g. food insecurity, trade barriers, market inaccessibility, etc.) and promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in Liberia.
- The retention rate of over 379 girls/young women accessing primary and secondary education has increased by 75% in Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties. Of this number reached, approximately 107 young women are expected to complete secondary education by July 2018, the end of the academic year.
- A total of 209 women beneficiaries are serving on land committees as decision makers on land use and land use rights including the management of natural resource.

Output 3.2: *Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions*

- Over 50 rural women leaders from 50 informal rural women’s groups (farming groups) have affiliated with formal organizations (e.g. Liberia National Rural Women Structure, the Liberia Marketing Association, the Liberia Business Association, the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade, the Women Peace Huts Association, etc.) for better organizational capacities and economic growth

Output 3.3: *Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.*

- 320 women county leaders from the Liberia National Rural Women Structure, the Liberia Marketing Association, the Association of Women in Cross Border Trade and the Women Peace Huts Association are directly engaging policy makers on issues of food insecurity, trade barriers, implementation of ECOWAS Plan of Action on Gender and Trade (2015 – 2020), and conflict mitigation on land matters.

Output 3.4: *Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment*

- A total of 967 men beneficiaries in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe Counties are championing and supporting change in the context of community dialogues to change gender discriminatory norms, attitudes and sharing of knowledge and networking.
- At the county level, rural women leaders are demanding respect for their rights in the ownership and administration of land for agriculture in Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties. This was achieved because of county dialogues on women's land rights with Rights and Rice Foundation.

Outcome 4: *A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women*

Output 4.1: *Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets*

- The Liberian Senate finally concurred with the House of Representatives to pass the 'Land Rights Act' which was eventually signed into law by President George Weah on September 19, 2018. The Law is now expected to strengthen rights over customary land and will reinforce the government's commitment to advance women's land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling and the equal distribution of land.
- County work plans, budgets and implementation strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Liberia Land Rights Authority are being engendered for ensuring equal distribution of resources to women and men during the implementation of government funded projects;
- 12 Agriculture and Gender County Coordinators including 12 extension workers and social workers from both ministries are replicating GRB training at the county level for key government ministries, agencies and commissions (MACs)
- As a result of increased awareness raising on the new Land Law at county, district and community levels, decentralized officials (from gender, agriculture, land authority, internal affairs, etc.) are advocating with local level land committees and other related structures on the implementation of gender commitments on advancing women's land rights, including land entitlements, joint tenancy and land distribution initiatives

Output 4.2: *Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women*

Two research studies (e.g. status of women in cross border trade and status of Village Savings and Loan Associations) and one situational analysis report (e.g. Situational Analysis of Women and Climate-smart Agriculture) were carried out. These research studies were funded through the joint programme. Several knowledge products (e.g. factsheets, policy briefs, flyers, etc.) were derived from the findings of the research studies and the situational analysis. The knowledge products are used to increase the visibility of the joint programme and for informed decision making.

2. Project area and target groups

With the new funding for Liberia, a total of 3,757 (exactly 3,324 females / 433 males) will be jointly reached by FAO, WFP and UN Women in six counties i.e. Montserrado (Monrovia), Margibi (Yeman,

Dayan Village, Cinta and Worhn), Grand Bassa (Luewein), Maryland (Gbamaken), River Gee (Putuken) and Sinoe (Pyne's Town). These counties have all been affected by COVID-19 which has threatened the food and nutrition security of women and their households.

All participating UN agencies will deliver diverse interventions based on their comparative advantage using the value chain approach to address the gaps in food systems and in response to the Government of Liberia COVID-19 National Response Plan. In this context, FAO will focus on enhancing the capacity of smallholder farmers to improve farming best practices related to sustainable water management, soil nutrients, and pests' controls to support informed decisions at crucial stages of the food systems production cycle. FAO, as technical agency having knowledge and expertise on gender equality issues in agriculture and rural development, will together with the Ministry of Agriculture to complement and consolidate the efforts of WFP and UN Women to empower rural women through sustained value chains; vegetables, poultry and aquaculture. On the other hand, WFP will then support the latter aspects of the value chain by utilizing its smallholder engagement to strengthen food transformation services with a focus on organization development and leadership trainings, crop aggregation management; utilizing its supply chain management to tackle food safety and quality for surpluses and supporting market information and development linked to institutional buyers and the Home-grown School feeding programme.

UN WOMEN, as the lead UN agency for the Joint Programme in Liberia, will provide overall monitoring and supervision with strengthened support from FAO and WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. The UN agency will also continue to work to create an enabling environment in project communities for gender equality and women's empowerment, recognized as a prerequisite for sustainable development with a strong and active policy on GEWE. Moreover, UN Women will provide a basis for enhanced partnership and coordination by providing a framework for the mobilization of key actors and stakeholders (i.e. UN agencies, the donor community, state institutions, CSOs and the private sector) in support of ensuring rural women economic empowerment at both the national and sub-national levels.

With existing beneficiaries, the Joint Programme will focus on further strengthening established VSLAs impacted by COVID-19 for rural women's increased access to financial services at the community and district levels. This will be achieved by linking them to a micro-finance institution (e.g. BRAC International) and private banks (e.g. Liberia Bank for Development and Investment, AfriLand Bank, etc.) for access to loans. In addition, Orange Money (e.g. mobile money) and Orange SMS Messaging Service (e.g. for information dissemination) will be introduced to existing women beneficiaries impacted by COVID-19 who are yet to benefit from Joint Programme's private sector partnership with Orange Liberia. Existing beneficiaries will also be given the opportunity to benefit from WFP's Food for Asset Approach (FFA) and Smallholder Agriculture Marketing Support (SAMS) and Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes.

Linkages will also be built with existing JPRWEE beneficiaries through the sharing of good practices and key lessons learnt based on past interventions for better programming. Beneficiaries under the current implementation period will be given the opportunity to participate in learning exchange programmes and

activities at the national and sub-national levels and will receive mentoring and coaching support from the Joint Programme.

All three UN agencies will focus on a harmonized approach to delivering on the Joint Programme's planned activities in Liberia by engaging in joint activities along with other key stakeholders and partners in targeted counties. The delivery of the programme will be in alignment with the COVID-19 National Response Plan for addressing the impact of the infection in both the short and long terms. The criteria for selection of individual beneficiaries under the Joint Programme will be based on their level of vulnerability, literacy, investment in agriculture, income, and poverty. This will also include those directly and indirectly impacted by the pandemic. In this context, the Joint Programme will consider (during the selection of individual beneficiaries) the collection of qualitative and quantitative data on demography; income generating activities; savings, expenditure and loans; for making an informed-decision on the selection of potential beneficiaries for participating in activities.

To sustain the gains made by the Joint Programme, the same targeted counties will be reached with the new funding directly and/or indirectly. Each layer of new interventions under the 2020/2021 annual work plan will consider key challenges and constraints identified; actions proposed and will seek to sustain the gains. The workplan will attempt to also address market access for ensuring the creation of a business environment that responds to gender.

The Joint Programme will include the United Nations, the Government of Liberia, Civil Society and private sector in community mobilization and selection of beneficiaries, where applicable. Potential target groups will include:

- Women in rural areas impacted by COVID-19 and involved in agriculture activities as a source of livelihood.
- Men in rural areas serving as male advocates and involved in agriculture-related initiatives with rural women farmers.
- Policy makers and actors in both public and private sectors for advocating and promoting rural women's economic empowerment.
- Civil Society Organizations and the grassroots women's groups.

For agriculture related activities, the UN will partner with the Ministry of Agriculture and in collaboration with five communities in Grand Bassa (Luewein) and Margibi (Yeoman, Dayan Village, Cinta and Worhn) will be targeted. A total of 469 beneficiaries will be reached (19% males and 81% females) by the Joint Programme in this context. Men will be responsible mainly for farm work related de stumping and felling of trees while women will be in charge of planting, weeding and harvesting, Men included in the project will also serve championing and supporting change-agents in the context of community dialogue to change gender discriminatory norms and attitudes.

Key among the targeting strategy(ies) and selection criteria is vulnerability. The communities mentioned above are vulnerable in terms of access to finance and productive resources that empower women as well as men, factors that have pushed many women and youth to migrate to areas where they can access

livelihood activities; mainly urban centres. Most unique is the approach to Delivering as One and Leaving No One Behind.

In addition, the new contribution will also target 250 members of existing Community Grain Reserves (CGRs) and will specifically support efforts to enhance the capacity of women farmers to sustain the gains made by the Joint Programme. The Joint Programme will also strategically engage, at policy level, with 309 policy makers and actors from government ministries, agencies and commissions (MACs) including the Liberian Legislature; and 125 gender focal points from MACs including that of the Development Partners Forum on Gender and the Private Sector Forum on Gender (Both chaired by UN Women); and 10 rural women groups on ensuring a more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women in Liberia.

The Joint Programme will lastly target national stakeholders (e.g. participating agencies, national government, implementing partners, representatives of rural women) during a national consultation process towards the end of the programme in late 2021. This target group is expected to assist in the process of informing the global learning and development of Phase II of the Joint Programme by giving their feedback on lessons learned, best practices and challenges.

3. Description of activities by component

The Joint Programme will provide community-level extension and technical advisory services to rural women beneficiaries as well as policy-level support to the Government of Liberia and Civil Society through directly engaging with policy makers and state actors.

The key programme activities (aligned with the Global JPRWEE Project Document) for the 2020/2021 Annual Work plan for Liberia include but are not limited to the following:

Outcome 1: *Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security,*

Output 1.1: *Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets, and services critical for their food and nutrition security*

Activity 1.1.1: Conduct refresher organizational development and loan management trainings for COVID-19 affected rural women groups in five existing community grain reserves (CGR) communities to enhance management of loan issuance and repayment for food commodities provided as revolving stock in response to the COVID-19 mitigation

Output 1.2: *Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production*

Activity 1.2.1: Source and procure value chain equipment and machineries for vegetables, fish, and poultry (smoking klins, fish tanks, dryers, preservation units, packaging, and labelling materials) to boost the resilience of women affected by COVID19

Activity 1.2.2: Raise COVID19 prevention awareness and provide safety gears (mask, disinfectant, gloves, buckets for hand wash, etc.) for women safe access to food processing facilities.

Activity 1.2.3: Improve rural women safe access to markets through an enhanced delivery system to avoid COVID19 infection

Activity 1.2.4: Boost rural women capacities to contain or prevent the infection of COVID19 as their capacities are enhanced through innovative and cost saving technologies in processing, preservation, packaging and labelling of value-added products.

Outcome 2: *Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods*

Output 2.1: *Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products.*

Activity 2.1.1: Conduct a rapid assessment of women farmers affected by COVID19 and provide household access to cash and food.

Activity 2.1.2: Train beneficiaries in harvesting, handling, processing preserving and packaging assorted vegetables considering social distancing and other COVID19 preventive measures are in place.

Activity 2.1.3: Train beneficiaries observing social distancing and other COVID19 measures in handling, processing preserving and packaging poultry products (meat and eggs).

Activity 2.1.4: Train beneficiaries observing social distancing and other COVID19 measures in the harvesting of fish, processing using smoking klins, preserving and packaging.

Activity 2.1.5: Conduct refresher training in business development, entrepreneurial and marketing skills (including packaging, storage, food quality control and negotiating skills) to COVID-19 affected women groups in five Community Grain Reserves.

Activity 2.1.6: Provide technical support and guidance along the value chain for COVID-19 affected rural women groups involved in the production of cassava based fortified food (super-Gari, cassava flower, etc.)

Activity 2.1.7: Establish market linkages with Home-Grown School Feeding programme as guaranteed market in response to COVID-19 lockdown mitigation

Output 2.2: *Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities*

Activity 2.2.1: Strengthen strategic partnerships with the private and public sectors for promoting rural women impacted by COVID-19 with access to employment opportunities and decent work during and after COVID-19.

Outcome 3: *Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.*

Output 3.1: *Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems.*

Activity 3.1.1: Work with rural women leaders impacted by COVID-19 to build their self-confidence and capacity to participate in land committees as decision-makers while also observing social distancing.

Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives, and unions.

Activity 3.2.1: Develop the capacities of rural women impacted by COVID-19 to organize into and participate in producer organizations through a series of capacity building trainings while also observing social distancing.

Activity 3.2.2: In collaboration with the Corporative Development Authority (CDA), train and develop rural women farmers' group into cooperatives for improved productivity to boost their resilience against COVID19.

Activity 3.2.3: Strengthen networking between informal rural women's groups impacted by COVID-19 and formal organizations for ensuring that affected informal groups are affiliating with formal organizations in support of their recovery during and after COVID-19.

Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.

Activity 3.3.1: Develop sustainable capacities with rural women and youth impacted by COVID-19 to advocate for and participate in the implementation of Liberia's National Emergency Food Security Plan in response to COVID-19.

Output 3.4: Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.

Activity 3.4.1: Conduct awareness raising with 700 rural women smallholder farmers on their land rights through community outreach activities, local radio, and Orange SMS service in Maryland, River, Sinoe, Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Montserrado County.

Outcome 4: *A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women*

Output 4.1: *Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws, and budgets*

Activity 4.1.1: Strengthen national institutions to deliver evidence-based gender responsive agricultural programmes and investments (e.g. gender focal points in MACs; support for CapDev in GRB, etc.) in response to COVID-19.

Output 4.2: *Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women*

Activity 4.2.1: Conduct a targeted Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) analysis of COVID-19 national efforts for monitoring the gender-responsive utilization of national budgetary resources allocated to addressing food and nutrition insecurity during the pandemic and as an advocacy tool for ensuring that the post recovery effort strongly takes into account the needs of women and youth in agriculture.

Activity 4.2.2: In collaboration with UNFPA, OHCHR, UNICEF including LISGIS and the MGCSP, conduct an assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls within the contexts of gender, SRH/Health, Human Rights, Social Protection, etc.

Activity 4.2.3: Provide participating UN agencies with technical support (through the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office) in Monitoring, Evaluation, Knowledge and Communication.

Output 4.3: *An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.*

Activity 4.3.1: Organize a national consultation with JPRWEE national stakeholders (e.g. participating agencies, national government, implementing partners, representatives of rural women, etc.) to help inform the global learning and development of the Phase II of the programme within the context of COVID-19 post recovery.

The Joint Programme's **Outcome 1:** Improved food and nutrition security; **Outcome 2:** Rural women's increased income to secure their livelihoods; and **Outcome 3:** Rural women's enhanced leadership and participation will be further supported by building synergies with other existing programmes in Liberia, namely WFP's Food for Asset Approach (FFA), Smallholder Agriculture Marketing Support (SAMS) and Food Assistance for Assets (FAA). In addition, other support will be channeled through the Liberia Flagship Programme on Climate-smart Agriculture that is aimed at addressing the structured barriers faced by women farmers and leverages ICTs to accelerate results. **US\$ 263,888.88** in seed funding has been secured by UN Women Liberia Country Office from Alibaba to pilot the Buy from Women Enterprise Platform in Liberia under the framework of this flagship programme. The platform is expected to provide a technology solution that connects women farmers and cooperatives to information, finance and markets moving forward. As of June 2020, software development and mobile money integration for the Buy from Women Enterprise Platform is ongoing being finalized by LISGIS in close collaboration with UN Women, FAO and WFP including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

To increase resilience and sustainability for agriculture-based livelihoods of beneficiaries impacted by COVID-19 especially women, the Joint Programme will focus on enhancing the value chain through an integrated approach for sustained and resilient results. Thus, the programme will not focus on production but rather on strengthening value chains -i.e. processing, preservation, marketing, and innovative technologies. Value chains of high value vegetables, poultry, and fish whose production is already ongoing will be targeted: for instance, the integrated model garden that includes valuable vegetables, aquaculture, and poultry production in approximately 5 ha.

A national consultation will be held among JPRWEE national stakeholders (e.g. participating agencies, national government, implementing partners, representatives of rural women, etc.) towards the end of 2020.

This consultation will help inform the global learning and development of the Phase II of the programme in support of the COVID-19 post recovery. It is envisaged that everyone's opinion, feedback and experience will be documented to ensure that the new phase is successful and new resources can be mobilized for its implementation.

The JPRWEE will invest in monitoring, evaluation, knowledge, and communication on the four outcomes areas through the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO). UNRCO will work closely with participating UN agencies to strengthen joint monitoring and reporting efforts by providing technical support in monitoring, evaluation, research, and planning.

4. Implementation approach

Working with Government, Civil Society and Private Sector:

The Joint Programme will be jointly implemented with the Ministries of Agriculture, Internal Affairs, Gender, Children, and Social Protection and the Liberia Land Authority in close collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office. These institutions will play a key role during programme implementation by contributing to community mobilization, selection and recruitment, advocacy and awareness-raising. Community entry points will involve traditional, youth and women leaders for ensuring ownership of the Joint Programme activities. Both FAO and WFP will complement efforts on the development of value chains, with specific indications on how food processing and preservation, and access to market will be facilitated. This will be implemented in close collaboration with UN Women and other key stakeholders.

The Joint Programme will continue to invest in its model of a comprehensive, sequenced '*package*' of core interventions to support women within the context of value chain development and the promotion of a gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women in Liberia.

The Joint Programme will consolidate efforts in ensuring that a two-pronged approach to value chain development is considered throughout the programme implementation namely:

- **technical activities:** harvesting, field drying, threshing, cleaning, additional drying, storage, processing, packaging, and labelling and
- **economic activities:** transporting, marketing, quality control, nutrition, extension, information and communication, administration, and management.

UN Women will complement both WFP and FAO's efforts by facilitating strategic work at policy-level followed by community-level engagements as it relates to the enforcement of rural women's land rights and their access to decent wage employment, social protection, and infrastructure. In this context, the Joint Programme will hold strategic dialogues with relevant MACs to support advocacy work around the implementation of Liberia's new Land Law and the new Labour Law, both of which are gender sensitive. In addition, the Joint Programme will also work at the community level to raise awareness around the new Land Law to ensure women's land rights are respected. Awareness raising, at local level, will involve the use of ICT, through NEXT LEVEL business and literacy skills classes and via Village Savings and Loan Associations meetings for the dissemination of information around women's land rights. The Joint Programme will also focus on strengthening women's participation in land committees at the county, district, and community levels.

The collaboration with civil society will ensure strategic partnerships with Rights & Rice Foundation around land rights issues; the Liberia National Rural Women Structure on mobilization or rural communities for the Joint Programme's interventions, etc.

The Joint Programme will be further complemented by FAO's ongoing programmes to produce animal feed to support both value chains of fish and poultry. To enhance the value chain, the project will also form synergy with one of FAO's Technical Cooperation projects that supports the government to improve, manage, control, and strengthen food quality.

With the Joint Programme, through FAO's support, storage and preservation will be put in place to keep produced vegetables fresh to reduce post-harvest losses. Improved poultry techniques will be introduced to the Joint Programme's beneficiaries focusing on processing quality meat, eggs, packaging and storing before marketing. In addition, efforts will be made to reduce the cost of production to enable rural women to be competitive in the market which is currently dominated by importers. This will be achieved through training beneficiaries in feed formulation and promotion of mass production of corn as one major components of poultry feed. Activities under fish farming will include processing and packaging; tanks will be installed to grow fish and the added value to these fish will include smoking for preservation. The Joint Programme in collaboration with the Senegal Institute of Research have introduced a contemporary smoking kiln that consumes less energy to process quality fish-this will be introduced in the gardens to improve the quality of fish produced and processed.

The Joint Programme will work closely with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) who has the statutory mandate to develop groups into cooperatives and train them for increased access to market; this way, the quality of goods produced by these women will attract consumers. It is expected that this integrated model garden site will be a major market hub for quality high valued vegetable, poultry products and fish.

The Joint Programme's engagement with private sector will ensure that the existing Private Sector Forum on Gender is strengthened to mobilize potential private sector companies (e.g. Orange, Coca Cola, LoneStar MTN, EcoBANK, UBA, BRAC, etc.) to invest in the economic empowerment of rural women for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment in Liberia. This forum is a group in which UN Women Liberia engages with private sector companies based in Liberia. During this forum, UN Women Liberia plans to adopt a twofold strategy: engage with more companies and sustain existing partnerships to synchronize the goals of both partners for an optimum outcome. Women's Economic Empowerment is used as entry point in the attempts to create solid partnerships between the country programme led by UN Women and individual private sector companies.

Through the forum, UN Women as lead UN agency under the Joint Programme intends to also consolidate and strengthen partnerships to leverage specialized knowledge and develop a more coherent, coordinated, and strategic approach. If appropriately targeted, partnerships can be successful in addressing and scaling up women's economic opportunities, contributing to skills development, accessing employment opportunities, accessing financial services, and fostering entrepreneurship development, etc.

To ensure that the Joint Programme exclusively partners with private sector companies that comply with or are working towards high ethical and business practice principles, a Due Diligence process will be used. This process will enable Joint Programme to assess the risks and benefits of potential alliances or partnerships with private sector partners that involve financial, pro-bono or in-kind contributions to the programme and supports decision making on which agreements to enter in to.

Programme Strategies

The Joint Programme's accountability framework for 2020/2021 will primarily focus on the following within the context COVID-19 post recovery:

- Value chain development, high value markets, and decent wage employment, and control over the financial returns of their activities.
- Higher productivity and income security, enhanced skills for entrepreneurship, and better working conditions.
- Addressing inequalities in social, economic, and political positioning of rural women which prevent them from being part of transformative change in agricultural development including for accessing productive resources and assets such as land, services, skills, infrastructure, and social protection.

The Joint Programme's capacity development plan will revolve around two areas:

- **Strengthening individual capacities** of rural women producers impacted by COVID-19 to address their supply side constraints, strengthen their productive capacities in agricultural production, harvesting, storage, processing and marketing, and access remunerative markets.
- **Enhancing system/institutional capacities** as duty bearers to respond effectively to rural women's needs and priorities, through the implementation of policy interventions that can advance rural women's full access to productive resources, assets, services and decent wage employment, and ensure their equal participation in decision making. In this context, capacity development will target decentralized officials (e.g. agricultural extension workers and central officials located in the Ministries of Agriculture, Gender and Internal Affairs including for the Liberia Land Authority) and other relevant agencies and institutions.

The Joint Programme will focus on building linkages with WFP's programmes such as Smallholder Agriculture Marketing Support (SAMS) and Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) . The SAMS approach will encourage investments that connect rural women smallholders to markets, will help diversify their crops and broaden their business prospects. On the other hand, the FFA approach will ensure the building and/or rehabilitation of assets that will improve long-term food security and resilience in target areas. Moreover, this approach is expected to create a healthier natural environment, reduce the risks and impact of climate shocks, and increase food productivity. In addition, the Joint Programme will also build linkages with FAO's ongoing programmes on peri urban agriculture for young men and women which supports 1,500 young men and women of which 60% of the beneficiaries are women. The project falls within the same geographical scope of the joint programmes, it supports the value chain of vegetable and poultry. The Joint Programme will also be aimed at promoting a gender responsive policy environment in support of rural women's economic empowerment through sustainable access to markets and financial facilities. For example, UN Women's Buy from Women Enterprise Platform will strengthen work around linking rural

women producers with buyers using ICT and will also provide access to information on pricing, climate, and land, etc.

The Joint Programme will invest in replicating and strengthening its successful models on rural women's economic empowerment by ensuring that key lessons learned, and best practices are fully documented, applied and builds on the existing experiences of the participating UN agencies' successes. Successful models that will be replicated and strengthened as best practices include:

- 1.) the utilization of services providers such as employment agency, labour inspection, rural extension services, chamber of commerce, land, and entrepreneurship development at One Stop Centres in target counties.
- 2.) raising awareness with women and men in rural areas and policy makers, and support for rural women's rights and livelihoods.
- 3.) providing entry points for enhancing the entrepreneurship skills and value chains of rural women and for accessing sustainable market opportunities.

Good practice experiences will be documented for scaling up and replication based on the linkages the Joint Programme will create with FAO, WFP, and UN Women ongoing programmes and projects for maximizing its impact at the national and sub-national levels. This will also include for the documenting of good practices related to the COVID-19 national response.

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The Joint Programme's implementation in Liberia will ensure participatory approaches (e.g. beneficiary feedback, most significant change technique, etc.) including for strategic consultations with government officials, rural women's groups, youth groups, farmers' organisations, implementing partners, other UN agencies, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through the Joint Programme's National Steering Committee. At community level, participatory approaches will employ the use of beneficiary feedback in order to collect key stakeholders' views about the quality and impact of the Joint Programme in Liberia including the use of the most significant change technique for the collection of change stories from the Joint

Programme's targeted communities, and the systematic selection of the most significant of these. These selected change stories will then be discussed by the National Technical Advisory Committee and critically reflected on to help determine the impact of the Joint Programme's work in the country for making informed decisions moving forward.

The Joint Programme is positioned within the UN interagency Coordination context, such as the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), existing joint programmes (e.g. Spotlight Initiative, JP SGBV, etc.) and other coordination mechanisms (e.g. Gender Theme Group, etc.). In addition, there will be joint efforts made by UN Women, FAO and WFP to build support for the Joint Programme within the United Nations Country Team and to link it with existing relevant programmes (e.g. the Liberia Flagship Programme on Climate-smart Agriculture, the BuyFromWomen Initiative, WFP's P4P and Home Grown-School Feeding Programme, etc.)

In Liberia, UN Women leads the Joint Programme. At country level, there is a National Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chaired by the National Coordinator of the Joint Programme based in UN Women offices. The TAC will continue to guide the implementation through coordination meetings and joint monitoring visits. Also, there is a National Steering Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Gender and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. This body provides strategic vision and direction to the implementing partners, establish requirements and priorities; coordinates with other relevant initiatives; fosters promotion, advocacy and outreach to potential partners and resource mobilization; and ensures that decisions and actions are in accordance with the regulatory requirements and frameworks of the Participating Agencies.

For the implementation of activities under the 2020/2021 allocation of funding, both FAO and WFP will work to support **Outcome areas 1: Improved Food and Nutrition Security and 2: Rural women's increased income to secure their livelihoods.** In this context, FAO will support rural women with improved and sustainable poultry and vegetable production. The project will provide assorted valuable vegetable seeds, construction of integrated vegetable garden that would be fenced with dwarf concrete walls and chain links. The garden will contain bore-hole wells and underground water tanks with reticulation to support irrigation powered by solar. In this garden, women will grow valuable vegetables, produce poultry products (eggs and meat) and do fish farming.

The project will also promote farmer field school to consolidate community resilience by strengthening rural women social, productive, and financial capacities through an integrated approach. This approach considers the accumulation and diversification of assets and knowledge as critical elements of resilience. Moreover, the UN agency will support ongoing efforts on building sustainable value chains for rural women access to markets including creating linkages for increased production. WFP will then concentrate efforts on buttressing FAO's work around value-addition and access to markets by building linkages with Marketing Support (SAMS) and Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) under its P4P initiative. Thus, both UN agencies will play active and critical roles in value chain development (e.g. processing, packaging and access to markets) and will also work with UN Women to provide a tested model for sustainability beyond the life-span of the Joint Programme.

UN Women, on the other hand, will also support efforts under **Outcome 2: Rural women's increased income to secure their livelihoods.** In this case, the UN agency will work with FAO and WFP to employ

the use of its Buy from Women Enterprise Platform on linking rural women producers with potential buyers using ICT. This will offer exciting opportunities to unlock the business potential of traditionally marginalized and isolated women farmers by providing easy, mobile-enabled access to climate-smart agricultural information and services; building a digital track record and credit profile to increase access to finance; and connecting farmers to national and sub-national supply chains to improve access to markets.

In addition, UN Women will address **Outcome 3:** Rural women's enhanced leadership and participation by building the capacities of rural women, including young women, and giving them the self-confidence to have a voice to participate in decision-making as it relates to their participation on land committees including for awareness raising on women's land rights. The UN agency will also engage in interventions to assist informal rural women's groups to affiliate with formal organisations. Work under this outcome area will be further buttressed in 2020 and 2021 through financial resources from the Embassy of Sweden under UN Women's Strategic Note 2020 - 2024.

Under **Outcome 4:** Gender responsive policy environment, UN Women will work with key stakeholders and strategic partners on strengthening capacities for the implementation of the Land Law; the promotion of decent work opportunities for rural women; and the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data on women's economic empowerment.

Building Synergies and collaboration:

The joint programme will also adapt a 'building synergies' approach to maximize its engagement at national and sub-national levels with two large-scale ongoing programmes amongst others, namely:

1. the UN-Women led **Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls**,¹⁵ the Government of Liberia and the United Nations Programme against Sexual Gender and Based Violence and Harmful Practices with UNFPA, UNDP, OHCHR and UNICEF under the supervision of the Resident Coordinator. This initiative is based on and complements the existing UN/Government of Liberia Joint Programme on SGBV and harmful practices, with an emphasis on strengthening legislation and policies, prevention and response, quality and reliable data and supporting civil society organizations, including community-based organizations and women's movement by 2022
2. the UN Women **BuyFromWomen Initiative** which focuses on *connecting smallholder farmers to information, finance, and markets*. The initiative falls under the UN Women Flagship Programme on **Women's Empowerment through Climate Smart Agriculture** that simultaneously addresses the structured barriers faced by women farmers and leverages ICTs to accelerate results.

5. Justification for the intervention

As the first phase of the Joint Programme (2014 - 2021) ends, much efforts will need to be made to support the sustainability of the gains made over the years. Therefore, significant work around value chain development (e.g. food processing and preservation, food transformation processes, access to market, etc.) will need to be undertaken. In addition, building synergies with other ongoing programmes and projects supported by FAO, WFP and UN Women will also be crucial. The need for the Joint Programme to further strengthen its engagement with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Liberia Land Authority, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection amongst others is important

¹⁵ <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00112285>

for promoting an enabling environment that supports the economic and social empowerment of women living in rural areas.

Strategic partnership with private sector will need to be fostered including for the strengthening of existing partnerships (e.g. Orange, Coca Cola) in this regard. The Joint Programme's 2019 programme review report recommended that the Joint Programme needs to continue to work with national and international development partners, strategies, policies and approaches, and scale up its planned activities to reach more marginalized, poor excluded targeted rural women and girls in counties that are more accessible. The programme review report further emphasized on the need to develop and effectively implement a Resource Mobilization Strategy for ensuring that financial resources are secured for the possibility of programme extension and that the Joint Programme also needs to improve on visibility at the community level and that it should also improve on the collection of gender and age disaggregated data through better monitoring and evaluation.

Making Corina virus-affected rural women and their communities resilient entails fostering strategic dialogues, partnerships, and new ideas (innovation) on how to tackle complex problems. In this regard, the Joint Programme sees the need for a community-driven approach aimed at addressing challenges as identified by the communities themselves and providing rural women with opportunities to find their own solutions. To this end, the Liberia programme has identified several key lessons and good practices that will inform the upcoming implementation period namely:

- Rural women have been recognized as food producers, income-earning farmers, and nutrition-care providers in Liberia. The Joint Programme is currently reinforcing ongoing efforts in support of addressing production constraints, including unequal access to productive resources, assets, services, knowledge, inputs, credit, and markets. Thus, both rural women and men are being viewed as equal partners in food and nutrition security efforts, and the Joint Programme's ongoing efforts are ensuring both their economic and social empowerment.
- Rural women have enhanced capacity to take advantage of decent wage employment in Liberia. This basically involves improving wages and conditions of work particularly for women engaged in agriculture and for promoting women as service providers in the agricultural and rural development sectors, including in non-traditional areas (e.g. rural women's access to selected vocational skills training based on the assessment of markets). The Joint Programme is yet to scale up work on decent wage for rural women. This workplan is expected to strengthen ongoing work in this area.

There are strengthened partnerships with key development partners (e.g. SIDA, etc.) and private sector companies at country level in support of establishing systems and institutions that can effectively deliver the range of services needed by women in rural areas, with consideration for the formal and informal sectors;

- There needs to be comprehensive sex disaggregated data and statistics and gender-sensitive indicators on women's ownership of, use and control over productive resources, agricultural production, leadership and participation, governance, etc. The Joint Programme needs to invest in the collection of such data and should make the information available for the public as part of promoting government's push for better access to information and services.

Lessons learned from past interventions also highlighted how poverty rates among women are very high due to lack of alternative livelihoods (e.g. *staple food crop production*). Therefore, making food security and nutrition a priority under the Joint Programme is cardinal in fighting poverty through an integrated approach of improved and sustained value chain (poultry, vegetables, and fish) including for rice and cassava.

The Joint Programme also recognize the importance of engaging men to achieve results and for ensuring increased community ownership of the programme's interventions. Aside from being direct beneficiaries of some of the activities as referred above, men will play a key role throughout implementation, for instance by working with rural women leaders at community level in mobilizing potential women and men beneficiaries for selection to participate in the programme. Working with men at the community level has remained strategic to ensuring increased ownership of interventions under rural women economic empowerment programmes and on preventing backlashes from men in project communities.

6. Sustainability

The Joint Programme's interventions have been built in a coherent and consistent organizational development framework to ensure that rural women and their households benefiting from the programme are supported to strengthen and institutionalize existing structures. It is also hoped that at the end of the Joint Programme's implementation women beneficiaries would have accumulated sufficient organizational and human capital as well as savings and access to sustainable agriculture and micro-finance services to sustain their operations on a profitable basis.

The Joint Programme has selected interventions in strategic sectors where beneficiaries have already a comparative advantage and where there is potential for growth and value addition through better marketing, quality services, improved standards, and access to sustainable financing. The employment opportunities to be created are expected to be a win-win situation. Overall, the Joint Programme's National Steering Committee will be responsible to monitor and adapt interventions and strategies to respond to any changes that may affect the sustainability of interventions.

The Joint Programme will hold strategic dialogues with national government in support of resource commitment by government, as a percentage of national budget allocated to promoting women's economic empowerment in Liberia. In addition, efforts will be made to ensure increased community participation and ownership of established infrastructure (e.g. grain reserves, WASH facilities, etc.) including the strengthening of existing community structures (e.g. VSLAs, land committees, etc.). Moreover, the Joint Programme will also ensure that there is strengthened CSO and CBO capacity on advocacy on WEE in support of the COVID-19 post recovery.

The Joint programme will promote sustainable practices that will not impede expected growth. It will protect environmental risks such as depletion of natural resources due to intensive use or using environment-damaging practices. Therefore, the environmental sustainability is one of the areas that need to be carefully looked at when proposing development actions. While a particular action in agriculture may have a very positive impact to boost production, this may have long lasting repercussions in terms of water pollution, loss of soil coverage, soil erosion, desertification, or loss of biodiversity. Therefore, the Joint Programme will keep environmental sustainability at the core of the action implemented by projects to ensure that any possible risks are properly considered. Environmental considerations will be integrated into all relevant project activities.

The programme will also address gender at its core thereby accommodate both women and men along with the youth. Beneficiaries will have equal opportunities in accessing technologies, training and equal participation in leadership and decision-making processes.

At the individual level (past beneficiaries/new beneficiaries):

There will be a two-pronged approach to ensuring sustainability of the gains made by rural women and young women. In this context, they will be encouraged to tap into employment opportunities with private sector in Liberia for access to decent work and wage including investments in ICT for improved livelihood and increased economic security. In addition, women beneficiaries will be further capacitated to also take advantage of their active participation in VSLAs to ensure that there is increased financial independence with individual women which will then result in their increased participation in decision-making at the household and community levels. VSLAs will then also serve as an entry point for the provision of information, services and skills training thereby strengthening social cohesion.

Through the Community Grain Reserves (CGRs) approach, some of the Women's groups are already manifesting self-reliance through collectively built-up financial reserves whose borrowing, members have been able to withstand lean season shocks. The serves serve as informal insurance that cushion members during seasonal shocks. This proposed financing window, will strengthen these tested approaches to further strengthen the CGRs for gradual exit by the programme.

At the community level:

The Joint Programme will provide rural women with necessary skills to go beyond subsistence agriculture (which is very common in Liberia), commercialize their produce, improve working conditions, and increase their income. The intervention intends to reach rural poor women who usually suffer major decent work deficit. Therefore, the programme is expected to have a major positive impact on the progressive realization of the right to decent work for rural people in Liberia by improving the livelihood of poor vulnerable rural people.

Another important case for promoting sustainability under the Joint Programme is to build resilience of the communities to manage and maintain productive assets, followed by work around value chain development. This will enable the environment required for economic viability/profitability of rice double cropping. Similarly, another strategy is to strengthen the partnership of actors involved with similar activities and build the capacity of the local government actors to provide leadership and guidance on sustaining key community assets and community-based participation.

In addition, interventions in the areas of value chain development (e.g. food processing and preservation, and access to market, etc.), skills development, and access to financial services have been designed to include in-built sustainable requirements. They shall also build upon on going initiatives with the UN and the Government of Liberia (e.g. UN Women's Buy from Women Initiative; WFP's Smallholder Agriculture Marketing Support and Food Assistance for Assets; UN Joint Programme on SGBV, the Liberia UN Spotlight Initiative, etc.) arising opportunities and resources that already exist within beneficiaries and communities that shall be selected to benefit from the Joint Programme's interventions.

The Joint Programme's interventions will promote infrastructure development, continued agriculture development and gradual general economic recovery to ensure that there is the potential for real opportunity in addressing gender inequalities in Liberia and for the promotion of sustainable women's empowerment.

At the government level (national/local):

The Joint Programme will continue to build the capacities of key line ministries, agencies, and commissions so that they gradually take ownership of interventions for sustainability purposes. The idea is that the Joint Programme will build the capacities of local agriculture, gender, and internal affairs coordinators from government offices in the targeted counties to take on the work when the programme ends.

Interventions to strengthen the implementation of existing gender-sensitive policies (e.g. land, governance, decent work, etc.) will ensure the sustainability of the gains made particularly with regards to ensuring gender mainstreaming capacity within the Government of Liberia public service as a whole including the capacity of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to lead ongoing government efforts in addressing gender inequalities throughout government actions, as it implements the PAPD 2018 - 2023.

Increased technical capacity of staff of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to continue the management of the existing Land Desk at that ministry is currently ensuring the public's access to relevant information pertaining to land and land rights and will continue to do so after the programme ends.

Through fundraising efforts at the local level:

The Joint Programme will continue to engage with private sector, particularly Orange to secure resources or in-kind contributions to support the Joint Programme's activities on access to business development, literacy, markets, and information. In addition, the leadership of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Joint Programme will hold bilateral discussions with the Embassy of China, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and with the European Union within the context of the implementation of the Liberia Spotlight Initiative (LSI) to mobilize resources for the Liberia country programme.

Based on lessons learned through implementation of the Joint Programme and with other community level programming, UN Women, FAO, and WFP have included the Joint Programme activities into their 5-year strategic plans. This will ensure that some key activities (e.g. value chain development, knowledge management, capacity building for MACs, land rights, etc.) will continue to be supported after the Joint Programme ends in December 2021. Moreover, the Joint Programme's programming framework was integrated into the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework (UNSCF 2020 - 2024) which is currently being finalized for implementation in Liberia.

Exit Strategy:

The Joint Programme's exit strategy will ensure close engagement with key stakeholders and partners from Government, the United Nations, Civil Society, and the private sector taking over different interventions. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture will ensure continued monitoring and supervision of agriculture related interventions; the Liberia Land Authority will continue supporting the work on women's access to land, land rights and ownership across target counties; the land desk at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will take on the task of providing free access to information on land and land rights for women; private sector companies, namely Coca Cola and Orange Liberia amongst others will take on support for business development and management including for access to sustainable financial and informational services via ICT.

Moving forward, the Joint Programme will build linkages with ongoing programmes and projects implemented by the Government and the UN System for strengthening the sustainability of gains made thus far in Liberia.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

As demands for greater accountability and real results have increased with the Joint Programme's implementation, there is an attendant need for enhanced results-based monitoring and evaluation as the programme attempts to move away from traditional implementation-based approaches toward new results-based approaches. In this context, careful attention will be made when examining the programme's outcomes and impacts at country level. In addition, the introduction of a results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will take the Technical Advisory Committee one step further in assessing whether and how goals are being achieved and if corrective actions will be needed.

A good M&E system is a source of knowledge capital. With the Joint Programme, it will enable the Government of Liberia, the United Nations System and Civil Society to develop a knowledge base of the types of projects, programs, and policies that are successful, and, more generally, what works, what does not, and why. Moving ahead, much emphasis will be placed on ensuring that the Joint Programme employs an M&E system that can also provide continuous feedback in the management process of monitoring and evaluating progress toward the overall programme's goal at country level.

In addition, the Joint Programme will implement an M&E system that can also aid in promoting greater transparency and accountability within national government, UN system and civil society. The ability to demonstrate positive results will assist in garnering greater political and popular support. In this light, the Joint Programme's M&E system will reflect on outcome indicators to monitor; baseline information to collect; specific targets to reach and dates for reaching them; collection of data to assess whether the targets are being met; and the case of analyzing and reporting results.

Investing in the collection of qualitative information and its systemization for better programming will assist with better knowledge management, as the Joint Programme looks towards developing a number of key knowledge products that will include short videos, brochures, policy briefs, factsheets, research reports, etc. Consolidated knowledge products will be developed with support from the Global Joint Programme Coordinator in HQ and will be used for resource mobilization and the programme's visibility at global, national, and sub-national levels. These products are expected to be developed and disseminated before the end of June 2020.

The importance of knowledge management with particular focus on the collection of the Joint Programme's data with regards to performance indicators (both qualitative and quantitative) will be prioritized for creating new evidence on the effectiveness of the programme's approach at all levels.

The hierarchy of the Joint Programme responsibilities will be as follows as it relates to M&E:

- Individual outputs are the responsibility of individual UN organizations as identified, and as reflected in the work plan.
- Coordination of components, shared outputs and overall Joint Programme is the responsibility of the lead agency, UN-Women.

Monitoring will occur throughout the year, and in accordance with good practice there will be an annual review of this phase of the Joint Programme. The planned monitoring activities and evaluations of the joint programme will follow the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) procedures and will form part of its M&E calendar and plan.

Monitoring and planning meetings will be conducted by the National TAC. The TAC will appraise technical reports and progress made quarterly towards attainment of project objectives. The general expected output of these meetings will include reviewing achievements, identifying constraints, establishing priorities for

future activities, evaluating human and financial resources available and those required to effectively carry out the planned activities. Impact of training and field demonstrations will be assessed. Detailed work plans covering goals, purpose, objectives, background information, data to be collected, type of analysis to be done, implementation plan, budget, and linkages necessary for implementation of each activity will be evaluated. Recommendations for improvement will be made.

Participating UN organizations will also undertake joint field visits as scheduled, and this will be done in close collaboration with the relevant government ministries, agencies, and commissions (MACs) participation. The National Coordinator will facilitate the production of biannual and annual reports for the Joint Programme Steering Committee (JPSC) and International Steering Committee (ISC) on progress towards each of the indicators. Special reviews and assessments will be undertaken as required by the JPSC.

The individual project implementing agencies will be responsible for data collection and reporting from the activity level. The National Coordinator will have the overall responsibility for M&E reporting to the JPSC. This will help provide a clear picture of progress toward programme goals by tracking key outcomes and output indicators. Such a mechanism is essential for successful implementation of the JPRWEE, as it enables the JPSC and the various implementing agencies to quickly adjust projects and activities and keep them on track.

While the goal of M&E is to monitor both progress and eventually the impact of the Joint Programme the immediate focus of M&E will be to track programme outputs to ensure smooth implementation. To the extent possible, all baselines will be established using data disaggregated by sex, age, and location.

The best practices (e.g. VSLAs, CGRs, etc.), lessons and recommendations identified in the Joint Programme's 2019 draft programme review report will be used for making informed programmatic decisions moving forward. In addition, there are two reports from research studies on **i.)** Status of Village Saving and Loans Schemes (VSLAS) and **ii.)** Status of women in cross border trade whose results will be used to inform learning and decision making should adjustments to the programme be required.

The Joint Programme's monitoring plan envisages collection of data on a monthly and quarterly basis with strong consideration for feedback from both beneficiaries and the programme team delivering interventions at community level. Joint monitoring (government and Agencies including implementing partners) will be a priority of the 3 UN agencies implementing the Joint Programme. Interviews and focus groups will be part of the methods of data collection for securing qualitative information on women's economic empowerment. In addition, interviews will also be utilized to explore the views, experiences, beliefs, and motivations of individual participants.

The Joint Programme Technical Advisory Committee will hold quarterly meetings to track progress, challenges and constraints and will recommend required actions for redress for JPSC approval. There will be, on a case-by-case basis, ad hoc meetings for taking stock of programme implementation. M&E officers from the three agencies will work together, supported by the UNCT M&E Technical working group to monitor the progress of the Programme.

For increasing visibility of the joint programme, the Joint Programme National TAC will focus extensively on the development of key knowledge products based on feedback from monitoring and assessment reports,

research reports and community-based impact assessments of key project interventions (e.g. community grain reserves, value-addition in food preservation and packaging, land rights, financial services, etc.)

8. Budget

PROGRAMME BUDGET (US\$ 945,000)					
CATEGORY	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UN WOMEN	TOTAL
1. Staff and other personnel costs	15,000.00		15,000.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
2. Supply, Commodities, Materials	10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	-		-	-	-
4. Contractual Services	310,000.00		225,000.00	245,606.00	780,606.00
5. Travel	3,000.00		3,000.00	3,000.00	9,000.00
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	-		-	8,000.00	8,000.00
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	2,250.00		2,250.00	2,264.00	6,764.00
Total Programme Costs	340,250.00	-	255,250.00	288,870.00	884,370.00
8. Indirect Support Costs	23,817.50		16,591.25	20,220.90	60,629.65
TOTAL	364,068		271,841	309,091	945,000

9. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

(On behalf of FAO)

Name: Mariatou Njie

Title: Country Representative

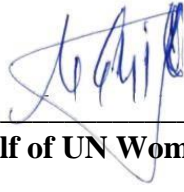
Date: 4/21/2021

(On behalf of WFP)

Name: Karla Hershey

Title: Country Representative

Date: 4/21/2021



(On behalf of UN Women)

Name: Marie Goreth Nizigama

Title: Country Representative

Date: 4/21/2021

ANNEX I: Workplan

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
Outcome 1 Rural women have Improved food and nutrition security						
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets, and services critical for their food and nutrition security						
Activity 1.1.1: Conduct refresher organizational development and loan management trainings for COVID-19 affected rural women groups in five existing community grain reserves (CGR) communities to enhance management of loan issuance and repayment for food commodities provided as revolving stock in response to the COVID-19 mitigation	Quant: 1. Number of COVID-19 affected rural women trained in organizational development 2. Number of rural women trained on loans management (issuance, repayment, and food commodity management)	500 (males 0 / females 500) impacted by COVID-19 response	January 2020 – June 2021	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties	WFP	US\$ 70,000
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production						
Activity 1.2.1: Source and procure value chain equipment and machineries for vegetables, fish, and poultry (smoking klins, fish tanks, dryers, preservation units, packaging, and labelling materials) to boost the resilience of women affected by COVID19	Quant: 1. Number of rural women affected by COVID19 that are accessing and utilizing innovative food processing units 7 innovative food processing units	491 males and females affected by COVID19 (males 91 / females 400)	January 2020 – June 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and Yeman)	FAO	US\$ 150,000

Activity 1.2.2: Raise COVID19 prevention awareness and provide safety gears (mask, disinfectant, gloves, buckets for hand wash, etc.) for women safe access to food processing facilities	Quant: 1. Number of rural women who safely access food processing facilities	491 males and females affected by COVID19(males 91 / females 400)	January 2020 – March 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and Yeman) and Grand-Bassa (Luewen) County	FAO	US\$ 15,000
Activity 1.2.3: Improve rural women safe access to markets through an enhanced delivery system to avoid COVID19 infection	Quant: 1. Number of rural women safely accessing markets through an improved delivery mechanism	269 (males – 63, females 206)	January 2020 – June 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and Yeman) and Grand-Bassa (Luewen) County	FAO	US\$ 10,000
Activity 1.2.4: Boost rural women capacities to contain or prevent the infection of COVID19 as their capacities are enhanced through innovative and cost saving technologies in processing, preservation, packaging and labelling of value-added products.	Quant: 1. Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by age and gender) benefitting from COVID19 prevention training and awareness	491 (males 91 / females 400) Four trainings (1 in Grand Bassa and 3 in Margibi)	June 2020 – March 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and Yeman) and Grand-Bassa	FAO	US\$ 20,000
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods						
Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products						
Activity 2.1.1: Conduct a rapid assessment of women farmers affected	Quant:	1 rapid assessment	January 2020 – June 2021	Margibi (Cinta,	FAO	US\$ 25,000

by COVID19, and provide household access to cash and food	1. Number of rapid assessments conducted, number of affected households receiving cash and food.	469 (males 63 / females 206) affected households		Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and Yeman) and Grand-Bassa (Luewen) County		
Activity 2.1.2: Train beneficiaries in harvesting, handling, processing preserving and packaging assorted vegetables taking into account social distancing and other COVID19 preventive measures are in place	Quant: 2. Number of beneficiaries (women/men) trained 3. Number of trainings conducted in harvesting, handling, processing preserving and packaging assorted vegetables considering social distancing and other COVID19 preventive measures are in place	240 (males 28 / females 212)	August 2020 – June 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and Yeman) and Grand-Bassa (Luewen) County	FAO	US\$ 30,000
Activity 2.1.3: Train beneficiaries observing social distancing and other COVID19 measures in handling, processing preserving and packaging poultry products (meat and eggs)	Quant: 1. Number of beneficiaries (women/men) trained	120 (males 18 / females 62)	January 2020 – June 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel's Village, Worhn and	FAO	US\$ 30,000

	2. Number of trainings conducted in handling, processing preserving and packaging poultry products (meat and eggs)					
Activity 2.1.4: Train beneficiaries observing social distancing and other COVID19 measures in the harvesting of fish, processing using smoking klins, preserving and packaging	Quant: 1. Number of beneficiaries (women/men) trained 2. Number of trainings conducted in harvesting of fish, processing using smoking klins, preserving and packaging	138 (males – 32, females 106)	January 2020 – June 2021	Margibi (Cinta, Konola, Daniel’s village, Worhn and Yeman) and Grand-Bassa (Luewen) County	FAO	US\$ 35,000
Activity 2.1.5: Conduct refresher training in business development, entrepreneurial and marketing skills (including packaging, storage, food quality control and negotiating skills) to COVID-19 affected women groups in five Community Grain Reserves	Quant: 1. Number of COVID-19 affected women trained in business development, entrepreneurial and marketing skills 2. Number of refresher trainings completed for COVID-19 affected rural women	500 women Community Grain Reserve members impacted by COVID-19 response	January 2020 – March 2021	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties	WFP	US\$ 93,550

<p>Activity 2.1.6: Provide technical support and guidance along the value chain for COVID-19 affected rural women groups involved in the production of cassava based fortified food (super-</p>	<p>Quant: 1. Number of COVID-19 affected rural women involved in cassava value chain development (e.g. cassava based fortified food</p>	<p>10 rural women groups (comprising 500 women) impacted by COVID-19 response</p>	<p>January 2020 – June 2021</p>	<p>Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee,</p>	<p>WFP</p>	<p>US\$ 71,700</p>
<p>Activity 2.1.7: Establish market linkages with Home-Grown School Feeding programme as guaranteed market in response to COVID-19 lockdown mitigation</p>	<p>Quant: 1. Number of COVID-19 affected communities markets established and linked with WFP Home-Grown School Feeding programme</p>	<p>10 rural women groups (2 from each target county) comprising 250 women impacted by COVID-19 response 5 market linkages with WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding programme impacted by COVID-19 response</p>	<p>March 2020 – June 2021</p>	<p>Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties</p>	<p>WFP</p>	<p>US\$ 20,000</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</p>						
<p>Activity 2.2.1: Strengthen strategic partnerships with the private and public sectors for promoting rural women impacted by COVID-19 with access to employment opportunities</p>	<p>Quant: 1. Number of rural women affected by COVID-19 accessing</p>	<p>300 women beneficiaries impacted by COVID-19</p>	<p>June 2020 – June 2021</p>	<p>Montserrado, Margibi, Counties</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>US\$ 38,992</p>

and decent work during and after COVID-19	employment opportunities and decent work at local level					
Outcome 3 Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes						
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance						
Activity 3.1.1: Work with rural women leaders impacted by COVID-19 to build their self-confidence and capacity to participate in land committees as decision-makers while also observing social distancing	Quant: 1. Number of rural women impacted by COVID-19 participating in decision-making in land committees 2. Number of capacity building trainings in leadership and decision-making skills conducted	75 rural women leaders impacted by COVID-19	September 2020 – June 2021	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, River Gee and Maryland Counties	UN Women	US\$ 20,000
Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions						
Activity 3.2.1: Develop the capacities of rural women impacted by COVID-19 to organize into and participate in producer organizations through a series of capacity building trainings while also observing social distancing	Quant: 1. Number of rural women impacted by COVID-19 organized into and participating in POs 2. Number of women-based POs organized	350 women impacted by COVID-19 organized and participating in POs; 5 women-based POs organized; and 2 capacity building	June 2020 – June 2021	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, River Gee and Maryland Counties	UN Women	US\$ 25,000

	3. Number of capacity building trainings organized	trainings organized				
Activity 3.2.2: In collaboration with the Corporative Development Authority (CDA), train and develop rural women farmers' group into cooperatives for improved productivity to boost their resilience against COVID19	Quant: 1. Number of women farmers group developed into cooperatives	10 cooperatives comprising of 538 beneficiaries (males 126 / females 412)	January 2020 – June 2021	Cinta, Margibi County	FAO	US\$ 25,250
Activity 3.2.3: Strengthen networking between informal rural women's groups impacted by COVID-19 and formal organizations for ensuring that affected informal groups are affiliating with formal organizations in support of their recovery during and after COVID-19	Quant: 1. Number of informal rural women's groups impacted by COVID-19 affiliating with formal organisations in support of recovery during and after COVID-19	5 informal rural women's groups impacted by COVID-19 comprising of 250 beneficiaries	June 2020 – February 2021	Margibi, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, River Gee and Maryland Counties	UN Women	US\$ 7,000
Output 3.3 Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels						
Activity 3.3.1: Develop sustainable capacities with rural women and youth impacted by COVID-19 to advocate for and participate in the implementation of Liberia's National Emergency Food Security Plan in response to COVID-19	Qual: 1. Evidence of better quality of life and status for rural women and youth impacted by COVID-19	10 rural women groups (males – 0, females 250) 2 strategic dialogues with GoL through MoA	June 2020 – February 2021	Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties	UN Women	US\$ 20,000

Output 3.4 Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment

<p>Activity 3.4.1: Conduct awareness raising with 700 rural women smallholder farmers on their land rights through community outreach activities, local radio, and Orange SMS service in Maryland, River, Sinoe, Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Montserrado County</p>	<p>Quant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of rural women exercising their land rights as per the new Land Law 2. Number of rural women accessing information on land rights 	<p>700 women beneficiaries</p>	<p>March 2021 – June 2021</p>	<p>Margibi, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, River Gee and Maryland Counties</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>US\$ 82,878</p>
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Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women

Output 4.1 Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets

<p>Activity 4.1.1: Strengthen national institutions to deliver evidence-based gender responsive agricultural programmes and investments (e.g. gender focal points in MACs; support for CapDev in GRB, etc.) in response to COVID-19</p>	<p>Quant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of national institutions that are delivering evidence-based gender responsive agricultural programmes and investments in response to COVID-19 	<p>5 national institutions</p>	<p>June 2020 – June 2021</p>	<p>Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>US\$ 15,000</p>
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Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

<p>Activity 4.2.1: Conduct a targeted Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) analysis of COVID-19 national efforts for monitoring the gender-responsive utilization of national budgetary resources allocated to addressing food and nutrition insecurity during the pandemic and as an advocacy tool for ensuring that the post recovery effort strongly takes into account the needs of women and youth in agriculture</p>	<p>Qual:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of a GRB analysis report on the proportion of GoL COVID-19 national budgetary resources that are allocated or not allocated to addressing food and nutrition insecurity during the pandemic 2. Findings, lessons learned, and recommendations are documented to make informed decisions 	<p>1 GRB analysis report highlighting national budgetary resources allocated to addressing food and nutrition insecurity</p>	<p>June 2020 – June 2021</p>	<p>Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>US\$ 15,000</p>
<p>Activity 4.2.2: In collaboration with UNFPA, OHCHR, UNICEF including LISGIS and the MGCSP, conduct an assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls within the contexts of gender, SRH/Health, Human Rights, Social Protection, etc.</p>	<p>Qual:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of a joint assessment report that showcases the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls within the contexts of gender, SRH/Health, Human Rights, Social Protection, etc. 2. Findings, lessons learned, and recommendations 	<p>1 assessment report highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls</p>	<p>June 2020 – June 2021</p>	<p>Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe Counties</p>	<p>UN Women</p>	<p>US\$ 25,000</p>

	are documented to make informed decisions					
Activity 4.2.3: Provide participating UN agencies with technical support (through the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office) in Monitoring, Evaluation, Knowledge and Communication.	Qual: 1. Evidence of overall improvement in Monitoring, Evaluation, Knowledge and Communication.	3 focal points (e.g. program officer, M&E officer, communication officer) each from UN Women, FAO, and WFP	June 2020 – June 2021	Montserrado County	UNRCO through UN Women	\$30,000
Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.						
Activity 4.3.1: Organize a national consultation with JPRWEE national stakeholders (e.g. participating agencies, national government, implementing partners, representatives of rural women, etc.) to help inform the global learning and development of the Phase II of the programme within the context of COVID-19 post recovery	Quant: 1. Number of national consultations on JPRWEE held to inform a second phase that supports COVID-19 post recovery	Participating UN agencies, national government, implementing partners, representatives of rural women, etc.	May 2021	Montserrado County	UN Women	\$10,000