

UN Women: GOL/UN Joint Programming initiative to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Harmful Traditional Practices in Liberia

	Implementing partner(s)	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, with Government of Liberia, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF & UNHCR
	Location	Nationwide
	Agreement period	01 July 2016-31 December 2020
	Budget total (Sweden)	30 000 000 SEK

Overview and objectives

The programme is a collaborative initiative of the Government of Liberia (Gender, Health, Information, and Justice Ministries) and the UN (including UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNHCR). The programme is designed to provide a comprehensive approach to tackling Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs), including early marriage, teenage pregnancy and female genital mutilation (FGM). The target outcomes of the programme are:

- **Prevention:** active and engaged communities and stakeholders preventing SGBV and HTPs.
- **Response:** timely essential services provided for survivors of gender-based violence and HTPs.
- **Institutional strengthening:** an improved legal, policy and operational environment for survivors.
- **Advocacy and social mobilisation:** increased awareness, involvement and accountability.
- **Coordination:** improved coordination mechanisms for enhanced survivor protection and support.



Figure 1: Livelihood skills training workshop.
Photo credit: UNFPA

Examples of results achieved include: the closure of 20 bush schools (which promote HTPs); the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services to 8,827 adolescents; delivery of gender equality and advocacy training to 3,903 people in communities outside the capital, the operation of 12 fully functional One Stop Centres in seven counties providing services to 2,222 survivors of SGBV. (Figures as at Dec 2018)

Activities

Examples (non-exhaustive) of some of the activities conducted under this programme include:

- **Prevention:** conducting audits to provide an evidence base for SGBV and HTPs; facilitating community dialogues to engage traditional leaders in reducing SGBV and HTPs; establishing a HeForShe taskforce; training and support for community gatekeepers; establishing a “buddy” system in schools.
- **Response:** establishment and operation of One Stop Centres for survivors of SGBV; enhanced psych social support, training for police and justice sector stakeholders.
- **Institutional strengthening:** institutionalisation of the GBV Information Management System (IMS); advocacy in respect of the Domestic Violence Bill.
- **Advocacy and social mobilisation:** development and roll-out of a communication strategy and engagement initiatives.
- **Coordination:** logistical support to enable coordination across actors.