

UNFPA Enhances Rural Women Capacity To Prevent SGBV



Women rejoice after the SGBV training

missioners) in resolving domestic violence cases including persistent non-support cases.

The gatekeepers also worked closely together as a team in the production and sale of vegetables in order to fund some of their awareness and response activities. Below are cases reported by the gate keepers: Continuation of community initiatives and the implementation of community action plans especially after the close of the project period has been a serious challenge during past interventions.

Therefore, learning from the lessons of the past, the MOGCSF as a strategy incorporated crop production as an income generating activity to sustain community initiatives. This strategy has been very successful especially in Nimba County; according to the Gatekeepers in Nimba, not only has the agriculture activities helped them in raising income to underwrite their expenses (transportation for raising awareness and follow-up of cases, purchasing of food for farmers consumptions etc.) but has also promoted social cohesion and networking.

The community gatekeepers were established in 2014 as a social transformation forum in four Counties (Maryland, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Nimba). The composition of these gate keepers includes influential leaders (traditional, religious, women and youth leaders in their communities) who are trained to prevent SGBV and Harmful Traditional Practices as well as to report and refer cases of GBV and HTP (what is the meaning of HTP). They are community volunteers trained to conduct advocacy, awareness raising

and Peer education. They are presently involve with: awareness creation using various models and approaches including GBV prevention through sports, sensitization in churches and mosques and hosting of radio talk shows on GBV.
Activity Summary for Nimba: In Nimba county for example, due to increase in SGBV and HTP in Nimba, the Rural Women and Girls Promoters, a local non-governmental organizations sub-granted in Nimba by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, supported gate keep-

ers to conduct sensitization and raise awareness on SGBV and Harmful Traditional Practices throughout three (3) Districts (Sanniquellie-Mah , Gbehlai-Geh only 2 districts are mentioned) and 6 project communities and surrounding catchment areas; (Sanniquelli, Zogowee, Loelay, Neigbei, Zontuo and Mankinto) . The gatekeepers in Nimba were particularly passionate about the prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence in their communities. They worked closely with the local community leadership (town chiefs and com-

Total case record for Nimba - 2017						
County	Districts	Communities	Cases received	Cases solved	re-	Cases referred
Nimba	1. SanniquellieMah	.Mankinto	10	4		6
		Sanniquellie	12	6		6
	2. Gbeahlay	Zogowee	13	8		5
		Loelay	11	5		6
	3. Zoegeh	Zontuo	14	7		7
		Neigbei	13	6		7
Total			73	36		37

For Details information on the UNHSTF please contact:

Mr. Ciapha Dorley Project Manager , 8th Floor - Pan African Plaza (PAP) 1st Street, Monrovia

E-mail: ciapha.dorley@fao.org Tel: 0776737529

Produced / Printed By:

FAO (Liberia) Communications

Snotee O. Sorboh (Communications Assistant)

United Nations Human Security Trust Fund Initiative



Project Snapshot

Second Edition

March 2018



WFP CGR Empowers Rural Women



Project Brief

Although Liberia is no longer facing an acute humanitarian situation, nevertheless, according to the 2013 UNDP Human Development Index (HDI), Liberia is still ranked as one of the Low Human Development Countries (LDCs). Humanitarian risks resulting from the prolonged conflict are still generating vulnerabilities among many segments of the population across the country. Poverty remains a serious challenge in the country with majority of the population surviving on less than US\$1.25 per day with the rural areas being the most affected; unemployment stands at 77%, especially for young people (LISGIS -2010 Labor Force Survey Report). The project targets mostly women and youth who are the most vulnerable group of people (FAO UNHSTF Baseline study 2015) The project entitled “Human Security Initiative in the Most Neglected Communities with the Efforts by the UN Country Team in Liberia” emulates from the background that the four counties which accommodated large influx of Ivorian refugees and Liberians returnees, were marginalized and often neglected; support was focused on Ivorian refugees but not host communities. As a result of this situation the host communities became very vulnerable. This project was formulated using the “Human Security Approach” to help reduce vulnerability in those targeted counties bordering Côte D’Ivoire; Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland. . Below is a summary of the Project:

Project Summary	
Project title	“Human Security Initiative in the Most Neglected Communities with the Integration of Efforts by the UN Country Team in Liberia”
Total Direct Beneficiaries	15467
Total Indirect Beneficiaries	774533
Total Population of the Targeted Counties of Intervention	790,000 people/170,000 families
Counties of Intervention	Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland Counties
Objective	to enhance the human security of most vulnerable Liberian populations in the southeast region through adapting the value added approach of human security concept with “protection” and “empowerment” measures
Implementing UN agencies	FAO, WFP, UNFPA, ILO, UNICEF, UN Women and with the support of UNMIL
Implementing Partners	MoA, MoH, MoGCSP, Local government, Media, CSOs including NGOs and CBOs.
Activities by agencies	FAO– Agriculture; lowland rice production, and income generating activities (bee keeping, value addition to cassava, and valuable vegetable production) ILO - Feeder road rehabilitation WFP - Community grain reserves and support to lowland rice production through food for work UNFPA/UN Women –SGBV UNICEF -Political, Health and community security
Project Duration	From August 2014 to July 2017 (36 months)
Total Budget including indirect support costs in US\$	USD 4,196,338.08

WFP CGR Empowers Rural Women



Rural women in Bunadin, Nimba benefit from WFP efforts

The Human Security Trust Fund project is having incremental effects in increasing resilience and fostering food security for the Gleyee-Kwadoo” women group in Bunadin, Nimba County.

Through the human security initiative, the women-managed group has presented itself as a shining example when it comes to enhancing community food security and fostering social cohesion among a group of people with a history of conflict and shocks. The project is also helping strengthen economic empowerment, supporting sustained livelihoods, peacebuilding, and enhanced leadership management. Prior to the establishment of the Community Grain Reserves (CGR), the women of Bunadin and surrounding villages had no reliable sources of income. Then their main livelihood, agriculture, got terribly affected as a result of the 14 years of conflict and Ebola outbreak. Few years after Liberia’s civil war, rural women in Nimba County were constrained to host refugees from la Côte d’Ivoire, a situation which compounded their living condition, nearly undermined peace and further threatened the food security mainly along the borders.

However, Madam Kou, chairperson of the Gleyee-Kwadoo” women’s group, and few

other women, decided to organize themselves into an association with the sole purpose of pulling collective efforts to overcome the economic hardships they were faced with. According to her, the Human Security Trust Fund intervention was timely and has made and continues to make significant impact on the lives of the women in the community and beyond. “Through the project a CGR was established (consisting of storage facility equipped with processing mac hines & stocked with clean rice) in Bunadin, and this has been a huge help to the women, Bunadin community and other towns”. They call their CGR “enabler” and it has helped the women to increase their livelihoods activities especially in the

area of rice production thereby making the community to become more food secure and further strengthens the community’s capacity to better store and manage their food commodities. The establishment of the CGR has also created less labour and decreased post-harvest losses through the distribution of threshers, destoners and rice mill haulers. Besides the CGR, the women of Bunadin also acquired leadership and other skills for group management.

Besides the economic empowerment dividends of the project, the women have become more united and are better relating to other community dwellers, have gain greater admiration

from husbands and are now being consulted in decision making.

Using income from their economic activities, Madam Kou and her group members have innovatively widened the scope of their activity to the include the raising of pigs, which according to them will generate needed protein and additional income for members and families. “Considering our commitment to sustaining the project concept and working assiduously to lift members from poverty, living and working together in harmony, we are obliged to make this effort sustainable, said Kou”.

“We are out of words for WFP, the government and other partners for giving us the CGR. It has helped to the extent that we no longer have to worry about food shortages because all we have to do is to just walk to the CGR (food bank) and credit rice and pay after harvest. We no longer have to credit money just to buy rice for families”, said Kou. According to the Chairlady, Madam Kou, the “CGR has added value” to their labour and this time around, members of Bunadin and adjoining communities come to the CGR not only to mill rice but also to acquire gari, take rice on loan and sometimes ask to store their rice for them. The community according to the women are more united and have added or given them more voice when it comes to decision making in the community.



Rural women in Bunadin, Nimba benefit from WFP efforts

Pictorial View of Activities Under the UNHSTF



UNWomen Peace Hut Initiative Benefits Rural Women ...As Beatrice Jallah Explains How The Training Has Impacted Her Life



Beatrice Jallah explains how the UNWomen Peace Hut program has improved her business benefit from peace hut training

Before my participation in the Human Security Project, I used to sell in the local market in my village. I wanted to be a cross border trader but didn't understand the security issues at the border. I had low self-esteem because I had no idea or knowledge about my rights as a cross border trader nor the security issues that many women in cross border trade face at the borders.

When I participated in the Peace Hut training with women peace builders including attending regular peace hut meetings, I was able to understand my rights as a woman and what to do when my rights were abused. I begin to under-

stand my rights and how to get justice. The peace hut in my village opened my eyes, and today, I am now crossing the borders to trade goods and to buy goods because I now have confidence as a trader and as a woman. I now have a space in my village to discuss issues affecting women in the community. Also, my business as a cross border trader has grown, and I continue to get mentoring and coaching services from the project.

Many women and girls in my village are now reporting incidences of Sexual and Gender based Violence (ISGBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Extortion and other serious issues that affect women.

UNICEF, GoL Conduct Training For Beneficiaries



Participants at the training session

To strengthen the health security of target communities, especially adolescents and youth through HIV/AIDS prevention and enhancing sustainability, In April 2017, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCP) conducted a capacity development training for members of several communities in Maryland, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Montserrado Counties. The training included community entry; problem identification; problem analysis; identification of the solution; planning for implementation and change; monitoring implementation progress; and evaluation. It was done through group work, demonstration, dramas, and presentation. Those trained commenced

PHAST implementation in Maryland, River Gee and Grand Gedeh counties. WASH management committees were also set up in the below-listed UNHSTF communities by UNICEF WASH implementing partners in Maryland (ERS), River Gee (SURIDO), and Grand Gedeh (RIDA). They were also involved in the implementation of other WASH activities in these communities including setting up a "cash box" system; implementing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS); and con-

structing/rehabilitating water points. The communities in which work took place, included: Grand Gedeh – Teledde, Ziway Town; Maryland – Coluso, Dorrobo Gbalaken, Karloken, Gedebo Wartiken, Pleebo Zone 3 A&B, Pleebo Zone 6 Catholic Mission; River Gee – Jayproken, Klaboken, Gbaquiah, Parken, Wartiken. 24 handpump mechanics were trained in Teledde, and Ziway Town (Grand Gedeh), Konuso, Dorrobo Gbalaken, Karloken, Gedebo Wartiken, and Pleebo Zones 3 A& B and 6 (Maryland County), and Jayproken, Gbaquiah, Parken, Klaboken and Wartiken (River Gee).



Beneficiaries at the displaying what was taught during the training

FAO Empowering Neglected Communities



Lowland rice production one of FAO's components under the UNHSTF

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as lead of United Nations Human Security Trust Fund has scored numerous successes to enhance the human security concept through the value added approach "empowerment". This was achieved through improved agriculture production to enhance productivity and increase household income. In 2014 this project could not start due to the devastating outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). However, the project commenced in 2015 after cessation of the EVD. FAO is jointly implementing 2 of the 7 objectives:

Objective 2: To strengthen agriculture based livelihoods of vulnerable population through markets & roads accessibility, skills training, and employment creation, (FAO and ILO)

With support from FAO and the decentralized offices of the MoA 250 local government officers and community leaders now have the skills to strengthen existing peace through agriculture production; access to local

rice and assorted vegetables as well as food consumption in the 23 targeted communities and surroundings have improved as a result of enhanced productivity. **Objective 5:** To enhance food security among vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers and strengthen the internal governance structure of target local communities and women farmer groups

More than 80% of households especially women headed ones have reported increase in income from sales of agricultural products (rice, vegetables and cassava products); though access to market slightly improved, it remains a challenge that future intervention must help mitigate (FAO - project monthly update)

Over 100 hectares of lowland have been restored in the four target counties

Currently rehabilitation of irrigation schemes is being concluded

An estimated 500 Mt of low-

land rice have been produced from 2016 to 2017. On the average lowlands are harvested 2 times a year using improved varieties like the NL-19

40 Farmers Field Schools have been established following a week long training of trainers in the methodology and concept

Natural honey is being produced in Kpein Nimba county; this has also increased income of households and is currently an adapted income generating asset for farmers in Kpein

Two new youth-gender sensitive –cooperatives have been organized and is currently undergoing training and certification through the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)

It is worth mentioning implementing partners whose concerted efforts propelled the gain scored through these periods:

Sustainable Agriculture Promoters (SAP) - Grand Gedeh

Compassion Funds Liberia (CoFUL) - River Gee

Agriculture Today (ATI) - Maryland County

Diotefam Agriculture and Human Resource Development Team DAHRT—Nimba County

Together with these partners using the human security approach, the neglected communities have been empowered, social cohesion has also improved. Vulnerability for women and youth have reduced; women are now co-decision makers in household expenditures; food, clothing, medical, construction etc...

The head of the swamp/beekeeping team in Kpein, Nimba County, Madam Martha Yarn Belleh lauded the efforts of FAO and partners for empowering then. Madam Belleh: "We can boast about the relevance of this project in our lives because our families can turn to it as a major source of livelihoods." Madam Belleh added that "This is our first harvest since we started this beekeeping." She informed the team that they started with 13 boxes and four is ready for harvest. She further noted: "This beekeeping project will benefit us because it is profitable and easy to raise," adding that "FAO came and trained us in beekeeping and though it is our first time we find it easy to do and it's profitable." From the income generated women were able to pay their children tuition, carried out renovation of their homes and settled medical bills.