

## Sections Reports per community

### SECTION A1:

**Training Title:** Male Champs Training

**Location:** Zontuo, Zoe-gbao District, Nimba County

**Training Dates/ Duration:** Four (4) days – August 31 to September 4, 2015

### Training Report Zontuo



### Introduction:

In working to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in Liberia, RRF conducted five Days training sessions in Zontuo Town, Nimba County respectively. The purpose of the project was to ensure the inclusion of men and boys in fostering gender equality and the prevention of SGBV amongst community dwellers. The training was designed to be delivered to 50 male champs emerging from Zontuo Township including Zontuo Town, Fenplay, Troupoe and Gwuekpanleh in the Zoe-gbao District, Nimba County. The training brought together registered male champs that comprised of local government Officials, small farmers in cash crops, vegetable growers, clergy men, elders, local youth leaders, town chiefs, local community security personnel and interested community members. The participants of Zontuo Township were dominated by Christians and traditionalists.



About 80% of the participants testified of perpetrating violence against women and girls thereby making commitments to bring positive changes upon returning in their communities through challenging negative masculine norms. These positive changes according to the personal commitment sheet included sharing of domestic works with women and girls, equal opportunity for both girls and boys acquiring quality education, family properties distribution, promote safe and free environment

The first session of the workshop began with an official remark to open the training workshop done by Hon. Sammy Z. Langar, Spokesperson of Nimba County Traditional council. He encouraged

participants to consider the training key if we are to end violence against women and girls in all forms in Zoe-gbao District and Liberia at large.

The second session of the workshop started with setting the learning environment through soliciting participants' expectations. The objectives of the training was displayed, explained to the understanding of the participants, agenda over view and working agreements set, (ground rules). This was follow by icebreaking leading to formal introduction of participants and training facilitators. This session of the training was facilitated by Mr. Joseph Ballah, Rights and Rice Foundation.

The overall objectives of the training presented are as follow:

- To increase their understanding about what masculinity means through sharing of experiences, its reconstruction and reinforcement and connection with violence against women and girls
- To reflect on gender inequality and power imbalance through analyzing masculinity;
- To challenge with skills acquired, harmful masculine norms, practices as an attempt to foster critical reflection
- To identify personal steps, make commitment and measures to promote gender equality and an end to violence against women and girls

### **Training methodology and techniques used**

A set of training methodology and techniques were employed during the five day training. These methodologies and techniques included role plays, drama, buzz group discussion, small and large group discussion, presentation, ice breaker/ energizer, picture code and demonstration. Randomly training contents on Pre and post test was conducted at the beginning and ending of the training as well as daily evaluation and final evaluation to ensure that participants' expectations are matched

intern of retention rate toward achieving training objectives.



The training workshop adapted an approach to provide theoretical understanding about gender, masculinity and violence; the second is to practice creating awareness session in their communities and techniques through practical exercises and peer-review.

### **Brief description of the fifty registered and profiled male champs in Zontuo Township**

Participants were male representatives from the clan headquarter in Zontuo, the project main community and three catchment villages/towns. The 50 males recruited by FAO are community members who have no history of violence against women and girls serving as road models undergoing the training to move a higher level in their advocacy as male champs. The male champs are expected to work along with peace hut leaders and support peace hut activities in a positive manner.



As part of ensuring quality control of the training, participants were profiled using a standardized profiling form to gather basic information including location, age, marital status, position at community levels, knowledge on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), contacts, sources of livelihood and educational levels. This helped facilitators to redesign and adjust training methodology and approached to ensuring participant' expectations set are met in the given training time frame. According to the data collected, 88% (44) of the participants have had formal education ranging from primary to collage, all dropout at the time of the training.

**Note on participants profiling:**

College dropout== 10% (5) , High school graduates== 14% (7), Sr. high school dropout ==20% (10), Jr. high school dropout== 42% (21), zero literate== 12% (6) , 22% of the participants have had informal and formal training or awareness on SGBV , 78% (39) have no idea about SGBV. 50 participants have a total children of 369, female accounting for 181 while male stood at 188. 90% (45) of the participants testified to have met up with the traditional requirements to marry their wives while 10% (5) have not met up with these requirements.

Number Of participants from participating communities as follow: Zontuo Town (Center of the Peace Hut)-36, Troupoe Town - 5, Gwuekpanleh-5 and Fenplay Town-4.

**Pre and Post Tests**

The pre and post tests were conducted through a random approach with 55 participants. Printed cards with the words Agree, Disagree and partially agree were posted at different location in the training room for the pre and post-tests. The participants were given a clear instruction to move from their seats and stand under the correct option as one of the 20 statements is read. The co-facilitator moved in to count participants who have moved to the correct options of their right choice. As a result of the low literacy levels of about 15% participants using the below matrix, local interpreter was used at the beginning of the exercise. Results from the pre and post tests are recorded in the below matrix in table form.

No.	In your own words	Agree		Disagree		Partially agree	
		Before	Ending	Before	Ending	Before	Ending
1	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten	29	0	12	52	14	3
2	A man should have the final word about decisions making in the home	21	0	27	53	7	2
3	When women get rights, they are taking rights away from men	4	0	49	55	1	0
4	When a woman is sexually assaulted, she usually did something careless or wrong to put herself in that problem/situation	19	0	30	54	5	1
5	Gender equality threatens cultures, traditions and identities. They should remain as they are.	28	0	20	54	7	1
6	A community can be peaceful and prosper even when men and women not equal.	29	0	24	55	3	0
7	It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant. Men don't have to take care of reproductive issues	31	0	22	53	2	2

8	A woman should not move outside of her domestic area, it is her role to be at home.	44	0	11	55	0	0
9	Violence committed against women and girls is an act to discipline them.	15	0	39	55	1	0
10	Girls and women are not entitled to claim or own properties. Boys should take ownership of their parents' properties	47	0	8	51	0	4
11	Parents have the right to choose husbands for their daughters under 18 years old.	15	0	35	53	5	2
12	Girls should be encouraged to take Family Planning	26	48	29	7	0	0
13	The ways community brings up boys can be changed over time, it is not fixed	31	52	24	0	0	3
14	Women and men have equal rights, they are born equal.	18	54	37	0		1
15	Marital rape is a form of sexual abuse and violence against women and girls	28	53	18	0	9	2
16	National laws and policies that allow sons to inherit properties are good example of gender equality	15	0	36	55	4	0
17	Sex is about women and man business rather than the way boys and girl are born	37	0	17	55	1	0
18	Gender is Western (Whiteman) ideas that promote women and girls business more than men or boys.	21	0	29	50	5	5
19	All human beings need to enjoy Human Rights, whether you are women or men, boys or girls.	21	55	30	0	4	0
20	Inequalities between men and women are a result of power not equal between men and women	19	54	27	1	9	0

### Training session

The next session commenced with an interactive activities where participants were told that they are now on a New Planet. On the new planet, participants were allowed to take four basic rights as listed below:

- Physical safety (nobody can harm you)
- Right to make your own decision
- Right to respect others
- Rights to control your own sexuality

This exercise was done to contribute in building



“Oh, so man and woman get the same rights even right over man and women business, I just get know now”  
Comment from Chief Peter Langar pointing out in an honor and cooperative voice to his colleagues

participants' understanding of the importance of human rights of all individuals and the interdependence of all human rights. To demonstrate how one group can take away another group's human rights due to power imbalance. This interactive exercise also raises awareness about gender inequality, injustice and power imbalance in the absence of human rights in the families and the wider community. At the end of the exercise, participants acknowledged that women and men, boys and girls should enjoy the four basic human rights to have a safe environment free of threats for humanity especial for women and girls.

The training participants acquired knowledge in the following key topics listed below:

- Gender and power dynamics,
- Violence and peaceful communities,
- sexual and reproductive health and Rights,
- Fatherhood and Household decision making.
- Men as supportive partners to their female counterpace

### **Contents of the training included**

- Gender and power dynamics (this contains 4 sub sessions)
- Violence and peaceful community ( this contains 6 sub- sessions)
- Sexual and reproductive health and Rights (SRHR) (this contains 4 sub- sessions), at each training center, a professional health worker (OIC for clinic or health worker from the hospital/Health center) facilitated this session.
- Fatherhood and shared decision making ( this contains 4 sub –sessions)

Each topic was presented beginning with the session, topics and the objectives, this was follow by plenary discussion to encourage participants deepen their understanding about the topics. Role play and dramatization also reinforced the learning environment for participants.

At some point in time, participants were asked to contribute to key words found in the activities. For examples, participants contributed to the following:

- a. What is Gender?
- b. Gender work loads
- c. What is sex?
- d. What is power?
- e. How the use of power can bad or good?
- f. The different between sex and gender
- g. What is the meaning of “power over” and “power with”
- h. What is violence?
- i. Types of violence
- j. What is sexual gender based violence (SGBV)

The training took into consideration several discussions of gender equality, “power with” versus “power over” which clearly identified the differences between;

- Man and woman
- Masculinity & femininity

- Patriarchy which explained male dominant society
- Gender based violence, sexual violence, emotional and psychological violence including physical violence and
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights,
- SGBV referral pathway

The training facilitators provided brief information about each session with reference to the UN Women Liberia manual entitled "Engaging Liberia Men and Boys in Gender Equality"

The training provided participants brief overview and the important of some national and international policies or laws regarding the rights of women, girls and children in fostering gender equality, power balance and SGBV free society for inclusive contentment for all regardless of color, race, sex and status.

Examples:

- UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- CEDAW adopted 1979,
- Liberia national laws on SGBV (SGBV Joint Program of 2008; National Plan of Action on GBV 2011-2015,
- Framework for SRHR (National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy of 2010
- The Rape law of Liberia-2006

Specific training was provided to Male champion leaders who are responsible to engage in public campaign on gender equality and SGBV free society for women and girls upon returning in their communities.

The below outlined agenda activities that were carried out by the training team:

- Community Building; this activity was to create an enabling environment where people may interact freely and learn to know each other;
- Pre- test, Pre – Test was provided to participants to assess their knowledge on the materials that was been provided to them for learning;
- Clarified their expectations for the training;
- Identified and address possible hindrances to their learning;
- Explained the goal and objectives of the training; and follow by
- Gender and power dynamics;
- Violence and Peaceful Communities;

Participants expressed satisfactory desire and appreciated the importance of the program in their community.

[Testimonies captured during the training in Zontuo Community](#)

Men at the training make true confession and felt guilty of their attitude in perpetrating violence against their wives

Men, attending the training in Zoe-gbao District, on their own, took soft drinks to their wives home, in appreciation and as a sign of being very sorry for the abusive behaviors carried out against them and women.



**Pastor George G. Lamah** “something I really learn here and I will try to practice it is calling my wife “Ma” Ma Kama, from now on I have learned something I will always call you “ma”. I want to say thanks to RRF and UN women for this workshop .from now onward it has add some to my Christian life”  
*He gave his soft drink to his wife including 21 other men who told their co-participants, to take their soft drink on two occasions, after the workshop, to this wives to appreciate them*

**Madam Kuku Joseph** “we want to thank you people so much. Before we were ignorant of all these thing you taught us; if my could take care of home, really I don’t know before. From the workshop, my man will be able to take care of the home, carry children to school, and be able to carry children to the hospital and cook when I am not around. I taught that women support to do everything, today we will all begin to change our life.”



Woman, who served as cook and observer at the training, whose husband was at the training, appreciated RRF for the training and termed it as “Behavior Change for men” living with their wives and now having change of heart and love.

Men at the training make true confession and felt guilty of their attitude in perpetrating violence against their wives and women.



**Sonkarlay Gonvon-participant /MOE Teacher** “We are very guilty of all these things, very, very guilty. Because we have been ill-treating our wives and women; in fact they have been doing everything in the home and not even catering to them the way we support to. So today from this workshop, we have learned and will change completely and become ambassadors for RRF, UN women. So we want to say thank you, we enjoyed the workshop.”