



**act:onaid**  
Liberia

Just & Equal  
Communities Project  
Year 6

# Annual Report 2025

Funded by: SIDA Through the Embassy of Sweden

GRANT NUMBER: 10054

## About the Report

The report captures implementation outcomes and progress under the Just and Equal Communities Project for the period July 2024 to June 2025, delivered across five project counties including: Bong, Grand Gedeh, Gbarpolu, Montserrado and Margibi.

ActionAid Liberia

[July 2024 – June 2025]



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## Acronyms

AAL	ActionAid Liberia
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CHT	County Health Team
CMR	Country Model Review
CP	Country Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EPR	Enhancing the Protection of the Rights of Women, Girls, and Other Discriminated Groups in Liberia
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
JEC	Just and Equal Communities
LDHS	Liberia Demographic Health Survey
LIWEN	Liberian Women Empowerment Network
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATPAH	National Association on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health and Wellbeing of Women and Girls
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAT	Program Accountability Team
PAG	Program Advisory Group
PMT	Program Management Team
PVA	Participatory Vulnerability Analysis
SABI	Sexual Autonomy and Bodily Integrity
SAIL	Stop Aids in Liberia
SSC	SHEA and Safeguarding Committee
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
SHEA	Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SSFP	SHEA and Safeguarding Focal Person
ToC	Theory of Change
UPR	Universal Periodic Review (United Nations)
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders

## **I.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Between January and June 2025, the JEC project made significant progress in breaking the culture of silence around Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Sexual Gender-Based Violence across 50 communities in five counties (Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Bong and Margibi). Twenty-three Girls and Boys Forums and eight (8) Community Based Organizations comprising 66% females and 34% male members conducted sustained outreach on SRHR, SGBV, early marriage, and harmful practices, leading to tangible changes in community attitudes and behaviors. School-based comprehensive sexual education seminars reached at least 200, students with commitment to continue, while youth-friendly SRHR services were strengthened through advocacy in local health facilities. This led to increased reporting and survivors' access to treatment at health facilities and One-Stop-Centers. Early marriage significantly reduced during the period, with specific reference to an 80% reduction in Bellefanai, Bong County as a result of sustained advocacy.

Additionally, education outcomes were meaningfully transformative, with less than 2% dropout across project communities per monitoring reports. Schools in Montserrado, such as Anthonette Public School and Kamara Town Public School, recorded over 54% female enrollment in 2024 and 2025 compared to 2023/2024 school year. Twenty Teenage mothers, including Jenny F. Konneh in Gbarma District, Gbarpolu County and Ruth Andrew in Goba's Town Todee, Rural Montserrado County re-enrolled in school, demonstrating the impact of peer support and gender-inclusive education. These achievements align with SDG 4 and 5, promoting quality education and gender equality.

The re-enrollment of twenty teenage mothers in grade school and the rise of women and girls in school leadership and community decision-making show the project improved impact on women and girls. Traditional and religious leaders in Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu Counties made public commitments to end FGM and early marriage.

During the period, women, youth, and marginalized groups in the five project counties held duty-bearers accountable for their sexual and reproductive health rights through a combination of grassroots advocacy, community awareness, and leadership engagement and dialogues.

*"In Gobah Town, our community is speaking out now against rape. We are no longer silent. Through the CBO's action, the whole community has joined the fight against rape. Two perpetrators were brought to justice, including a 46-year-old man who raped a 14-year-old girl. The Gobah Town CBO supported the survivor through the referral pathway and ensured she access the needed services including treatment, psychosocial counselling, safe home, and legal aid until justice was served! Seeing her receive justice made the organization feel successful in our awareness campaigns."*

*Bendora Washington, President: Gobah Town, CBO, June, 2025*

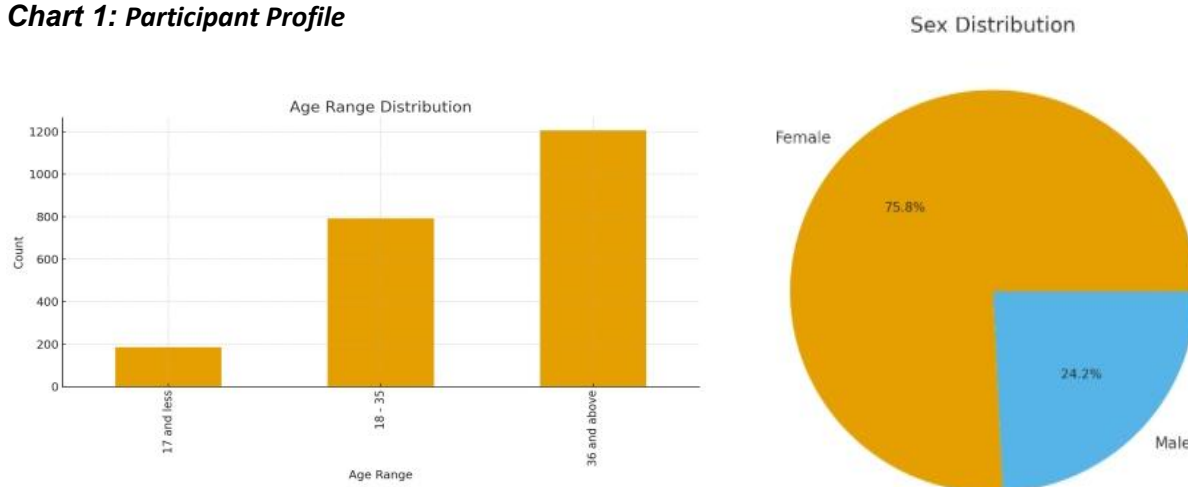
These results were achieved through a holistic multi-faceted human rights-based approach that included SRHR trainings, awareness, intergenerational dialogues, movement-building, response to gender-based violence service gaps, especially, survivors’ support, financial support, mentorship, and women-led community engagements.

Two Forums transitioned into registered CBOs, three women assumed clan leadership roles in Gbarpolu, and four young feminist networks emerged, demonstrating growing agency and sustained activism at the community level. The outcomes under this result align with SDG 3, 4, and 5, contributing to quality education, gender equality, and universal access to reproductive healthcare and Pillar I of the AAID. Collectively, the project’s integrated activities created safe spaces, amplified youth voices, and shifted social norms, reinforcing women and young people’s ability to hold duty bearers accountable and advocate for systems that respect their rights.

## 2.0 OVERALL REACH DATA ANALYSIS

The Just and Equal Communities (JEC) Project reached an overall **20,003** participants and stakeholders. A total of **2,183 direct participants** reached with trainings to lead project activities, **3,500** direct grassroots beneficiaries and **14,320** indirect participants through awareness, jamboree, cultural festival, campaigns and social media during the reporting year, engaging diverse groups across Liberia in efforts to advance sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), prevent gender-based violence (GBV), and address harmful traditional practices (HTPs).

**Chart 1: Participant Profile**



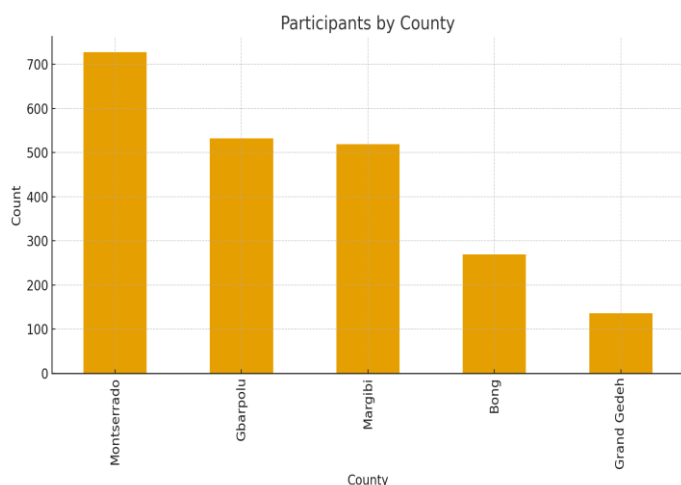
**Sex distribution:** Women and girls represented the majority of participants, reflecting the project’s focus on advancing gender equality.

**Age range:** Out of all direct participants reached, 8.5% are 17 years and below, 36.3 % are between the ages 18-35 and 55.3% are 36 and above. A significant proportion (over 60%) were young people aged 18–35, positioning youth at the center of change.

**Persons with disabilities:** 4.6 % direct participants reached were recorded as PLWDs. While relatively small, this group was meaningfully included in activities.

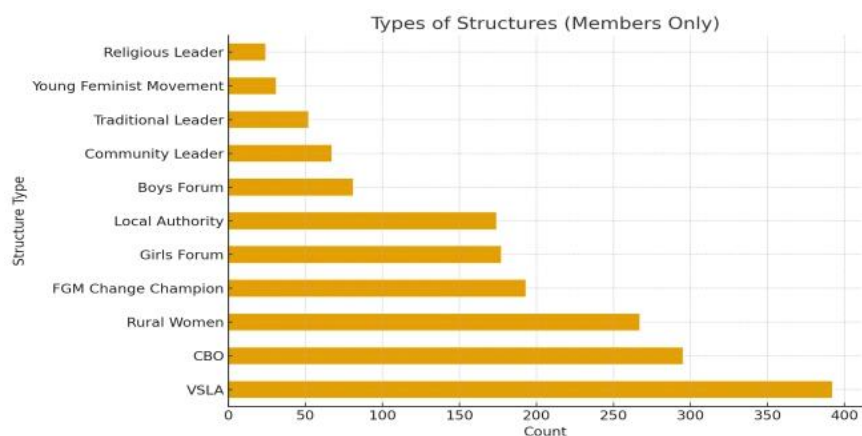
**Key populations:** The project engaged key populations including the LGBTQ communities etc.

**Chart 2: Geographic Reach**



The project was implemented across five counties (Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Margibi, Bong and Grand Gedeh), with the highest participation recorded in Montserrado, Gbarpolu and Margibi. Communities’ dwellers and structures within these counties demonstrated strong ownership and active engagement with project interventions.

**Chart 3: Structures and Leadership**



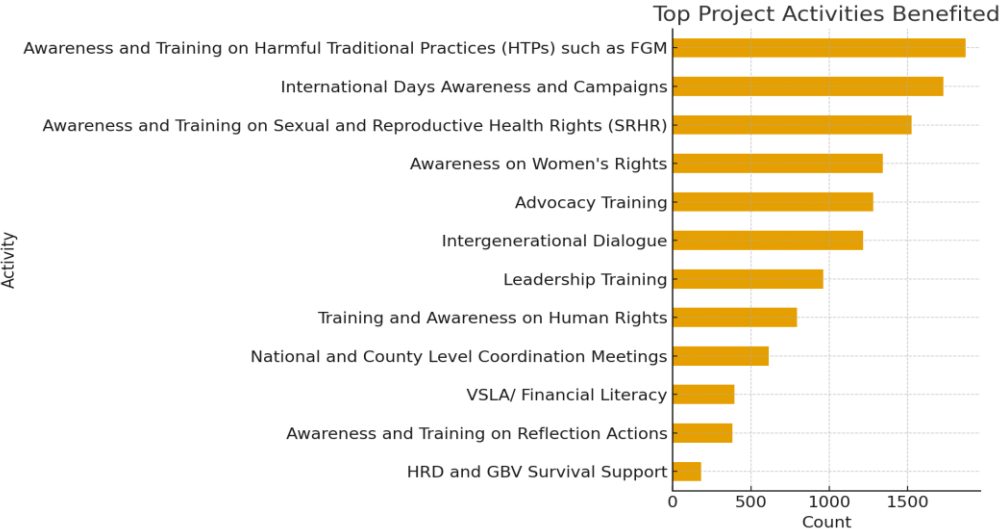
80.3 % of direct participants reported being members of a community-based structure such as CBOs, Girls’ and Boys’ Forums, Local authorities, Feminist forum, Rural Women’s Associations etc.

The project benefited more than 82 males, 178 girls from various boys’ forums across five counties with training and mentorship skills in SRHR, women and girls rights, advocacy against harmful practices and leadership, 296 CBOs members with similar mentorship and financial support, 68 community leaders with coordination skills and awareness among other initiatives, 194 FGM Change Champions with advocacy skills on health effect of FGM on women and other harmful practices, 175 local authorities engaged in coordination and advocacy on women’s rights and protection, 25 religious leaders involved in awareness and education, 268 rural women supporting SRHR and HTP advocacy and strategic coordination, 53 traditional leaders for buy-in and norms change, 32 young feminist members leading policy advocacy and awareness on SRHR and 393 VSLA members with financial literacy and small business trainings. Those indicated in

this data chart are beneficiaries of mentorship and trainings who furthered conducted step-down trainings and awareness for their larger structures.

Among them, a notable number of people held leadership positions, highlighting strengthened local leadership and advocacy capacity. Other participants reached which are not members of any structure includes students, beneficiaries of emergency funds, GBV survivors, etc.

**Chart 4: Access to Project Activities**



During the period, series of activities were conducted that contributed to the overall impact of the JEC project. Under the key four results, most beneficiaries participated in the following cross-cutting activities:

- Advocacy training
- Awareness on harmful traditional practices (including FGM)
- Women’s rights awareness
- Leadership training
- Inter-generational dialogues

This demonstrates a holistic approach that combined capacity building, awareness raising, and policy engagement on women’s right, SRHR, and anti-FGM.

**3.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Just and Equal Communities Project sixth year implementation marked an important phase of allyship, deepened community ownership and strategic advocacy. The JEC Project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Embassy of Sweden in Monrovia and implemented by ActionAid Liberia and its partners, built on the progress from the previous years and continued to advance its

goals of fostering gender equality, inclusivity and equitable communities where women, young people and marginalized groups can thrive in safe and just environments.

Still tackling structural norms issues especially socio-economic inequalities, discrimination around sexual reproductive health, and prevalence of harmful practices that is hampering the quality of life for women, girls, boys, marginalized people of diversity, the project sustained its presence across the 45 communities in Grand Gedeh, Bong, Gbarpolu, Montserrado Counties and established strong foundation in 5 additional communities in Margibi County bringing the total coverage to 50 communities in five counties.

In year 6, with deep focus on eliminating harmful practices, particularly Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), the project continued its rights-based approach toward achieving; deepened community engagement and leadership, enhanced capacity of marginalized groups, strengthened advocacy and policy influence, sustained campaigns and collective action and monitoring, learning, and adaptation. Below are key highlights from the implementation:

#### **4.0 Key Highlights of Year 6:**

- **Deepened Community Engagement and Leadership:** Building on the groundwork laid in Year 6, AAL and partners intensified support to over 120 community structures, including Girls' and boys' forums, community-based organizations emerged, Young Feminist Movement, grassroots women-led civil society organizations, Rural Women Rights Structures, FGM Change Champions, rural women's networks, young feminist and district women movements and several coordination mechanisms. These structures led sustained dialogues and actions that addressed SRHR, FGM, and sexual gender-based violence, resulting in increased community-led response to SGBV, declarations against FGM, and stronger local accountability mechanisms.
- **Strengthened Advocacy and Policy Influence:** The project amplified its advocacy efforts through evidence-based engagements with grassroots structures, national and sub-national duty bearers. Notably, community representatives and CSOs engaged in policy and community dialogues on the implementation of the Maputo Protocol, contributing to renewed commitments from local authorities and the introduction of a Roadmap for consultations to enforce protective laws and allocate resources for SRHR services.
- **Enhanced Capacity of Marginalized Groups:** Through targeted mentorship and training, emerging human rights organizations, youth groups, feminist movements and women-led CBOs enhanced their organizational governance, financial management, and advocacy skills. This led to increased visibility and participation of marginalized voices in public discourse and decision-making spaces.

- Sustained Campaigns and Collective Action: Year 6 saw a vibrant continuation of public campaigns, including the 16 Days of Activism, International Women’s Day, and FGM Zero Tolerance Day, World Menstrual Health and Hygiene Day. These campaigns mobilized thousands across the five counties and contributed to shifting social norms, with more traditional leaders and FGM practitioners publicly accepting alternative livelihoods and abandoning harmful practices.
- Monitoring, Learning, and Adaptation: The project strengthened its monitoring and learning systems, enabling real-time feedback and adaptive programming through building the CBOs and implementing partners capacity in using Kobo Collect. Participatory reflection sessions were used to assess progress, identify gaps, and co-create solutions with stakeholders.

## **5.0 PROGRAM APPROACH**

By measuring the uniqueness and interconnectedness of rights, ActionAid's human rights-based approach (HRBA) to community development interventions has developed the agency of local community, national and sub-national structures through a diverse reflection actions methodology to change power relations in every community. Twenty of the twenty-four FGM Change Champions Village Savings and Loans Associations held reflection dialogues. As a result of discussions held on women's rights, human rights, and the enforcement of the FGM moratorium in the VSLA reflect action meetings, the FGM Change Champions and Practitioners were able to call the attention of local government authorities and traditional leaders to act on enforcing the closure of bush “Poro and Sande” schools in Gbarma District, Gbarpolu County. This has ensured the safety and reassurance of women, girls and boys who were fleeing from the communities. While in Grand Gedeh County, the women advocated for re-establishment of the Safe Home for the support of survivors of violence. This led to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection taking concrete action including engaging partners toward refurbishing the Safe Home for its reopening.

The ActionAid's strategies aimed to empower marginalized and impoverished individuals, particularly women and youth, to find their voices and power, get ready and connected to collective movements, and openly demand their rights from those in positions of responsibility.

This method transcends a legal or technical approach to rights while also building upon international human rights law. In addition to helping people identify and address power disparities, the JEC Project interventions support and partners stand by those who are marginalized and living in poverty.

As the project enters its final implementation phase, the focus will be on institutionalizing gains, scaling successful models, and ensuring sustainability through stronger linkages with local community grassroots structures, local leadership, government systems and national policy frameworks. The commitment to a human rights-based approach remains

central, ensuring that the voices of women, young people, and marginalized groups continue to shape the path toward just and equal communities in Liberia.

## 6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST RESULTS

**Result 1: Women, young people, and marginalized groups have the agency to hold duty bearers and local leaders accountable for their SRH rights including practices and cultural beliefs that inhibit access to comprehensive SRH**

### Ind 1.1.1.1. # of Girls and Boys Forums-Awareness campaign on SRHR and women and girls' rights supported

During the period July 2024 to June 2025, there were lots of outcomes captured around increased youth engagement in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights advocacy and community accountability under the Just and Equal Communities Project across Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Montserrado and Margibi Counties.



A momentous outcome recorded is the breakdown of the culture of silence surrounding Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), that signals increased accountability and protection for women and girls in most of the project communities. This change is attributed to the continued awareness campaigns and community dialogues led by the Girls and Boys forums with support from the JEC project through local partners. Substantiated reports from community leaders, gender coordinators, police and health workers from the counties confirm survivor access to services including treatment, demonstrating strengthened local response systems. The launch of “Girl to Girl Talk” seminar at Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) School System by the Determine Girls Youth for Better Future Forum, in Baypolu, Margibi reached 30 students and 45 out of school youth, 83% of whom were girls, providing SRHR education including information on family planning commodities access, menstrual hygiene education and sanitary products.

For the first time, family planning commodities including condoms, pills and awareness information reached 75 youth (25 boys; 50 girls) in Salala Rubber Corporation community, reflecting a shift in behavioral promoting safe sex practices and the prevention of teenage pregnancies. Prosper TV Media in Margibi amplified this impact through a full coverage. See media link <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BmSESvJQE/> of Prosper TV.

Girls and Boys Forums across the five counties restored trust and confidence of adolescent girls in accessing local services through expanded outreach and education on SRHR and distribution of sanitary supplies. As a result of the mentorship and coaching provided by the project, forums were empowered to collaborate with school health clubs and organized regular SRHR learning sessions for youth. A total of 73 outreach and awareness campaigns were conducted during the reporting period across five counties, including 32 Girls & Boys Forums awareness and engagements and eighteen (18) CBOs advocacy and campaigns around key issues including; access to rights, improve services and protection, specifically, sexual reproductive health rights, and GBV concerns such as early marriage, FGM, menstrual hygiene, access to commodity and confidential services, HIV, teenage pregnancy, planned parenthood, domestic violence, rape, persistent non-support, menstrual hygiene and girls rights to education. Notably, the five project counties reported improved youth friendly access to SRH services at health facilities. In Gbarma District, Gbarpolu, through intense advocacy of Tarkpoima Forum, young people now access SRH services freely and confidently due to improved relationship with local health service providers.



**Abraham Tutu**, President of the Boys Forum in Tarkpoima narrates a transformative community level journey of change as it relates to SRHR, resource management, increase in school enrollment for girls, human rights, as well as girls’ rights. See Annex I

**SAFE DAYS AT SCHOOL:**

*"I used to think it was normal for girls to miss class during our periods. But after the Girls’ Forum in Belefanaï Town gave us pads and taught us how to manage our menstruation. I’ve been in school every day, and I see more girls doing the same. I now talk to my friends openly about my period and even help them to use the pads properly. Now, even with our periods, we are safe at school".*

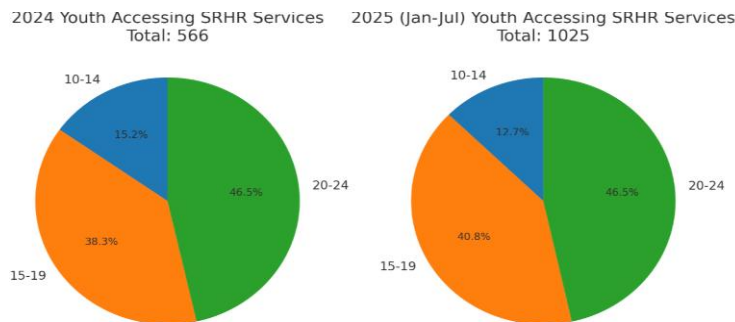
*Blessing Freeman, age 17  
Student: David Dean School,  
Belefanaï, Bong County*

The project documented several evidences of transformative changes during the period through stories of change and testimonials, like the story of Blessing Freeman, a project participant from Bong County who narrated how the menstrual health and hygiene education and supply of sanitary pads by the girls’ forum shifted her initial perception about menstruation and improved her school attendance.

Evidently, the JEC project has promoted institutional and cultural transformations across target counties. These changes impact the reduction in teenage pregnancy, promotes planned parenthood, as a result of sustained advocacy and engagement efforts by the youth forum

promoting cultural shifts supporting Gender Equality and comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights. Similarly, access to family planning services in 2025 almost doubled the 2024 data disaggregated by age from Zai’s Town Youth friendly health center from 566 to 1024 as a result of the Zai’s Town CBO’s advocacy engagement and outreach. See the chart.

**Chart 5: Improved Youth Access to SRH Services at Zai's Town health Facility, Grand Gedeh**



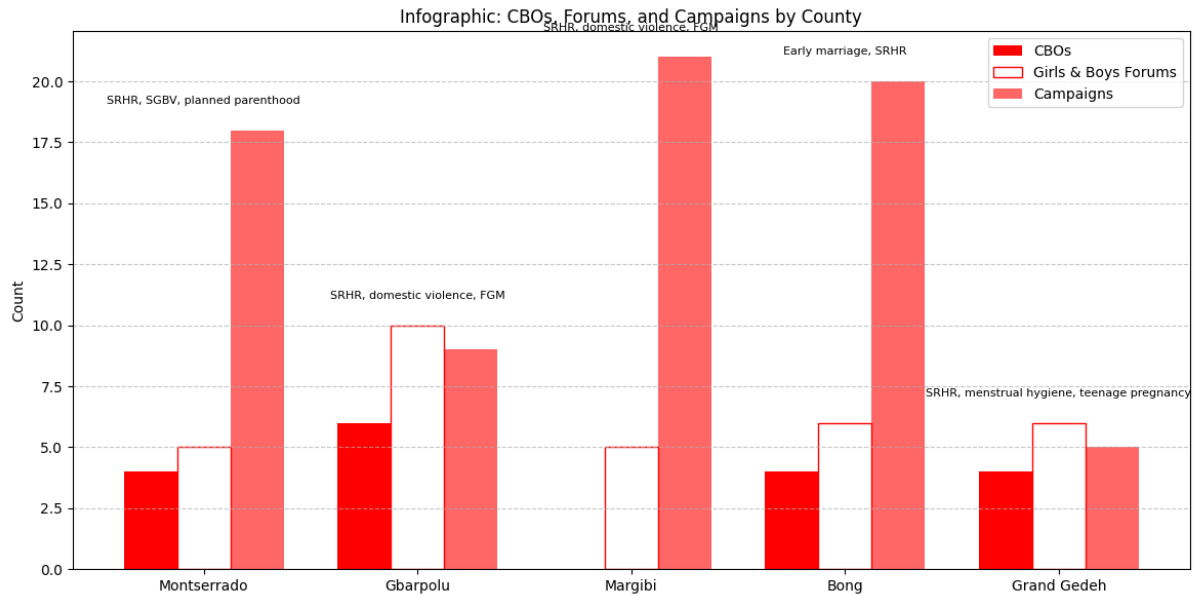
For the period project

engagements reflect Increased reporting of SGBV and progressive actions around SRHR across the 50 communities with strong evidence in Gobah Town, Todee, Baypolu, Gbarma, Gbarlatuah, Belefanai, Zai’s Town and Medina communities. These changes are all attributed to the mentorships and coaching provided to CBOs and Forum members to have raised awareness on teenage pregnancies, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), planned parenthood, the effects of early marriage, sexual, and domestic violence, as well as personal and menstrual hygiene. The project further supported these CBOs and Forums with small grants, and simplified information, education, communication materials to carry on community level advocacy in order to create lasting change. The CBOs and Forums in Montserrado led 18 campaigns, while Margibi conducted the 21 despite having no CBOs. Overall, 73 campaigns were implemented across five counties, with 32 Girls & Boys Forums and eighteen (18) CBOs.

under review, the community level

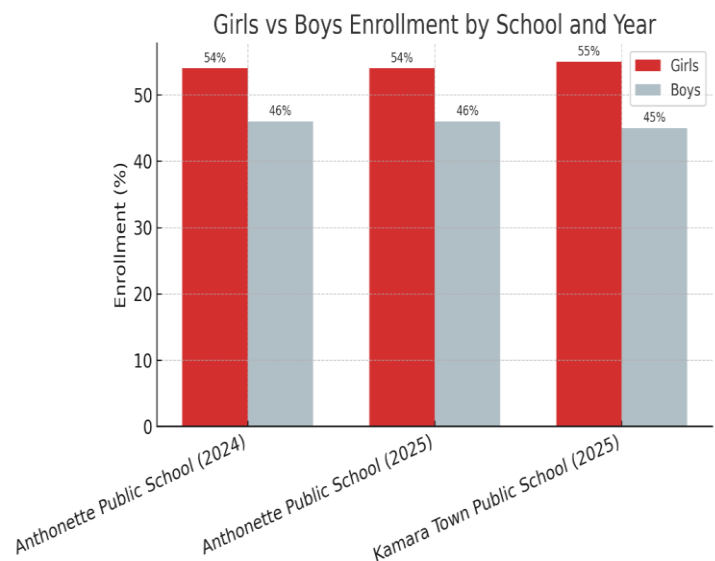
## Awareness Campaigns Supported

**Chart 6: CBOs and Forums Campaigns by County**



**Ind. 1.1.1.4 # of women-led engagements with traditional leaders, religious leaders and local government authorities supported to address cultural and traditional norms impeding women and girls’ access to comprehensive sexual education.**

Report from the project interventions in rural Montserrado shows consistency in girls’ school enrollment due to progressive anti-HTP advocacy. FGM Change Champions in Kpo River, intensely advocated against harmful traditional practices including FGM and early marriage, inheritance and rights to education for women and girls. According to their reports, those issues prevented girls from accessing quality education, participation in decision-making and having access to properties in the past. As a result of their advocacy, girls’ enrollment and retention has been consistent. Enrollment records from the Anthonette Public School in Bentol, Montserrado revealed that out of 248 students in 2024, 54% were girls and 45% boys. Likewise, 2025, recorded 54% girls. Kamara Town Public School showed a similar trend in 2025, with girls’ enrollment at 55% and boys being 45%



This demonstrates a shift in gender norms and community attitudes, contributing to national development agenda promoting gender equality and girls' education as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4). This outcome stems from mentorships and coaching provided to former FGM practitioners under the JEC project, coupled with community level advocacy efforts led by the Girls and Boys Forum.

Another outcome documented from the community level advocacy is the re-enrollment of teenage mothers in School. During the period, twenty teenage mothers were re-enrolled in school as a result of the awareness and engagement from women-led groups and girls forums. Several heartwarming testimonies like that of Jenny F. Konneh, a teenage mother from Gbarma District, Gbarpolu County returned to school after participating in Girls and Boys Forum sessions, demonstrating regained confidence and aspirations for equal educational opportunities. This transformation highlights gender-inclusive education and empowerment for vulnerable young women, contributing to SDG 4 and 5. This comes because of encouragement from women structures, peer support, and girls' right awareness sessions and intergenerational dialogues organized by Girls and Boys Forums under the project.

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***"I did not have the hope that I was going to go back to school. I dropped from school due to teenage pregnancy and lack of support. Since that time, I have been very ashamed to go among my friends. The JEC project changed everything when I attended the first forum meeting. I gained confidence and returned to school. I am now a senior high school student"* – Jenny F. Konneh**

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Another notable outcome during the reporting period was the dismantling of social and cultural barriers across the project counties and communities. Specifically, in Gbarpolu County, females are now increasingly assuming leadership roles, participating in decisions-making, and challenging harmful traditional norms particularly around pushback against cultural practices (Sande and Poro in Gbarma Town) early and forced inter religious marriage.

This change reflects a strong stance for girls' rights, and gender equality transformation at the grassroots level thereby promoting female empowerment and leadership in areas where women are marginalized and unprotected. In addition, the local engagement and dialogue between FGM Champions and male traditional leaders and



***"I later realized that we were normalizing abuse of our rights in the name of respect for culture and taboos. The courage to attend one SRHR and Human rights workshop changed my life. Today, I lead a strong advocacy group in my community and breaking the silence. Thanks to the JEC Project and partners.***

***Famatta Sirleaf, CBO Head Madina***

the mentorship and awareness campaigns led by the CBOs, Girls and Boys Forums, contributed towards this change.

During the project annual joint monitoring visit, Famatta Sirleaf, Head of the CBO in Medina, Gbarpolu County said that the above-mentioned change signals a shift in gender norms and deep-rooted taboos that are often seen as normal. Previously, women and girls were silenced by culture and taboos. Freedom of expression and association were restricted, thus limiting girls' presence in decision making bodies. There was limited education for girls, and gender-based violence was considered normal. That mindset has changed in Medina, women and girls are now actively participating in leadership and competing for decision-making positions with lot of confidence. This showcases a progressive effort towards achieving the project outcomes by eliminating discriminatory norms, enhancing women's participation, and protecting rights to bodily autonomy. What

*How I used my Voice and Action to Prevent 6 new FGM Initiations in Grand Gedeh County*

*"When I joined the rural women meetings with our traditional and religious leaders, I finally got to speak with other women on the truth about what happens to girls during bush school. What I thought was a rite of passage, and source of pride turned out to be a violation. A practice that I greatly admired and wanted so much to join turned out to be harmful to myself and other girls. Other women spoke openly about the pain, the health risks, and the scars, both in the body and in the heart. I left those meetings with a courage I never felt before. I went home determined to protect my sisters. I told all "six" of them why they must not join, and for the first time, they listened. My father, who had also attended one of the awareness sessions, stood by me. People tried to pressure him, but he refused. Together, we kept my sisters safe. That day, I knew women's voices could truly change traditions and save lives."*

*~Victee Jones~  
Member: Zai's Town CBO*

was once unthinkable in Medina, has become achievable because girls now have the knowledge, confidence and collective strength to amplify their voices.

In Zai's Town, Grand Gedeh County, women-led advocacy is reshaping deeply rooted cultural norms that hinder girls' access to comprehensive sexual education. Victee Jones, a member of Zai Town CBO and a passionate human right defender, emerged as a strong voice. She used her voice to challenge FGM and engage with local traditional leaders showing how to lead the change you desire. This advocacy, supported through the project's women-led engagements, demonstrates how empowering women to

engage directly with community leaders can challenge long-standing traditions and protect the health and rights of girls. Her story reflects the growing impact of women-led action in shifting harmful norms in Grand Gedeh, yea Liberia.

The current shifts in perception signals the growing need of women to utilize empowerment opportunities to engage in decision-making that improves their life. In the rural parts of Liberia, heightened misunderstanding and myths around sexual education still persist making it seem like a taboo to openly discuss topic around SRHR. Though the National Policy Girls on Education (NPGE 2021–2026) pushes gender-transformative education with comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) as cross-cutting, some schools still do not integrate it into curriculum, mothers and the communities do not encourage these discussions with their children which leads to teenage pregnancies. According to



*“Every time I sit in a dialogue with a chief or religious head to discuss girls’ rights to education and protection, I remember where I came from as an uninformed teenage mother. I know these engagements are breaking the cycle of violence for the next generation of girls protection in Gbarma.” – E’yagoon CBO Head, Josephine Poole*

the E’yagoon CBO Head, in Gbarma Town, the CBO plays a very important role in mitigating this challenge by providing education on SRHR to school and out of school girls. The organization engaged 50 adolescent girls during the period with CSE. As a result, about 4 teenage mothers returned to school and understand how to prevent themselves from further harm. This change is very important as it shows that even after childbirth, women still have control over future parenthood and can still be empowered. The JEC Project provision of SRHR

training, and support to women-led awareness on the rights of women is bringing positive changes to the communities.

Overall, the project facilitated eight (8) women-led community engagements in four counties of implementation namely Bong, Grand Gedeh, Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh.

**Ind. 1.1.2.2. # of District feminist network movement built**

In Montserrado County, a grassroots feminist movement was successfully established



*Cross-section of Young Feminist Movement members in photo during MHD 2025*

and demonstrated active leadership by organizing a large-scale community parade to commemorate International Menstrual Hygiene Day. The movement also began engaging in sustained online advocacy promoting menstrual health rights SRHR. This outcome reflects a meaningful shift in the visibility and activism of grassroots feminist leaders. The public events and online engagement brought immense attention to menstrual hygiene and SRHR issues often neglected or stigmatized at the community level. For many members, this

marked their first public expression of feminist advocacy, laying the groundwork for long-term movement building.

The project supported this outcome by facilitating the formation of the network and providing targeted mentorship to its members. Training sessions covered SGBV, SRHR, menstrual hygiene, leadership, women and girls’ rights, advocacy, feminism, and network building. This technical and motivational support equipped members with the knowledge and confidence needed to engage their communities.

## **RESULT 2: Communities demonstrate improved power relations and reduction of traditional practices and cultural beliefs that inhibit access to comprehensive SRH Rights**

### *Ind. 2.2. Number of project communities reporting decrease in Harmful Traditional Practices and cultural beliefs that inhibit young people and marginalized groups access to SRH services through the project*

During the reporting period, July 2024 to June 2025, 50 JEC project communities 10 in Montserratado, 5 in Margibi, 10 in Grand Gedeh, 10 in Bong and 15 in Gbarpolu Counties reported a decrease in harmful traditional practices (HTPs) and cultural beliefs that hinders young people and marginalized groups' access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services as a result of strategic coordination and engagement. The project gathered outcomes that represent meaningful cultural shift in communities where long-standing harmful norms such as early marriage, limited girls' education, restriction of women in decision-making and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) have traditionally been upheld. The reported decline signals a growing community's willingness to challenge and transform deeply rooted practices that endanger and girls' and young people's health, rights, and futures. It also demonstrates increasing openness to SRHR discussions and leadership opportunities as crucial step toward inclusive health access and gender equality.

During a dialogue with county stakeholders in Grand Gedeh including traditional heads, religious leaders, rural women, youth leaders and county authorities publicly committed to promoting girls' education and ending harmful practices (including FGM and early marriage).

According to partners' report, six towns<sup>1</sup> formally integrated women-led discussions into local decision-making structures. Two religious leaders committed to advocating against FGM during sermons in Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu.



These changes signify a shift in behavior among influential traditional leaders, driven by support and empowerment of grassroots women's groups. This shows that the communities are now creating safe spaces for discussing "taboo" subjects, marking progress in the fight against FGM. These changes are very progressive not just improving local communities but directly contributing toward achieving regional and global frameworks like the

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<sup>1</sup> Boundary, Pouh Town, Gaye Town, Karlowleh Town, Tiama Town and Geeblo Town

African Charter on Peoples and Human Rights, on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5 and 3) to eliminate harmful practices and ensuring full participation of women in leadership. These changes occurred based on the project support to eight local women-led structures through implementing partners in Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Bong and Montserrado counties that held advocacy dialogues and engagement meetings with local stakeholders. These meetings reached 175 participants (100 female, 75 males) with 46% traditional leaders including women, 31% religious, 24% local government authorities including chiefs.

As a result of sustained women-led advocacy, Gbarma Town's Poro bush, a traditional space linked to practices that impact wellbeing through restrictions on freedom of movement and association of women and girls was shut down by state authority from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The town declared itself free of violence imposed by the tradition. The women indicated that this change is very significant to their district as it ensures that the Sande (Women Bush School that enables FGM) cannot operate as well.

Women and girls affirmed that this change means, they can live freely without fear of their bodies being violated. Girls can also enroll into academic schools and challenge early marriage and teenage pregnancies because there are no other competing traditional institutions that will force them to forgo academic empowerment. This change is very progressive towards achieving the SDG indicators 5.3 & 3.7 on ending HTPs and enabling access to SRHR. The JEC Project support provided towards women-led engagements in the counties contributed to the achievement of this result. A total of 10 women-led engagements that reached 120 (70 female; 50 male) stakeholders including traditional leaders were held in Gbarpolu, Bong, Grand Gedeh and Montserrado during February to June 2025.

**“I am the first female Clan Chief in Deewar Clan, since this clan was founded” - Jartu B. Johnson, Appointed Clan Chief.**

A former FGM practitioner, now Champion against harmful practices and women's advocate was appointed as Deewar Clan Chief in Vaye Town, Gbarpolu County, a role historically reserved for men. Jartu B. Johnson was appointed along with Juma White who is also part of the project and two other women. This marks a transformative change in local leadership norms and shift in the



*“I was a made clan chief because my people know that I am fit for the job. I stand anywhere and speak for my people especially the women that are going through suppression. If the JEC project and partners had not worked in our community this change was going to be difficult. Our people still need more knowledge and education”. –*

*Jartu B. Johnson, Acting Clan Chief, Deewar Clan.*

mindset of local decision-making bodies. Women are now speaking up and gaining confidence to compete with men for leadership. It was important to witness and document how rural women network in allyship with few men rallied up and supported

Jartu's appointment. That shows a major transformative action against male dominance in leadership in Gbarpolu. Women's participation in leadership is clearly increased in Vaye Town with about 30% women in local decision-making positions.

**Reduction in EARLY MARRIAGE and Domestic Violence**

*"Early marriage and domestic violence were so common that they felt like normal in Gbarlatuah. Every month, I would judge around 15 new cases. Many young girls were stopped from going to school due to early marriage and the responsibility of taking care of the home. Then the JEC project came to us. They spoke to our people about human rights, domestic violence, and the law. They worked with our women, our men, and even our young people. At first, I was not sure if it would change anything. But slowly, I began to notice something good happening. Since this 2025 March, instead of 15 or more cases a month, I receive only 3 or 2 cases. This is a good thing for us all in Gbarlatuah."*

*~Power Flosah~  
Town Chief, Gbarlatuah, Bong County*

Evidently, several of the project communities documented immense progress in reducing harmful practices. The reported 80% reduction in early marriage and domestic violence in Gbarlatuah is a remarkable achievement that goes beyond statistics, it represents a cultural shift and the reclaiming of rights for women and girls. The decline in early marriage signifies that more girls are expected to pursue academic schooling over being early mothers. By engaging residents directly and repeatedly, the project fostered dialogue and reflection, enabling community members to recognize and begin to abandon harmful practices.

**Table 1: Number of Communities Reporting Decrease in HTPs Key Outcomes Harvested**

County	Location	GBV / HTP Addressed	Evidence of Change Observed
Montserrado	Todee	Rape	2 rape cases brought to justice
Montserrado	Kpo River	Teenage pregnancy	5 schools record showed Reduction of teenage pregnancies and improved girls' retention
Montserrado	Project counties	Human Rights defenders & survivors support	20 HRD cases and survivor received support
Gbarpolu	Gbarma	Norms hindering women participation in leadership	4 women assumed leadership (2 girls from CBOs and 2 women in local leadership)

<b>Gbarpolu</b>	Vaye Town	Abolishment of FGM	34+ FGM Change Champions with alternative livelihood stood against the opening of bush school in the community
<b>Gbarpolu</b>	Bopolu	Anti girls' rights to education	98% increment in girl's enrollment and retention
<b>Gbarpolu</b>	Medina	Cultural and religious norms dismantled	Empowered Islamic girls now choose who to marry (Case study: Famatta Sirleaf)
<b>Grand Gedeh</b>	Zai Town	Rape	4 rape cases reported and sent to court
<b>Grand Gedeh</b>	Gaye, Bargblor, Zai, Old and New Pohn	FGM	30% FGM reduction
<b>Grand Gedeh</b>	Zwedru	Human Rights Violation	12 cases of human right violation reported to CBOs and forums and responded to by authorities
<b>Grand Gedeh</b>	Zai Town	Limited access to SRH services	Increased access to youth friendly family planning services from 566 in 2024 to 1024 in 2025
<b>Bong County</b>	Gbarlatuah	Early Marriage and Domestic Violence	80% of reduction in early marriage and domestic violence.

*Ind. 2.1.1.1. # of coordination meetings supported and held with local leadership including traditional and religious leaders, community health workers, school management committees, women and youth group heads*

Between July 2024 to June 2025, the project facilitated critical discussions that resulted in actionable commitments from leaders. Eight stakeholder county-level coordination meetings across Bong, Montserrado, Gbarpolu, and Grand Gedeh counties were held by the implementing partners, while at the national level ActionAid supported two engagements with National Rural Women Structure and National EducateHer women's platform. A total 200 stakeholders were engaged (120 women and 80 men of which 30% were young women and 20% young men with 2% persons with living with disability). Each meeting engaged diverse local actors, including traditional and religious leaders, community health Workers, school administrators, county and district education officers, youth and women group leaders. These sessions led to the development and implementation of community-specific action points aimed at strengthening awareness, access to CSE, and ownership of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services and related advocacy.



Coordination Meeting in Montserrado County

Through strategic meetings and dialogues on comprehensive sexual education supported by the project, the project created a safe space for these concerns to surface and fostered dialogue that led to community-suggested solutions.

On another instance, 90% of male attendees of coordination meetings in Montserrado committed to non-violent couple dialogue demonstrating the acceptance of mutual respect in family settings; 85% of parents committed to provide sex education to their children at home. This indicates attitudinal change among parental figures toward SRHR. This change is happened as a result of delivering extensive education on the different forms of abuse, domestic violence law, as well as the effect of domestic violence on women supported by the project. The coordination meeting supported by the project helped unpack harmful norms and gave participants tools and awareness to act differently.

The project observed strengthened leadership coordination in Bong County. Local leaders developed and implemented actions as it relates to strengthening GBV referral pathways, safe spaces for girls, and dialogue on FGM moratorium. This suggests progress around girls' safety and a deeper recognition of harmful traditional practices.

Ind. 2.1.1.2. # of action points tracked and supported from the coordination meetings by the district and county levels feminist networks working with AAL.

A significant outcome highlighted during this reporting period around strengthening coordination in Madina, Gbarpolu County was, the action of the community to have implemented a standing recommendation to increase the involvement of the Muslim community into project activities delivery. This enhanced collective efforts especially, *increasing SRHR acceptance*. The action brought about openness among community stakeholders to address religious resistance and create inclusive education. Prior to the project intervention, the community revealed a norm and misconception in the Muslim communities that prevented parents from encouraging their girls to engage in any dialogue relating to sex education.

**Documented Outcomes**

- Muslim Communities report increased SRHR acceptance compared to last year
- 90% of male committed to non-violent couple dialogue between couples
- 85 % parents committed to providing in home sex education to children
- Strengthened leadership coordination

Another major documented action point followed through was the advocacy for the refurbishing of the Zwedru Safe House that had been lying in ruin for over 6 years. The County Rural Women Structure with support from ActionAid County office in Grand Gedeh strategically engaged the County Gender Coordinator for the implementation of this

action. Based on the engagements, the Gender Coordinator has taken tangible steps toward this initiative.

*Ind.2.1.2.1. # of semi-annual intergenerational dialogues held on family planning, teenage pregnancy, early marriage, FGM, and intimate partner violence.*

Strengthened community ownership on SRHR and Women's Protection. Community-based organizations and forums under the project led the dialogues along with FGM Champions focused on SRHR and harmful practices specifically, on contraceptives, teenage pregnancy prevention, the dangers of early marriage and intimate partner violence. Young people used the opportunity to build solidarity with older women within the communities and vice versa.

The dialogues brought about positive attitudes towards SRHR issues amongst youth, FGM Change Champions, and community dwellers at large especially, improving the climate for youth-friendly sexual reproductive health services. Subsequently, FGM Champions accompanied the CBOs and forums school awareness for trust-building. These efforts revealed stakeholders' commitment to ongoing SRHR advocacy in communities and Schools. Following the dialogues, teachers, religious leaders, and community stakeholders pledged commitment to integrating SRHR messages into school and religious institutions and conducting ongoing advocacy on harmful traditional practices and intimate partner violence. Furthermore, the dialogues led to strengthened coordination between existing community structures and networks (Forums, CBOs, traditional councils and county council representative), fostering community ownership and collective responsibility toward changing harmful gender norms.



Intergenerational dialogue forum on SRHR and FGM held in Zai's Town, Grand Gedeh and Bong County

Intergenerational dialogues reached a total of 600 stakeholders (420 females, 180 males comprising 400 young people and 200 adults) in Grand Gedeh, Gbarpolu, Montserrado, Bong and Margibi Counties. The project supported these dialogues with facilitation, materials, and guidance needed to build participants' capacity and foster coordination. Through harmonizing multi-pronged approaches including understanding diversities and

age dynamics. The dialogues enabled intergenerational exchange and broke barriers that often silence youth, especially girls, in cultural conversations.

*Ind. 2.1.2.2. # of structures (forums, CBOs, and Rural Women Structures) supported to dialogue with local authorities on SRHRs*

During December 2024 to June 2025, the community advocacy for menstrual health gained ground in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. In the two counties, community-based organizations (CBOs) and local girls' and boys' forums began actively advocating for menstrual health education and access to products in schools and clinics. This shift followed targeted training and support provided by the project. One notable change came from Todee District, where a CBO leader successfully lobbied for the placement of sanitary pads in school bathrooms and at the Gobah Town Clinic. This initiative directly addressed menstrual stigma and helped improve school attendance and dignity for adolescent girls.

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*“We saw girls missing school because they didn’t have pads. Now, they can stay in class with confidence.” — Bendora Washington, CBO Head*

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The project provided training on advocacy and SRHR, facilitated community dialogues, and offered logistical support to help CBOs engage with local authorities and service providers. Similarly, in Margibi County, two of the forums in Weala and Baypolu initiated advocacy for menstrual health and hygiene access in two populated schools. Some girls admitted that it was their first education on the topic and they appreciated the knowledge gained. Ten of the girls declared interest to form part of the forum to learn more about their body and rights.

In Gaye Town, Grand Gedeh, the Girls' Forum gained a new and powerful role: resolving community disputes involving girls and young women. This recognition came after the project supported six community structures, including the Girls' Forum, with capacity-building and facilitation support. The town leadership now sees the forum as a trusted actor in local governance, marking a significant step forward in girls' civic participation and their recognition as rights holders and defenders of SRHR.

*“We didn’t just speak, we were listened. And now, we help solve problems that affect us.”— Member of Gaye Town Girls' Forum*

The project supported the forum with mentorship, training on SRHR and advocacy, and resources to organize and lead community sessions. See story annex for the full testimony from a successfully resolved dispute.

### Ind.2.2.2.1. # of National Cultural Festival conducted

A transformative outcome of the 2025 Culture Festival was the recognition of former FGM practitioners as “Champions of Change.” These women, once custodians of harmful practices, were celebrated for embracing positive cultural alternatives and stepping into new roles as cultural ambassadors and entrepreneurs. The festival provided a safe and empowering space for them to showcase traditional crafts, dances, and heritage narratives that exclude violence. This shift not only fostered dignity and pride but also encouraged economic empowerment through cultural tourism and artisanal crafts, laying the foundation for sustainable livelihoods.

The JEC Project facilitated the participation of former practitioners and culture performers from all five implementation counties (Bong, Grand Gedeh, Gbarpolu, Montserrado and Margibi), offering logistical support, coaching, and a platform for cultural expression while advancing the rights of women and girls against harmful practices. The project’s intentional focus on non-violent traditions helped reframe cultural identity and promote healing and reintegration for these women.

The festival also achieved a significant milestone in advocacy: public commitments from government officials, youth leaders, traditional authorities, media, and civil society actors to end FGM and promote rights-based cultural practices. These declarations, made during the closing statements, reinforced national and local accountability and political will for SRHR and anti-FGM efforts. The presence of high-level representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Gender, National Council of Chiefs, County Council, development partners, International Corporation and Embassy added weight to these commitments. By convening diverse stakeholders and facilitating inclusive dialogue, ActionAid created a space where policy and grassroots voices could align. The festival’s theme “Celebrating



Picture Highlights from the Culture Festival, June 2025

Culture and Empowering Change” served as a rallying point for unified action against harmful practices amidst traditional blindness.

Most importantly, the festival succeeded in promoting a unified Liberian identity rooted in safe and celebratory cultural expression. Through traditional performances, county-based floats, and youth-led competitions, the event normalized positive cultural practices and challenged the notion that harmful traditions are essential to cultural preservation. The inclusive participation of over 500 attendees, 50% women and girls, 30% students, and 20% traditional leaders and grassroots citizens demonstrated broad-based support for cultural transformation.

The project partners organized the national cultural festival in Bong County, designed as a one-day event to showcase Liberia’s rich heritage without harm. ActionAid and partners are creating safe, inclusive, and celebratory spaces helped shift public perception and foster solidarity across counties. *See photo annex and link to live coverage from the festival*

*Ind. 2.2.2.3. IEC and BCC materials for SRHR (considering people with visual impairment, speech impairment, and other disabilities)*

For the period under review, the project in Grand Gedeh developed and disseminated IEC/BCC materials on HTPs, including FGM, SRHR, menstrual hygiene, and SGBV prevention for community outreach campaigns. Through the support of the project, IEC materials, including 48 printed T-shirts with SRHR and anti-FGM messages, were distributed to VSLA group members in Gbarpolu County. ActionAid developed series of visibility materials with key advocacy and protection messages disseminated during national campaigns across the project counties including 16 Days of Activism, International Women’s Day, Human Rights Days, World AIDS Day, Day of the African Child, FGM Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day among others. Grassroots and national institutions utilized these materials highly resonated with the messages.

**RESULT 3: Strong and effective actions taken by communities, Human Rights Defenders, civil society, and social movements in holding duty bearers to account for SRH commitments under the Maputo Protocol and other national and international obligations.**

*Ind. 3.1.1.1. # of institutional HRDs, supported at subnational and national levels.*

Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), including women human rights defenders play a crucial role in advancing justice, equality and accountability in Liberia. However, HRDS often faces threats, intimidation, limited legal protection and insufficient access to resources. AAL, through the JEC, strengthen the enabling environment for HRDS, ensuring their

safety, visibility and effectiveness in advocating for marginalized communities especially women, girls and vulnerable populations.

This activity aims to strengthen the capacity of HRD and their institution, ensuring they can effectively advocate for human rights at the community level. Emergency support is essential in ensuring HRD institutions are strengthened to respond to individuals facing immediate risks. During the period institutional HRD was provided to (3) institutions (SAIL, NACAHP and THINK Safe Home) through the provision of financial support to enable the institutions to respond effectively to vulnerable cases and individuals under threat, by providing timely and necessary interventions to safeguard their well-being.

In March, the THINK Orphanage and safe home that host about 30 children and survivors was gutted with fire and two children died in the fire. AAL, provided financial support towards temporary relocation or shelter to support rent payment for the children and through the provision of food and non-food items.

The establishment of the 3636 toll-free hotlines to provide a vital reporting and support mechanism for individuals experiencing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and human rights defenders seeking help was done in April 2025; through the Lonestar cell telecommunications. The hotline (3636) was disseminated to human rights defenders across the project counties and on key platforms ensuring accessibility for vulnerable populations across Liberia. The hotline is controlled by ActionAid's Women Rights and Safeguarding focal point to provide guidance, connect callers with emergency resources, and refer them to appropriate services via the National Gender Based Violence Referral Pathway and at the National GBV call center for as legal aid, medical assistance, and psychological support. Through this comprehensive approach, the hotline aims to enhance community resilience, providing critical support to those at risk and reinforcing AAL's commitment to building safer, more supportive environments for vulnerable populations in Liberia.

*Ind. 3.1.1.2. #of individual HRDs and vulnerable cases supported with emergency funds as part of enhancing their security mechanism*

Emergency support to HRDs and vulnerable cases is crucial in safeguarding the rights of those facing immediate risks due to their marginalized status. Emergency support for vulnerable individuals is vital to safeguarding those at risk due to Sexual Gender Based Violence, Gender Based Violence affecting their Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). These HRDs often face severe threats, harassment, and even violence because of their efforts to challenge entrenched social norms and protect the rights of women, youth, and marginalized communities. Additionally, promoting GRPS is essential for gender equality, as it ensures public services cater to the unique needs of women and vulnerable populations.

During the period AAL through the JEC project with targeted emergency funds, engaged in rapid responses actions for

***“If it wasn’t for this project help, I honestly don’t know if I’d still be alive. I’m still healing, but I feel like I have a future again.”***

**– Morris LGBTQI+**

vulnerable individuals HRDs and vulnerable cases to secure immediate protection, providing psychosocial support for WHRDs affected by trauma or violence, safe spaces for vulnerable cases, medical care, legal assistance, and if necessary, temporary relocation, thereby reducing the risk of silencing these essential voices advocating for rights and safety in hostile environments.

There were about twenty-five (25) marginalized individuals or vulnerable persons including women, girls, children, PLWDs and WHRDs who suffered SGBV (Rape). GBV (Partners abuse), supporting to safe homes (Transporting survivors to safe home, provision of food items etc.), medical care for women and children. For example, caring for girls (1-15years) who were rape by family member or community member; these children were provided support for medical care, refer to safe homes with support through feeding a market women who was brutalized at the border and seeking care at JFK but later died; 2 PLWDs, pregnant women.

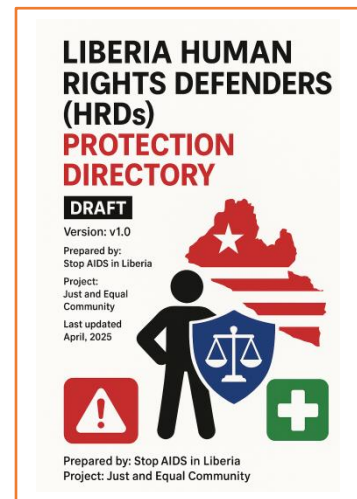
In December 2024, AAL provided emergency financial support to two women Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) facing critical security risks. This intervention facilitated protective measures, including temporary relocation and enhanced security mechanisms.

Emergency support is essential in ensuring that these individuals facing immediate risks have prompt access to funds for medical, feeding, relocation and special needs for person with disability. During the period, a rapid response team of WHRDs in AAL setup conducted an assessment and prioritize cases based on urgency and specific needs. There was Funds allocated for 5 emergency or vulnerable cases; including immediate medical treatment, follow-up care for medical emergencies of the physical assault on a cross-border female trader, ensure survivor (7year old) from Compound 3 Grand Bassa receive adequate feeding and relocation; Support transportation for relocating the child under attack to secure locations in Bong County, support for medical attention of a physical assault on a cross-border female trader, one safe-home survivor feeding, transportation to relocate a child under attack to safe home in Bong.

Engagement of Cyberbullying case: A young woman from Grand Gedeh reported threat of technology-facilitated gender-based violence from an ex-intimate partner cohering her to pay money to him regularly. ActionAid provided guidance to the survivor that aided her reporting the case to the police cybercrime unit, there are ongoing discussion with the cyber investigator to prevent the perpetrator from carrying out continues threat on the survivor. Psycho-social counselling was provided through the project.

### *Ind. 3.1.1.3. Availability of an HRDs directory*

The development of the *Liberia Human Rights Defenders Protection Directory (v1.0)* by Stop AIDS in Liberia (SAIL) is a significant outcome during the period. This tool enhances the safety and effectiveness of HRDs, especially women and LGBTIQ+ defenders by providing structured access to urgent protection services, legal aid, psychosocial care, medical support, digital security, and international solidarity networks. The directory includes emergency contacts, risk assessment templates, and a quick-action guide for HRDs under threat. It also outlines referral pathways and diplomatic channels for quiet diplomacy. By equipping HRDs with this comprehensive resource, the project intends to strengthened their ability to respond to threats, advocate safely, and remain visible in their work defending marginalized communities. The directory will be expanded and regularly updated and made available to HRD supported organizations for direct dissemination to survivors as needed. This will be finalized in the project year 7, ensuring sustained access and relevance in a rapidly evolving human rights tense landscape.



*Ind. 3.1.1.4. # of policy beliefs and stakeholders' engagement on the Maputo protocol*

On March 27, 2025, as part of the JEC Project, ActionAid Liberia in collaboration with partners, convened a national policy dialogue in Monrovia to assess the implementation of the Maputo Protocol and its alignment with Beijing +30 commitments. The dialogue, themed “Advancing Women’s Rights: Assessing the Implementation Progress of the Maputo Protocol and Its Linkage to Beijing +30 in Liberia,” brought together 43 participants from civil society organizations (CSOs), young women movement, women’s rights groups, government ministries, and other stakeholders. Key discussions focused on legal and policy gaps, reproductive health rights, harmful practices like female genital mutilation (FGM), and strategies for effective domestication and enforcement of the Maputo Protocol. The policy brief outlines critical findings, challenges, and actionable recommendations to accelerate gender equality and women’s rights in Liberia.

Following the dialogue, ActionAid Liberia led the development of a comprehensive policy brief that synthesizes key findings, challenges, and actionable recommendations. The brief highlights Liberia’s partial compliance with the Maputo Protocol, citing issues such as stalled reproductive health legislation, continued practice of FGM, and limited access to justice for survivors of violence. It also documents progress made through legal reforms and civil society advocacy. By translating dialogue outcomes into a strategic advocacy tool, the policy brief strengthens national accountability and provides a roadmap for government and civil society actors to accelerate gender equality. As a result, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice Human Rights Division, started the process to review, finalize and submit the Liberia combined 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Periodic Report Under the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and initial report under the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. AAL’s role in supporting the research, mobilizing stakeholders, and promoting inclusive dialogue was central to shaping this outcome.

In furtherance, the JEC project instrumental role in supporting the review and validation of Liberia’s National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2025–2029, a strategic framework aligned with international human rights treaties and national development priorities. The updated NHRAP, once finalized and implemented, is expected to significantly strengthen institutional accountability, enhance legal harmonization, and improve protections for vulnerable populations, particularly in areas such as torture prevention, prison reform, and access to justice. This collaboration underscores the critical role of civil society in sustaining Liberia’s human rights commitments and advancing inclusive governance.

#### **Training Impact on Domestic Violence**

- 243 participants trained (217 female, 26 male)
- 6 rape cases reported (2 each in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Gedeh)
- 12 human rights violations tracked in Grand Gedeh
- 30% reduction in FGM cases in Zwedru
- 56% knowledge gain in Margibi
- Male scores improved from 54% to 94%
- Youth improved by 44 points on average
- Community-led advocacy launched in Baypolu

#### **Ind. 3.1.1.5. # of local partner organization that received Institutional Support**

During the reporting period, the project strengthened its collaboration by providing institutional support to the existing five implementing partners operating in the project counties (Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Montserrado and Margibi). These partnerships played key role in advancing the project objectives particularly in reaching key stakeholders and vulnerable populations and contributing to service delivery at the grassroots level.

Stop AIDS in Liberia (SAIL) support led project implementation efforts targeting key population in Montserrado County, leveraging expertise in HIV prevention and strategic engagement. In Bong, the Women and Children Development Association of Liberia (WOCDAL) received support, Domafeign Agricultural and Community Development Organization in Gbarpolu, Liberian Women Empowerment Network (LIWEN) in Rural Montserrado, and National Association on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (NATPAH) in Grand Gedeh. These partners expanded outreach to the project targets and nearby communities integrated community development rights-based approaches and contributed to the but outcomes. Furthermore, this institutional support enabled the partners to enhance their operational capacities, strengthen coordination, deliver and sustain more targeted interventions to achieve the project goals.

#### **Ind. 3.1.2.1. # of rural women network, and girl’s forum members trained to monitor the domestic violence law and FGM moratorium violation and report perpetrators to relevant authorities using the referral pathway.**

Between April to May 2025, the project capacity strengthening efforts enhanced how community structures respond to reporting gender-based violence and violations of the

FGM Moratorium across the project communities. Through targeted trainings and support, members of the Community-based Organizations, Girls' and Boys' Forums, Rural Women Networks and county structures across the five project counties (Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, Gbarpolu, Margibi and Bong) gained skills to monitor, report and follow up through the referral pathways Gender-based Violence and FGM. Six Rape cases were formally reported by the CBOs and Rural Women structures, two each in Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Gedeh. Of these, two have been trialed and four currently on the docket, pending trial. In Grand Gedeh, the Rural Women Network tracked 12 human rights violations, including persistent non-support, domestic violence and rape. A powerful change was observed in Margibi, where a Girl Forum member in Kakata shared her story of being violated by a healthcare worker in silence and now feels empowered to report, reflecting a transformation from fear to confidence. After the training, forum members in Baypolu, Margi, launched a community-led advocacy campaign on domestic violence, FGM, and teenage pregnancy, with participant Alpha Peters, who began with 0% knowledge, appearing on Prosper TV Live creating awareness on domestic violence and proposing the forum's transition into a CBO. This marks a significant improvement in community-led legal aid and monitoring. This change reflects growing community commitment to justice and accountability. It signals progress towards eliminating discrimination against women and girls, ensuring access to justice. The project provided comprehensive training on Gender Based Violence, referral pathway and follow-up support with law enforcement and courts and equipped participants with tools to support survivors access to justice. A total of 243 (217 female, 27 male) stakeholders participated in the trainings in across the five project counties. Other stakeholders including faith leaders, teachers, social protection and law enforcement personnel, health worker and traditional leaders also formed part of the training.

Rural women structures and FGM Change Champions also documented 30% reduction in FGM Reported Cases in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh Project Communities". This change reflects social norms shift and improvement in community enforcement of the national moratorium and also increased community ownership in protecting women and girls right. The project supported FGM Change Champions, Rural Women Networks, Forums and CBOs with trainings and tools to raise awareness on the referral pathways for survivors. This helped community to take proactive steps to support individuals as risk of violence.

Pre and post training analysis in Margibi revealed a 56% participants knowledge increase of the domestic violence law, concepts and referral. Male who started with lower baseline knowledge, show the greatest improvement from 54% to 94% after the training. This shows that men and boys are capable of becoming key allies in GBV prevention and response. The overall learning improvement rate was 91%, with youth under 36years improving by an average of 44. Participants with the highest prior knowledge before the training have been strengthened to work with other stakeholders to led community and county-level advocacies. *See link to participants reflection and testimony on knowledge gain, as well as result analysis of pre and post test*

### Ind.3.2.1.1. # of international commemorations/Days supported

During the reporting period, the project successfully achieved “Increased Public Awareness on GBV, FGM, and Menstrual Health, Strengthened Community Engagement and Dialogue, Amplified Voices of Women and Girls, Increased Commitment from Stakeholders, and Improved Coordination and Partnerships amongst CBOs, Government Ministries, local leaders and school authorities”.

These changes are significant to the public because they are better informed about the causes, consequences, and prevention of gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices. Menstrual health was openly discussed, reducing stigma and misinformation. Traditional leaders, youth, and local authorities engaged in open discussions and advocacy, signaling community and public readiness to address sensitive issues around FGM, GBV, Menstrual Hygiene and Women's Rights.



Women and girls were provided with platforms to share personal stories, advocate for their rights, and lead marches in Montserrado, Bong and Grand Gedeh. Girls' perspectives were included in public dialogues on menstrual taboos they face daily. Government representatives and local leaders publicly expressed support for the elimination of GBV and FGM. Commitments were made by some national leaders to uphold the FGM moratorium and promote safer environments for women and girls.

The project contributed to the above outcomes through facilitating four (4) key International Commemoration Days. The 16 Days of Activism, International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, National Menstrual Hygiene Day, and International Women's Day. These events served as powerful platforms for raising public awareness on gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, and menstrual health. Community members, including traditional leaders, youth, government officials, and local authorities, actively participated in dialogues, advocacy marches, and outreach sessions.

The support of young people engagement in the CSW69 and Beijing+30 commemorative activities catalyzed meaningful progress in youth and women's leadership, transnational collaboration, and advocacy on critical issues such as reproductive health, climate change and gender-based violence. Through hybrid forums and strategic partnerships, over 200 participants, from Montserrado and Bong County including young feminists, civil society leaders, and diaspora actors actively contributed to shaping a joint action plan focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), economic empowerment,

and gender equality. These engagements strengthened intergenerational discussions, amplified rural voices, and laid the groundwork for inclusive, transformative programming that reflects the lived realities and aspirations of young people in Liberia and beyond. ActionAid’s participation at the international level connected bridges of opportunities for women and girls.

As a result, the events fostered stronger community engagement, amplified the voices of women and girls, and increased public commitment to protecting their rights and dignity. *See annex to photos and videos of commemorations as well as media coverage*

**Result 4: FGM practitioners have credible livelihood alternatives and support women and girls’ rights including health and girls’ education**

**Ind. 4.1.1.1: # of Village Saving Loan Associations (VSLAs) established exclusively for former FGM practitioners targeting at most 35 members per group**

Between February and June 2025, the project established 24 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) across the five counties (Gbarpolu, Bong, Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, and Margibi), targeting 805 former FGM practitioners and survivors. These women transitioned into FGM Change Champions leading sustainable income-generating businesses and advocating for SRHR and girls’ education. In Gbarpolu Zuo Clan, 41% of VSLA members invested in small businesses, while 60 percent invested in medical care for their families from VSLA credits. A participant in Zuo Town utilized the VSLA loan and started a soap-making business that supported her grandchildren’s education and health. While in Vaye Town, the entire VSLA group reinvested their soap-making profits into diversify agriculture farm to expand their savings. In Grand Gedeh, 15 women launched businesses from share-out, with those reinvesting seeing a 40% income increase. In Bong County, 85% of VSLA members engaging in income-generating activities. In March 2025, Todee VSLA in Montserrado, shared-out pre-existing savings of LRD \$409,000 among 16 members for reinvestment. These outcomes reflect a significant shift on economic dependency on FGM to sustainable livelihoods. The project contributed to the achievements by conducting a full-scale intensive training on financial literacy, small business management and leadership. Further, each VSLA was provided with starter kit including savings boxes, revolving cash grants and other essential materials. *See annex to change story*



As a result of strengthened capacity of women in the VSLA structures, a transformative outcome of leadership power shift was achieved during the period. Juma White, a Change Champion and member of the VSLA was appointed as the first female Clan Chief in the community, a positional traditionally held by men. Her leadership influence has driven awareness on unsafe abortion and birth delivery, encouraging women to seek professional care at the nearest health facility promoting conversation around SRHR and anti-FGM practices. She also claimed that the economic stability and independence achieved through the VSLA restored her confidence and gave her a voice to assert her opinions in public decision-making. *See video link to her transformative journey in annex.*

In Zuo and Yangaryah, Gbarpolu County, 100% of the VSLA members invested in formal education for their daughters, neglecting bush school enrolment. In Zai Town, Grand Gedeh, Victee Jones, a young woman and VSLA member, prevented her six sisters from joining the Sande (bush school) choosing education instead. Musu Karmo, a grandmother, used her VSLA savings to sponsor her granddaughter's education demonstrating intergenerational impact. These stories reflect a powerful gender social norms shift and youth empowerment, contributing to SDG 4 and 5 (quality education and gender equality). The integration of SRHR awareness and anti-FGM messaging into the VSLA training helped participants understand the health effect of harmful practices, thereby empowering them to advocate for change.

#### *Ind 4.1.1.2: # of former FGM practitioners' groups that received livelihood support*

Between April to June 2025, the project provided livelihood support to *former FGM practitioners' (Change Champions)* in terms of cash for flexible need-based investments through the 24 established VSLA Structures across the five project counties including, 8 VSLAs in Gbarpolu, 4 in Grand Gedeh, 4 in Bong, 4 in Margibi and 4 in Montserrado. The VSLAs are now utilizing their cash disbursement through the loan scheme and diversifying income sources for long-term sustainability. In Yarngayah and Vaye Town Gbarpolu, VSLA groups invested in soap-making and reinvesting the profits into cassava farming and large scale gari production.

A major social change was observed in Zuo, Gbarpolu, under the leadership of the newly appointed female Clan Chief, where a former Head Zoe, Ma Miatta (full name withheld), denounced FGM, citing health issues and personal regret. Her testimony offers compelling evidence of the growing awareness among traditional leaders about the consequences of FGM, including infections and even fatalities among young girls. See link to story carried by Front Page Africa <D:\Gbarpolu Zoes Denounce FGM.htm>.

***“I’m tired of this Sande bush business because our children are suffering and leaving behind”.***

***– Ma Miatta, Former Ma- Zoe, Gbarpolu***

These changes show the decreasing interest in harmful practices and the role of financial empowerment in driving collective grassroots transformation. FGM Change Champions are now leading efforts to gradual abandon FGM practice, eliminate child marriage and

promote girls' education and SRHR in the project communities. This also shows transformative shift in local power dynamics and social norms around harmful practices.

*Ind. 4. 1..1.3: # of FGM change champions reflect actions meetings supported*

Between January and June 2025, FGM Change Champions held reflection action strengthened their advocacy techniques, reaffirm commitments, share successful strategies including anti-FGM messaging that help reduce resistance in highly traditional communities marking a shift in social attitudes and collectively agreed local solutions to address backlash related to anti-FGM campaigns across the project communities. The reflection action meetings created a safe, strategic space where FGM Change Champions showcased champions' growth in confidence, public speaking, and local policy engagement.

In Bong and Gbarpolu Counties, the change champions noted that communities that once refused to engage in dialogue were now requesting awareness sessions, a clear sign of shifting norms. For instance, as mentioned earlier, the Muslim community in Gbarpolu who resisted SRHR training for their daughters due to myth believed that SRHR education would expose them to early sexual orientation; they later opened and requested SRHR trainings themselves and declared interest in the livelihood activities.

These changes suggest that the champions' work is not only being acknowledged but also increasingly accepted, enabling greater traction toward behavioral and institutional change. The project contributed to these changes by supporting bimonthly reflect action meetings for practitioners in the implementing counties and also strengthening grassroots leadership and organization to end harmful practices. The project supported eight reflection action meetings for FGM Change Champions in Bong, Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh counties.

*Ind. 4.2.1.1: # of FGM Change Champions teaching traditional home arts that received stipend in ten pilot schools*

As part of the project strategy to promote cultural preservation, economic empowerment, and the abandonment of harmful practices; in March 2025, the project successfully identified and recruited twelve skilled FGM Change Champions as traditional arts trainers in the five project counties. These champions will continue to lead traditional arts and crafts training sessions in local community schools, targeting young women and girls, including school dropouts and youth aged 12–34 years.

This initiative is expected to enhance alternative livelihoods for FGM Change Champions and showcase the preservation of the positive Liberian culture. The traditional trainers have identified server income generating skills including weaving country cloth, sewing hand-made African attires, beads making, country mats, baskets, hats among other

crafts. The project noted high enthusiasm from communities towards the prospect of the empowerment program. This activity will be fully roll out in year seven.

4.2.1.2: # of FGM Change Champions who received teaching and learning materials as teachers of traditional home arts

This activity will be implemented in project year seven due to the delayed approval from the Ministry of Education to initiate the activity in schools.

Ind. 4.2.2.1 # quarterly coordination meetings facilitated at national and county levels involving MIA, MOGCSP, the Traditional Council, Inter-Religious Council, and the FGM Task Force to discuss emerging FGM-related issues, the moratorium implementation.

“The National Traditional Council of Chiefs declared a nationwide suspension of all Poro and Sande traditional activities as of March 2025 to January 2026”.

This national-level suspension though not fully enforced reflects a critical shift in the recognition of harmful traditional practices and a willingness to align customary norms with human rights and development goals. It marks the most direct step taken by the Government of Liberia toward addressing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through traditional and political authority. The intense national and county-level coordination and advocacies for a law on the practice of FGM led to the constitution of a National Roadmap Committee on FGM.

A major change has been observed in the operations of the National Council of Chiefs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

This outcome supports JEC Objective 4.2 on enhancing inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination for effective FGM abandonment strategies. It contributes to SDG 5.3 (eliminate harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

The project facilitated ongoing engagement through quarterly coordination meetings, cultural festivals, advocacy dialogues, and strategic collaboration with traditional and government actors. This helped build the trust, pressure, and informed consensus that led to the historic announcement. *See link to story of declaration carried by the media in Annex.*

“All 18 participants (100%) in a county-level coordination meeting publicly committed to returning to their communities to raise awareness on FGM, early marriage, teenage pregnancy, and SRHR.”

This public commitment by stakeholders including representatives from MIA, MOGCSP, Traditional Council, Inter-Religious Council, and local leaders in Montserrado represents improved stakeholder ownership, joint responsibility, and momentum for grassroots

action. It also highlights increased participation of women (56%) in key dialogues, indicating progress in inclusive governance.

This change supports JEC Outcome 4.2 on strengthening coordination among SRHR actors and policy implementers. It aligns with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The project contributed to these changes by organizing the meetings, mobilized participants, and provided facilitation that encouraged open dialogue and participant-led commitment to action. These meetings led to a unified stance among agencies and traditional leaders, showing a shared commitment to address cross-county FGM challenges and resistance. Overall, the project facilitated four (4) coordination meetings in In Gbarpolu, Bong, Montserrado, and Grand Gedeh.

## **7.0 CHALLENGES TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

**Mobilization challenges in mining and plantation areas:** Some challenges were experienced engaging CBOs and forums in some project communities in Grand Gedeh and Gbarpolu where artisanal mining is a primary source of income, leading to mobilization delays. Project stakeholders are sometimes focused on their livelihood activities over attending meetings. To mitigate this constraint, the project adjusted its activity schedules to late evenings and some weekends to avoid continuous absence of participants. Flexible planning was implemented to accommodate participants livelihoods activity engagements. Additionally, the project increased communication and coordination with community leaders to ensure that project activities could be carried out efficiently.

### **Entrenched Perception based on Patriarchal Norms**

There still remains some challenge around entrenched perception among some traditional leaders, especially males regarding the relinquishment of harmful cultural practices rooted in patriarchal norms. These practices ranging from discriminatory rites to gender-based exclusions continue to limit efforts toward full gender equality and the protection of vulnerable groups. However, through continuous and strategic engagements facilitated under the project by the trained women and youth structures, like the Change Champions, Rural Women Structures, Forums and CBOs and strategic engagement with government institutions (MIA and MGCSP), there is a gradual shift in attitudes. Dialogue platforms, community sensitization, and inclusive consultations are also fostering increased openness among traditional leaders to re-evaluate and reform practices that conflict with human rights standards. This evolving landscape presents a promising opportunity to deepen transformative change at the grassroots level.

**Challenges for Older FGM Change Champions to sustain VSLA loan payments:** Some FGM Change Champions VSLA members are finding it difficult to keep up with loan repayment due to limited strength and ability to do active businesses. Most of them focus on paying for medication to stay healthy. To address this, the VSLA leadership engaged a close

member of their family, especially their daughters or sisters to support in handling their ventures and brainstormed sustainable business strategies.

**Access Issues for FGM Change Champions:** Some FGM Change Champions faced challenges accessing the revolving fund due to the central location of the VSLA (Village Savings and Loan Association) relative to their distant communities. In response, the project has explored options to decentralize the fund distribution by splitting VSLAs into two satellite centers for ease of access. Gbarpolu County successfully achieved this by establishing 8 structures instead of 4 and equally divided the disbursements.

**Mobile Money Disbursement Delays:** Disbursing transportation refunds via mobile money has been inefficient in rural communities. Many beneficiaries lack personal phones and rely on relatives' numbers which are not sometimes registered, causing delays of over weeks or sometimes no access. On the other note, many beneficiaries lack national ID cards, making SIM registration difficult and affecting mobile money access. The project has been working to strengthen mobile money systems by improving coordination with service providers and exploring alternative disbursement methods. In some counties, partner engaged the GSM companies to undertake SIM registration drives and considered cash-based options where feasible.

## **7.1 LESSONS LEARNED**

### **Strengthening Community Awareness on the Impacts of FGM**

Extensive awareness-raising on the health, social, and economic consequences of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is essential for the success of abandonment campaigns. Evidence shows that when both community members and FGM practitioners are educated about the harmful effects of the practice, they are more likely to support its discontinuation—even in contexts where it is deeply rooted in cultural traditions. This increased understanding has proven to be a powerful driver of behavioral and social change.

### **Economic Empowerment as a Pathway to Abandonment**

Providing financial support for alternative livelihoods is a key strategy in transforming the roles of FGM practitioners. By investing in small-scale businesses that offer sustainable income, practitioners and their families experience tangible economic improvements. This makes the transition away from FGM not only feasible but also desirable, reducing economic dependence on the practice.

### **Political Engagement for Sustainable Change**

In Liberia, where some political actors continue to support FGM to maintain electoral support from traditional constituencies, engaging politicians in awareness and advocacy efforts is a strategic approach. Involving them in anti-FGM initiatives helps align political

will with community-level change efforts and fosters a more enabling environment for the abandonment of the practice.

### **Leveraging Local Structures and Cultural Gatekeepers**

Collaborating with traditional leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Rural women Structures enhances the effectiveness and safety of FGM interventions. These local actors possess deep knowledge of the cultural and power dynamics that sustain FGM and are instrumental in designing and implementing context-sensitive strategies. Their involvement ensures community buy-in and contributes to more sustainable outcomes.

### **Capacity Strengthening Through Mentorship and Coaching**

Ongoing mentoring and coaching of implementing partners and community structures has been critical to the success of the project. This continuous support builds trust, enhances local capacity, and ensures the effective delivery of project activities. Strengthening the confidence and skills of local actors has proven essential in driving progress toward the abandonment of FGM.

### **Indirect and Unplanned Impact**

**Commendable Religious/ Faith-based Actors and Local Authorities' Actions:** The decision by faith leaders to enshrine protection messages in their sermons and some local authorities to establish mechanisms, such as local laws, aimed at preventing and protecting women, girls, and other vulnerable populations from abuse is highly commendable. These measures reflect a proactive approach to safeguarding the rights and well-being of these groups.

**Enhanced Capacity of AAL Implementing Partners and CBOs:** There has been a notable increase in the capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs). This improvement is evidenced by their successful engagement of county and national level stakeholders calling for progressive actions including laws, policies and seat at the traditional decision-making table. Three of the CBOs have put in place measures for the establishment of systems that facilitate the acquisition of funding from international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and government institutions to directly advance grassroots initiatives.

## **8.0 EMERGING NEEDS AND TRENDS**

**Drug addiction –** This remains a recurring problem identified by the communities. Some of the communities reported an increase in drug use, and this is contributing to increased criminality in the communities. They continue to recommend projects that will respond to drug addiction to enable them to sustain the gains they have made through the JEC project.

Shortage of teachers in the local schools – This also remains a recurring problem in the project communities with adverse effects on the project. The interconnections between SRHR programs and rights in a school project that addresses quality of education inclusive of the availability of teachers is important to ensure gain on SRHR and girls' education is sustained.

## **9.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND CHANGES TO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

AAL has continued to implement the recommendation of the Country Model Review where it is reshaping its sustainability as an organization. In view of this, AAL has begun implementing its change management process. Attention is focused on resourcing, re-tooling, and re-fitting along capacity to deliver, and localization- setting up an effective local governance structure.

Other management structures remain the same and these include; the Project Advisory Team (PAT), the Project Management Team (PMT), and the Project Advisory Group (PAG) towards effective leadership and oversight of the JEC project.

## **10.0 COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The JEC project continues to collaborate with like-minded partners towards leveraging resources and avoiding duplication. During the year in review, AAL continued its coordination efforts including the engagement with the EU that intended to build the capacity of the LIPRIDE Coalition thereby contributing to increased networking and collaboration of LGBTQI organizations especially on shared risk and learning; the Informal Working Group on Reproductive Health (Abortion), the continued collaboration with the County Health Teams (CHTs) and the SGBV division across the five counties in responding to comprehensive access to SRHR across AAL's project communities which has strengthened ActionAid's relationship with Ministry of Health's (MoH).

## **11.0 SYNERGY WITH OTHER ACTIONS**

The JEC project is collaborating with other actors. This is evidenced in the collaboration with other INGOs (rfsu, UNFPA, Medica Liberia, UN Women, Kvinna Til Kvinna, Plan International, and Catholic Relief Services) in addressing the issues of sexual reproductive health rights and violence against women in Liberia.

Nationally, AAL is also working in collaboration with line Ministries such as the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Youth and Sports including other agencies such as Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Land Authority, and the National Disaster Management Agency.

## **12.0 SAFEGUARDING**

ActionAid Liberia (AAL) took significant steps in strengthening safeguarding mechanisms across its programs and operations. In October 2025, a full-scale inception was held with the five project implementing partners dedicating an entire session to SHEA and Safeguarding, including providing policy and tools for reporting incidents. Reporting channels including the MTN 3636 hotline, suggestion boxes, and whistle-blowing procedures are now fully functional and widely known among staff, partners, and community members. These tools, alongside embedded SHEA (Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse), anti-bullying, and safeguarding policies, have created a safer and more responsive environment.

As a result of continuous awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts, communities have become more confident in reporting incidents of violence. This has led to a noticeable increase in case reporting and timely support for survivors. Internally, AAL has cultivated a workplace culture that prioritizes dignity, respect, and zero tolerance for harassment—ensuring that all staff thrive in a healthy and inclusive environment.

## **13.0 ANTI-CORRUPTION**

AAL continues to uphold its commitment to transparency and accountability through robust anti-corruption measures. The organization’s zero-tolerance policy on fraud, bribery, and corruption is actively enforced across all levels of engagement including staff, partners, suppliers, consultants, and volunteers.

Key progress includes:

Regular training sessions for staff and partners, enhancing understanding and ownership of anti-corruption principles. One training was held during the period.

Integration of anti-corruption clauses in all contracts with partners and service providers.

Annexing the full anti-corruption policy to funding agreements to ensure clarity and compliance.

Technical support to partners to develop and implement their own anti-corruption policies and procedures.

These efforts have strengthened internal controls, improved partner accountability, and reinforced public trust in AAL’s operations.

Signed: Program & Policy Manager: .....

Approved: Country Director.....