

**2010 SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROJECT
REPORT**

Submitted to:

LENTEN CAMPAIGN

by:



Women's Partnership for Justice and Peace (WPJP) Sierra Leone

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Inspiration to do the kinds of work Women's Partnership for Justice and Peace (WPJP) is doing was borne out of my personal experience of discrimination and injustice as a girl, born in rural Sierra Leone and brought up by an illiterate and single mother in a rural setting - Taiama. What started as a dream some years back has become a reality. I want to firstly thank God, almighty for His blessings.

Developing WPJP to this stage has been a long process and its success is owed to a lot of people. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. G. Bles and Ss. Benedict and her congregation in The Netherlands for their trust and relentless contributions especially during the very early stage of the organization.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to members of Stitching Taiama Andreas (STA) who in diverse ways have exhibited steadfast commitment and support to the work of WPJP. Of particular value also has been the financial support as well as the strong interest of Lenten Campaign, The Netherlands, in WPJP's work to respond and/or prevent Sexual and Gender-Based violence (SGBV). We fervently hope that results realized through the implementation of this project will serve as impetus for continuing support to WPJP in combating issues of SGBV.

To our numerous members, volunteers and networks, without you all would not have been achieved. We thank you very much and count on your relentless support always.

Gladys G. Gbappy-Brima: Founder/National Co-ordinator
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1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AND ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM

Women (particularly rural women) in Sierra Leone have few protections; they face formal and official discrimination under the two types of laws that co-exist: formal and common law. Formal laws comprise the Constitution and laws made by Parliament while common law refers to the English common law and customary law. Although **chapter three** of the 1991 constitution of Sierra Leone, promises equal protection under the law by stating that “no law shall make any provision which is discriminatory of itself or in its effect”

With regards to protection from violence, **Section 15(a)** of the Constitution provides for the right to life, liberty and security of person, while **Section 20** provides that no person shall be subject to any form of torture or punishment or other inhuman or degrading treatment. These constitutional provisions ought to promote a basis for government to protect and promote the rights of women to be free from violence and ensure that its laws, policies and programmes reflect these provisions. Yet the reality is different on the basis of sex, gender, location, education, economic situation, and connectivity.

Again, these provisions do not cover adoption, marriage, divorce, burial, devolution of property on death or other interests of personal law. These areas are often regulated by ¹customary laws. They are largely unwritten laws that define social relations between men and women and often used to reinforce women’s inferiority to men.

Customary Laws to a large extent do not recognize, promote or protect the rights of women on equal basis with men particularly within the domestic sphere. For instance, it is widely accepted as normal and acceptable for a man to reprimand or “²chastise” his wife if he believes she has been “derelict of her domestic duty including cooking late, denying sex etc with impunity. Unless violence results in murder or serious wounding, criminal law cannot be applicable to the forms of violence which a husband may exact on his wife. This means that discriminatory laws on such matters, which have a particular impact upon women (particularly rural/illiterate women), are *not* necessarily unlawful, which can further be attributed to the flagrant violations of women’s rights/gender based violence in most rural communities.

¹ Customary law is defined in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone as “the rules of law which by custom are applicable to particular communities in Sierra Leone

² “Chastisement” is not defined in customary law and could be used to mean any behavior considered unacceptable by the man.

Although Government and its partners (with a lot of lobbying and pressure from civil society) have made efforts to close the gap through the setting-up of the ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, the Ombudsman office and the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police and the enactment of the three Gender Acts (Domestic Violence Act, Devolution of Estates Act, and Registration of Customary Marriages Act) in 2007, yet the changes are to a large extent known and used by elite and economically empowered women and legal practitioners in urban communities, while rural women outside of the capital Freetown continued to suffer social discrimination and neglect in the hands of their male partners and traditional leaders with impunity, which had devastating effects on women in particular and the country at large.

The problem was evidenced by the visible absence/limited capacities of SGBV responding institutions and organizations in the southern region; the low numbers of SGBV cases in courts and limited discussions (in public and private quarters) on the occurrence and consequences of SGBV.

It was from this backdrop that WPJP launched the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) project in Kawua in Bo district and ³Kori) and ⁴Kowa chiefdoms in Moyamba district to respond to and prevent the occurrence of GBV. The project since inception in 2008 has been supported by Lenten Campaign through STA, Heerlen and the International Women's Program of the Open Society institute (IWP-OSI).

Generally, the launching of the SGBV project in the three chiefdoms of the Southern Region has helped in providing direct victim support (including: creation of reporting/referral centres, psychosocial support, medical and legal aid); awareness raising, training and advocacy, as well as income generating support to community-based women's groups, which has helped break the culture of silence and impunity and enabled women (and victims) demand justice for violations directed/committed against them. In addition, it has helped community/traditional authorities develop community bye-laws against SGBV, which has increased peace and security for women and girls in particular and the communities at large.

³ Kori chiefdom is one of the fourteen chiefdoms in Moyamba district, headed by one of the oldest male paramount chiefs and the seat of a fearless male secret society called 'wonde' that prohibits women from holding certain leadership positions, including paramount chief.

⁴ Kowa and Dasse neighbor with Kori chiefdom but are headed by female paramount chiefs – outcome of the ongoing reforms

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

At the inception of the project WPJP anticipated achieving the following at the end of the project:

- In-depth understanding of the root causes and needs related to Gender-Based violence in these communities and Sierra Leone at large.
- Heightened public awareness on issues of Gender-Based Violence and its implications for sustainable peace and justice.
- Well established district (Bo and Moyamba) GBV/WHR centres for reporting, counseling of survivor/those at risk and for prosecution of cases of gender-based violence.
- Existence of social networks and advocacy teams comprising of community-based organisations, NGO and other related agencies/institutions with capacity to respond/prevent gender-based violence in the two districts and southern region at large.
- Emergence of men action groups to raise awareness and advocate for prevent of Gender-based violence in communities.

At the end of the project implementation, WPJP could



boast of two SGBV reporting/referral centres created.

The rented centre in Bo was rehabilitated and



furnished to provide safe and friendly environment for victims to report cases and receive support, while the ⁵centre in Njala which was under construction since 2009, was completed and formally opened.

There is also heightened awareness in most operational communities on issues of SGBV (what it is, the types, causes, effects and ways to respond and/or prevent it). This is evident by the increased discussions on SGBV issues in the communities, number of anti-SGBV community groups (women, youths, chiefs) established, increased number of cases reported and demanding legal action etc.

⁵ Centre in Njala is owned by WPJP. It provides space for victims to report GBV Violations and at the same time serves as learning and earning space for victims and other young women in and around Kori chiefdom, in Moyamba district.

In addition, WPJP contributed to creating and strengthening GBV collaborative/response networks with other service providers and duty bearers (⁶INGOs, UN agencies particularly UNDP and UN Women, ⁷government ministries and institutions, formal and traditional justice systems e.g. magistrates in the two districts, state counsel and customary law officers across the southern region; and paramount chiefs local court officials and village chiefs of the three chiefdoms.

Furthermore, WPJP has men/youth GBV action groups in especially Kakwa and Kori operational areas that are actively engaged in sensitizing and lobbying other men (including traditional authorities) to stop GBV, develop and/or enforce community bye –laws to reduce GBV in communities.



⁶ International Non-Governmental Organisations e.g. MSF, Coopi, International Rescue Committee,

⁷ Government ministries, institutions and departments e.g. ministry of social welfare, gender and children’s affairs, Ministry of Education, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, Office of the ombudsman, Family support unit of Police, district and local councils etc

1.2 RESULTS OBTAINED: Results obtained were at the three levels:

1) Response Activities:

a) Establishment of Two GBV Centres:

- ✓ The successful completion of the construction of the Centre in Njala, Moyamba district, Southern region has endeared the organization to beneficiaries and other stakeholders who now see the organisation not just a fry in the pan, but something that has come to stay.
- ✓ The establishment of the centres in Bo and Njala has increased confidence in victims to report/refer GBV violations and receive support in a timely manner, which has led to the increase in the number of cases reported and services delivered (including legal actions). In addition, it has also provided learning space for young women in and around Njala to acquire marketable skills and/or provide business /employment opportunities for those who have acquired some marketable skills.



- ✓ A good number of structures that will promote continuity and sustainability of project activities as well as good governance at the community level now exist in the operational communities in Kori and Njala in particular. These structures include Centre management committee, Gender-Based Violence Steering Committees, Mothers Union and other Gender Activists Groups, Cluster GBV focal persons, Alumni of WPJP school beneficiaries, WPJP-Learning and Earning Centre student Union etc.
- ✓ WPJP has gained respect and recognition for its mode of operations and the achievements it has made in the areas of community mobilization and empowerment and response to GBV as evidenced by the following awards and feedbacks from the wider community including the nomination of the Founder and national co-ordinator: Gladys G. Gbappy-Brima to vie for parliamentary position for this operational area.

- b) Case Load Documented (cases reported at the centres) for 2010:** In total, one hundred and ten (110) GBV cases were reported from January-December 2010. All received response services from the organization, which has helped to break the culture of silence that surrounds SGBV and has also contributed to reducing stigma and impunity to SGBV cases in (especially) the two operational chiefdoms of Kakwa and Kori.

TYPES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Type of Act	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	total
Rape	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	6
Attempted Rape	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Deprivation	2	3	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	9
Denial of support (Food, Medical) etc	1	3	--	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	6
Abandonment	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	10
Wife Beating	2	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	9
Denial of Property Right	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Abandonment/Deprivation	2	2	-	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	12
Early Marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forced/Early Marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child Sexual Abuse	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Physical Assault	6	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
Forced Marriage	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Threat to Life	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Humiliation	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Child Trafficking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Teenage Pregnancy	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	10	5	-	1	1	20
FGM	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Indecent Assault	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sexual Harassment	-	-	-	1	1	1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Total	19	15	9	10	11	5	4	16	8	6	4	3	110

Results of Actions Taken by WPJP:

i. Cases Documented, Counseled, referred and Accompanied:

No	Type of Incidents	Statistics	Action taken
1.	Rape	6	All cases were interviewed documented. Survivors were counseled and then referred to family support unit for further investigation/ legal actions
2.	Attempted Rape	2	The survivors were interviewed and case documented. The cases were then referred to FSU for further investigations and legal actions
3.	Deprivation	9	8 cases settle at the centre as wish by survivors and family members all cases were counsel and documented. Whilst the one was referred to MSWGCA for further intervention.
4.	Denial of support (Food, Medical etc).	6	All matters were documented and survivors interviewed. 4 cases settle at the centre and 2 referred and later settled at FSU and MSWGCA respectively as wished by survivors and family members.
5.	Abandonment	10	Survivors were interviewed and cases documented. 9 cases settled at the office and 1 referred to MSWGCA for provision of service
6.	Wife Beating	9	Survivors were interviewed, counsel and all cases documented. 6 settled at the centre and 3 referred to other partners for provision of service.
7.	Denial of Property Right	4	Cases documented and referred to MSW.
8.	Abandonment/ Deprivation	12	3 referred to MSWGCA, 9 settled at the centre wished by survivors and family members. All cases were documented and counseled
9.	Child Sexual Abuse	5	Survivors were counseled, interviewed and cases documented. All cases were referred to FSU for legal actions and further investigation.

10.	Physical Assault	10	6 referred to FSU for legal actions and 4 settled at the centre. All cases were documented and counseled.
11.	Forced Marriage	2	2cases documented, counseled and referred to FSU for further investigations and legal actions.
12.	Threat to Life	3	One settled at the centre and 2 referred to FSU for legal actions and investigation
13.	Humiliation	5	Survivors interviewed, counsel and cases documented. 2 settled at the centre and 3 referred to FSU/ MSWGCA for provision of service.
14.	Teenage Pregnancy	20	10 settled at the centre as wished by survivors and family members, 9 referred to FSU and MSWGCA for further investigation and 1 reported but never turned up again.
15	FGM	2	Cases documented and referred to Waves S/L
16.	Indecent Assault	1	Matter referred to FSU for legal action and investigation
17.	Sexual Harassment	3	Survivors interviewed and cases documented and later referred to MSWGCA and FSU for further investigation
18	Trafficking	1	Matter documented, counseled and referred to FSU for further investigation.

ii) Follow-Up Visits:

SGBV cases have a long lasting psychosocial effects on survivors and their family members (particularly female family members), again, once violations are reported, victims face social pressure including attacks by perpetrator or perpetrator's family.

In such cases, WPJP did supportive visitations to counsel and allay the fears in survivor and lobbying local authorities to ensure survivors safety/protection. The follow-up exercises helped in assessing survivors' healing and reintegration process.



(Photo: social worker in Bo visits to a survivor and her children in Bo)

- Results from the follow-up showed that out of the 76 survivors and family members visited, 40 survivors were again living peacefully with family members in their communities.
- Also, due to the intervention of WPJP, FSU, MSWGCA, 36 cases were settled amicably at family level as wished by survivor and to the best interest of survivors and their family members.

Results of Actions Taken by other Service Providers:

In total, 53 GBV cases were referred and accompanied to other appropriate service providers e.g. FSU, Health, MSWGCA, Courts (magistrate and local) etc. in 2010. Details about the cases referred and results obtained are given in the chart below:

No	Type of Incident	Number of Cases	Partners Referred To	Out Come
1.	Denial of Support (Food, Medical etc).	2	MSWGCA	Matter mediated by WPJP,MSWGCA and family members
2.	Physical Assault	4	FSU-Bo FSU-Taiama	1 case committed to high court. 1 settled at Family Support as wish by client and family members 2 cases not pursued as there was no medical report
3.	Teenage Pregnancy	10	MSWGCA/FSU - Bo	All the cases were settled at FSU and MSWGCA. Perpetrators to support clients with one hundred thousand Leones (100,000) on monthly basis until they deliver.

4.	Wife Beating	3	FSU- Bo	1 case was in court but later throw out of court because survivor deliberately failed to attend court sitting since it was going to be a final verdict. 2 settled at FSU as wished by survivors
5.	Attempted Rape	2	FSU-Bo/ Taiama	1 matter still under investigation whilst one(1) matter dismissed since there was no evidenced
6.	Rape	6	FSU – Bo/ Taiama	3 cases charge to court.(One sent out of court because survivor absents herself during court sitting for three consecutive times. The other still at magistrate court waiting for final verdict. One rape case committed to high court and perpetrator sentenced to 3yrs imprisonment.) One at FSU for further investigation since perpetrator is on the run. The two were examined by the police medical doctor but no evidence to show that it was a rape and so everything ended at the FSU.
7.	Child Sexual Abuse	5	FSU- Bo	1 matter committed to high court, 1 matter mediated by WPJP and family members, 2 cases settled at FSU with family members, 1 matter pending investigation as client cannot identify perpetrator.
8.	Threat to Life	3	FSU- Bo	2 cases charge to court and later throw out of court because survivors did not turn up for court sittings. One still under police investigation because perpetrator is no were to be found.
9.	Indecent Assault	1	FSU- Bo	Matter not pursued as perpetrator cannot be identified by survivor
10.	Denial of Property Right	3	MSWGCA/ FSU- Bo	2 cases in court, one recently was given final verdict and survivor won the case and property returned to her. One still pending in court. 1 case with MSWGCA as perpetrator is on the run.
11.	Humiliation	3	FSU- Bo	2 cases were mediated by WPJP and MSWGCA as wished by clients and family members.

				1 case referred to FSU as requested by client and later settled at FSU office.
12.	Forced Marriage	2	FSU-Bo	1 case thrown out of court due to lack of evidence. 1 still pending investigation at FSU
13.	Sexual Harassment	2	FSU- Bo	1 matter settled at FSU and the other settled at family level and NA court at community level.
14.	Deprivation /Abandonment	6	MSWGCA - Bo	All cases were settled at the MSWGCA as wish by client and family members
15	Trafficking	1	FSU-Bo	Matter with police for further investigation.

RESULTS OF THE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN:

As the adage goes: prevention is better than cure, key results of the prevention activities i.e. awareness raising/sensitization, training and dialogue meeting and formation of advocacy teams/groups were measured in qualitative terms:

- ✓ Heightened awareness of beneficiary groups (students inclusive) on SGBV and women’s human rights issues. This has led to the emergence of functional groups at community level that are raising awareness and advocating on issues of domestic violence, denial of property ownership/inheritance, early/forced marriages, court processes and fines, etc.

As one community chief succinctly puts it: “We are gradually being forced to stop our old ways of disciplining our wives and daughters by the growing influence of SGBV and human rights activists. I only hope there would be an alternative to let us have hold on and control over them.”

- ✓ Improved awareness in some key community authorities that SGBV issues are social vices and must be prosecuted beyond cultural and family boundaries. This is evidenced by the sample of GBV cases referred to us by section/village chiefs for appropriate/legal actions in the two districts.
- ✓ “Wall library” has helped in sensitizing the public on SGBV cases and how to pursue them legally, which has contributed to the keen interest and debates among the populace (including children) on GBV/women’s rights issues.



- ✓ Better understanding of the physical realities of women and Gender-Based Violence; and better understanding of intervention mechanisms at community, chiefdom and district levels with a strong notion that GBV issues are everybody's business because GVB affect every facet of society. Generally, there is heighten awareness that GBV cases are punishable by law and MUST be settled in the best interests of the survivors; free of any social pressure.
- ✓ In the area of collaborative linkages and partnering, WPJP has been able to work with other like-minded organizations to initiate and facilitate the organization and re-organization of district and regional SGBV prevention and response networks and engagement process which has resulted in the establishment of SGBV steering committee in Njala and the modification of channels of communication between service providers in the southern region.
- ✓ A positive transformation of attitudes towards women holding leadership positions has taken place in most WPJP operational communities as evidenced by the increased number of women now occupying leadership positions, especially within management and governance structures formed in the operational communities and the huge pressure on the national co-ordinator (Gladys G. Brima) by community authorities and leaders of political parties for the 2012 parliamentary seat for the area.
- ✓ WPJP is receiving several requests for affiliation and partnership from various community-based, youth and other organizations and institutions. There is also increased demand from women and some community leaders in neighbouring chiefdoms for WPJP to expand its Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Project to these communities/chiefdoms.

1.4 PROJECT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN:

Preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender Based Violence in post war situations, where structures and systems to protect and promote the rights of citizens remain largely absent, is a daunting task. Given its nature and complexities (it has health/medical, legal/protection, security/community awareness and psycho-social needs), SGBV is best addressed when multiple sectors, organizations and disciplines work together, identifying and designing joint strategies to address it.; and largely depends on the collective engagement of many actors.

For the period under review, WPJP tried to undertake activities that ensured holistic response to SGBV. The activities included:

1) Prevention Activities:

Prevention Activities were activities undertaken to identify, understand and address causes and influencing factors of SGBV. These activities targeted potential perpetrators, potential survivors, and those who may assist survivors and were intended to contribute to: transforming socio-cultural norms, with an emphasis on empowering women and girls; rebuilding families and community structures and support systems, working with formal and traditional legal/justice systems to ensure that their practices conform to international human rights standards, monitoring and documenting incidents of SGBV.

Prevention Activities undertaken included the following:

- **Community Sensitization and Awareness Raising Activities:** This activity remained as the backbone of the entire project and was headed by the GBV project officers in the two areas. Participatory methods/tools such as role plays, dramas, songs, radio phone-in programmes, folk media etc, were used in a culturally sensitive manner.



Sensitization was also done through school and public area visitations, radio panel discussions and jingles, comic matches, street rallies etc. Key information shared during these exercises included: what is SGBV, the types, consequences, how to prevent them at individual, family and community levels and how to support would-be survivors; rights of the survivor and information on laws that guarantee these rights. In addition the sessions also laid emphasis on the importance of girls' education and women's right to own and/or inherit property.

- **Trainings:**

Education is the strongest form of prevention. Thus in 2010, WPJP conducted two level trainings for its membership:

- 1) staff and volunteers (including cluster animators)
- 2) District SGBV steering committee members.

The trainings consisted of a range of activities that sort to inform, raise consciousness and equip participants with skills that enabled them address issues of GBV in their lives, homes, areas of work, and society at large. From feedbacks obtained the training was found to be very useful for the newly emerged



categories of GBV Sensitizers, such as, new staff members and community volunteers, youths and men's groups, and new members of the District GBV Steering Committees in Bo and Njala.

➤ **Economic Empowerment of Women (Survivors and those at risk):**

Poverty traps women in multiple layers of discrimination and the alarming poverty levels amongst women in the project implementation areas presented major threat to efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV. Hence economic empowerment strategies were initiated to contribute to changing the poverty situations of the women (individually and collectively)

Specialized guidelines /manual was developed to manage the scheme which took into account the plight of the women i.e. rural, poor, illiterate, bread winners, enterprising, collective strength etc. and the focus of the organization – to empower women (individually and collectively) to denounce violence and seek justice.

The economic empowerment was done at three levels depending on the nature, needs and capacity of the groups:

- 1) Introduction of micro loan scheme (titled: **Lend me a Hand micro credit scheme**) to women's groups in towns: Taiama, Njala and Bo to start and/or expand micro businesses. This was a strategy to sustain members' commitments and activism and the same time enhance financial and social strength for continued sensitization and advocacy engagements for a SGBV save communities. The loans were given to the groups who in turn disbursed to their members in the presence of the national co-ordinator and/or finance officer
- 2) Agricultural Loan to women farming groups in the villages to be engaged in commercialized agriculture. The loan was intended to either buy seeds or pay labour for their farming activities and payable (in the form of seeds) after harvest.
- 3) Empowerment/Skills training (Learning and Earning Centre) for Young Women:
Young women are the backbone of the informal productive sector of society; they are forced by situations into degrading and inhuman situations like early marriages, act as domestic servitudes, prostitutes and other dehumanizing jobs.

Thus, this wing of the centre was introduced as a part of the centre in Njala that provides employment for those who have marketable skills; and learning opportunities for those who don't and need. Skills taught/learned at the centre include:

1. Tailoring, Needlework and Weaving:



2. Computer and Secretarial studies:



3. Hairdressing and Saloon Management:



2) Response Activities: Included activities aimed at addressing the consequences of any form of SGBV. To this end, the organisation established two centres (in Bo and Njala) that provided the following services:

- Counseling, Documentation, Referrals and accompaniment of survivors to medical and legal services providers.
- Crisis interventions: Payment of medical bills and other physical and material needs (clothing, feeding etc); provision of transportation for referrals, temporal shelter (in instances where the safety of survivors were not assured) and follow-up and home-based support activities.
- Building/strengthening relationships to ensure Judicial Structure more accessible to Survivors e.g. Identifying and creating link with legal personnel; providing legal counseling, accompanying survivors to court during sittings
- Provide income generation and skills training support to increase self-employment facilities, increase food production and uplift the economic level of survivors and their families.
- Providing meeting space for meetings and other interactive /learning sessions.

3)Co-ordination and Collaboration Activities: The main purpose of these activities were to promote collaboration and effective integration of SGBV service providers (Organizations, institutions and Agencies) to collectively contribute to responding and preventing GBV in communities. Activities implemented included:

- Training for GBV district Steering committees
- Monthly and quarter Steering committee meetings
- Support to national and international annual commemorations e.g. International Women’s Day, UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, The 16 days Activism Against Gender-based Violence etc.

1.5 TARGET GROUP AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT.

The project was located in Kori and Kakwa chiefdoms but its activities cut across the entire southern region. It purposely benefitted survivors of SGBV, those at risk (rural and economically challenged women and young girls in rural and urban settings). At another level, the project also targeted staff/official of formal and traditional justice systems in the two operational districts – Bo and Moyamba.

The target groups were the key implementers and benefactors of the entire project. They took part in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the entire project.

1.6 BUDGET/FINANCIAL REPORT : (Refer to the financial Report)

1.7 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY:

To ensure sustainability, the project has instituted three broad methodologies:

a) Financial sustainability:

- Encouraging in-kind contribution from members in the form of materials, ideas and finance.
- Creating a revolving fund/Seed Bank at community and organisational levels and encourage groups to make conscious efforts to allocate at least 5% of their total income to the Fund/Bank.
- Encouraging local fund raising activities e.g. bobby jobs, rag parade etc.
- Negotiating long-term, flexible project grants from external funders/partners/donors and using this money for meaningful investments and saving the interest from the investment in the reserve fund.

b) Managerial sustainability: Ensured that beneficiaries are the main actors through- out the project cycle and will remain in control even after the project period. They will be encouraged to actively participate in the planning, implementation, management and evaluation of the project. To strengthen this participation, continuous in-service training for capacity building are held for the project members. This, we believe will enable them to remain the main actors and owners of the project during the project period and after implementation period.

c) Technical sustainability: The project has at every stage mobilized, strengthened and made maximum use of indigenous knowledge and material. The beneficiaries and their community members are encouraged to provide technical input (skilled and unskilled) for the project during and therefore expected to do so even after project period. This will ensure technical sustainability of the project at well.

1.8 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation were done to assess implementation progress and its impact on the beneficiaries and the larger community.

At various trainings, participants were provided with pre and post workshop evaluation forms to knowledge before training and after training. In addition, participants (representing different of groups and organization) were also asked to give/share information on issues of GBV (prevalence, response etc). These were inputted into the centre data bases on regular basis.

In addition, WPJP and community representatives also conducted knowledge, attitude and practices surveys before, during and immediately after the implementation of activities or quarterly basis to collate/validate outputs/outcomes realized, the constraints encountered and way forward.

