

# **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**



**Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**

**Capitol By-Pass**

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**H. E. Dr. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH**  
**PRESIDENT**  
Republic of Liberia

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## **BACKGROUND**

Gender mainstreaming is necessary to develop and empower women in all spheres of national life to ensure that national policy formulation, resource allocation, development planning and implementation are informed and impacted by the perspectives and actions of both women and men and it is good governance practice for a nation-state to plan, manage, and implement children-centered policies and programs to ensure equitable access of vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized persons to the outcomes of development through the enhancement of gender, children and social protection services, structures and processes. To achieve this, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is clothed with the responsibility to promote the development, empowerment and protection of women, girls and children, as well as the welfare and integration of persons with disabilities, the vulnerable, extremely poor, excluded and disadvantaged. Specifically, the Ministry initiates, develops and implements and/or coordinates policies and programs aimed at women, girls, and children, as well as those physically challenged, marginalized, disadvantaged and excluded, to ensure that their rights are protected and that they are integrated, and contribute to, and benefit from, the peace, stability and socio-economic advancement of the country.

- The Ministry is headed by the Office of the Minister responsible to provide overall policy and strategic direction and guidance to the ministry. Within is the Program, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Unit, Communication Unit,
- Department for Research, Policy, and Planning is responsible for the research, policies and regulations development, and program planning, as well as monitoring and evaluation functions of the ministry; this Department has the Policy and Planning Division, Monitoring and Evaluation Division and Research and Statistics Division and the Social Registry Project.
- Department for Gender is responsible for women's and adolescent girls' issues, policies and programs and has the Adolescent Girls Division, Women Empowerment Division, Vulnerable Girls Project, Gender Based Violence Division,
- Department for Children and Social Protection responsible for policies and programs targeted at children, the physically challenged, elderly, marginalized, the vulnerable, disadvantaged and excluded groups and has the Social Assistance Division, Children Protection and Development Division, and the Social Protection Division,
- Department for Administration is responsible for the provision of the required support services for the implementation of the Ministry's programs and achievement of results and has the Division of Procurement, Division of Finance, Division of General Service.

## **ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AGAP	Adolescent Girls Advisory Panel
AGWG --	Adolescent Girls working Group
ATS --	Antoinette Tubman Stadium
AME --	African Methodist Episcopal
AIDS --	Acquire Immune Disease Syndrome
AWP --	Annual Work Plan
AGCCI --	African Girls Can Code Initiative
CP --	Child Protection
CCCDP--	Cross Cutting Capacity Development Project
Cllr -----	Counselor
CLSG -----	Cote D'Ivoire Liberia Sierra Leone Guinea
CSO --	Civil Society Organization
CWC--	Child Welfare Committee
CSA --	Civil Service Agency
CSW --	Conference on the Status of Women
CEDAW--	Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women
DNA--	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DMG --	Deputy Minister for Gender
DMCSP--	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
DMA --	Deputy Minister for Administration
ECD--	Early Child Development
ECPF --	ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework
EPAG--	Economic Empowerment Program for Adolescent Girls
ECOWAS--	Economic Community of West African States

ESMP--	Environment and Social Management Plan
EU --	European Union
EVD --	Ebola Virus Disease
FGM--	Female Genital Mutilation
GSA --	General Service Agency
GBV--	Gender Based Violence
GOL --	Government of Liberia
GC --	Governance Commission
GSI--	Gender Social Inclusion
GSSNT --	Gender & Security Sector National Taskforce ()
HIV--	Human Immune Virus
ICT --	Information Communication Technology
IDG --	International Day of the Girl-child
INHCR--	Independent National HumanRights Commission
INGOs ---	International Non-Governmental Organization
IWD --	International Women Day
IRC--	International Rescue Committee
JP SGBV---	Joint Programme Sexual Gender Based Violence
JP--	Joint Programme
NGOs --	Non-Governmental Organization
LNAP--	Liberia National Action Plan
LIPA—	Liberia Institute of Public Administration
LIBTELCO--	Liberia Tele Communication Corporation
LRRRC--	Liberia Repatriation Refugees Resettlement Commission
LSSN	Liberia Social Safety Net Project
LWSC	Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation

M&E --	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCAL--	Millennium Challenge Account Liberia
MGCSP --	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
ML -- ----	Medical Liberia
MCC	Monrovia City Corporation
MVTC --	Monrovia Vocational Training Center
MRU --	Manor River Union
MOH--	Ministry of Health
NGO--	Non-Governmental Organization
NGP--	National Gender Policy
NACP --	National AIDS Commission Program
NCD--	National Commission on Disability
NASSCORP	National Social Security Corporation
NUOD) --	National Union Organization of Disability
PAPD--	Propoor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PDO --	Project Development Objective
RAP--	Resettlement Action Plan
RWEE--	Rural Women Economic Empowerment
SR --	Social Registry
SPR--	Sector Performance Report
SRF --	Strategic Results Framework
SGBV--	Sexual and Gender Base Violence
SIDA--	Swedish International Development Agency
SOP --	Standard Operating Procedure
UNDP--	United Nation Development Program
UNICEF --	United Nation International Children Education Fund
JFK --	John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital



UNMIL--	United Nations Mission in Liberia
VGP --	Vulnerable Girls Program
UN--	United Nations
UNHCR--	United Nations High commission on Refugees
UNFPA--	United Nations Funds for Population Activities
USAID--	United States Aid for International Development
WACPS --	Women and Children Protection Services
TOR--	Terms of Reference
PAN	Personnel Action Notices
SOS--	Save Our Soul
WASH	Water and Sanitation Hygiene--
SPR--	Sector Performance Report
IEA--	Implementing Entity Agreement
PWD--	Persons Living with Disabilities
MOU--	Memorandum Of Understanding
NAC--	National AIDS Commission
MCC--	Millennium Challenge Corporation
PFMU –	Public Financial Management Unit
UNFPA—	United Nation Funds for Population Activities
PPCC—	Public Procumbent Concession Commission
GIZ--	German Technical Corporation
IFMIS –	Integrated Financial Management Information System
MFDP—	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
SKD—	Samuel Kenyon Doe Stadium

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection which was established through the hard work attributed by the Governance Commission and partner institutions, has the mandate to promote the development, empowerment and protection of women, girls and children, as well as the welfare and integration of persons with disabilities, the vulnerable, extremely poor, excluded and disadvantaged. These tasks and responsibilities are vested in (4) collaborating departments: Administration, Gender, Research, Planning and Policy, and Children and Social Protection which operate under the direction of the head Minister.

In an effort to accomplish its mandate with support from line ministries, agencies and commissions, local governance, national and international partners, civil society organizations, UN Systems, etc., the Ministry was able to accomplish the following below to help provide protection, prevention, empowerment for women, men, girls and boys including persons living with disabilities.

**FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:** In an effort to mitigate the prevalence of rape in our country, the Ministry has been handling case totaling 2, 854; conducting awareness inclusive of the 16 Days of Activism and the filming of the acid attack survivors. It was also able to submit the Domestic Violence Bill to the House of Legislature and is awaiting the signature of the President. The Ministry has been able to receive donor funds to support survivors of GBV and is presently improving its Information Management System to be able to provide data for policy decisions, planning, and implementations. In order to help in the investigation of sexual violence, UNMIL through the Ministry donated a DNA machine to help in the process. In collaboration with partners and line MACs, the Ministry has developed the National Action Plan to help in reducing the level of violence in Liberia

**COORDINATION OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES:** The Adolescent Girls Division within the MGCSP is the arm of the Ministry charged with the responsibility to address the issues, needs and concerns of girls between the ages of 10 and 24 years old, with emphasis on girls from 10 to 15 years. During the period under review, the Adolescent Girls Panel was established; awareness on adolescent girls' issues such as access to education, gender bias, early marriage, subject to acts of sexual

violence, etc. were raised through forums like the International Day of the Girl-child (IDG) 2018 and the National Young Women and Girls Conference. The Ministry made available a mini adolescent girls' resource and referral room to provide information to adolescent girls.

**ENHANCING WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING:** In an effort to reduce the gender inequality gap in Liberia, the Ministry along with partners were able to set up a grievance committee to implement the Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in Bomi County. Is also part of the Manor River Union strategizing continuous efforts to address the many challenges, including sexual harassment and exploitation, deplorable living conditions; inadequate means of transportation, storage facilities and markets, faced by women in Cross Border Trade. Women Living in Rural Communities are also being empowered through the partnership through TRANSCO CLSG Project and the Barefoot College in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County and leadership training. Women were also part of the Convention on the Status of Women in USA; Women Dialogue in Bomi County. The Ministry is also working towards revising the 1325 Peace and Security National Action Plan.

**GENDER AND HIV:** The Gender and HIV Unit was established in response to the implementation of the Operational Plan for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV; including mainstreaming gender into the National HIV and AIDS Response and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection programs, Policies and activities. This Unit was able to ensure that all line MACs have a focal person; have been carrying out awareness and condom distributions; and working with partners to source funds for the implementation of activities.

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (EPAG):** EPAG program over the period has supported the Government of Liberia's prioritization of youth development and employment for adolescent girls and young women through training of over 100 girls to serve as Early Child Development (ECD) Teacher Aides and was also able to place sixty (60) of the girls within 31 ECD institutions in Paynesville and surrounding communities.

**VULNERABLE GIRLS PROJECT:** The project is providing educational opportunities for 152 under privileged and vulnerable girls between the ages of 10 – 17 in the Victoria A. Tolbert Hostel (Gbalatuah Girls Mission), Bromley Episcopal Mission School, and Ricks Institute to ensure vulnerable girls' access to and retention in school. A code of conduct and students' handbook for the Gbalatuah Girls Mission was developed and also a Health Club was established as a means to guide the girls in issues of sexual and

reproductive health education. Five (5) underprivileged Liberian students (4girls, 1boy) are now beneficiaries of the Rochas Foundation College of Africa Scholarship for the 2018/2019 School year in Abuja.

**PROMOTING CHILD PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS:** The Ministry with support from World Bank and USAID through loan and grant is working towards providing an integrated Social Protection System with the establishment of a social registry and provision of cash transfers and income support to extremely poor and food insecure households in four counties (Bomi, Rivergee, Grand Kru and Maryland) in Liberia, mainly targeting 10 thousand vulnerable food insecure households. Staffs are being hired and processes are ongoing. The Social Cash Transfer rollout and first cash disbursement under the Weah-led Administration is scheduled for March of 2019, preliminarily in Maryland and Grand Kru Counties.

The Ministry is ensuring the implementation of the Public Sector Investment Project which will target at risk youths, especially, out-of-school children, abandoned children, children living with disabilities, and domestic violence survivors in the 17 electoral districts of Montserrado. This process is ongoing and will soon be concluded. The Ministry is also a beneficiary of the EU Spotlight Initiative which is a broad-based approach to strengthening the prevention and management mechanisms for the fight against gender-based violence in communities across Liberia.

The Ministry is involved in the process of adoption, both domestic and inter-country. As an achievement, it has handled a total of 84 cases of which 43 were domestic adoption and 41 were inter-country. It has also been able to place vulnerable children in foster care, SOS Children Village and transit homes. Periodic case management are ongoing and staff are being trained to build their capacity in various areas as relevant to the functions of the Ministry. The Ministry also has been able to serve as mediators for total of 874 (male 396, female 434) cases ranging from persistent non-support, abandonment, neglect, denial, to pregnancy.

Partners have been working in collaboration with Ministry and were able to establish the Disability Network to address issues relating or affecting persons with disability; supported the preparation of the Sector Performance Report (SPR) on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the ICPD report.

**POLICY DIMENSIONS FOR BRIDGING GENDER GAPS:** In an effort to address the issues of gender inequalities, policies, plans and activities have been developed. The Domestic Violence Bill has been submitted to the President of Liberia who has a strong commitment to fighting gender inequalities. There are other documents that the Ministry is working on to include the Strategic Results Framework of the Revised National Gender Policy which will serve as a tool for the implementation of the Revised National Gender Policy, to ensure that the implementation of national policies and programs, are gender sensitive and will also bridge the gaps for gender equality. The development of a Revised UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan for Liberia that will emphasize women`s peace and security in all national development decision making processes, as well as the protection of women`s rights at national and local levels. The Millennium Challenge Account- Liberia (Gender and Social Inclusion Project) focuses on mainstreaming gender in policy, planning and implementations at Liberia Electricity Cooperation, Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Public Works, through the establishment of Gender and Social Inclusion Units that will be coordinated by the MGCSP.

*As you read through the details of the 2018 Annual Report, let me on behalf of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) extend thanks and appreciation to H. E. Dr. George M. Weah, President, Republic of Liberia for his leadership role in changing the lives of women and children in Liberia. We also remain grateful to our partners for their supports and undertakings.*

## **PILLAR I: POWER TO THE PEOPLE**

### **Enhancing Women Participation and Capacity Building**

The Ministry held a two-day local monitoring and grievance management meeting in Bomi and Montserrado counties and set up grievance committee to implement the Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in Montserrado County. The project is expected to start in seven counties, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Bomi, Montserrado and Cape mount. The aim of the project is to electrify the rural areas.

The Ministry formed part of the delegates that participated in a two-day Manor River Union workshop on Policy Dialogue for Cross Border Trade and Women's Economic in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The Dialogue is part of the MRU continuous efforts to address the many challenges, including sexual harassment and exploitation, deplorable living conditions; inadequate means of transportation, storage facilities and markets, etc. contain in the MRU 2014 Research Report that women in cross border trade experience in border communities.

The Ministry along with partners conducted a one-day monitoring visit to affected areas of the TRANSCO CLSG Project in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. A meeting was held relating to the implementation and monitoring of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) activities of the TRANSCO/CLSG Project with the technical team. The Ministry signed the MOU to monitor the RAP activities. The work plan for the implementation on the monitoring of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) was developed along with the TRANSCO/CLSG Office and an account was opened for funds transfer to cover activities. The TRANSCO/CLSG payment for the monitoring of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in the amount of US\$21,889.00 has been transferred to the account.

The Ministry along with its partners held the second All Men's Conference in Gbarnga City, Bong County from June 11-13, 2018. This resulted to a Communiqué signed by participants to serve as He For She champions within their various communities. He For She Taskforce was setup to advocate for gender equality and the protection of women's rights.

The Barefoot College is a program that deals with the solar electrification of villages. With the collaboration of the Ministry, women within Grand Bassa County tend to benefit from such and that stands as a means of empowerment for women. In an effort to move the process forward, in June 2018, the Ministry processed the gratis visa for the Barefoot College Coordinator - Meeting was held with the Deputy Minister for Gender on the operationalizing of the Solar Electrification Training

JP RWEE and UN Women identified 30 market women under the JP RWEE Program that were trained as Mobile Money agent for Orange Telecommunications Inc. Market women were also identified under the JP RWEE Program to benefit from UN Women and Coca Cola Joint Initiatives labeled "5by20". The "5by20" is an initiative aimed at empowering 5,000 women by the year 2020. This initiative trained about 75 women from markets across the six RWEE targeted counties, namely; Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe Counties.

The Ministry in collaboration with the Women Legislative Caucus and WONGOSOL with funding from UNDP conducted a three (3) day Leadership training workshop in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County from July 5-7, 2018. Forty (40) participants, including 10 men attended the workshop. The workshop was aimed at strengthening the leadership capacity of women's NGOs and youth groups to advocate for women and girls' human rights and gender equality, as well as promote women's representation in decision making processes at all levels in Liberia.

The Ministry participated in the "Women & Youth Livelihood Project" implemented along with UNDP, Ministries of Youth & Sports, Internal Affairs (Peace-building office) in four (4) counties, namely:

Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi and Nimba. The project focuses on consolidating peace & social cohesion through pro-poor livelihoods and economic empowerment for women and youth. The Project has been implemented in two (2) phases: Joint field review/needs assessment and Training on conflict management, resolution and social cohesion for identified communities within the targeted counties and phase two looks at economic empowerment for women and youth which is still pending

The Ministry in collaboration with UN Women and other partners held the Women Dialogue Retreat in Bomi County from 3rd – 5th October, 2018 to build partnership, solidarity and strategically engage about 115 women (former women legislatures and Ministers, CSOs, women’s organizations, rural women, etc.) in mobilizing for inclusive participation in national, subnational, local politics and development priorities. This dialogue was conducted through panel discussions, group work and presentations.

The Gender & Security Dialogue was chaired and co-chaired by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on October 12, 2018 and hosted by Medica Liberia along with Gender & Security Sector National Taskforce (GSSNT) under the UNDP Funded Project. The Dialogue brought together the Heads of the Ministries of Justice, National Defense and Gender, Children and Social Protection to stress the importance of mainstreaming Gender in the Security Sector and to seek a joint commitment from the various heads of the Gender and Security Sector National Taskforce, namely; the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. The amount of US\$696.00 was received from Medica Liberia (ML) to create awareness campaign against SGBV and HIV/AIDS Protection which was held on October 22, 2018. Participants included representatives from the Ministries of Defense and Justice, Liberia Immigration Service, Medica Liberia, Department of Research, Policy and Planning and the Department of Gender.

The Gender and Security Sector National Taskforce hosted the Women Leadership Conference on 15 December 2018, in Nimba County. This Conference was organized by the Ministry of Justice, Defense and Gender Children and Social Protection with the support of UNDP / UNWomen with December 2018. The objective of the conference was to bring together key stakeholders from across Liberia to establish a platform to advocate for the promotion of women to leadership positions; to increase women’s representation to a minimum of 30% through all the recruitment processes; and to discuss strategies/institutional mechanisms in the advancement of women.

### **Coordination of Adolescent Girls Programs and Initiatives**

The Ministry along with its partners has reactivated the Adolescent Girls Advisory Panel (AGAP) to serve as an advocacy group to engage stakeholders working for adolescent girls. The TOR for the AGAP was developed, and the Ministry conducted vetting exercise for the recruitment of the new team members amongst whom 15 adolescent girls were recruited. They are to use social media, particularly Facebook and WhatsApp for easy flow of information among members.

The International Day of the Girl-child (IDG) 2018 was held on October 11, 2018 at the Paynesville City Hall, with the Global Theme: “With Her: A Skilled Girl Force” and the National Theme: “Prepared Girls: A Transformed Workforce” There were about 500 participants including students, Adolescent Girls

working Group (AGWG) members, the Adolescent Girls Advisory Panel (AGAP), UN partners, members of the NGO & INGOs Communities, Inter Governmental Agencies, members of the National Legislators, Judiciary, Private sector, media etc... it was also commemorated with activities including: Take a Girl to work Campaign & Girls Talk via radio talk show and Girls Summit and Career Exposure Event.

The Adolescent Girls Resource and Referral Center is a safe space where adolescent girls meet to learn and share information. Attendance at the referral center has been poor but presently, it is operational and students have been making use of it.

The National Young Women and Girls Conference is an annual program designed by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with its partners to afford young women and girls the platform to gather and discuss issues affecting them in their respective communities. At this event, young women and girls develop concrete action plans to address issues affecting their well-being. The Conference is one of the complementary actions in support to the Implementation of the Manifesto for the development and empowerment of the Liberian Girl Child (July 2011) and contributes to the National Framework for Girls' empowerment. It is used as a strategy to demand the attention of duty bearers to institute preventive and responsive programs to enhance the development and empowerment and advancement of girls' rights in safe environments. These issues are mostly in respect to their reproductive health and rights, economic empowerment, sexual and domestic violence against young women and other socio-economic spheres of their lives. The conference also provides them the opportunity to network, increase their knowledge on pertinent domestic and global issues and open their minds on how to tackle critical issues affecting them as well as heighten their leadership and advocacy skills towards interventions for the attainment of adolescent development holistically.

Building on the achievements of the 2017 young women and girls' conference, the 2018 conference was intended to improve development outcomes for girls and young women, breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, and facilitating a cause for change and improvement of the lives of the targeted population. With an aim to create an enabling environment for young women and girls to network with different stakeholders and share their ideas and experiences; increase young women and girls' knowledge to make better decisions, take on leadership roles and avoid risky behavior and increase young women and girls' understanding of their health and sexual reproductive, educational, cultural and economic rights, the 2018 National Young Women and Girls conference themed "empowering young women and girls to take initiatives and stand up for their rights" brought together over 250 participants from different parts of Liberia. The targeted beneficiaries were mostly young women and girls such as college students, high school students, out of school girls, the physically challenged, girls from rural and urban communities, among others. The three days event which started on Wednesday July 18 and ended Friday July 20 took place at the Monrovia Vocational Training Center. It was largely supported by international non-governmental partners and other Liberia based organization. The program also hosted experts from different fields who took up facilitating roles

## **Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women**



EPAG is a program that supports the Government of Liberia's prioritization of youth development and employment for adolescent girls and young women. Over 100 girls graduated through the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (EPAG) Program to serve as Early Child Development (ECD) Teacher Aides on August 17, 2018 and sixty (60) of the girls have been placed within 31 ECD institutions in Paynesville and surrounding communities. They were also able to coordinate meeting with Franc, CAP relating to the ECD Entrepreneur Plan. A draft concept note was developed and submitted to the World Bank for soliciting donor's support for EPAG expansion of the project but up to date, there is no funding to continue. The Ministry through the EPAG Project participated in the National Education Summit in Kakata, Margibi County June 2018. EPAG Project Office

### **Vulnerable Girls Project**

The project is aimed at providing educational opportunities for under privileged and vulnerable girls between the ages of 10 – 17 in rural Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Bassa, Margibi and Gbarpolu Counties to ensure vulnerable girls' access to and retention in school. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The project currently boasts of girls' enrolment of 152 students from 7 different counties, which includes towns and villages in rural Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Bassa, Margibi and Gbarpolu Counties. The Project was able to achieve the following in year 2018:

- Salaries payment for the Gbalatuah Mission contractors was processed and paid
- The bore-hole project at the Gbalatuah Girls Mission was completed by China Aid and Ministry of Public Works. The burden of water issue for the Hostel is solved.
- An assessment trip was made to the Gbalatuah Girls Mission, Gbalatuah, Bong County with the Deputy Minister for Gender to assess the situations and to help in strategizing ways to resolve them
- The Gbalatuah Girls Mission received food supply.
- Representative Hon. Melvin Cole, donated 50 gallons of fuel for the generator use and L\$19,400.00 as contribution towards food for the beneficiaries at Gbalatuah Girls Mission.
- Of the 30 beneficiaries of the Bromley Episcopal Mission School for the Academic School Year 2017/2018, twenty nine (29) students successfully passed and one (1) placed on probation; Of the 92 beneficiaries of the Victoria A. Tolbert Hostel (Gbalatuah Girls Mission) for the Academic School Year 2017/2018, eighty two (82) students successfully passed and ten (10) failed and seven (7) beneficiaries graduated from Grade 12; of the 30 beneficiaries of Ricks Institute for the Academic School Year 2017/2018, twenty nine (29) students successfully passed and one (1) failed.
- Developed a code of conduct and students' handbook for the Gbalatuah Girls Mission.
- Health Club established at the Gbalatuah Girls Mission.

A meeting with the parents of the beneficiaries of the Vulnerable Girls Program (VGP) at Ricks Institute and Bromley Mission was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018. The meeting was held to inform the parents of the GOL financial constraints on continuing the Program. However, the students promoted to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade could be considered to stay in the schools while the rest of the students are to be transferred to Gbalatuah Girls Mission if it meets the consent of their parents or guardians.

Received some items from the GBV Division as support for the Gbalatuah Girls Mission due to non-support during the resumption of school. These items included: 15pcs of mattresses, 2 Bags of tissue, 1 cartoon of tide soap, 1 cartoon of washing soap, 1 cartoon of bath soap, 1 bale of beddings

The Ministry received notification from the Liberian Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria to nominate five (5) underprivileged Liberian student to the Rochas Foundation College of Africa Scholarship for the 2018/2019 School year. The Ministry was able to nominate four girls and a boy who are presently in Abuja undergoing their studies.

### **Gender and HIV**

Pursuant to recommendation made in 2017 to make the National HIV and AIDS response gender sensitive and to develop an HIV intervention for Adolescent girls and young women, the National AIDS Control Program and Global fund grant were engaged on the recommendation implementation. Based on the engagement, a Consultant was hired and the HIV intervention program for Adolescent Girls and Young women was developed and is pending validation. When validated, the Adolescent Girls and Young Women HIV Interventions will address HIV prevention and treatment and care for adolescent girls and young women in Liberia.

The Unit collaborated with the National Coalition comprising HIV Focal persons at the various government ministries and agencies, as well as commissions and mainstreamed gender and HIV preventions into government ministries and agencies' programs and policies. Additionally, three (3) coordination meetings were held in the National AIDS Commission Conference Room and updates were provided by the various HIV Focal Persons. In one of the coordination meetings, a new core of leadership was elected to lead the Coalition for the next two (2) years. Meanwhile, the new core of leadership for the Coalition will be installed into office in May 2018.

### **Capacity Building and Trainings**

Some relevant staff of the Department of Research, Planning and Policy participated in a three-day' workshop organized by MCA- Liberia for implementing partners and stakeholders of the Gender and Social Inclusion component of the Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact.

Relevant staff of the Department for Research, Policy and Planning underwent a 2-day (July 11-12, 2018) training on designing a survey tool online. The training was facilitated by ECOWAS volunteer assigned in the Department of Research, Policy and planning under the guidance Of the Monitoring and Evaluation Division. The training was important to the Division because it exposed participants to the technical knowledge and skill of developing questionnaire tools online for the purpose of conducting research, surveys and or an assessment.

Some Staff of the Department for Children and Social Protection attended several training opportunities to build their capacity to better provide quality services delivery to vulnerable children. Among these

trainings were a workshop conducted by Media Liberia under the theme “Strengthening Capacity for Gender Responsive Security Institutions. Twenty-Nine (42) coordination meetings were held during the period under review.

Refresher training was conducted for Counties Supervisors and Social Workers on psychosocial support and sexual gender based violence. The training brought together thirty (30) participants from nine (9) different Counties. Participating Counties were, Nimba, Montserrado, Lofa, Bomi, Rivercess, Sinoe, Gbarpolu, Cape Mount, Bong, Margibi and Grand Bassa counties. The sessions highlighted the following topics: Rape Law, Overview of Women and Children Protection Section, Caring for the Survivors of SGBV, Psychosocial Support and Victim Advocacy/Psychosocial Counseling, Sexual Gender Based Violence in Context of Human Rights, Role of Care Providers, Conducting Safe Effective and Ethical Interview with Survivors of SGBV Team Building/Coordination, Child rearing, Case management, Orphanages tools and guidelines, Disadvantaged sector tools, regulations and guidelines, Child Protection Policy

## **PILLAR II: THE ECONOMY AND JOBS**

### **Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women**

EPAG is a program that supports the Government of Liberia’s prioritization of youth development and employment for adolescent girls and young women. Over 100 girls graduated through the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (EPAG) Program to serve as Early Child Development (ECD) Teacher Aides on August 17, 2018 and sixty (60) of the girls have been placed within 31 ECD institutions in Paynesville and surrounding communities. They were also able to coordinate meeting with Franc, CAP relating to the ECD Entrepreneur Plan. A draft concept note was developed and submitted to the World Bank for soliciting donor’s support for EPAG expansion of the project but up to date, there is no funding to continue. The Ministry through the EPAG Project participated in the National Education Summit in Kakata, Margibi County June 2018. EPAG Project Office.

### **The Liberia Social Safety Net Project (LSSNP):**

The Government of Liberia, in 2015, with support from the World Bank and USAID received a total amount of 16.4 million United States Dollars, for a 5-years project to be implemented through a loan agreement in the amount of 10 million USD and a grant agreement in the amount of 6.4 million USD, commitment by USAID for the integrated Social Protection System Program. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to establish the National Social Safety Net delivery system and provide cash transfers and income support to extremely poor and food insecure households in four counties (Bomi, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland) in Liberia, mainly targeting 10 thousand vulnerable food insecure households. The hiring of the Social Registry Team is completed and applicants for the Social Cash Transfer Team are now being vetted for hire in January 2019. The Social Cash Transfer rollout and first cash disbursement under the Weah-led Administration is scheduled for March of 2019, preliminarily in Maryland, and Grand Kru Counties.

### **Millennium Challenge Account- Liberia (Gender and Social Inclusion Project):**

The Ministry of Gender has signed an Implementing Entity Agreement (IEA) worth One Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (USD\$100,000.00) with the Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia, through its Division of Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) for capacity development and broad-based gender mainstreaming in national governance. This project will focus on mainstreaming gender in policy, planning and implementations in Liberia Electricity Cooperation, Ministry of Mines and Energy and Ministry of Public Works, through the establishment of Gender and Social Inclusion Units.

The Ministry in collaboration with the UNWOMEN were able to launch the Revised National Gender Policy in Gbah, Bomi County. The Team has also developed the Revised Strategic Result Framework to support the implementation of the Revised National Gender Policy, the SRF was validated at a one day stakeholders' workshop which brought together MACs, UN Partners, CSOs, Monitoring and Evaluation Experts, who reviewed the Draft Strategic Results Framework and made inputs and it is presently being finalized for dissemination and awareness of the Revised National Gender Policy for its implementation.

**Public Sector Investment Project (PSIP):** The PSIP Project aspires to beef up national interventions of the government's "Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development" (PAPD), through the provision of social opportunities to the country, by improving livelihood of vulnerable population at risk. The amount of \$500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) has been approved by the Liberian Government and will be used to implement this Project targeting at risk youths, especially, out-of-school children, abandoned children, children living with disabilities, and domestic violence survivors. This project will be implemented in the 17 electoral districts of Montserrado.

**EU Spotlight Initiative:** In September of 2018, the Government of Liberia and the European Union (EU) initiated discussions around the implementation of the EU Spotlight Initiative—totaling \$29.9 Million Euros. This Initiative presents a broad-based approach to strengthening the prevention and management mechanisms for the fight against gender-based violence in communities across Liberia. An initial 15 Million Euros have been allocated for the first phase of implementation by the implementing entities including UN Women and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the agreement document was finally signed in December of 2018. It is hoped that the Liberian launch will be held in January of 2019.

## **PILLAR III: SUSTAINING THE PEACE**

### **Fight Against Gender-Based Violence**

The Ministry has completed the analysis of the 2017 GBV Report and disseminated it to GBV Actors and service providers. According to the report, the total of 1,685 cases was reported for the period January to December 2017 of which 97% of the survivors were females, while 35.2% were girls below the age of eighteen years old. Incidents reported were statutory rape, gang rape, domestic violence especially physical assault, denial of resources, sexual assault and force marriage.

The analysis of the 2018 GBV report shows that a total of 2,854 cases were reported. These cases range from abduction, denial of resources, physical/domestic abuse, force marriage, gang rape, rape, sexual assault, teenage pregnancy and sodomy. It was realized that rape accounts for the highest incidents occurring in the country. Statistics below shows the percentages:

Figure 1: the affected ages.

	N	%
0 - 5 yrs	143	7.8%
6 - 12 yrs	423	23.2%
13 - 17yrs	828	45.3%
18 - 25 yrs	215	11.8%
> 26 yrs	207	11.3%
Age Unknown	10	0.5%
Total	1826	100.0%

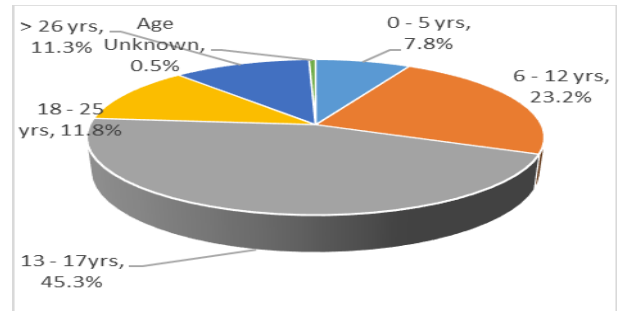
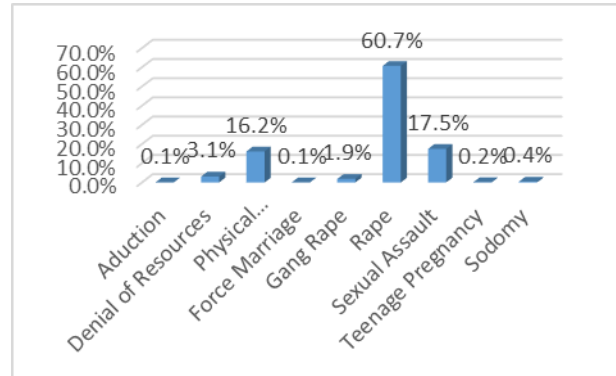


Fig. 2: GBV Incident by percentage distribution

GBV Incident Types	N	%
Aduction	1	0.1%
Denial of Resources	56	3.1%
Physical Assault/Domestic	295	16.2%
Force Marriage	1	0.1%
Gang Rape	34	1.9%
Rape	1109	60.7%
Sexual Assault	319	17.5%
Teenage Pregnancy	3	0.2%
Sodomy	8	0.4%
Total	1826	100.0%



### County GBV Report and Incident Specifics

County Report Jan - October 2018									
County	# of Cases	Female	Male	%	# of Rape/Gang Rape per county	Sexual Assault	Physical Assault/DV	Others	Total
Boni	47	45	2	2.6%	27	-	20	-	47
Bong	108	98	10	5.9%	51	30	25	2	108
Gbarpolu	8	8	-	0.4%	5	-	-	3	8
Grand Bassa	52	52	-	2.8%	12	-	40	-	52
Grand Cape Mount	27	27	-	1.5%	21	6	-	-	27
Grand Gedeh	146	122	24	8.0%	26	18	66	36	146
Grand Kru	10	10	-	0.5%	-	4	2	4	10
Lofa	28	27	1	1.5%	11	3	14	-	28
Margibi	53	53	-	2.9%	40	8	1	4	53
Maryland	22	22	-	1.2%	3	9	6	4	22
Montserrado	1230	1228	2	67.4%	894	237	72	27	1230
Ninba	11	11	-	0.6%	1	-	10	-	11
River Cess	25	24	1	1.4%	14	-	4	7	25
Sinoe	59	50	9	3.2%	12	8	31	8	59
Total	1826	1777	49	100.0%	1117	293	291	46	1826

The GBV IMS Team has agreed to extend the IMS in the fifteen counties rather than the nine counties as were previously decided. The GBVIMS roll-out plan was reviewed and International Rescue Committee (IRC) pledged to provide technical assistance in the establishment of the GBVIMS. In furtherance, the Ministry and Partners conducted a Training of Trainers and regional sessions on the GBV IMS. The GBV IMS will replace the GBV data collection at the Ministry in order to address the prevailing issues of data management, safe and ethical sharing of GBV data information amongst service providers and actors. Some equipment has been purchased by UNDP and turned over to the Ministry.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed as a guide for the use of the Survivor Trust Funds in the amount of US\$26,000.00. The amount is being used within the fifteen counties to support survivors access basic SGBV services. Under the JP SGBV, a brand new vehicle was purchased and turned over to the Ministry to support the fight against GBV.

A DNA machine was donated by UNMIL to the Government of Liberia (GOL) through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and later turned over to the JFK Medical Center who will be responsible to operate and manage. The Proposal on strengthening the response system to end impunity in SGBV cases to UNMIL in 2017 was accepted and funded through the INHCR and MGCSP. This support has an amount of Seven Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Five US Dollars (US\$7,185.00) for training of medical practitioners, prosecutors and investigators on the management of the DNA machine which is currently in the Partners' Fund. Support was received from UNMIL to refurbish the safe home in Grand Cape Mount County; motor bikes were donated by UNMIL and sent to GSA for coding.

A two-day working session on the GBV National Action Plan was held from June 19-20, 2018. The session brought together over thirty (30) GBV service providers and stakeholders, including government line ministries, UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs. The objectives of the sessions were to allow GBV stakeholders make inputs into the GBV National Action Plan.

A joint annual monitoring mission with GBV partners was conducted in 10 counties (Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and River Gee) by the JP SGBV. The monitoring visit was intended to provide an assessment of how the funding provided by SIDA and the UN was distributed and being used. It was also intended to identify gaps and challenges in implementing the Joint Programme.

Mediation and counseling services were provided to survivors reporting cases to the Ministry and referrals were made to appropriate service providers, as well as follow-ups on pending cases in courts. Support was provided to survivors, as required. The Ministry was able to resolve a total of nine persistent non-support cases through mediation and counseling from Bong (2), Grand Gedeh (4), and River Gee (3) counties.

A Joint Child Protection Network and Gender Based Violence Task Force meeting was held and four (4) committees were set up to develop action plans for Prevention Pillar, Response Pillar, Advocacy &

Communication Pillar, and Coordination Pillar to strengthen the strategies and mechanisms to fight against GBV.

From July 6-10, 2018, the Division participated in the data collection for obtaining Baseline Information for the EU Spotlight Initiative in Liberia. The team visited Gbarpolu County and conducted six (6) key informant interviews with the following: LNP/WACPS, GBV focal person at the Chief Jallah-lone Hospital, County Gender Coordinator, County Attorney and Women CSO.

Three (3) focal group discussions were also held in Bopolu and Totoquelleh - participants included adolescent girls, community leaders (men, women, religious and traditional). While in Gbarpolu County, the team administered 120 questionnaires in the following category: 80 women and girls, 40 men and boys above 18 years of age.

The Domestic Violence Bill was submitted to the House of Legislatures and is presently awaiting the signature of the President. A simplified version was validated by the Ministry and Partners to enable the public understand the content of the Bill.

The Ministry celebrated the 16 Days of Activism from November 25 – December 10, 2018. During the time of the celebration, the following activities were carried out: Pre -Launch/Press Conference; Prayer Service at the Empowerment Temple AME Church in Sophie, Congo Town; Official Launch of the 16 Days of Activism held at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in Monrovia, beginning with an anti-rape march from Snapper Hill, Broad Street and up to ATS led by H.E. Dr. George M. Weah, the HEFORSHE Champion and Ambassador Clar M. Weah, President and First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, respectively. The 16 Days of Activism was officially launched by H.E. Dr. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia; A Nation-wide Awareness /Sensitization Campaigns was observed across the country with the County Coordinators and partners ensuring commemoration; Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; Observance of International Women Human Rights Defenders Day: One-day Forum (High-level Engagement with the Legislature) on the passage of the Domestic Violence Bill; Observance of World Aids Day; Observance of International Day of Disabled Persons; Educational Dialogue; Observance of the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre; Observance of International Human Rights Day: Held in Ganta, Nimba County.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with the GBV Taskforce hosted the filming of a documentary on Domestic Violence (acid attacks) in Liberia on Thursday, December 20, 2018 at the Lutheran Compound on 13th Street, Sinkor at 5:00pm.

**Development of a New 1325 National Action Plan for Liberia;** The first Liberia National Action Plan (LNAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 was adopted during the International Women's Colloquium in March 2009 and was implemented between 2009 and 2013 respectively. The first LNAP emphasized women's full participation in all national development decision making processes, as well as the protection of women's rights at national and local levels. With support from UN Women, the first LNAP was evaluated in 2015 with one of the recommendations calling for the adoption of a revised LNAP. Below are highlights on progress made in the development of the second Liberia National Action Plan—since its launch in January, 2018.

### *Progress on LNAP Development*

- UN Women Liberia has agreed to provide technical support, while financial support is being provided from the UN Peace building Fund (UNPBF) and the Embassy of Switzerland through UN Women Liberia.
- One International consultant, Carole Doucette and a National Consultant, Ms. Laura Golakeh, have been hired by UN Women to develop the new LNAP for Liberia. One MGCSP staff is being seconded to work with the two consultants to develop the second LNAP. The International Consultant will conduct series of meetings with relevant stakeholders and three (3) regional consultative workshops to assess the effectiveness of the first LNAP implementation and solicit stakeholders' inputs for the second LNAP development;
- The itinerary for the consultants' series of meetings with stakeholders and regional consultative workshops has been developed and shared with the MGCSP and UN Women; while the invitation letter is also drafted for MGCSP inputs and distribution to stakeholders.

**Case Management Services:** A Family dialogue was conducted with stakeholders and community members of the Jallah Town community. The intent of the meeting was to abreast the community members about the functions of the Department of Children and Social Protection of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. However, the meeting ended abruptly due to the leadership crises in the community which the members said should be resolved before continuation. The meeting was attended by twenty (20) stakeholders (commissioner, elders, youth), and recommendations forwarded for community resolution.

The Ministry in order to monitor the operations of orphanages, established the Independent Accreditation Committee (IAC). Thirty-three orphanages in Montserrado were assessed by the Committee to ensure that the welfare institutions are adhering to government minimum standards.

One hundred and fifty-two (152) juvenile cases, (88 males and 64 females), were documented by the Ministry ranging from 3 months to 17years of age. These cases were either clients who walked in the office of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, referred from Juvenile Court or various police depots in and around Monrovia. Interventions were carried out through case management, family mediation, psychosocial, family tracing and reunification and follow up was provided.

The psychosocial pillar consisting of National Disaster Management Agency in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and other Partners - Red Cross and Liberia Refugee Repatriation Reintegration Committee (LRRRC), with financial support from UN Women provided psychosocial support to flood victims in two counties (Grand Bassa and Margibi). The overall objective is to provide psychosocial support to affected households with special attention to children, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, the elderly and other at risk persons to reduce shock and fear and to also build resilience in response to ongoing shocks. The support started with a refresher training of 30 social workers, staff from Red Cross and LRRRC in the two counties. Two hundred and fifty persons benefited from the psychosocial support.



Case management and follow-up visits were provided to eleven residential child care or disabled organizations in Montserrado County that are caring for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities within these organizations are in different categories which include visual impairments, Down syndrome and physical disabilities.

The total number of thirty family heads and thirty-one dependents, totaling sixty-one persons were assessed, identified, and documented as flood victims of Shara Community -Block 'B, Duport Road. Following the outcome of the assessment, family heads and their dependents were beneficiaries of psychosocial support and emergency aids (Rice, Washing soap, and Bath soap, Toothpaste, Clothes, and Oil) from the Department of Children and Social Protection.

During the period under reviewed, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police transferred seven (7) children from Life Adoption Services Agency. Purpose of the transfer is that the agency was accused of allegedly trafficking children and operating below the Government's minimum standards as it relates to child care institutions. It was observed that the home had limited staff to care for the children. The children were malnourished, had limited beds and no playground. However, after a thorough investigation, it was established that Life Adoption Services Agency was not found guilty of the alleged child trafficking; therefore, all children were rejoined with the home.

Categories of children and current status:

Total=247

- Alternative care\_7 (3 girls, 4 boys)
- Foster care\_\_0
- Reunified\_\_\_11 (3 girls, 8 boys)
- Death\_\_\_1
- Placement\_\_7 (1 girl, 6 boys)
- Balance\_\_\_\_221

Social Organization Society (SOS) Children's Village Liberia in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, reunified 18 children from SOS Village Liberia (Matadi&Juah Town). In partnership, we also carried out the admission of 30 vulnerable children at their institution in relation to SOS 2030 strategy. The aim of admitting the children was to ensure that many children have access to a loving home and equal opportunity to succeed in life. The admission process targeted 30 of the most vulnerable children who have lost parental care or their parent(s) are living with disabilities and they are unable to provide their basic needs. SOS Children Village is also providing free medical services to all vulnerable children at Liberia Children's Village.

On November 23, 2018, SOS Children's Village Liberia set up an emergency clinic at Liberia Children's Village to respond to minor medical cases like malaria, fever, running stomach etc. The clinic first aid treatment has been a major challenge for the transit home because the closest private clinic is after Marshall Junction. During the turnover ceremony, the director reported that SOS Hospital will continue

its free medical services to the transit home but the clinic will serve in cases of emergency and minor illnesses.

The Ministry received one hundred and twenty-six (126) cases from Family Preservation in different categories which include family dispute, family assistance, few cases referred to GBV Division and Persistent non-support for child support. We also did follow up visitations in 17 communities which included: West Point, Police Academy, Jacob Town, Mamba Point, Lakpazee, Barnesville, New Georgia, Paynesville, P.H.P, Fiamah, Congo Town, Duport Road, Old Road, ABC/ Baptist Seminary, Shara and Zayzay communities. Through collaboration with the Ghana Mission, the Ministry was able to pay school fees for fifty-eight Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) affected and vulnerable children. Interventions were also provided through counseling, family mediation, psychosocial support and referrals

### Persistent Non-Support Unit

No.	No of cases scheduled for conference	No. of cases Persistent nonsupport resolved	Total number of children	Nature of cases	achievement
<b>Quarter one</b>	160	108	224(male: 120, female 104)	Abandonment-53 Nonsupport-88 Neglet-12 Denial -7	108 was settled, 52 referred Number of persons receiving support :152
<b>Quarter two</b>	171	103	258( male: 142, female; 116)	Abandonmet-57, nonsupport-90, neglect-16 Deniel-8	103 settled, 16 referred, 52 rescheduled for a later date Number of persons receiving Support -232
<b>Quarter three</b>	213	108	292 (male:138, female,154	Abandonment- 75 Nonsupport:118, neglect 12, denial - 8	Achievement- 108 was settled 26 referred, 79 rescheduled Number of persons receiving Support-290
<b>Quarter four</b>	248	134	350 ( male: 173, female: 177)	Abandonment-54 Nonsupport 190 Neglect 0 Denial- 4	Achievement-134 settled, 19 referred and 95 rescheduled for another date, 336 persons received support
<b>Total</b>	792	453	1,124 (male 573, female 551)	Abandonment-239 Non-support-486	

				Neglect-40 Denial -27	
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**Adoption:** The activities covered Grand Cape Mount, Montserrado (Central Monrovia) and Margibi (Duazon) Counties. The Ministry was able to conduct 84 case histories and home studies (54 females, 30 males). The case histories were conducted for domestic and inter-country adoption, while the home studies were conducted for foster care services. Children living in transit homes were also documented, some of which have already been referred for adoption. The agencies that referred cases for adoption were Life Adoption, Americans for African Adoption and Across the World. A total of 73 children were documented in 4 adoption transit homes.

Re-assessment on families of children removed from Acres of Hope, Liberia was conducted and concluded. Six family heads were assessed, of which 4 heads were willing for their children to be reunified with them. On the other hand, one family head was not certain, the grandmother of the child had to intervene because the child has multiple special needs problems and she is unable to care for the child. However, another family head was willing to adopt the child.

<b>Adoptions and foster care</b>					
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Inter-country</b>	<b>children</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>girls</b>
<b>84</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Foster care</b>					
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>children</b>	<b>boys</b>	<b>girls</b>		
<b>32</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>		

**PILLAR IV: GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARANCY**

**Finalization of the Strategic Results Framework of the Revised National Gender Policy:** In an effort to finalize the draft strategic Results Framework (SRF) of the Revised National Gender Policy, the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection with support from UN Women in July 2018, led the finalization of the Strategic Results Framework (SRF), through a national stakeholders’ validation. This document serves as a tool for the implementation of the Revised National Gender Policy, which will ensure that the implementation of national policies and programs, are gender sensitive and will also bridge the gaps for gender equality.

**Gender Analysis of Appointments:** The Ministry of Gender conducted an analysis of appointments made by the President of Liberia thus far. The analysis was intended to determine the percentage of women's political participation in the Public Sector. Results show that women make up only 38 out of 200 presidential appointees within the Executive Branch—representing 23.66%; as compare to their male counterparts, 76.34%. At the Liberia National Legislature, women representation is at a whopping 12.3% (5 out of 103 members). Also, women make up 2 out of 5 members of the Supreme Court of Liberia—reflecting 40% of women representation. This data will also be developed for civil servants in comparison with that of the past regime.

**The National Children's Representative Forum:** The National Children's Representative Forum of Liberia is the children body responsible to lobby, represent, advocate for the Rights of Children in Liberia. During the period under review, the forum created awareness in three communities in Montserrado. The awareness was conducted in schools, and communities in west Point, Peace Island and Gbangay Town. An estimated three hundred children and their parents participated in the activities. The school visited included Central Mosques Elementary, Arabic & English Scholl and the N. V. Massaquoi Elementary & Jr. High School. The speaker of the Children Forum explains the role and responsibility of parents and children as it relates to the children Law. Persistent non-support and the adoption law of Liberia.

**Gender Focal Persons:**The Ministry initially had focal persons in all MACs and has reviewed the Gender Focal Points listing pending follow up to verify whether the designated staffs from the MACs are still in their previous positions. These focal persons are to ensure that the issues of gender are mainstreamed in policies, planning's and activities to help bridge the gaps in addressing gender inequalities. The Revised National Gender Policy now calls for the establishment of gender units rather than focal persons which will make the issue of mainstreaming effective and efficient

**State Party Report on Persons Living with Disabilities:** During this period the Ministry of Gender, Children in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the National Commission on Disabilities along with other relevant line Miniserries and Agencies validated the State Party Report on October 1-3-2018 in Grand Bassa County. This document will be the first report from the Government relating to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**CEDAW Report:**UN Women has provided office materials for the Human Rights Unit to support the preparation of the CEDAW Report and the 2nd Phase of the LNAP. The office materials supplied included 1pc Dell laptop, 1pc Canon Printer, 2pcs Regular Office Desks and 1pc Air Conditioner. The materials were internally processed and placed in the warehouse. The 2pcs Regular Office Desks have been installed. UN Women also has provided technical support to the Ministry with an international Consultant to draft the Ninth Periodic State Party Report for submission to the CEDAW Committee. The Ministries of Justice and Gender are the lead Ministries in the development of the Report. The Ministry is working with partners to ensure the formation of the Liberian Women Leaders Network under the umbrella of African Women Leader Network.

**Partnership Review:** The Ministry participation in the UNDP Annual Retreat and 2019 Annual Work Plan (AWP) Review in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County from December 19-22, 2018. The meeting was held to review and assess the progress made in 2018 of all UNDP sponsored projects and to identify some

of the challenges and way forward while presenting the 2019 AWP. Notifications of the transfer of funds in respect of the EGDC activities are outlined below:

- US\$27,818.00 to support women and girls suffering from Obstetric Fistula;
- US\$50,552.00 for the award of scholarships to brilliant but needy girls and boys in specialized technical and professional education in Liberia for the academic year 2018-2019;
- US\$10,246.00 for NOPSWECO (Women, Peace and Security in the ECOWAS space) Liberia support as part of the sensitization campaign on the Women, Peace and Security component of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF).

## **COORDINATION**

The Disability Network was established through a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Civil Society Organization (NUOD) The Commission on Disability (NCD), disabled organization and other government ministries and agencies to address issues relating or affecting persons with disability. It will develop a framework, including one or more independent mechanism, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the present convention.

Some relevant staff of the Department for Research Policy and Planning participated in the preparation of the Sector Performance Report (SPR) writing with emphasis on the gender chapter of the WASH report. The staff also attended the WASH Sector Joint Sector Review Conference held in Buchanan; Grand Bassa County. Two staffs of the Ministry are represented on the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Coordination Committee and have actively participated in various activities of the WASH sector.

The Department of Policy and Planning participated in a Technical working section to compile the ICPD report. The division also contributed to the production of a draft report and circulated for inputs. The report was validated and finalized, and the report was published this year 2018

A Team from the UN Women Regional Office conducted an assessment on knowledge management by UN Women supported countries to determine how to manage and sustain gains made by UN Women over the years. With specific reference to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Team was interested in the operation and management of the Resource Center and how it was established. It was also meant to determine the needs and gaps in the operation of the Resource Center?

The Department FOR Research, Policy and Planning also participated in a two-day inception work shop for the Cross Cutting Capacity Development Project held in Grand Bassa County. It was organized by the Environment Protection Agency and sponsored by UNDP. The purpose of the work shop was to fully acquaint stake holders with activities under the CCCD Project.

In an effort to sustain close collaboration with its partners, the Department for Research, Policy and Planning mobilized support from the Governance Commission (GC) to help build capacity of its staff and those of other relevant Ministries and Agencies' Gender Focal Points.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATIONS**

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disability each year (December 3) aims to promote an Understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for their dignities, rights and well-being of Person with Disabilities (PWDs) in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life. This year program was celebrated in Montserrado County under the”. Global Theme: “Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” and the Local theme: “Creating the level plain field for empowering persons with disabilities”. The celebration also focused on the five (5) years National Action Plan for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. This plan is expected to be implemented from 2018 – 2022.

## **OPERATION OF THE MINISTRY**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Unit**

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning is responsible to issue accreditation to National and International Nongovernmental Organizations intervening in various socio-economic sectors of the country. However, it is a key requirement for NGOs to receive sector clearance from line Ministries to qualify for accreditation. The Monitoring and Evaluation is one of the divisions of the Department of Research, Policy and Planning which has the statutory responsibility to manage the monitoring and evaluation function system and program, ensuring they synchronize with the governance Commission’s governance monitoring and evaluation system and adhere to national laws, policies and regulations. One of its key functions is to facilitate the process of issuing sector clearance to non-governmental organization working as partners and providing collaborative support to the implementation of the mandate of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. To enhance this, the division, in collaboration with responsible departments, is to verify and substantiate information provided by applying NGOs, and then make necessary recommendation for sector clearance. Accordingly, one hundred forty-three (143) NGOs applied to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for sector clearance. Out of this number, twenty-five (25) submitted full requirements prescribed by the Ministry and were accordingly issued clearances. Others are pending.

In furtherance of their mandate, M&E Division worked with the Policy and Planning Division to develop indicators, baseline, targets and means of verification of the Revised National Gender Policy Strategic Framework; The Department for Research, Policy and Planning, through M&E and Research and Statistics Divisions, collaborated with the Division of Resource mobilization and Partnership and developed needs assessment tools for the Ministry. The tools are expected to help the Ministry identify training needs for staffers working with the Ministry; The Division developed indicators and baseline for the Private Sector Investment Plan Project for the component under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

### **Administration**

The Department of Administration planned and implemented the following activities:

The Ministry through Cllr. Dallamah Solunteh, to work with National AIDS Commission’s Legal Officer to draft another MoU for submission to the Minister concerning the sharing of Liberia Electricity Corporation and Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation bills as the previous arrangement shared payment this way: 70% for MGCSP and 30% for NAC. Other discussions have been initiated with the National

Malaria Control Program and the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Ministry of Health that share the compound and associated facility with the MGCSP;

Meeting was held with all Heads of Programs and Projects to get to know issues working against the smooth implementation of the programs and projects activities that are associated with the Procurement and Finance Divisions. The meeting was intended to find solutions to those issues and smoothly expedite all processes;

- the National Identification Registry was able to do ID cards for all staffers at the Central Office of the Ministry;
- Ensured that the personnel listing of current and pensioned employees was made available and was subsequently submitted to the National Identification Registry for the “Project Clean Payroll” Exercise;
- The DMA ably represented the Minister in Gbarnga at the National Disaster Management Agency workshop on Disaster Preparedness on May 25, 2018;
- The DMA attended the ECOWAS Gender Development Programs Coordination Meeting representing the Ministry
- The DMA attended Monrovia Vocational Training graduation program representing the Ministry;
- Administration wrote the Liberia Electricity Corporation that the Ministry has been experiencing series of breakdown of electricity power supply, thus affecting the smooth operation of our work, and requested its immediate and urgent intervention to remedy the situation to avoid the embarrassment of disruptive power supply. Fortunately, the transformer supplying the Ministry is now up and functional
- Administration ensured that the Kwehlonkor Security Services assigned five security personnel at the Liberia’s Children Village being operated by the Ministry to securitize the children, the facilities and the assets located therein;
- Wrote UNICEF asking for kind assistance to the Ministry through the provision of some office equipment (laptops, HP digital scanners and printers) that are being disposed of;
- Participated in the technical working sessions to review the Social Development Sector Services submission for the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development;
- Initiated the process of obtaining the deed of the land the facilities/buildings of the occupy from the General Services Agency
- Facilitated the transfer/ payment of subsidies to subsidies’ receiving entities under the Ministry;
- Successfully oversaw the completion of the Security Contract with the Kwehlonkor Security Services and work with the Minister’s office to enter into a contract with the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) to securitize the building and its associated assets;
- Ensured that the staffers of the Ministry were paid timeously and regularly as well as encourage all staffers who had not done their CSA tests to ensure that they complete the process and regularize their files;
- Constituted the Internal Investigative Committee that investigated forgery and other staff associate issues/cases successfully; Internally transferred six (6) staffers and dismissed a staff for forgery and faking document;

- Processed the procurement of needed goods and services for the Ministry as well as Projects at the Ministry;

### **Human Resource**

In the wake of the new administration, the division ensured smooth transition and hand over to the new team of Ministers; reinforced employees' attendance at HQ and county-level in line with CSA Orders and presently, there is an improvement in employee's attendance; biometric being installed; deployed ECOWAS Volunteers across the Departments of Gender and Policy to strengthen the human resource capacity; regularized payroll processing time in line with GoL timetable for the receipt of salary by the 25th of each month; ensured employees captured on the reform are covered by NASSCORP and other insurance (medical) coverage; 85% of HQ Employees data processed for August deduction; ensured employees Personnel Action Notices (PANs) are processed in line with CSA. Memorandum has been written to employees to do their tests and submit results to complete the process; commenced and finalized the recruitment of Social Registry Staff – 6 professionals who have been contracted and commenced work on November 1, 2018; Six professional staffers hired and are currently working; reorganized employees' files and ensure proper filing; Files labeled properly and appropriately; had a meeting with the Director of Employment Services at the Civil Service Agency (CSA). It was agreed that CSA will come and help the unit with employees' files update for one employee one file system ; In collaboration with management, the Division distributed 150 bags of rice to employees for the July 26, celebration and worked on the Liberia Social Safety Net Project (LSSN), Social Registry Project successful candidate's contracts and it has been signed and they are presently working; Orientation and onboarding was also carried out successful

### **Procurement Division**

The Procurement Division is responsible to execute procurement activities for the Ministry. It reports to the Procurement Committee and uses the PPC Act, the World Bank Procurement Regulations, and the regulations of other donor-partners funding projects in the Ministry.

This report outlines the various activities of the Procurement Division for this calendar year. It combines procurement activities of the end of fiscal year 2017/2018 and the beginning of fiscal year 2018/2019 for GOL, outlines procurement activities for the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSN), and highlights the other procurement activities done for other projects in the Ministry.

### **Liberia Social Safety Nets Project**

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has received 10 million USD Credit from the World Bank and 6.4 Million USD Grant from the USAID for the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project. This is the biggest project at the Ministry currently and one of the biggest Social Protection Projects in the country. The project has two parts-The Social Cash Transfer and The Social Registry.



The procurement activities under this project are listed in the table below:

#	Procurement Activity	Status	Details	Next Action Required
1	Recruitment of International Procurement Specialist	Complete	Recruitment was completed in July and the IPS began working in August of this year	Contract Supervision of the IPS until his contract ends by Next August
2	Procurement of an ICT Firm to supply and install IT equipment to the Data Centre	Complete	An ICT Firm was Contracted through a competitive procurement process.	The firm is expected to start supplying once their initial payment from PFMU is received.
3	Procurement of two 30KVA Generators	Ongoing	Request for Quotations have been issued to five firms.	Receive Quotations, Evaluate, and contract the most responsive bidder
3	Procurement of a firm to provide ICT Collocation Services	Ongoing	Requests for Quotation have been issued to the only three private firms with the needed expertise locally	Receive Quotations, Evaluate, and Contract the most responsive
4	Procurement of a firm to provide Communication Services	Ongoing	Expression of Interests have been received and evaluated. The highest ranked firm has submitted their proposal and the Ministry is negotiating with them for a contract	Prepare contract based on negotiation minutes and manage contract
5	Procurement of a Firm to Renovate the rooms earmarked to host the datacenter	Ongoing	Quotations are currently being evaluated. The Most responsive shall be contracted	Complete evaluation and contract the most responsive
6	Procurement of consultants for the Social Registry	Complete	Consultants have been procured for the SR.	Contract Management is ongoing and will continue in 2019
7	Procurement of Consultants for the Social Cash Transfer	Ongoing	Request for Expression of Interest was published.	Receive EOIs, evaluate, interview shortlisted candidates and contract the highest scoring consultant

8	Procurement of a Firm to carry on small data collection	Ongoing	Request for Expression of Interest was published	Receive EOIs, evaluate, receive proposal from the top ranked, and contract
9	Procurement of a Firm to carry on huge data collection	Ongoing	Two staged bidding process. EOIs have been received and shortlist report prepared. RFPs have been sent to the shortlisted firms	Receive and evaluate RFPs. Contract the most responsive
10	Procurement of a firm to do Integrate Management Information Systems under the prom	Ongoing	EOI shortlist report is pending approval at the World Bank	Issue RFPs to the shortlisted Firms, Evaluate, Contract Most Responsive

### ***Government of Liberia***

The Procurement Division procured several items using funds of the GOL. More details of these purchases are in Annex 1 of this report.

The Procurement Division is finalizing the process of contracting vendors to supply the various needs (i.e goods and services) of the Ministry for the Fiscal Year 2018/2019. All contracts are to be signed before December 18, 2018.

The Procurement Unit is also working with the Program and Policy unit of the Ministry and the Ministry of Finance and Development to begin procurement for the PSIP project. Procurement activities under this PSIP project are in the planning phase and sourcing will begin in the first quarter of 2019.

### ***UNICEF and UNFPA***

The Ministry procured several items using funds from the UNICEF and UNFPA during this annual year. Details of these items are in Annex 1 of this report as well.

The Procurement Unit purchased several items for the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Division and the Department of Children and Social Protection with UNICEF and UNFPA funds. These purchases were done with strict adherence to the PPCC Act.

### **Major Achievements**

The major achievements for the Procurement Division this year are:

- a) Completing the procurement of goods and services needed for by the Gender Based Violence Division.
- b) Completing the hiring of the International Procurement Specialist, the Social Registry Staff, and New Africa Technology Company (IT Firm responsible to supply and install ICT equipment).
- c) Completed the procurement of goods and services needed by the Adolescent Girls Unit with funds from the GIZ

- d) Procured goods and services needed for all major programs-most especially, the Kick off and Closure of the 16 days of activism and the July 26 Celebration.
- e) Completed the procurement of High Speed Internet materials for the Department of Gender, with funds from the UNFPA
- f) Completed the procurement of food items for Gbalatuah Mission
- g) Completed the procurement of Rice for the Ministry Staff-for both the July 26 and Christmas

### **Limitations of this Report**

The new heads of the Procurement Division started acting late July, 2018. Up to the deadline date for this report, they were not able to get the purchase log from the last fiscal year (affected period of January to June 2018). Therefore the details of purchases highlighted in Annex 1 will only cover the period from late July to present.

### **Annex 1**

#### **PURCHASES**

#	Item	Funding Source	Division	Comments	Amount USD
1	Rice	GOL	Ministry	26 appreciation Rice	2,400.00
2	Air Ticket	LSSN/World Bank	Social Protection	Ticket for the IPS	675.00
3	Stationery(assorted)	UNICEF	GBV	Stationery for GBV	1,080.00
4	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	GBV	Fuel for GBV	832.00
5	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	GBV	Fuel for GBV	999.00
6	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	Children Division	Fuel for Children Division	1,258.00
7	Food Items	UNFPA	GBV	Food Items	4,500.00
8	Food Items	UNICEF	AGU	Assorted	2,625.00.00
9	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	AGU	Fuel	240.00
10	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	AGU	Fuel	450.00
11	Stationery	UNICEF	GBV	Stationery	230.00
12	Food Items	GOL	Children Division	Assorted Food	940.00

13	Printing Services	GOL	Children Division	Printing for Children Program	800.00
14	Non-Food Items	GOL	Children Division	Items for Children Program	1,060.00
15	Stationery	UNICEF	GBV	Assorted Stationery	1,080.00
16	Petroleum Products	GOL	Minister's Office	Fuel	53.25
17	Petroleum Products	GOL	Administration	Fuel	296.00
18	Petroleum Products	GOL	Administration	Fuel	333.00
19	Generator Pump	GOL	Administration	Pump to replace damaged generator pump	155.00
20	White Board	GOL	Minister's Office	Modern Writing Board	120.00
21	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	GBV	Fuel	233.10
22	Stationery	UNICEF	Children Division	Assorted	106.00
23	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	Children Division	Fuel	1,258.00
24	Publication Services	World Bank	LSSN	publication of Ads for LSSN	1,500.00
25	Stationery	UNFPA	GBV	Assorted	420.00
26	Scratch Cards	UNICEF	Children Division	Scratch Cards(Orange & Lonestar	50.00
27	Catering Services	UNICEF	GBV	Catering for program	256.00
28	Printing Services	UNFPA	GBV	printing of materials	1,500.00
29	Vehicle Rental	UNFPA	GBV	Rental Services	5,250.00
30	Vehicle Rental	UNFPA	GBV	Rental Services	4,500.00
31	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	GBV	Fuel	832.00
32	Scratch Cards	UNFPA	GBV	Orange & Lonestar	1,000.00
33	Used Clothes	UNICEF	Children Division	Bales of used clothes	600.00
34	Stationery	UNFPA	GBV	Assorted	230.00

35	Petroleum Products	GOL	Administration	Fuel	555.00
36	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	GBV	Fuel	1,600.00
37	Petroleum Products	UNFPA	GBV	Fuel	1,480.00
38	Medical Supplies	UNFPA	GBV	Drugs	6,880.00
39	Scratch Cards	UNFPA	GBV	Scratch Cards	1,300.00
40	Printing Services	UNICEF	GBV	Printing materials	2,100.00
41	Petroleum Products	UNICEF	GBV	Fuel	4,500.00
42	Spare Parts	GOL	Admin	Vehicle Spare Parts	750.00
43	Spare Parts	GOL	Admin	Vehicle Spare Parts	260.00
44	Sport Materials	GOL	Dept of Gender	Sport Materials	1,340.00
45	Rice	GOL	Admin	Rice	150.00
46	Printing Services	UNFPA	GBV	Printing of flyers	750.00
47	Stationery	UNFPA	GBV	Assorted Stationery	420.00
48	Lappas	UNICEF	GBV	Lappas	1,500.00
49	Catering Services	UNICEF	Children Division	Catering for program	500.00
50	Catering Services	UNICEF	Children Division	Catering for programs	1,500.00
51	Internet Items	UNFPA	Gender Dept	Internet Connectivity Materials	3,171.00
52	Catering Services	UNICEF	Children Division	Catering for programs	1,800.00
53	Vehicle Rental	UNICEF	GBV	for cars to go to the southeast	6,000.00
55	Air Ticket	GOL	Minister's Office	for Min travel to UN	2,600.00
56	Scratch Cards	UNICEF	GBV	Scratch Cards	2,500.00
57	Spare Parts	GOL	Admin	GENSet Spare Parts	320.00

58	Janitorial Materials	UNFPA	GBV	cleaning materials for one stop center	430.00
59	Super Petroleum	GOL	Admin	Fuel	9,500.00
60	Vehicle Insurance	GOL	Admin	Insurance for Cars	450.00
61	Catering Services	UNFPA	GBV	Catering for program	2,550.00
62	Cable Television Services	GOL	Minister's Office	K3 Subscription-2 months	176.00
63	Catering Services	GOL	Gender Dept	Catering for 16 days activism	5,050.00
64	Rice	GOL	Ministry	Rice for Christmas	2,612.50

## FINANCE AND BUDGETING

The mandate of the Finance and Budgeting Division is to facilitate the MGCSP financial support, disbursement of funds and monitor the outcomes

During the period under review, the Government's budgetary allotment to the MGCSP is US\$ **2,696,672.34 (Two Million Six Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Two and Thirty-Four USD)** as actual. Out of this amount **US\$2,284,330.96 (Two Million Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty and Ninety-Six cent USD)** was disbursed. Please see schedule below:

Object of Expenditures	Allotment	Expenditure YTD	Balance in Allotment
Personnel	1,721,080.26	1,705,046.30	16,116.98
General Allowance	12,500.00	0	12,500.00
Goods & Services	366,144.07	201,841.87	164,402.76
Grants/Transfers	596,948.01	377,442.79	219,505.22
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,696,672.34</b>	<b>2,284,330.96</b>	<b>412,524.96</b>

During the same period under review, the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection received an amount US\$344,170.01 ( **Three Hundred Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Seventy One and One Cent United States Dollars**) as grant from Partners. Out of this an amount of **US\$366,242.57** was disbursed for projects and programs. Please see schedule below.

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Open Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Total Bal</b>	<b>Total Disbursement</b>	<b>Closing Balances as at December 12, 2018</b>
UNFPA	MOGCSP/UNFPA SIDA SGBV	8,542.64	135,885.00	144,427.64	138,783.39	5,644.25
UNICEF	MOGCSP/UNICEF Respond to Child	27,081.25	0	27,081.25	12,514.37	14,566.88
	MOGCSP/ Partner Fund	31,254.64	89,698.01	120,952.65	91,320.07	29,632.58
UNICEF	MOGCSP / Strengthen GBV	1,257.32	92,037.00	93,294.32	90,550.77	2,743.55
WORLD BANK	MOGCSP/ EPAG Round 11	145	0	145.00	0	145.00
ECOWAS	MOGCSP/ AU African Gender & Development Index	2,490.0	0	2,490.00	220	2,270.00
IBIS AND UN WOMEN	International Colloquium USD	1,342.22	0	1,342.22	1,300.00	42.22
UN WOMEN	MOGCSP/ JP RWEE	4,420.02	26,550.00	30,970.02	30,832.97	137.05
WORLD BANK	Social Safety Net Program	641.99	0	641.99	361.99	280.00
UNICEF	Social Protection Secretariat	786.26	0	786.26	300.00	486.26
UN WOMEN	MGCSP/Joint Program SCBV	1,176.00	0	1,1176.00	60.00	1,116.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>79,137.34</b>	<b>344,170.01</b>	<b>423,307.35</b>	<b>366,242.57</b>	<b>57,064.78</b>

### **Achievements During the period under reviewed**

- Received 752 payment requests from various Departments for programs and projects implementation.
- Out of the above 675 payment requests were processed and completed and 77 were quarried and returned.
- In the same vein the Finance Division raised 675 bank payment vouchers, 675 were approved.
- During the same period the division raised 643 checks
- Disbursed 547 to vendors, Contractor and staff.
- 13 checks are unpaid.
- Reconciled all projects bank accounts and operational accounts
- Prepared and submitted financial report for orphanages and welfare institutions to MFDP
- Prepared and submitted financial report for projects and programs to partners

- Prepared and submitted direct cash transfer request to Partners (UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, etc.)
- Prepared and submitted allotment request for the months of August to November 2018 to MFDP
- Attended training on the IFMIS for FY2018/2019
- Received approved budget for the FY 2018/19
- Prepared and submitted cash plan for FY 2018/19 to MFDP
- Received approved allotment for transfers and etc.
- Received 95 releases from MFDP for the disbursement
- Raised and process MFDP payment vouchers for the following as listed below:
  - Personnel
  - Goods and Services
  - Grants and Transfers

### **Public Affairs and Communications Unit**

- In order to ensure the compliance of ICT Policy /Act and other Regulations, a technical proposal was submitted to the senior management for review and implementation to ensure that the MGCSP obtain Official Website and Professional email addresses (Mail Server). Another proposal was also submitted and when approved will provide intranet and wireless topology & specs : Hardware/software/Power for the Ministry
- Maintenance plan and schedule was prepared and copies submitted to SMT.
- Collaborate with Legal Affairs to prepare amendment to LIBTELCO for the provision of Internet service at the Ministry
- Conducted training gap & proposed training and kept ICT inventory up to date through the appraisal of IT staff and update ICT assets. Also, a training proposal and update ICT assets listing were submitted to the senior management for review and implementation
- Ensured the printing of work ID Cards and develop new logo for MGCSP remain incomplete owing to fiscal constraints. Replacement of damage ICT equipment and installation of HR timekeeper & access control
- The coverage of the UN Women Delegation visit to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, MGCSP at which time they held talks with the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr. The Unit also drafted and publishes a media release on the visitation of three beauty queens from Nigeria, Uganda and Namibia respectively.
- The program was held at the Monrovia city hall in collaboration with the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC). The queens arrive in Liberia on August 3 up to Tuesday, August 7, 2018 and whilst in the country, they embarked on series of nationwide initiatives including discussion surrounding hosting "Face-of-Africa Beauty Pageant" scheduled to be hosted soon.
- The visitation of the IDLO -Liberia Country Office officials to the Hon. Williametta Saydee-Tarr on cooperation and partnership was also highlighted during the period.
- The President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights led a high power delegation at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. They held discussions around the significance of Liberia ratifying the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights



in connection with the establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights. Speaking on behalf of the Ministry, Deputy Minister for Gender Hon Alice Johnson Howard thanked President Sylvain Ore and his delegation for such laudable initiative.

- Coverage on the occasion of TREK Africa/ECOWAS' signature "talent-hunt" for supermodels and beauty queens to help the Pan-African organization (ECOWAS), effect social-change across Africa was also covered during the period under review.
- Coverage was also provided on the presentation of cash prizes and awards to winners to winners of the 26 Independence Children's extravaganza.
- The unit also provided media coverage on a one-day in-house refresher training workshop for social workers on child maltreatment, case management, and social work ethical responsibility to client and Social work ethics.
- Coverage was also provided on the distribution of food and non-food items to victims of flood in the Cow Field Community-Duport Road by the Ministry. September.
- Additionally, In September the Unit provided coverage on a trainer of trainer's workshop for social workers of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. The workshop was centered on: raising awareness of the issues of child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. The unit also issued a statement on the allegation of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly committed by Mr. Moseray Momoh, a Deputy Managing Director at the Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation (LWSC). In the statement, the Ministry expressed profound dismay over such act.
- OCTOBER: The Unit continued its statutory responsibility by increasing coverage on the ministry's activities around the country and it included... The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, (MGCSP), is deeply concerned about reports that female employees of the Ministry of Finance, and Development Planning, (MFDP), are being restricted from entering the building for wearing colored or unnatural hair.
- The Unit also provided coverage on the Day of the Girl Child commemoration held in Paynesville. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, (MGCSP), welcomes the tuition-free pronouncement by the President, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, which now offers a practical boost to creating equal access to education for all including women and girls across the country.

#### **REPRESENTATION AT LOCAL PROGRAMS/ CONFERENCES AND TRAVELS**

- She attended the official celebration of the World Day Against Child Labour organized by the Ministry of Labour at the Monrovia City Hall,
- Attended the post CSW Meeting at the Millennium Hotel on the Tubman Boulevard,
- Attended the hearing on the expenditure portion of the draft budget at the William R. Tolbert Joint Chamber of the Capitol Building.
- She attended the celebration of the International Day of the African Child organized by the One Goal Foundation and the Carter Centre at the Paynesville Town Hall.
- Minister attended the opening of the Young Women and girls Conference organized by the Department of Gender at the Monrovia Vocational Training Center,
- Attended the celebration of the Nelson Mandela Day at the Great Commission Orphanages, Chicken Soup Factory,

- Minister served as keynote speaker at the opening program of the university Liberia Zero Tolerance on sexual harassment at the Fendall Campus Theater,
- Attended the Independence Day Children Extravaganza ceremony at the Monrovia City Hall,
- Attended the Independence Day celebration ceremony at Centennial Pavilion,
- Hosted the Children's Independence Day party at the SKD and ATS,
- Minister attended the swear-in ceremony of the new Peace Crops Trainees at the Monrovia City Hall,
- Attended the National Stakeholders conference on homegrown School Feeding as part of the Independence Day party,
- Attended the Steering Committee meeting on SGBV at the Pan African Plaza,
- Served as key-note speaker and sponsor at the opening of a two day intensive capacity building workshop at the point four elementary school,

### **REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES**

- Attended a reception for the occasion of the 61 anniversary of the Independence of Ghana on March 6, 2018.
- Participated in the Africa Ministerial Pre-Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Consultative Meeting scheduled for February 21-23, 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- Led the Liberian delegation to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session on the Commission on the Status of Women from March 12-23, 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters.
- Participated in the Stockholm Forum and share experiences, strengthening dialogue and establish cross-border cooperation in order to take concrete steps in moving the agenda of women forward
- Participated in the EU spotlight the High Level Political Dialogue on the Demographic Dividend held at the Palace of Egmont in Belgium, Brussels
- Attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter joint Steering Committee Meeting on the Government of Liberia and UN joint Programme Initiative at the UN Conference,
- Minister travelled to Uganda to attend the COP conference (World Bank Conference) from June 30, to July 6, 2018.
- Minister travelled to the USA in preparation of the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA),
- Minister was invited as one of the speakers to participate in the fifth edition of the Debates du Monde Afrique in Paris from November 28-29, 2018.
- Represented the President at the Global Citizens Festival Day held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on November 30, 2018;
- Minister participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) on December 14, 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

### **Coordination Meetings from the Office of the Minister**

As a means to strengthen coordination and collaboration, the Minister held several meetings with partners to discuss challenges and strategies to help improve the implementation of the activities geared towards the achievements of the mandate of the Ministry and further commitment by partners towards the support

to the Ministry. Partners met included but not limited to the following: Swedish Ambassador, European Union, UNICEF, Women Legislative Caucus, Medical Liberia, Carter Center, UN Women; Division of Social Medicine and Global Health of the Lund University of Sweden; Orphans Concern Liberia; Youth for Change; National Union of Liberia Orphanages and Children Welfare Institution (NULOCWI); President's Young Professional; Albino Society Executive and Partners; ECOWAS National Unit; Executive Director of PPCC, Mr Dorbor Jallah; LIPA Deputy Director General for research and Consultancy- Hon. D. Wa Hne, Jr.; Ministry of Finance, Development Planning; Representative Samuel Enders of District #6; met with OHCHR Liberia Representative, Mr. Uchema Emelomye,

The Minister was also able to attend the First Cabinet Meeting with the President; organized and attended the official program of the IWD Celebration which was held on March 8, 2018 at the SKD Sports Complex; attended the opening ceremony HIV and Social Protection Training Workshop organized by UNAIDS at the Bella Cassa, Sinkor on March 9, 2018; attended meeting with the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, and discussed a visit to the Liberian Children Village; met with heads of department and Comptroller on the 2018/2019 budget finalization; attended the turning over ceremony of vehicle to the GBV Unit provided by the Swedish Government; attended the formal turning over ceremony of a DNA Machine to the Ministry by UNMIL; chaired the Social Development Sector meeting at the Social Protection Conference room; attended a meeting with the President Office and discussed the issue of the EU Spotlight; attended the ECOWAS Women Peace Building Network Awards, as well as the Mother's Day Program of the SOS Children Village Kindergarten Hall, Matadi Estate; attended the Budget hearing on the Revenue Portion of the draft budget of the Ministry in the Conference room of the Capitol Building; Met with the Internal Audit Unit along with the Senior Management Team to acquaint the team of the IAU mandate and elaborate on how the IAU can be used to enhance the work performance of the Ministry.

The Minister chaired the Social Protection Steering Committee Meeting proposed by Mr Gabriel Fernandez at the Social Protection Conference Room and met with the National Democratic Institute for a 5 minute interview on Women Political empowerment in Liberia; attended the celebration of the day of the African Child in Gbarnga; attended the National Lottery Board meeting; met with the Kids (Peace Truth fair play youth camp) at the office of the Minister; Met with the PAPD Technical Team; Met with the team from MCC regarding the hosting of the ECOWAS Queens and other Envoys; met with the CSA Director General in her office; met with Dr. Darren Wilkins, Chief Executive Officer of Sahara Technology Solutions; met with the MARWONET team, Madam Amelia Ward and Ruth Caesar at her office; met with the Grand Gedeh University Union on an acquaintance meeting in her conference room; met with the International Development Law Organization team at her office; Minister joined the Vice President for a dinner on behalf of the President in honor of Moustapha Cisse Lo of the ECOWAS Parliament and delegation at the Boulevard Palace; met with Representative Joseph Koleh; met with the ECO-Bank marketing manager to discuss banking services; met with Mr. James Ballah, Head of the Board of the Antoinette Tubman Treasury home; met with the Mr. Morris Massaquoi from the YES Enterprise at her office; attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter joint Steering Committee Meeting on the Government of Liberia and UN joint Programme Initiative at the UN Conference; met with Honorable Charles Bright, National Economic Advisor to the President; met with head of the Internal Auditor at her office; met with the ECOWAS Volunteer assigned at the Ministry,

## MONITORING VISITS

- Minister's travelled to three counties (Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Nimba counties) on a monitoring visit of the county offices and to meet with some local government and women group. These visits were to establish a line of trust, coordination and collaboration with the county teams and partners.
- Form part of the joint monitoring visit on SGBV with the RC and Swedish Ambassador in Nimba County from May 24-25, 2018

## LEGAL

**Smartech, Inc., Vs. MGCSP**-This law suit was brought against the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection during the course of last year by the Management of SmarTech, Inc. for services rendered by SmarTech which the MGCSP did not pay for. The MGCSP entered into a Contractual Agreement with SmarTech, Inc. for the construction of Internet services at the MGCSP at estimated costs of about US\$90,000.00 (Ninety Thousand United States Dollars). MGCSP conceded at the Commercial Court of Liberia and did promise to settle its obligation following the adoption/approval of GOL fiscal budget 2018. MGCSP conceded at the Commercial Court of Liberia and did promise to settle its obligation following the adoption/approval of GOL fiscal budget 2018. Meanwhile, a Bill of Costs against Defendant totaling US\$97,144.14 (Ninety-Seven Thousand One Hundred forty-four United States Dollars States Dollars Fourteen Cents) issued by the Commercial Court has been taxed by both Counsels, respectively in the Month of June, A. D. 2018, which payment is pending.

## CHALLENGES

Despite the many successes scored during the period under review, the Ministry did experience some challenges associated with the delivery of its programs and services. Some of these challenges include but not limited to the followings:

- Due to limited and or short time funding for projects, the continuation and sustenance of some projects such as the EPAG, RWEE, etc. became challenging. This led to abrupt closure of projects which left the hopes of project beneficiaries in despair;
- The Ministry's quests to build sector expertise, especially in areas of gender, children, policy, human rights, social protection, gender budgeting, communications, proposal development, Human Resource Management, monitoring and evaluation could not be realized to expectation due to limited support in terms of inadequate funds and capacity building in these and other areas all in the context of women and children;
- The continuous reduction in the Ministry's allocation in the National Budget is seriously undermining the efforts of the Ministry to enhance the logistical and human resource capacities of the fifteen (15) county offices and the central office
- The delay in the prosecution of GBV cases possess a serious challenge to efforts of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and its partners to promote reporting of GBV cases among the population, especially affected families.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

After carefully outlining few challenges encountered by the Ministry during the period under review, the following recommendations are hereby stated:

- While the Ministry welcomes the tremendous contributions of partners who continue to assist significantly in the delivery of programs and services to the Liberian people, the Ministry also encourages partners and donor institutions to support and or engage in long-term activities. The Ministry also solicits support to reactivate dormant projects and continuous support to existing projects;
- The Ministry welcomes partners and well-wishers to as well consider supporting institutional strengthening and capacity building at the Ministry, especially in support of the Ministry's quest to develop sector expertise;
- There is a compelling need for the full support to the Monitoring and Evaluation Division in terms of capacity, logistics, and coordination from other Departments to ensure the issues of check and balance
- There is a need to build a strong MIS system within the Ministry that will provide data for reporting and proposals and projects developments

## **CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection remains thankful to His Excellency President George M. Weah for his leadership and political will which demonstrate clear manifestation of the importance the Government of Liberia attaches to issues of women and children throughout the territorial confines of Liberia. In the midst of all of the challenges ranging from financial, logistical and human resources, the Ministry continues to lead the cause of women and children; thanks to our many partners and donors including but not limited to local and international NGOs, CSOs, and foreign missions including the UN system. Our goal of developing and protecting women and children will become bleak without their support.

The Legislature and Judiciary have been and continues to be supportive of the Ministry's undertakings through oversight, law making as well as budgetary allocations and legal proceedings.

To all men who have continued to support our initiatives, your efforts are meaningful; and to the women and children of and living in Liberia, you are our heroes and heroines.

We look forward to enhanced partnership and a successful 2019 and beyond.