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**MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL
PROTECTION**

MONROVIA



**Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
(P173677)**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

[August 2024]

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Definition
AS	Advisory Services
ACH	Automatic Clearing House
ARSH	Adolescent Social and Reproductive Health
BDS	Business Development Service
CAC	County Agriculture Coordinator
CBA	Community Based Agents
CBL	Central Bank of Liberia
CE	Citizen's Engagement
CERC	Contingency Emergency Response Component
CGC	County Gender Coordinator
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CSO	Civil Society Agency
DFS	Digital Financial Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia
EPML	Environment Protection and Management Law
ERTP	Economic Recovery and Transformation
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESO	Enterprise Support Organizations
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
G2B	Government to Business
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoL	Government of Liberia
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRP	Government Recovery Program
ICT	Information, Communications, and Telecommunication
IFC	International Finance Corporation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPF	Investment Project Financing
JET	Jobs and Economic Transformation
LBR	Liberia Business Registry
LRA	Liberia Revenue Authority
LWEP	Liberia Women Empowerment Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NAP	National Quality Infrastructure
NEPS	National Electronic Payment Switch
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSW	National Single Window
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
PFI	Participating Financial Institution
PAPD	Poor pro Agenda for Prosperity and Development
PMU	Project Implementation Unit
PPA	Project Preparation Advance
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
RTGS	Real-Time Gross Settlement
RETRAP	Rural Economic Transformation Project
RWS	Rural Women Structure
SASA	Start, Awareness Support and Action
SBA	Small Business Administration
SBCC	Social and Behavioral Change Communication
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
TA	Technical Assistance
TC	Technical Committee
WBG	World Bank Group
WTO	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP), with support from the Work Group (IBRC/IDA), aims to enhance women's empowerment by addressing social norms (with a focus on GBV prevention) and improving access to livelihoods while building the capacity of key national institutions (MGCSP and MoA) and will lay the groundwork for future work on women and girls' empowerment in Liberia. The project has five-components namely: (i) Component 1: Fostering positive social norms and community mobilization, (ii) Component 2: Enhancing basic services in health and education, (iii) Component 3: Promoting resilient livelihoods through community-based approaches, (iv) Component 4: Strengthening public institutions to advance gender equality, (v) Component 5: Project management and knowledge management, (vi) Component 5: Contingent emergency response component.

The project's environmental risk is rated as moderate, while the social risk is rated as substantial. The project's environmental risks and impacts will arise mainly from project component 3. The social risks that could likely emerge during the implementation of subprojects include: i) claims and complaints about targeting/recruitment and selection of subprojects, ii) inclusion of people who are well connected as beneficiaries to the project, iii) exclusion of people who are not well connected as beneficiaries to the project, iv) lack of transparency on grants and payments, v) poor service delivery including delays, vi) unfair treatment by the service provider/project staff, vii) and discrimination based on sex or other physical and health conditions, viii) discrimination because of gender orientation and ethnicity, and ix) failure to meet minimum wage expectations.

It is also likely that temporary restrictions on land use, loss of property, disruption of access paths, corrupt practices, intimate partner violence (IPV), human rights violations, child labor, and sexual exploitation and abuse are among the potential social risks that may arise during the implementation of subprojects and that need to be monitored closely. These risks can be readily managed if the project puts qualified Environmental and Social (E&S) staff in place. Several instruments, including ESMP, RPF, and RAP (if required), being prepared and implemented throughout project implementation to mitigate risks and impacts.

The identification and analysis of stakeholder groups for the LWEP Project include different women groups, government agencies, development partners, Civil Societies and Non-Governmental Organizations, targeted project beneficiaries in rural areas, unemployed youth mainly girls, the Association of People with Disabilities, farmers, and interested people from local communities. This stakeholder engagement plan will also set out details of the purpose, timing, and methods of stakeholder engagement and strategy for communication and information disclosure. It will incorporate the views of vulnerable groups.

A provisional budget for implementing these SEP activities has been included in the SEP. An estimated amount of US\$2,682,000.00 (Two Million Six Hundred and Eighty-two Thousand United States Dollars) will be required for SEP implementation and GRM operating costs. The Project is establishing a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to allow affected people and the public to submit and get their grievances resolved. The GRM will be operated by the MGCSP and will establish Grievance Committees at various levels to receive and resolve grievances relating to disputes from the project implementation at all levels. The GCs will receive complaints register them in the complaint register, investigate, and timely resolve grievances. The GCs together with the PMU/LSP will monitor, and report on the status of the grievances in sex and gender-disaggregated format. The existence and conditions of access to this register (where, when, how) will be widely disseminated within the project areas as part of the consultation undertaken for the project in general. The LWEP/MGCSP will establish three levels of Grievance Redress, the national, county, and community levels.

1.0. INTRODUCTION/DESCRIPTION

The World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 10 “Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure” provides guidance on the mechanisms to guarantee the involvement of stakeholders throughout a project life cycle, including the stages of conception and preparation of projects financed by the World Bank. This document presents an overarching Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP). This plan will allow the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) to effectively engage with individuals, groups, businesses, service providers, and other stakeholders who might be directly or indirectly affected by activities to be taken up as part of the project. It would also guide the disclosure process for the entire project.

The LWEP is a social protection project aimed to empower women with support from the World Bank. The project intends to support vulnerable women or households who are considered poor in the informal sector and at risk of poverty due to the impact of climate change, windstorms, and other global issues that affect their livelihoods. The project has six components: (i) Fostering positive social norms and community mobilization, (ii) Enhancing basic services in health and education, (iii) Promoting resilient livelihoods through community-based approaches, (iv) Strengthening public institutions to advance gender equality, (v) Project management and knowledge management, (vi) Contingent emergency response component.

The implementation of the LWEP will involve many different stakeholders¹ including different groups of beneficiaries², lines ministries, local county authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), different women's groups, village Saving Loans Associations (VSLA), community-based organizations (CBOs), individual enterprises, livelihood groups, and farmers Based organizations (FBOs). A clearer understanding of the nature, interests, and concerns of such stakeholders at the national, county, and community levels is crucial for the effective implementation and delivery of the project which will include support for stakeholder engagement in targeted communities, selection of beneficiaries, cooperation on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including the homeless and jobless, appeals and grievance processes and information disclosure guided by the World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10).

1.1. COUNTRY AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS

Liberia is a country in West Africa, bordering Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire. Liberia is a fragile and conflict-affected country that has experienced a range of highly traumatic periods and, as a result, remains highly vulnerable to external shocks. Two civil wars between 1989 and 2003 destroyed much of Liberia’s basic infrastructure and social services, resulting in poor living conditions for most of the population. There are 15 counties in Liberia and Liberia has sixteen ethnolinguistic groups, and most Liberians belong to the Poro and Sande cultural societies which traces its origins to many centuries. The project is targeting five of (Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh and/or River Cess) of the fifteen counties and is expected to cover more than 750 communities.

Cultural societies such as the *Sande* (for women) and *Poro* (for men) form an important part of that society and have existed since 1000AD. They shape the way tradition, culture, and spiritual beliefs and rituals are practiced. Majority of Liberians, both in urban and rural areas as well as elites and non-elites, one way or the other, are members of these cultural societies. Traditional, cultural, and spiritual practices have long played an important role in Liberian society and continue to permeate many aspects of Liberians life. The cultural societies are hierarchically organized and operates in large part of Liberia. They have a traditional organizational hierarchy, and their hierarchy is based on secrecy: the higher a person's status, the greater the secret knowledge that is revealed to them. They use the perceived secret power to

¹ Stakeholders are those who are directly or indirectly impacted by and/or influence decision making

² Beneficiaries are people who benefit from services/cash provided

impart traditional education and life skills and exercise authority over local communities and influence politics and decision making.

Cultural societies leaders lead traditional schools in traditional settings. These cultural societies coach values and thought skills conducive to communal harmony. They prepare children for the difficulties of adulthood. They have historically provided training for young adults in the absence of formal educational structures and have been held in high esteem by Liberians for their role in transmitting values and skills from one generation to the next. These cultural societies, through their leaders, exert significant authority over members and non-members of their respective societies. They use the traditional justice system - which is beyond and above the formal justice system - to punish their members. They also have significant influence over local administration and politics as well as on executive, legislative and Judicial branches of government. They are held in high esteem by the public because of their role in passing on values and skills from one generation to the next.

The chief Poro leader (zoe) is the head of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders (NCCE). He is the representative body of traditional authorities in Liberia. The council is "highly influential" and is consulted by state authorities on all matters related to society. The traditional Chief plays an advisory role on internal affairs in the country, and it is mandated to help the government maintain peace. The Ministry Internal Affairs (MIA) is mandated to regulate traditional institutions and issued licenses to traditional practitioners. The Ministry is in fact considered second only to the chief *Poro leader (zoe)* in terms of cultural authority. Two departments oversee cultural societies: the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), which supervises the activities of cultural societies and the NCCE; and the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT), which promotes and preserves culture. In terms of social practices that constrains women equity, the Liberia's penal law criminalizes some activities that may be associated with traditional practices. However, there is a traditional system of customary law in Liberia that operates beyond the official justice system with respect to issues involving culture and traditions - signifying the influence of traditional leaders and institutions in Liberia.

Progress on human development and poverty reduction has been slow, with poverty widespread across the country. A gross national income per capita of US\$600 in 2018 placed Liberia among the ten poorest countries in the world. Repeated health crises and economic shocks including the COVID 19 pandemic have negatively impacted the Liberian economy, with a disproportionate effect on women. In 2014, the regional Ebola crisis and a sharp drop in global commodity prices disrupted Liberia's recovery, and the economy contracted at an average rate of 0.8 percent per year between 2014 and 2016 while the poverty rate increased from 54.1 percent to 61.2 percent. The impact of these shocks was exacerbated by underlying structural weaknesses including inadequate infrastructure, limited workforce skills, weak enforcement of public policy and corruption, all of which slow investment and growth. The global COVID-19 pandemic has intensified these fragilities: economic activity decelerated during the first half of 2020 with real GDP for the year expected to contract by 2.6 percent, and the share of the population living below the national poverty line projected to increase from 55.5 percent in 2019 to 65.2 percent or higher in 2020.

While output of key commodities has recovered since their sharp drop during lockdowns, rising food prices continue to threaten the most vulnerable: according to a Phone Monitoring Survey Report launched in August 2020, 66.4 percent of households reported a dire food situation. Women have been disproportionately harmed, given their concentration in low-paying informal sector work disrupted by the lockdowns and by the related losses in income, services, childcare and education. Reducing poverty and fragility in Liberia will require intentional efforts to address entrenched inequality—and gender inequality in particular. Women have not shared equally in the dividends of peace and the economic gains made since the end of civil conflict. Large numbers of women have been excluded from the country's growth by persistently high gender inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV), both of which are aggravating factors for fragility and conflict. Ranked 156th out of 162 countries on the 2019 Gender Inequality Index, Liberian women and girls are disadvantaged in practically all spheres of society, and inequality is a barrier to advancement from an early age. Women have fewer, less stable and less lucrative job opportunities: 86 percent of employed women work informally (versus 34 percent of men), and 85 percent are engaged in vulnerable work (such as informal trade) where employment security,

safety nets, and health and safety protections are limited or non-existent.³ Gaps in economic opportunity are linked to gaps in education and healthcare, with female literacy among 15–49-year-olds at 52 percent (compared to 75 percent for men). Over 30 percent of adolescents aged 15-19 have begun childbearing, one of the highest rates in the world.

While conflict-related violence against men decreased after the end of the civil war, violence against women and girls has remained at consistently high levels, compounding gender inequality and deepening poverty. Half of Liberian women (49.3 percent) have experienced physical or sexual violence from a husband or partner in their lifetime according to the 2019-20 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). Women and girls also experience high prevalence rates of other forms of gender-based violence including child marriage, harmful traditional practices and non-partner sexual violence. Evidence also suggests that GBV has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic as economic and social vulnerabilities have grown. Violence—like other manifestations of gender inequality—is driven in part by harmful social norms that perpetuate the dominant position of men in society. GBV harms women’s physical and emotional well-being while hindering their ability to pursue and benefit from economic opportunities, trapping them in a cycle of poverty. Given the correlation between gender inequality, violence and the likelihood of conflict, addressing the root causes of inequality and GBV is a priority to reduce fragility and violence.

The Government of Liberia has shown its commitment to reducing gender inequality and GBV. The Government of Liberia (GoL) has set as one of its core aspirations “a society of gender equity, empowerment and opportunities for all” in its Vision 2030, and has included specific women’s empowerment and GBV reduction targets and actions in its Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development 2018-2023 (PAPD). Addressing the rising cases of GBV during the COVID 19 pandemic, Liberian President George Weah declared rape a “national emergency” in September 2020 and introduced a new Government of Liberia and Partners Anti-SGBV Roadmap (2020-2022), focused on enhancing GBV services for survivors. Progress has also been made on key indicators for maternal mortality, girls’ primary school enrolment, and laws and policies to address gender equality and GBV. However, with a constrained macroeconomic situation and limited budget allocations available for gender programming, along with the competing demands of repeated health crises, new strategies are necessary to address the economic, social and institutional barriers hindering a demographic dividend for women and girls.

1.2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LWEF PROJECT

The LWEF is a social protection project of the Government of Liberia funded by the World Bank to support women and girls in fostering positive social norms that drive gender inequality, especially the norms that drive GBV (with a focus on intimate partner violence). The project will use the Start, Awareness, Support, Action (SASA) approach which was first tested in Uganda by Raising Voices (a local Ugandan NGO). Additionally, the project will provide access to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health services, GBV services as well as school-driven community engagement on social norms related to early marriage, pregnancy, and girls' education. The project will also provide direct grants that will fund women's livelihoods through a community-based/group-based approach and build institutional capacity, especially MGCSF and MOA to enable them to better generate sex-disaggregated data and deliver gender-focused programs in Liberia. The project has five components listed below:

Component 1: Enabling positive social norms and community mobilization: at the community level, the project will fund activities to address the social norms that drive gender inequality, specifically the norms that drive GBV (with a focus on intimate partner violence). The project will use the SASA! methodology, in which trained community facilitators conduct long-term, phased, participatory discussions with community members on thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors that relate to gender and power relations. This component will also fund broader community mobilization on women's empowerment and climate resilience and related community-wide benefits to lay the groundwork for Component 3's economic and social support to women.

Component 2: Enhancing Basic Services in Health and Education: at the community level, the project will pilot health and education sector activities to address local access to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health services and GBV services, as well as school-driven community engagement on social norms related to early marriage, pregnancy and girls' education. Both pilots will be preceded by studies which may result in further recommendations for implementation.

Component 3: Promoting resilient livelihoods through community-led approaches: the project will fund women's livelihoods support and grants using a community-driven, group-based approach. Using the livelihood group setting as a platform, the project will also deliver life skills and gender training/dialogue to build agency, address GBV and strengthen the climate resilience of women's livelihoods.

Component 4: Strengthening public institutions: At the institutional level, the project will support institutional capacity building for the gender machinery in Liberia, providing support to MGCSF and MoA to enable them to better generate sex-disaggregated data and deliver gender-focused programs in line with GoL policies. It will also finance a platform for policy dialogue led by MGCSF, which will create linkages and build coordination with other Ministries. The component will gradually introduce core project activities into ministerial budgets for line ministries to absorb and sustainably manage as a cross-cutting national program.

Component 5: project management, and knowledge management. This component will finance the implementation, management, coordination, and oversight of the project. The component will also fund knowledge management, including an impact evaluation to generate lessons learned about the project's model and its potential for scaling on a wider basis.

Fig. 2: Proposed Structure of the Liberia Women Empowerment Project



1.3. PROJECT BENEFICIARIES, PROJECT-AFFECTED PEOPLE, AND LOCATIONS

The people who are primarily targeted to benefit from the project are women and girls mainly living in the rural communities or informal sector who are considered poor or who risk falling into poverty due to the impact of climate change, the current global food crisis, or face other livelihood difficulties. Under the project implementation arrangement, the project will enhance women's empowerment by addressing social norms (with a focus on GBV prevention) and improving access to livelihoods while building the capacity of national institutions. However, the grant disbursement criteria within the grant manual will consider four categories of livelihood components, namely: individual enterprise, farmer-based organization, Village saving loans association, and livelihood groups. The grant is due to directly benefit 36,000 people including women and girls impacted by intimate partner violence, GBV issues, Sexual Exploitation Abuse/ sexual harassment in around 750 communities in six counties including rural Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Rivercess, and Grand Gedeh. Additionally, component 3 will support women who are into farming and other livelihood activities that may cause environmental issues which the project will endeavor to minimize risks.

1.4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The project institutional arrangement for the LWEP will continue to confound with the existing government structure and be implemented at the national, county, and district/community levels. The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection is the main project-implementing institution/agency (IA) working collaboratively with the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Health, Internal Affairs, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Project Management Unit (PMU) under the MGCSPP is responsible for the overall implementation and coordination of the project which is the parent body of the Liberia Women Empowerment Project structures were built.

The Ministries of Agriculture and Health are part of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) charged with the responsibility to advise on policy direction aspects, including final approval of the projects shortlisted by the Independent Project Evaluation Committee to ensure the project implementation strategies, designs, and activities are implemented as per the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) and Project Appraisal Document (PAD). The project will be implemented by a Lead Service Provider Consortium.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU). The MGCSPP is the Implementing Agency for the project, and the project will utilize, expand, and strengthen the existing MGCSPP PMU that is implementing the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (P155293). While LWEP will engage its own technical staff for project coordination, as well as financial management and

procurement staff. For more efficient project start-up, LWEP will use project staff who are already familiar with World Bank policies and procedures, and will utilize key structures established under the existing project including the Grievance Mechanism. LWEP will bring additional staff and funding to the PMU to ensure there is adequate capacity for both projects. Project-specific technical staff will include at a minimum a Project Coordinator, a women's economic empowerment/livelihoods specialist (who will lead supervision of Component 3), a Gender-Based Violence Specialist who is an international consultant experienced in GBV prevention and response who is an accredited SASA provider (who will lead supervision of Component 1 and will coordinate with the Women's Economic Empowerment Specialist/livelihoods specialist for component 3's social aspects); a Health Specialist and an Education Specialist (who will lead activities in Component 2). The PMU will also include the following existing or new staff: a Procurement Specialist, Financial Management Assistant, Social Safeguards Specialist, Environmental Specialist, and Contract Management Specialist. An FM and procurement assessment are currently underway to assess how many additional specialized staff may be needed. Finally, national PMU staff can be decentralized to counties for close follow-up of day-to-day activities as it will be elaborated in the PIM.

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC). The PSC was established to provide oversight of the LWEP implementation. The PSC consists of five line ministries, co-chaired by MFDP and MGCSP, and will include focal points from key Ministries including MoA, MoE, MoH. The PSC will be established to provide strategic oversight, review annual work plans and budgets, monitor and evaluate implementation status, and conduct general project supervision meetings on a bi-annual basis, as well as other tasks to be agreed upon between the PSC members per Terms of Reference (TOR) that will be elaborated in the PIM. The PSC will also oversee the establishment of the gender platform for policy dialogue under Component 4.b, the process of which will also be outlined in the TORs.

2.0. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which the project team will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about the project and any activities related to the project. The involvement of the local population is essential to the success of the project. It ensures smooth collaboration between affected and interested parties and helps minimize and mitigate likely environmental and social risks and impacts related to the proposed project activities. In the context of changes to social norms and empowerment through livelihood interventions, broad, culturally appropriate, and adapted awareness-raising activities are particularly important to properly sensitize the communities to risks related to the project implementation and its overall benefits.

The overall objectives of SEP as stated in the ESS-10 are to:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and ensure their participation in the complete project cycle.
- Establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagements that will help LWEP identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular, project-affected parties.
- Assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be considered in project design and implementation.
- Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life-cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
- Ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format with special consideration for the disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
- Provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances and allow the LWEP to respond to and manage such grievances.

- Devise a plan of action that clearly identifies the means and frequency of engagement of each stakeholder.
- Allocate budgetary and other resources in the project design, project implementation, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for stakeholder engagement and participation. The SEP provides an opportunity for an all-inclusive approach to project preparation, planning, implementation, and monitoring processes. It is geared toward ensuring meaningful and a wide consultative process guided by World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), particularly ESS-10.

2.1. NATIONAL POLICY, REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

This SEP considers existing institutional and regulatory frameworks within the National laws and regulations as well as the safeguard compliance requirements of the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).

The 1986 Liberian constitution acknowledges the right to information under Article 15(c) as a fundamental human right of all citizens. This right will be properly enjoyed when the public is efficiently informed about government projects to improve citizens' well-being.

2.2. LIBERIA’S LEGAL AND POLICY

The New Liberian Constitution of 1986, Article 7, Chapter II, provides for the full public participation of all citizens in the protection and management of the environment and consultations with and the involvement of a cross-section of stakeholders. Additionally, there have been no new legislative changes or amendments relevant to this document since 2022.

Table 1 provides an overview of the laws and policies relevant to the SEP (no new law relevant to this document since 2022)

POLICY	RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT
National Environmental Policy of Liberia (2003)	The policy supports public consultation. Chapter 6.0 Working with And Through People establishes that the involvement of the citizenry in environmental management is very crucial. People's participation must be developed and supported by building the capacity of individuals, groups, and communities to create the condition whereas the public can participate in decisions that affect their environment, and working with NGOs, CBOs, FBO, VSLA, and Youth clubs should be considered. Stakeholder participation should be encouraged to involve everyone in decision-making, planning, and implementation
Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML 2003)	The EPML as well as the Environmental Protection Agency Act (EPA Act) and the EPA Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Procedural Guidelines provide for the participation of stakeholders at all levels of project implementation in order to ensure that their concerns and inputs are considered as part of the design, planning, project implementation, and decommissioning. The law provides provisions for public hearings, provides platforms for complaints by aggrieved persons, and the opportunity to make comments and provide suggestions on project matters
Freedom of Information Action (FOI 2010)	The law grants everyone the right to access public records and information, whether it is in written, printed, audio, visual, or electronic form. Specifically, this includes any document that has been created, received, utilized, controlled, and/or held by any government agency or private organization that distributes or receives

	public money. They include details regarding an agency's operations, such as its activities, budgets, and expenditures - how much money was received, spent, and on what - agency policies and decisions, as well as the rationale and explanation for the decision, statistical data, administrative staff manuals laws, rules, and regulations legislation and regulations.
EPA/ESA Procedural Guidelines, 2017	It provides for the participation of stakeholders at all levels of project implementation to ensure that their concerns and inputs are considered as part of the design, planning, project implementation, and decommissioning. It further makes provisions for public hearing, requires the development of platforms for complaints by aggrieved people, and the opportunity to make comments and provide suggestions on project matters.
Land Use Acquisition Regulations	Land Acquisition in Liberia is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia of 1986 and the Revised Laws and Administrative Regulations for Governing the Hinterland (RLARGH) of 1949. Article 66 of the RLARGH states that "title to the territory of the Republic of Liberia is vested in the sovereign state." The right and title of the respective tribes to land of an adequate area for farming and other enterprises essential to the necessities of the tribe's main interest in the land to be utilized by them for their purposes; and whether or not they have procured deeds from Government, delimiting by notes and bounds such reserves, their rights and interests in and to such areas, are a perfect reserve and give them title to the land against any person or persons whomsoever. The article further states that when the tribe should advance, they should petition the Government for the division of the land into family holdings and the Government should grant deeds to each family in fee simple.
The Decent Work Act of Liberia	The Decent Work Act is the national labour legislation that outlines worker's rights. The act provides on several issues including, but not limited to wages and deduction, working hours and breaks, leaves, labour disputes, and occupational health and safety issues (OHS)

2.3. THE WORLD BANK STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework sets out the World Bank's commitment to sustainable development, through a Bank policy and a set of Environmental and Social Standards that are designed to support projects, to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. The Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure sets out the requirements for stakeholder consultation throughout the project life cycle. ESS 10 recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the project and stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure sets out the requirements for stakeholder consultation throughout the project life cycle. ESS10 recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the project and stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. It requires the development of a SEP that is proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts needs to be developed by the Borrower. It also requires the SEP to be disclosed as early as possible, and before project appraisal, and the Borrower needs to seek the views of stakeholders on the SEP, including on the identification of stakeholders and the proposals for future engagement. If significant changes are made to the SEP, the Borrower must disclose the updated SEP (World Bank 2017: 99). According to ESS10, the

Borrower should also propose and implement a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project promptly (World Bank 2017: 100). For more details on the WB Environmental and Social Standards, please follow the link below: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-socialframework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards>.

2.3. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP)

The Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MGCSPP) is the national machinery for promoting gender equality, women's advancement, and children's welfare in Liberia. The ministry is mandated to advise the Government on all matters affecting the development and welfare of women and children; coordinate gender mainstreaming efforts to ensure that both women and men gain from development programs; integrate women as equal partners with men in the development of the country; monitor and report back the impact and progress on gender equality programs. MGCSPP is the principal implementer of the Liberia Women Empowerment Project.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is the agency of government responsible for acquiring and disseminating useful information on agricultural subjects to farmers. The ministry collects information and statistics with regard to the condition, prospect, harvesting, and marketing of the principal crops and forest products in Liberia.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is the agency of government responsible for acquiring and disseminating useful information on agricultural subjects to farmers. The ministry collects information and statistics with regard to the condition, prospect, harvesting and marketing of the principal crops and forest products in Liberia. It oversees the conservation and judicious use of the soil, the forests, and the fish and wildlife resources of the nation and work for the development of agriculture and rural areas of the nation, and improvement of the economic well-being and general welfare of the farmers. MoA administers all laws relative to agricultural subjects or rural improvement, including regulatory laws designed to protect the farmer or agricultural means of production or farm commodities. MoA will be a participating partner of MGCSPP for the project, relative to agricultural activities.

Ministry of Health (MOH)

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has the statutory responsibility to manage the health sector of the country.

The ministry is responsible for the management of all public health facilities and is charged with the prevention of the introduction and spread of communicable, infectious, and preventable diseases within the country. The ministry is also responsible for the promotion and conduct of research in the prevention and treatment of human diseases and the collection and compilation of pertinent statistical data. MoH also coordinates with any other agencies of the Government authorized to administer institutions or activities concerned with social welfare. MoH will be a participating partner of MGCSPP for the project, relative to health matters affecting beneficiaries.

The Ministry of Education (MOE)

The Ministry of Education (MoE) is the agency of government responsible for supervising all public and private schools and institutions of higher learning. The ministry is responsible for the planning of a modern, sound, nation-wide educational system. It also works for the eradication of illiteracy among peoples of all ages and all origins. MoE will be a participating partner of MGCSPP for the project and will handle all educational matters affecting the beneficiaries.

Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) is the agency of government authorized to formulate, institutionalize, and administer economic, development, fiscal, and tax policies for the promotion of sound and efficient management of the financial resources of the government.

The ministry undertakes economic studies required for planning and policy purposes and prepares long-range and intermediate-range economic development plans. The ministry also gives technical guidance to all government agencies in the preparation of development programs and projects. MFDP will be a participating partner of MGCSP for the project and will give guidance on the economic and development studies affecting the project beneficiaries.

Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is the agency responsible for administering local government in the country's political subdivisions. The ministry manages all tribal affairs and implements government services rendered through the local government. It also supervises tribal societies and oversees the collection and publication of the laws and customs of the Liberian tribes.

The ministry further initiates and organizes programs for rural community development with emphasis facilities designed to transform rural communities into viable towns. MIA also coordinates plans and programs for self-help projects. As the project will be undertaken in rural Liberia and the beneficiaries being members of the tribal groups and societies, MIA will be a participating partner of MGCSP for the project and will coordinate all rural administrative issues.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) shall handle all legal matters and render services requiring legal skill to all agencies of Government. The ministry also oversees the security sectors across the country, ensuring cordiality for the peaceful existence of all within the country. MoJ will be a participating partner of MGCSP for the project and will handle all legal matters, as well ensuring security across all regions the project is implemented.

Liberia Land Authority (LLA)

The Liberia Land Authority (LLA) is the agency of government mandated to develop policies in support of land governance, including land administration and management. The agency controls and manages access to and use of public land. LLA will be a participating partner of MGCSP for the project and shall be engaged to verify the tenure of land to be used or allocate public land for project use.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia is the agency of government responsible for monitoring, coordinating, and supervising the sustainable management of Liberia's environment. It is mandated to ensure the conduct of environmental assessment for all projects undertaken in the country that are likely to have adverse effects on the environment and people. The EPA will be a participating partner of MGCSP for the project and will have oversight to ensure adherence to environmental and social guidelines and mitigation measures identified.

Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT)

Promotes and preserves culture. In terms of social practices that constrain women's equity, Liberia's penal law criminalizes some activities that may be associated with traditional practices.

2.4. PREVIOUS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

As part of the project preparation process, engagements were held with the LWEP's implementing agency (MOCI), the project's technical partner (MoA), and the World Bank. A World Bank virtual preparation mission was held from October 4-18, 2021, and March 3-4, 2022 to (i) review project objectives (ii) project inception/preparation status, (iii) discuss component activities, (iv) proposed the target counties, for support, (v) discuss implementation arrangements, (vi) agree on composition of project implementation unit and (vii) discuss project preparation and coordination arrangements between participating Ministries.

Further engagements were carried out with key stakeholders to gather input and feedback on project design, and during the preparation of the E&S instruments. These consultations were held with 10 key informants from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Civil Society Organization, Rural Women Structure, UNWOMEN, Give Liberia, Medica Liberia and Liberia Land Authority. Given the urgency to have the SEP prepared in time for decision making, key informant interviews were held with the stakeholders, from March 7 to 9, 2022 via phone and a questionnaire was also sent out, to be completed by these stakeholders. It has been agreed and included in the ESCP that a more in-depth engagement will be held, to update the SEP, 6 weeks after project effectiveness. The findings from both methods of engagement are summarized below and a detailed minutes and findings can be found in the annex 3&4 The engagement provided an overview of the project components and sought to gather feedback on the project and the potential role or level of involvement of the stakeholder. Key recommendations included the following points.

- Regular monitoring of the project to ensure proper implementation.
- The police and other state actors addressing GBV issues should be well equipped.
- Education for women and young girls on GBV prevention, response and SRHS.
- Support the setting up of One Stop shops to provide rural women with training, information and integrated services vital for food and nutrition security, sanitation and hygiene and reduction of women's unpaid care work.
- Advance gender-sensitive rural infrastructure development for environmentally sustainable, labor saving and enhanced productivity for males and females of different ages, whether disabled or not.
- A combination of social norms and resources – traditional barriers, including access to finance is a challenge and they have really affected women's leaderships in cooperatives.
- There is need for male counterpart's education if progress is to be made.
- . Women and men work side by side.
- It is important for the project to understand and consider, in its design that, every step of agriculture is separated by gender. Men and women have specific tasks. If a woman needs help, she will typically enlist a group of women that help each other for group farming tasks rather than asking her husband for help.

Further engagements were held to address concerns and improve the design of the project. Meetings with MGCSP involvement (SASA!, led by the consortium, broad community mobilization, GBV/ASRH and Education, Economic Livelihoods, Capacity Support, and Development of National Program). Agreed implementation arrangements included

- The discussion of having the Steering Committee chaired by MGCSP and MFDP and to be comprised of strategic high-level government employees responsible to make decisions about the project's direction, linkages with policy imperatives of GoL.
- Certain technical roles be filled and active within the PMU: ESF Specialist, Project Manager, FM Specialist, Technical Specialist) – not crucial if staff are GOL staff or non-GoL; most important = strong TORs are developed and adhered to and qualifications fit the demanding roles (recruitment process to be very competitive). WB wants an efficient structure; reporting lines do not need to be pre-determined.

Annexes 3&4 present the minutes from the previous engagements and the list of stakeholders engaged.

Additionally, stakeholder engagement consultation meetings were held in two of the project counties (rural Montserrado and Gbarpolu) to hold deeper consultations with additional stakeholders. The consultation meetings were held in six communities namely Bentol, Nyehn-Todee, Arthington in rural Montserrado County and Bopolu, Morlakwelleh, and Gbarmah in Gbarpolu County. At the stakeholders consultation meetings, different levels of stakeholders were also engaged from these communities including women groups, district representative, youth groups, persons with disabilities, local farmer cooperatives, village saving loan associations (VSLA), individual enterprises groups, farmers-based groups, and livelihood groups., local county authorities including district commissioners, paramount chiefs, development superintendent, civil society leaders, These groups were engaged using individual interviews, town hall meeting/workshops, focus group discussions, etc. The summary finding from the engagement are below with some key recommendations on how to improve and ensure the rightful project beneficiaries are reached:

- The project should focus on the grassroots levels to train more women beneficiaries, engaging community dwellers rather than the local county leadership to avoid unnecessary bottlenecks.
- LWEP to increase community levels of awareness and improve community levels of collaboration and partnership for proper sustainability of the project.
- The project should carry out periodic and participatory monitoring to ensure the desired beneficiaries are reached.
- Increase community participation to ensure transparency and void corruption and manipulations from local leaders.
- The project monitoring team should work with the local leaders for proper due diligence before grants are disbursed as a means of ensuring the rightful beneficiaries are reached.
- The project should try to extend to other faraway areas like Bellehyellah in Gbarpolu to ensure such a faraway community benefit.
- The project should create a market for harvested products or should link producers with buyers.
- The project should provide some level of support to anti-rape groups/survivors in the counties.
- The MGCSP should ensure that persons living with disabilities are beneficiaries of the project.
- The PMU/MGCSP should ensure that thorough monitoring of project beneficiaries occurs as it is key to realize the success of the project.
- During the project implementation GBV/SEA/SH cases should not be compromised like it has always been in the community and such cases should involve the police to apprehend the perpetrator.

Please see annexes 5 for minutes and stakeholders engaged and pictorials.

3.0. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

The LWEP stakeholders include government agencies, women’s groups, development partners, civil society groups and leaders, non-governmental organizations, communities-based organizations, and policymakers who directly or indirectly have a role in the Project, or could be affected by the Project, or who are interested in the Project’. Project stakeholders can further be categorized as primary and secondary stakeholders. Primary stakeholders are individuals’ enterprises groups, youth groups, VSLA, farmer-based groups, livelihood groups, or local communities that may be affected by the Project, positively or negatively, and directly or indirectly especially those who are directly affected, including those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable. Secondary stakeholders are broader stakeholders who may be able to influence the outcome of the Project because of their knowledge about the affected communities or their political influence over them. Thus, the LWEP stakeholders are defined as individuals, groups, or other entities who:

- Have a role in the project implementation (also known as ‘implementing agencies’);
- Are impacted or likely to be impacted directly or indirectly, positively or adversely, by the Project (also known as ‘affected parties’); and
- May have an interest in the Project (‘interested parties’). They include individuals or groups whose interests may be affected by the Project and who have the potential to influence the Project outcomes in any way.

3.1. METHODOLOGY/PRINCIPLE FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The LWEP implementing agency, MGCSPP, has started applying the following principles for stakeholder engagement:

- **Openness and life-cycle approach:** Public consultations for the project(s) will be arranged during the whole life-cycle, carried out in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation;
- **Informed participation and feedback:** Information will be provided to and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; opportunities are provided for communicating stakeholders’ feedback, for analysing and addressing comments and concerns;
- **Inclusiveness and sensitivity:** Stakeholder identification are undertaken to support better communications and build effective relationships. The participation process for the project is inclusive. All stakeholders are encouraged to be involved in the consultation process at all times. Equal access to information is provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders’ needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups identified by the project, include the rural population, persons with disabilities, women, and disadvantaged youth.

3.2. STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

For the purposes of effective and tailored engagement, the stakeholders of LWEP can be divided into three core categories Implementing Agencies, Affected Parties, Interested Parties, and Vulnerable Groups. Civil society groups, leaders, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, policymakers, women farmers, village saving loan associations, and religious leaders. For effective and tailored engagement, the following stakeholders will be involved with LWEP as follows:

1. Implementing Agencies
2. Affected Parties
3. Interested Parties
4. Disadvantaged/Vulnerable individuals/groups

3.3. STAKEHOLDERS ANALYSIS

This section identifies key stakeholders, including individuals, groups, or communities who will be affected or who may have an interest and who will be informed and consulted about the project. It also identifies and assesses the needs of some disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups who may have limitations in participating and/or understanding the project information or in participating in the consultation process. Based on this assessment and considering other aspects including stakeholder requirements/needs and interests, the below-listed stakeholders are categorized as (i) affected parties (ii) other interested parties, and (iii) vulnerable/disadvantaged individuals or groups. This list is an evolving document that will be updated regularly throughout the project life cycle.

3.3.1. IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

The MGCSP oversees the successful implementation of the LWEF. The MGCSP is the lead government agency responsible for promoting 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.

3.3.2. AFFECTED PARTIES

Affected Parties include parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project. Specifically, the following individuals and groups fall within this category: Implementing Agencies, Technical Partners, and community groups including beneficiaries such as women groups, VSLA, farmers-based organizations, and individual enterprises. Below is the list of the identified affected parties who may be recipients and beneficiaries of the project:

- Women Groups
- Consortium County Coordinators
- Individual Women-Led Businesses
- Community saving groups (VSLA)
- Farmers Based Groups.
- Livelihood groups
- Individual enterprise
- structures prominent in women's empowerment
- Community Based Agents
- Crisis Shelter/ Safe House
- Psychosocial support & other GBV service providers including CSOs & NGOs, Local Police, Legal Aid & Court
- Counsellors, Case Workers, And Health Care
- Local Health facilities, workers & Officials
- Local Community School
- Persons with Disabilities
- Associations and Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs
- Business Development Service Providers
- Livelihood groups

3.3.4. INTERESTED PARTIES

Interested Parties include stakeholders who may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could influence the project and the process of its implementation in some way. Specifically, this category will include the following individuals and groups:

- UN Women (Spotlight Initiative)

- Rural women
- The local population who can benefit indirectly from the different components of the LWEP;
- • Residents and business employees, Public in targeted project areas as well as institutions such as district leadership, community chairs, academia, etc.
- Media including social media and other interest groups
- Local, regional, and national level civil society members including NGOs

3.3.5. VULNERABLE GROUPS/ DISADVANTAGE GROUPS

These are people who may be disproportionately impacted by the project implementation as compared to other groups due to their vulnerable status and who require special attention to ensure their full representation in the consultation and decision-making processes associated with the project. These individuals identified are as follows:

- Persons with disabilities
- Women/girls
- Orphans
- Elderly

For the LWEP, the following affected parties other interested parties, and disadvantaged groups have been identified:

Affected Parties:

- Community-Based Agents (CBAs)
- Women Groups
- Consortium County Coordinators
- Individual Women-Led Businesses
- Community saving groups (VSLA)
- Farmers Based Groups.
- Livelihood groups
- Individual enterprise
- structures prominent in women's empowerment
- Community Based Agents
- Crisis Shelter/ Safe House
- Psychosocial support & other GBV service providers including CSOs & NGOs, Local Police, Legal Aid & Court
- Counsellors, Case Workers, And Health Care
- Local Health facilities, workers & Officials
- Local Community School
- Persons with Disabilities
- Associations and Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs
- Business Development Service Providers
- Livelihood groups

Other Interested Parties:

- County and District Environmental Committees
- Civil society organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Environmental Protection Agency/Forestry Development Authority (FDA)Liberia Land Authority
- Liberia Maritime Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Labor
- Monrovia City Corporation
- Non-Governmental Organizations (Conservation International, Fauna and Flora International, Environmental Justice Foundation, etc.)

Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups:

- Persons with disabilities
- Women/girls
- Orphans
- Elderly
- Persons with intellectual disabilities
- Persons with physical disabilities
- Homeless people
- People with low income/poor

Efforts will be made to reach out and disseminate project information to these groups and ensure their inclusion in the decision-making and stakeholder engagement process. They shall be updated and engaged through the life cycle of the project.

Non-Governmental Organization (NGO): The civil society organizations in the project counties include women’s-based advocacy groups, human rights groups, youth groups, faith-based organizations/groups, NGOs which focus on environmental sustainability and conservation, etc and organizations which advocate for women and girls' rights, vulnerable groups, and environmental protection and management.

World Bank and other development partners: The implementation arrangements under the LWEP is financed by IDA for the project’s duration.

Media: The media including print and electronic media will be used to communicate with stakeholders and a place where they can express their concerns and issues about the LWEP.

3.4. ENGAGEMENT METHODS AND TOOLS

The LWEP has employed various methods of engagement, including the SASA methodology, that will be used as part of their continuous interactions with the stakeholders. For the engagement process to be effective and meaningful, a range of techniques that are specifically tailored to the identified stakeholder groups need to be applied. Methods used for consulting with interested parties may be different from a format of liaising with different affected parties (e.g., focus group discussions, displays, and visuals with a lesser emphasis on technical aspects, and trainings). Every engagement activity should adhere to the following general requirements:

- I. should be held at venues that are easily reachable and do not require a long commute, entrance fee or preliminary access authorization,
- II. cultural appropriateness (i.e. with due respect to the local customs and norms), and inclusivity, i.e. engaging all segments of the project affected parties including the vulnerable individuals.
- III. If necessary, logistical assistance should be provided to enable participants from remote areas, persons with limited physical abilities and those with insufficient financial or transportation means to attend public meetings scheduled by the project.
- IV. Ensuring the participation of vulnerable individuals and groups in project consultations may require the implementation of tailored techniques to ensure they are not denied project benefits.
- V. All consultations should adhere to the premise of 'free, prior and informed', which implies an accessible and unconstrained process that is accompanied by the timely provision of relevant and understandable information.
- VI. Capture record of the attendees, location, gender, signature and stakeholder group. Once consent is received from the audience, the engagement should capture written minutes and or audio recording and photographing.
- VII. Information should be adopted to suit the needs of the stakeholder group (including presentations, pictorials, illustrations, graphics and animation) accompanied by hand-out materials imparting the relevant information in understandable terms rather than as text laden with technical intricacies.

Various methods of engagement will be used as part of the project's interaction with the stakeholders, to ensure that different stakeholder groups are successfully reached and are involved in the process of consultation, decision-making and the development of impact management solutions. Information that is communicated in advance of public consultations primarily includes:

- An announcement thereof in the public media – communities, county and national, as well as the distribution of invitations and full details of the forth coming meeting well in advance, including the agenda. It is crucial that this information is widely available, readily accessible, clearly outlined, and reaches all areas and segments of the target community. These parameters can be achieved by implementing the following approach:
 - Advance public notification of an upcoming consultation meeting follows the same fundamental principles of communication, i.e. it should be made available via publicly accessible locations and channels.
 - The primary means of notification may include mass media and the dissemination of posters/ advertisements in public places.
 - The project keeps proof of the publication (e.g. a copy of the newspaper announcement) for the accountability and reporting purposes.
 - Existing notice boards in the communities may be particularly useful for distributing the announcements, such as on boards adjacent to the widely visited public premises (chain stores, transport links, and offices of the local NGOs).
 - When the notifications are placed on public boards in open air, it should be remembered that the posters are exposed to weather, may be removed by-passers, or covered by other advertisements.
 - The project's staff will therefore maintain regular checks to ensure that the notifications provided on the public boards remain in place and legible.

3.4.1. ADAPTATION TO COVID-19

Since COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency which was declared by WHO, there is still need for stakeholders to observed health protocol if there is any outbreak of COVID-19, individuals will be mandated by national directives to exercise social distancing and avoid public gatherings to prevent and reduce the risk of the virus transmission. Meanwhile, WHO still believe COVID-19 measures should be adhere to including: (i) Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance Preparedness and Response; (ii) RCCE readiness and response; (iii) COVID-19

risk communication package for healthcare facilities; (iv) Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19; and (v) a guide to preventing and addressing social stigma associated with COVID-19. These can be accessed at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>. See Annex 1 for COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Considerations require a review of existing approaches to stakeholder engagement and consultations. These are premised on:

- Identifying planned activities requiring stakeholder engagement and public consultations and for which any postponement may hinder project performance.
- Assessing the level of required direct engagement with stakeholders, including location and size of proposed gatherings, frequency of engagement, and categories of stakeholders.
- Evaluating the risks of the virus transmission and the effect of ongoing restrictions on these engagements.
- If feasible, investigate the level of ICT penetration among key stakeholder groups and identify the type of communication channels that can be effectively used in the project context.

In the event where public gatherings with a representative sample of project beneficiaries, affected peoples and other interested parties are not feasible, the project may elect a community representative based on inputs provided by beneficiaries and a network of such representatives can be established across the target communities to determine feasible methods of broader community outreach and consultation with stakeholders. Alternate forms of messaging would be explored, and contingency plans instituted to tailor engagement when the intended tools cannot be deployed. Some of these include:

- All public gatherings, hearings, workshops, and community meetings shall be avoided until deemed safe in line with national and international advisories.
- However, small-scale focus group discussions may be arranged if permitted, with guidance around social distancing and other precautions closely adhered to.
- If not permitted, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, including WebEx, Zoom, and Skype.
- Online channels, social media platforms, and chatgroups will be dedicated and deployed subject to ability of all stakeholders to equitably participate in consultations.
- Traditional channels, notably television and radio broadcasting, dedicated phone-lines and mail will also be leveraged to raise awareness of project activities amongst all user groups as needed.
- The community mobilization and social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) approach will also be leveraged to positively shift beliefs and attitudes towards gender equality and to reduce acceptance of violence and women's experience of IPV.³
- Each of the proposed channels of engagement should have specific mechanisms to solicit feedback from relevant stakeholders.
- In which case direct communication with certain affected peoples are of the essence, channels for engagement, employing a context-specific combination of email messages, mail, online platforms, dedicated phone lines with knowledgeable operators, will be designed based on preference expressed by said beneficiaries.
- Everyone involved in stakeholder planning will be trained in positive social behavior and hygiene practices and are required to preface every engagement session by articulating them.

³ Abramsky, T., Devries, K., Kiss, L. et al. (2014). *Findings from the SASA! Study: a cluster randomized controlled trial to assess the impact of a community mobilization intervention to prevent violence against women and reduce HIV risk in Kampala, Uganda*. *BMC Med* **12**, 122 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-014-0122-5>

3.4.2. PROPOSED METHODS AND TOOLS FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Technique	Description and use	Target audience	Timeframe
INFORMATION DISSEMINATION			
Websites and Social Media Pages	The Project PAD, ESMF, ESCP, and SEP will be published on the official websites of MGCSP and the external website of the World Bank.	All stakeholders	Before Project Appraisal
SASA - (Start, Awareness, Support, and Action)	A community mobilization and social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) approach used to address GBV prevention and key features include its holistic community engagement across key circles of influence (including local and religious leaders), its long-term, phased approach, and its strong focus on prompting participation and critical thinking about gender and power among participants	local activists/facilitators community members local civil and religious leaders	Throughout project implementation
Media announcements	Advance announcements of commencement of major project activities, project Grievance Redress Mechanism, and other outreach needs of the project.	Project-beneficiaries, project affected parties stakeholders and general public	Throughout project implementation
Information Boards of key	Advance announcement of commencement and progress for major project activities.	Offices of service providers, communities, interested NGOs, farmers associations, savings clubs	Throughout project implementation
Correspondence by phone/ email/written letters	Distribute project information to government officials, organizations, and agencies, and invite stakeholders to meetings.	LWEP Technical Counterparts, service providers, beneficiaries	On a quarterly basis and as necessary

Engagement Technique	Description and use	Target audience	Timeframe
Distribution of printed public materials: Project information leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, newsletters	This will be used to convey general information on the Project and to provide regular updates on its progress. These materials could be printed and distributed to the different stakeholders during different engagements or it could be emailed.	All LWEP interested and affected persons. See list of stakeholders	Bi-annually
Internet/Digital Media	Use of the official websites and social media pages of MGCSP, technical counterparts, World Bank, and the Executive Mansion Website to promote various information and updates on the overall project, impact assessment and impact management process, procurement, beneficiary eligibility criteria, employment opportunities, as well as on project's engagement activities with the public.	LWEP affected and interested parties as well as the general public that have access to the internet resources.	Throughout the life of the project
INFORMATION FEEDBACK			
Feedback and Suggestion Box	A suggestion box can be used to encourage stakeholder, who may have difficulty in expressing their views, to leave written feedback and comments about the Project. Contents of the suggestion box should be checked by designated Project staff on a regular basis to ensure timely collection of input and response/action, as necessary.	All LWEP affected and interested parties, as well as the staff of the implementing agency (MGCSP).	Throughout the life of the project

Engagement Technique	Description and use	Target audience	Timeframe
Surveys, interviews, GRMs and independent evaluations	Different data collection tools will be used to gather targeted stakeholders and beneficiary opinions and views about project interventions and associated impacts and benefits. CSOs could also be engaged to support citizen feedback surveys for the project.	LWEP affected parties	Annually
Dedicated hotline and short code	A designated and manned telephone line will be set up that can be used by the public to make complaints and grievances, obtain information, make enquiries, or provide feedback on the project.	LWEP affected persons, and any other stakeholders and interested parties	Throughout project implementation
CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION			
Community / public meetings	These interactive platforms will be used to convey general information on the Project, detailed discussions on sub-project activity that is planned by the project, project environmental and social risks and mitigation measures and to provide regular updates on implementation progress to local, county and national stakeholders.	Project-affected communities	On a quarterly basis
Workshops	This channel will be used to: (i) Present project information to a group of stakeholders; (ii) Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions; (iii) Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyze information, and develop recommendations and	Government, NGOs, CSOs, local civil and religious leaders, savings clubs and farmer Associations	On a quarterly basis

Engagement Technique	Description and use	Target audience	Timeframe
	strategies; and (iv) Recording of responses, (v) capacity building.		
Focus group meetings	This will be used to facilitate discussion on specific issues such as GBV, disability inclusion, vulnerability inclusion, participatory decision making, and consultation on gender related norms and behaviors etc. that merit collective examination with various groups of stakeholders using FGDs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable groups • Local civil and religious leaders • All project affected parties • Women Groups/ farmers associations/ savings clubs 	During preparation and bi-annually during implementation.

3.5. PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND DISCLOSURE

The updated SEP will be disclosed and distributed at venues and locations convenient for the stakeholders and places to which the public has unhindered access. Electronic copies of this SEP will be placed on the websites of the World Bank, LWEF and its technical partners, Executive Mansion Website. Links to the document will also be shared on the social media pages of LWEF and its technical partners. This will allow stakeholders with access to internet to view information about the LWEF and to initiate their involvement in the public consultation process.

The email address: **lwep:complaint@liberia.gov.lr (to be created)** and toll-free numbers **(4433 or 0775063029; 0555899983 already available)** will be posted on the websites and have been placed in this SEP to enable readers to send comment in relation to the disclosed SEP or the overall LWEF. The public will be given 60 days for review and feedback, in adherence to World Bank requirements. The PMU will collate the comments, analyze them, incorporate them into project design to improve delivery, respond to those that require responses and commit to reporting back to stakeholders on the final decision and a summary of how comments were taken into account.

For information disclosed through meetings, instant feedback will be collected through designated rapporteurs/data clerk who will be available during the meetings. Participating stakeholders shall also be given freedom to take their own minutes of the proceedings and share a copy with the rapporteurs.

The table below shows all relevant stakeholders, key engagement messages, means of engagement and any specific needs in engagement.

Table 1: Engagement Strategy

Stakeholder group	Topic of consultation / message	Preferred notification means	Specific needs	Timeline/Location	Responsible
<p>Local Actors: (local civil and religious leaders, structures prominent in women's empowerment, the Ministry of Internal Affairs Community Based Agents</p>	<p>Awareness of proposed LWEP project activities.</p> <p>Objectives, activities and the potential positive outcomes of the approach</p> <p>Capacity building for Citizen Engagement</p> <p>Mechanisms that reject violence and encourage balanced power between men and women</p> <p>E&S principles, risk and impact, management/ESMF</p> <p>Grievance Redress mechanisms (GRM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SASA Method • Surveys, interviews and independent evaluations • Workshops • Focus group meetings • Phone, email, letters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient notice, preferable 3 months prior. • Require engagements to be culturally sensitive • Cost-free use of the notification channels • Require routine engagement to ensure continuous interest and commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout project preparation • Project location 	<p>MGCSPP MOH MOA MOE Service Provider Consortium County-level Ministry Coordinators Consortium County Coordinator Community Based Agent</p>
<p>GBV & ASRH Coordination & Referral Mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Shelter/ Safe House 	<p>Awareness of project activities</p> <p>Facilitate discussion to inform project design including ensuring project activities are responsive to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Websites/ social media • Media announcements • Information Boards of key technical partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies to facilitate social distancing protocol during engagements • Fewer meetings to reduce transportation cost and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout project preparation and during project implementation 	<p>MGCSPP MOH Service Provider Consortium</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial support & other GBV service providers including CSOs & NGOs, Local Police, legal aid & Court • counsellors, case workers, and health care • Local Health facilities, workers & Officials 	<p>beneficiary needs, risks and challenges that may prevent activities achieving results are identified.</p> <p>Identification of needs or support needed to safe house</p> <p>Assess the range, quality and ethical standards of the existing GBV shelter services provided</p> <p>Mapping of GBV referral pathways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • phone/ email/written letters • leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, newsletters • Internet/Digital Media • Community / public meetings • Workshops • Focus group meetings • Surveys, interviews and independent evaluations 	<p>encourage best use of time towards income generating activities</p>	<p>Project Locations</p>	<p>County-level Ministry Coordinators</p> <p>Consortium County Coordinator</p>
<p>Local Community School</p>	<p>Awareness of project activities</p> <p>Discussion to ensure that project design takes into consideration addressing challenges faced by girls in secondary school</p> <p>Major constraints faced by girls in attending secondary school and disseminating findings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone/ email/written letters • Workshops • Focus group meetings • leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, newsletters • Key stakeholder meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies to facilitate social distancing protocol during engagements • Fewer meetings to reduce transportation cost and encourage best use of time towards income generating activities • Require routine engagement 	<p>Project Preparation and implementation</p>	<p>MGCSPP</p> <p>MOE</p> <p>Service Provider Consortium</p> <p>County-level Ministry Coordinators</p> <p>Consortium County Coordinator</p>
<p>Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p>Promote awareness of proposed project activities</p> <p>Gain insight on needs of people living with disability to ensure project design is inclusive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused Group discussion • Print and social media, etc • Public meetings • Feedback and Suggestion Box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to stable internet to enable use of digital banking services • Supplies to facilitate social distancing protocol during engagements 	<p>Throughout project preparation and implementation</p>	<p>MGCSPP</p> <p>MOE</p> <p>MOA</p> <p>Service Provider Consortium</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys, interviews and independent evaluations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation locations take into consideration accessibility for persons with disabilities 		<p>County-level Ministry Coordinators</p> <p>Consortium County Coordinator</p>
<p>Women Groups</p> <p>Individual women-led businesses</p> <p>Community saving groups, associations and grassroots women entrepreneurs</p> <p>Business Development Service Providers</p>	<p>Awareness of proposed project activities</p> <p>Identify specific needs and challenges of women-led businesses</p> <p>Identify women-led networking platforms to disseminate information and facilitate engagement</p> <p>Identify challenges to access to digital banking services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys, interviews and independent evaluations • Dedicated hotline and short code • phone/ email/written letters • leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, newsletters • Feedback and Suggestion Box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations should take into consideration specific constraints of women and take into consideration time, travel and childcare constraints • Supplies to facilitate social distancing protocol during engagements • Engagement location are close to the beneficiaries • Ensure confidentiality and the protection on rights for those reporting complaints anonymously • Ensure the interventions are designed to reduce the risk of SEA/GBV/SH • Cost-free use of the collateral registry, NEPs, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout project preparation; Nationwide 	<p>MGCSF</p> <p>Service Provider Consortium</p> <p>County-level Ministry Coordinators</p> <p>Consortium County Coordinator</p>
<p>MDAs and Technical Counterpart</p>	<p>Awareness of proposed project activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplies to facilitate social distancing protocol during engagements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout project 	<p>MGCSF</p>

<p>(MOA, MOE, MOJ, MIA, MFD, LISGIS)</p>	<p>Obtain clear understanding of roles of selected MDAs in project design and implementation</p> <p>Technical level discussion on key project activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence by phone/ email/written letters • Project Information Document, • Project Information Manual • Project Reports • Internet/Digital Media • Supervision Support Missions • Workshops • Focus group meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient notice, preferable 3 weeks prior • 	<p>preparation and implementation</p>	
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4. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

4.1. MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The institutional arrangement for the SEP will follow the project's overall implementation arrangements to ensure that stakeholder engagement is fully mainstreamed into the project implementation. The institutional arrangements for the SEP implementation will be managed by both the PMU and the Consortium.

The institutional and implementation arrangements will be developed at the national, county and community levels using the following principles: (a) build institutional capacity by supporting existing government systems and mechanisms that have proven to be effective for approaches of similar projects; (b) utilize a consortium of service providers (NGOs) for implementation of Components 1, 2 and 3 in coordination with government actors; (c) ensure presence at the county and community levels to enable capacity building of local MGCSP and other government structures and support for implementation, and (d) support national coordination for the multisector approach of the project by engaging relevant government agencies in project implementation and supervision. Details of the institutional and implementation arrangements are summarized below.

On the national level:

- **Project Steering Committee (PSC).** A PSC will be established co-chaired by MFDP and MGCSP and will include focal points from key Ministries including MoA, MoE, MoH. The PSC will be established to provide strategic oversight, review annual work plans and budgets, monitor and evaluate implementation status, and conduct general project supervision meetings on a bi-annual basis, as well as other tasks to be agreed upon between the PSC members per Terms of Reference (TOR) that will be elaborated in the PIM. The PSC will also oversee the establishment of the gender platform for policy dialogue under Component 4.b, the process of which will also be outlined in the TORs.
- **Project Management Unit (PMU).** MGCSP is the Implementing Agency for the project, and the project will utilize, expand and strengthen the existing MGCSP PMU that is implementing the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (P155293). While LWEF will engage its own technical staff for project coordination, as well as financial management and procurement staff. For more efficient project start-up, LWEF will use project staff who are already familiar with World Bank policies and procedures, and will utilize key structures established under the existing project including the Grievance Mechanism. LWEF will bring additional staff and funding to the PMU to ensure there is adequate capacity for both projects. Project-specific technical staff will include at a minimum a Project Coordinator, a women's economic empowerment/livelihoods specialist (who will lead supervision of Component 3), a Gender-Based Violence Specialist who is an international consultant experienced in GBV prevention and response who is an accredited SASA provider (who will lead supervision of Component 1 and will coordinate with the Women's Economic Empowerment Specialist/livelihoods specialist for component 3's social aspects); a Health Specialist and an Education Specialist (who will lead activities in Component 2). The PMU will also include the following existing or new staff: a Procurement Specialist, Financial Management Assistant, Social Safeguards Specialist, Environmental Specialist and Contract Management Specialist. An FM and procurement assessment are currently underway to assess how many additional specialized staff may be needed. Finally, national PMU staff can be decentralized to counties for close follow up of day-to-day activities as it will be elaborated in the PIM.
- **Technical Committee (TC).** Given the multi-sectoral nature of the project, a Technical Committee formed of technical focal points of Ministry representatives from the core agencies (MGCSP, MoA, MoH, MoE at a minimum). The purpose of the TC will not be to oversee or direct the work of the PMU, but to provide a forum for discussing roadblocks and challenges and to keep the relevant line Ministries apprised of the project's

activities on a more regular basis than the PSC may meet. The TC will meet every other month during the first year of implementation (frequency may change based on need). To strengthen the linkages between the TC and the PMU, the core agencies may hire technical consultants for improved coordination and technical backstopping.

- **International NGO (INGO) as a lead for a service provider consortium.** The Implementing Agency (MGCSP) will engage a consortium of service providers (NGOs) led by an INGO as a Lead Service Provider to implement Components 1, 2 and 3 in an integrated fashion. The consortium will work under the direction of the PMU. The Lead Service Provider will have a proven track record of managing large projects in Liberia along with the technical and managerial capacity required to both implement activities and coordinate other service providers, and it will be responsible for contracting these providers and ensuring alignment of technical expertise. Within the consortium, at least one service provider will be experienced in GBV prevention and response at community level and will be responsible for implementing activities related to social norms under subcomponent 1.a and 2.b (and potentially Component 2.a). At least one service provider will have experience in rural livelihoods support, women’s economic empowerment, and/or community-driven development in Liberia; this service provider will be responsible for implementation of component 3. Other service providers will be included in the consortium as necessary. The makeup of the consortium will be determined based on the expertise available at national and county level, and will focus initially on the first phase of the project (rural Montserrado and Gbarpolu counties). This may change as the project footprint expands. The PMU will be responsible for supervising the engagement and performance of the consortium, and each service provider-member of the consortium will be assessed each year against milestones and objectives to ensure effective implementation.

At the county level

- **Consortium County Coordinators.** Each county where the project is implemented will have a Coordinator from the Consortium who will coordinate activities under Components 1, 2 and 3 and specifically the activities of the service providers. These individuals will coordinate directly with the County Coordinators for MGCSP, MoA, MoE, MoH and any other relevant agencies to ensure smooth implementation of the project as well as capacity-building opportunities for local government staff.

On the community level

- **Community Based Agents (CBAs).** As stated under component 1.b and 3.b, CBAs will be recruited on the community level and trained to provide continuous support to livelihoods activities. CBAs will be trusted community members who have the skills and knowledge to be trained by the service providers recruited under component 3 in order to ensure business development support to beneficiaries on a sustainable basis.

4.2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

The project lifespan is 5 years from 2022 to 2027 and component 5 will include the overall cost to implement the SEP and other measures to mitigate and manage environmental and social risks and benefits of the LWEP. Notwithstanding, the table below presents a provisional budget for the implementation of the SEP. This budget is subject to change once the SEP is updated after project effectiveness when specific project technical details are decided. The budget presents a projection of the associated cost by method of stakeholder engagement. The total cost to implement the LWEP SEP over the 5-year lifespan is estimated at US\$2,682,000.00 (Two Million Six Hundred and Eighty-two Thousand United States Dollars).

Proposed Activity	Estimated Cost	Estimated Cost	Estimated Cost	Total Cost
	Year 1 – 2 (USD)	Year 3 - 4	Year 5	

Media announcements /radio/ tv	50,000	50,000	30,000	130,000
SASA Method				
Social Media	25,000	25,000	2,000	57,000
Information Boards	10,000	10,000	5,000	25,000
Correspondence by phone/ email/written letters	50,000	50,000	40,000	140,000
Project information leaflets, brochures, fact sheets, newsletters	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
Feedback and Suggestion Box	60,000	-	-	60,000
Surveys, interviews and independent evaluations	200,000	75,000	100,000	375,000
Dedicated hotline and short code	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
Community / public meetings	100,000	100,000	25,000	225,000
Workshops	350,000	100,000	200,000	650,000
Focus group meetings	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
Grievance Redress	100,000	100,000	50,000	250,000
Grand Total				2,682,000.00

5. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

In compliance with applicable national laws and essentially the World Bank's ESS10, a project-specific grievance redress mechanism is being set up to handle complaints and issues related to the LWEP implementation. This is being specially designed to collect, collate, review, and redress stakeholders' concerns, complaints, and grievances at the national, county, and community levels. This process is being carried out using dedicated communication materials (specifically, a GRM brochure, poster, or pamphlet) which is being developed to help stakeholders become familiar with the grievance

redress channels and procedures. The suggestion box, to be used to gather feedback from stakeholders, shall also be used to collect complaints. A grievance register is being developed and maintained to capture and track grievances from submission to resolution and communication with complainants.

5.1. CATEGORIES OF POTENTIAL GRIEVANCES AND COMPLAINTS

Given the activities of LWEP outlined above, it is anticipated complaints and grievances that may arise related to the implementation of the project will fall under four broader categories but not limited to the below: **Administrative:** This category of complaints relates to procedural and implementation complaints/grievances that may arise during the project implementation. It also includes the conduct and behavior of PMU staff and service providers, for instance:

- Actions or inactions of PMU staff and service providers that are deemed to cause harm to beneficiaries and project-affected people.
- Procedural missteps resulting from the process of selecting and recruiting beneficiaries into the project.
- Complaints about grant disbursement mechanisms.
- Complaints by potential beneficiaries who feel unfairly treated.

Social Jealousy related issues

- Complaints about the conduct of project beneficiaries.
- Complaints about misapplication of project benefits.
- Exclusion from participation in the project.

Alleged Corruption and Rent-Seeking: The below may occur at the National, County, or Community level:

- Request for bribes or taxes from beneficiaries by project staff, lead service providers or people directly or indirectly connected to the project.
- Theft or misappropriation of project resources.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)SEA/SH: This category will involve complaints around unfair treatment by lead service providers or service provokers/project staff or discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation. The following examples apply:

- Being asked to perform sexual Favors to benefit from the project.
- Being excluded from certain benefits/activities of the project owing to gender/gender orientation.
- Cause to suffer physical or emotional injury owing to gender.

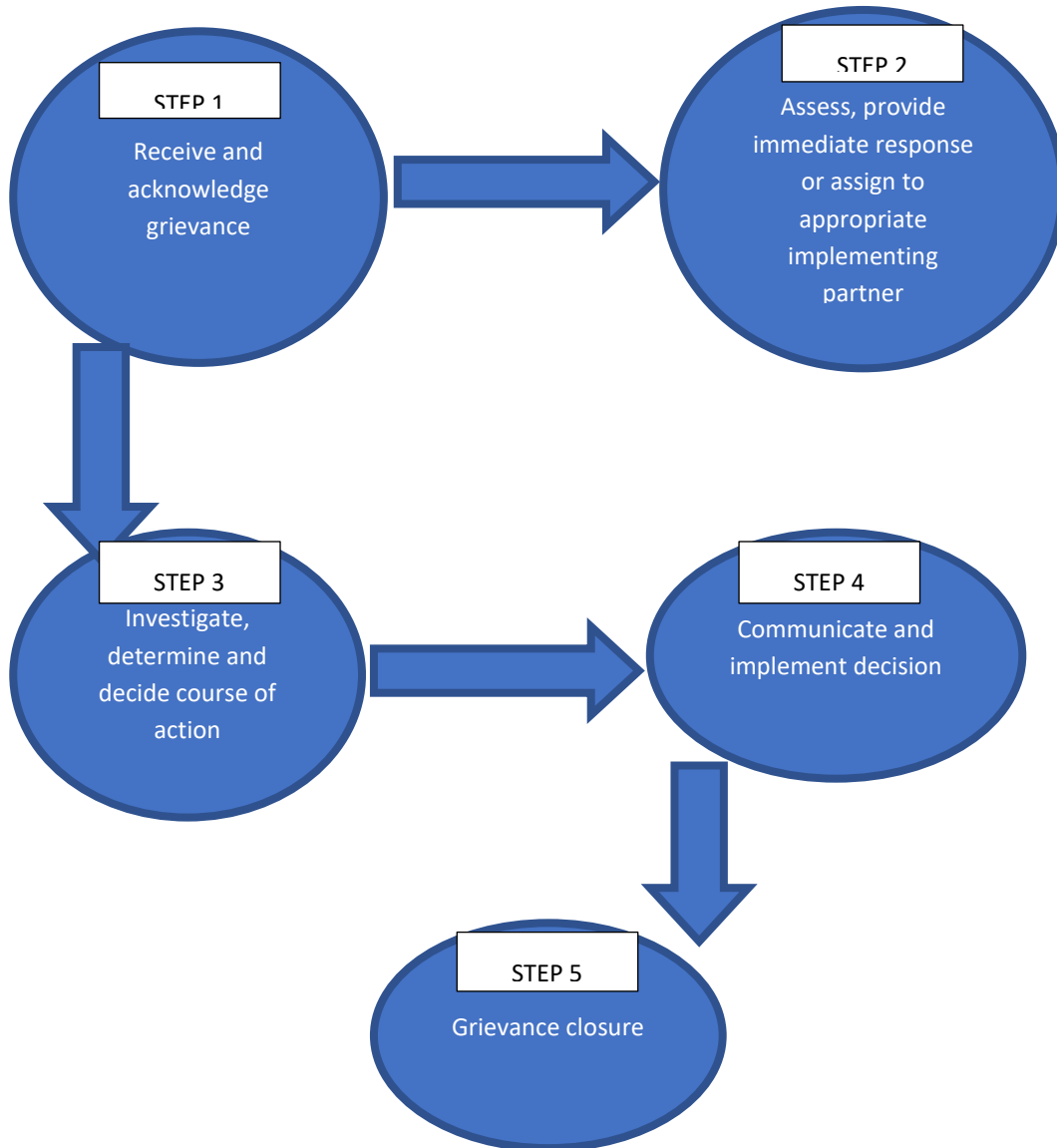
Labor and Working Conditions including child labor:

- Complaints relating to poor working conditions
- Involvement of children in hazardous work
- Complaints about poor remuneration, long hours of work
- Complaints about the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing

The LWEP project will ensure to use referral pathways to other national grievance redress mechanisms for complaints outside the jurisdiction of implementing agency including physical assault, severe injury, rape, and death. The GRM of the project is being designed to reflect the laws of Liberia, and the World Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies which are being built around commitment to fairness in both processes and outcomes, protection against reprisal for all complaints and aggrieved parties, dedication to building a broader internal support for the grievance mechanism across project lines. It will further commit to being responsive, respectful, and sensitive to local culture and norms of the society and addressing grievances throughout the project rather than isolating it.

The GRM will be accessible to all external project stakeholders, including affected people, project beneficiaries and communities, implementing agencies, Technical Counterparts, service providers, Service Provider Consortium, County-level Ministry Coordinators, Consortium County Coordinators, indirect beneficiaries, and other interested parties.

The Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be established at the national, county, and community levels to support the LWEP grievance redress system headed by the Hon. Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection with membership from the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which is the highest level in handling all forms of grievances arising from the project implementation activities. The GRC will follow the systems below to address complaints⁴.



Please see below detail step illustrated above in the flowchart.

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service>

Step 1: Receive and acknowledge grievance

This is the first step of all project-related complaints and grievances. Complainants can lodge their grievance through one of the following means;

- Collect, fill in, and submit the Grievance form (annex 1& 2) to GRM officer at the county level. The complainant may complete the form or permit the GRM officer or his/her representatives to do so. Completed Grievance forms may be submitted to the the GRM officer. It is expected the form will be digitalized to serve as an additional avenue for the grievance to be lodged.
- Call free hotline number 4433 or **0775063029 / 0555899983(already available)** that is being managed by GRM officer
- A dedicated email: **lwep:complaint@liberia.gov.lr//website (To be created)** for beneficiaries and others who may lodge complaints.

Regardless of the entry step, the GRM officer shall register all complaints in the project's Grievance Management System at the county level.

Step 2: Assess, provide immediate response or assign to appropriate implementing partner

Upon receipt of grievance, the GRM officer shall perform one of the following;

- Assess and provide immediate redress if possible; or
- Where immediate redress is not possible, the officer will determine the category of the complaint and immediately assign it to the appropriate implementing partner (MGCSP) for investigation and redress.
- When a complaint is assigned to an implementer, the GRM officer shall maintain regular contact and coordinate with the implementer during the investigation and redress of the said complaint.

Step 3: Investigate, determine and decide a course of action

The PMM will dedicate responsibility for investigating and addressing complaints to selected officers, including management and field staff. The selected officials are responsible for investigating and recommending resolutions to complaints that have been assigned to implementing partners.

In the process of investigating grievances, each implementer may include or confer with community leaders, county and district officials, service providers, etc. who they deem relevant to participate in a grievance hearing. This will enhance credibility and trust for the GRM process.

Furthermore, the process of investigating grievance should follow these patterns:

Understand the grievance;

Meet/discuss with the complainant to understand his perspectives and motives;

Gather facts about the grievance;

Determine the merits of the grievance;

Decide on possible actions to respond to the grievance;

Evaluate the actions taking into consideration implications on cost, reputation, and legacy; and decide on best possible action to address a grievance.

In investigating the course of actions for redress, consider and analyze the effect of each course of action on the existing and future management policies and procedures before your final decision.

When the decision is made about possible actions for grievance redress, the implementing partner will communicate back to the GRM officer via email. *The email will indicate a summary of facts about the grievance and the decision thereof.* A record of this email will be maintained in the LWEF GRM system.

Step 4: communicate and implement the decision

Following the decision on an appropriate mitigation measure, the GRM officer will inform the complainant about the decision. The officer shall communicate the decision using the same medium phone call, in-person, or email with which the complaint was transmitted to the project. As general guidance, the Grievance Form may be completed and sent to the complainant. The officer shall inform the complainant about the time within which the decision shall be implemented.

The GRM officer will exercise oversight and coordinate the implementation of the selected course of action. The GRM officer is encouraged to follow up on complainants and to assess feedback and ensure that grievance was resolved completely and adequately.

Step 5: Grievance closure

This is the final stage of the grievance redress mechanism. This stage is triggered on the day the decision is implemented. Once the selected course of action is implemented, the complainant is required to sign off on the complaint indicating that the project has fully addressed his concern and complaint.

5.2. WORLD BANK GRIEVANCE REDRESS SYSTEM

The general public and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a project supported by the World Bank may also complain directly to the Bank through the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS) (<http://projects-beta.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redressservice>). A complaint may be submitted in English, or in local languages, although additional processing time will be needed for complaints that are not in English.

A complaint can be submitted to the Bank GRS through the following channels:

- By email: grievances@worldbank.org
- By mail: The World Bank, Grievance Redress Service, MSN MC10-1018, 1818 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20433, USA
- Through the World Bank Liberia Country Office in Monrovia: German Embassy, Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia.

The complaint must clearly state the adverse impact(s) allegedly caused or likely to be caused by the Bank supported project. This should be supported by available documentation and correspondence to the extent possible. The complainant may also indicate the desired outcome of the complaint. Finally, the complaint should identify the complainant(s) or assigned representative/s, and provide contact details. Complaints submitted via the GRS are promptly reviewed to allow quick attention to project-related concerns. In addition, project-affected communities and individuals may submit complaints to the World Bank's independent Inspection Panel, which will then determine whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of the World Bank's non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted to the Inspection Panel at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention,

and after Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. Information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel may be found at www.inspectionpanel.org.

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING

6.1. INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS IN MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders in two possible ways:

- Publication of a standalone annual report on project’s interaction with the stakeholders.
- A number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will also be monitored by the project on a regular basis, including the following parameters:
 - Number of public hearings, consultation meetings and other public discussions/forums conducted within a reporting period (e.g. monthly, quarterly, or annually);
 - Frequency of public engagement activities;
 - Geographical coverage of public engagement activities – number of locations covered by the consultation process;
 - Number and details of vulnerable individuals involved in consultation meetings;
 - Number of public grievances received within a reporting period (e.g. monthly, quarterly, or annually) and number of those resolved within the prescribed timeline;
 - Type of public grievances received;
 - Number of press materials published/broadcasted in the local, regional, and national media;

The project will establish GRM database/MIS that only designated officers can access for entering, tracking corrective action, updating complaint status and generating GRM report. The assigned officer will be responsible for producing GRM report monthly as part of the project reporting channels. Key indicators will include

- Number of grievances received
- Number of grievances resolved within the stipulated timeframe
- Number of outstanding grievances
- Reasons for outstanding cases
- Most reported issues and Correctional Action taken by the project to address these issues etc.

ANNEX 1: CERTIFICATION OF GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION FORM

I _____ the undersigned certify that I am in full agreement, and satisfy with the decision reached in redressing my complaint.

Summary of Complaint	
----------------------	--

Complaint Registration Date	
Agreed Decision Reached	
Date of Complaint Resolution	

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Contact #:

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Full Name:

Contact #:



ANNEX 2: GRIEVANCE FORM

Reference No. _____

Name of Complainant			
Contact Details	Cell #:		
	Email:		
	Address		
Grievance Category	LWEP Component:		
Grievance/ Issue/ Complaint	Description		
Date Incident Occurred		Location Incident Occurred	
What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?			

	My identity can be disclosed
	I wish to raise my grievance anonymously
	I request disclosure of my identity, with my consent
Received by:	
Date	

Actions Taken to Resolve Grievance

ACTION	OUTCOME	DATE
1 st Action Taken:	Outcome:	Date:
2 nd Action Taken:	Outcome:	Date:
3 rd Action Taken:	Outcome:	Date:
4 th Action Taken:	Outcome:	Date:
5 th Action Taken:	Outcome:	Date:

	Resolved
	Not Resolved

Stakeholder Engagement

7th – 9th March 2022

The stakeholder engagement kicked off with interactions with technical actors at the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture. Other participants were CSO representative and Rural Women Structure leadership (RWS) at the national level (a representation of the RWS in the counties). The participants listed reasons they believed the project will make a difference in the lives of women and girls in the targeted counties. Challenges impeding women's equality and economic empowerment were listed and recommendations were suggested for girls' education. GBV has become a growing phenomenon in the project counties with women and girls being the survivors. Participants equally provided some suggestions on how to address GBV prevention and response.

Outcome of the engagement by component and the agreed next step:

Relevance

- The project will help women in the targeted regions, who have been marginalized due to religious beliefs and social norms, to achieve equality and economic empowerment.
- Awareness should be reinforced in the communities so women and men will understand the consequences of social and religious norms and how they impede women's economic growth.
- It is necessary for a multi-sectional approach to be taken to ensure women in agriculture, trade and other economic activities be given the chance to succeed;
- Women and girls require sustainability in their livelihoods to ensure economic empowerment.

Norm Change

- Change of norms can be slowly accepted in rural areas as most social and religious norms has become a way of life passed on to residents by their ancestors;
- Some of the norms in the division of labor in agriculture will have to be addressed by extension workers and gender activists; this will help farmers, especially women and girls reduce drudgery in agriculture work;
- Improving access to livelihoods and reducing negative social norms are good initiatives, however, project implementers should be cautious when referring to harmful social norms as these counties, especially Gbarpolu, are highly traditional societies. Therefore, the information about changing social norms should not include the word 'harmful' to not annoy the traditional leaders and the people who have had these norms handed down to them by their ancestors;

GBV

- GBV is more prevalent in parts of Rural Montserrado and Gbarpolu mainly because there is limited information to help girls prevent and raise alarm when faced with indecent advances;
- More focus should be placed on girls between the ages of 18 and 25 and economic empowerment, even though girls younger than are being raped and exposed to high rates of GBV.

Referral Pathway in the Counties

- The referral pathway in most counties is not complete as the MGSCP and other line ministries such as Ministry of Justice lack logistics and adequate staff; most of the counties do not have police presence to enforce the law.
- A major recommendation is to increase the presence of MGSCP in the counties to cover more districts
- Conduct refresher training for GBV actors in the use of referral pathway.

Institutional Contribution:

- The Ministry of Agriculture, at the county level, trains men and women in agriculture-related activities. With this project they will reinforce work with women groups in the targeted counties.
- Providing capacity and resource support to women in agriculture will not only enhance their livelihoods but also ensure food and nutrition security in the regions that have been food insecure over a long period of time;
- MIA is leading on working with Traditional leaders to prevent and respond to SGBV/HTP as well as monitoring temporary closure of bush schools. MIA will build synergies with the MGCSP and other local stakeholders to reduce harmful social norms

Recommendations for Girls Education

- The reintroduction of Home Economics and 4-H activities starting from the elementary level will help prepare them for a sustainable future;
- Other livelihood support, especially for teenage drop outs, could be the re-introduction of literacy and numeracy programs in the targeted communities. This will help women and girls (especially drop outs) improve their knowledge, build new skills and improve existing ones.
- Train beneficiaries on basic business development and livelihood skills such as vegetable
- Provide guidance counselling in schools and around the community to sensitize girls and ensure they possess self-confidence;
- Reinforce family planning knowledge to prevent teenage pregnancy;
- Sensitize girls and their family members on the consequences of early marriages to the health of their daughters, education and economic advancement.
-

Challenges women encounter

- Inability to access information and comprehend awareness messages;
- Lack of basic resources to improve their livelihood activities;
- Social and religious norm barriers that hinder their full participation in decision-making;
- Gender bias on the unequal distribution of opportunities between men and women;
- Family responsibilities and low self esteem

Social Risks

- Men in the counties where advocacy for change of social norms will take place may see the intervention as undermining their authority over their wives and might resolve to increase in quarrels and beating of the women;
- Some community leaders may not be receptive to change in social norms that favor patriarchy in society; this may aggravate the existing persistent non-support cases in the counties;
- The idea of promoting girls' education and empowering them literally and economically may pose threats to males in the society;
- Community leaders may not take ownership of the project and the results will be less impactful to the beneficiaries;

Recommendations

- Regular monitoring of the project to ensure proper implementation;
- The police and other state actors addressing GBV issues should be well equipped
- Education for women and young girls on GBV prevention, response and SRHS.
- Support the setting up of One Stop shops to provide rural women with training, information and integrated services vital for food and nutrition security, sanitation and hygiene and reduction of women's unpaid care work
- Advance gender-sensitive rural infrastructure development for environmentally sustainable, labor saving and to enhance productivity for male and female of different ages, whether disable or not.

ANNEX 4 - STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT ATTENDANCE LIST: MARCH 7-9, 2022

Attendance					
#	Name	Position	Institution	Contact Info	Date
1	Mr. Edward Perry	Director of Extension	MOA	0886455838	March 7, 2022
2	Ms. Keturah Woods	Acting Director, Gender & Soc Dev.	MOA	0770032136	March 7, 2022
3	Mrs. Cleopatra Gibson-Jallay	Dep. Director, Gender & Soc. Dev	MOA	0886550933	March 7, 2022
4	Chief Konikay Nimley	Environmental Specialist	RETRAP/MOA	0886562134`	March 7, 2022
5	Mr. Edmord Greaves	Regional Agriculture Coordinator for Gbarpolu/Bomi and Cape Mount Counties	MOA	0886410489	March 7, 2022
6	Mrs. Lovette Seidi Sie	SGBV Unit	MGCSP	0886538833	March 8, 2022
7	Ma Kebbeh Mulbah	President	Rural Women Structure	088628434	March 8, 2022
8	s. Musu K. Massaquoi	Gbarpolu County Gender Coordinator	MGCSP	0886459802	March 8, 2022
9	Ms. Hawa Kanneh	Adolescence Girl Division	MGCSP		March 9, 2022
10	Ms. Yah Vallah Parwon	Interim Country Director	Medica Liberia	0778151421	March 9, 2022

	Dr. Cheryl Williams	Director of Gender Unit, Ministry of Agriculture	MOA		April 23, 2021
	Mr. Wennie		Cooperative Development Agency		April 23, 2021
	RAMON Garway	Program Manager for Women's Economic Empowerment	UN Women		April 22, 2021
	Hon. Alice Johnson Howard,	Deputy Minister for Gender	MGCSP		September 14, 2021
	Anthony Borlay,	Director, Research, Policy and Planning, MGCSP	MGCSP		September 14, 2021 August 10, 2021 March 4, 2022 March 24, 2022
	Lawodo Nimley Thomas,	Director, Gender Unit, MGCSP	MGCSP		September 14, 2021 August 10, 2021 March 4, 2022 March 24, 2022
	Famata Sesay	World Bank Desk	MFDP		September 14, 2021
	Alice Williams	Director	MFDP		September 14, 2021
	Mohammad Massalee	Technical Assistant, Department of Gender	MGCSP		September 14, 2021
	Hon. Alice Johnson Howard	Deputy Minister for Gender	MGCSP		September 14, 2021 March 24, 2022

	Jeanine Milly Cooper,	Minister of Agriculture	MOA		September 13, 2021
	Dr. Cheryl Williams	Gender Specialist (STAR-P)	MOA		September 13, 2021
	Ansu Konneh	Director of donor-funded projects	MOA		September 13, 2021
	Alan Lincoln	Staff	MOA		September 13, 2021
	Thomas Gbokie	Staff	MOA		September 13, 2021
	Patricia Togba		MGCSP		March 4, 2022
	Selena Siaffa, Patricia Togba				March 24, 2022

ANNEX 5 – IN-DEPTH STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT IN RURAL MONTSERRADO AND GBARPOLU COUNTIES

MONTSERRADO COUNTY (BENTOL CITY, NYEHN-TODEE, ARTHINGTON) MEETING MINUTES

Bentol City, Bensonville

June 6, 2024

As part of the process to satisfy the requirement for the World Bank Environmental Social Framework (ESF) – Environmental Social Standard (ESS10) which states the need for stakeholder engagement and information disclosure for all bank-financed projects, it is required stakeholder engagement and information disclosure be held for all WB financed project to gather feedback on the project implementation activities. As such, on June 6, 2024, the team from the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) began two counties' stakeholder engagement meetings which started with Bentol City, rural Montserrado County to engage the various stakeholders to solicit feedback on the project implementation activities and feedback will help to improve the project implementation strategies where necessary.

The meeting began with a self-introduction. The mayor of the city then greeted the MGCSP team, emphasized the importance of empowering women, and expressed gratitude to the Liberian government for this project.

This was followed by a representative from the superintendent's office who welcomed the idea of empowering the women and stressed the superintendent's office's willingness to work with the team to ensure the project became successful.

The project coordinator gave an overview of the project, outlining its components and how it aims to benefit women. The project environmental specialist, on the other hand, emphasized the need of stakeholder engagement and information disclosure, emphasizing the need of keeping interested parties and those affected by the project informed. "Additionally, it is meant for stakeholders and project beneficiaries to take ownership and feel a sense of belonging", he averred.

The gender specialist also explained that since the project is women-driven, there are likely gender-based violence/sexual exploitation and sexual harassment issues which the project will address through her office.

Component three (3) which is promoting resilient livelihoods through community-based approaches aims at providing grants to women/men who are into farming, livelihood activities, village saving loan associations, and individual businesses. The project livelihood specialist outlined the eligibility criteria for Individual Enterprises (IE) Livelihood Group (LG), Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), Producer Group (PG)/Farmer Based Organization (FBO) and said these categories of beneficiaries are to benefit from the grant disbursement.

The grievance redress mechanism pathways for the project were provided by the GRM officer, in her presentation she said that the GRM will be set up at the national, county, and community levels to log project-related grievances.

Following the team presentations, questions and answers were held; the project team responded to the questions posed by the attendees, which are included below.

Question	Answer
How many persons will benefit from the grant?	The grant will benefit directly 36,000 persons
Who is qualified to benefit from the grant?	Everyone is qualified to benefit in as much as they meet the criteria for obtaining the grant (individual enterprise or member of a VSLA, livelihood group, or farmer-based organization)
Why is this stakeholder engagement in Bentol City?	Stakeholder engagement is not only going to be in alone but in the six project counties, moreover, Bentol is the capital city for Montserrado and the seat for key stakeholders who are both interested and affected parties.

Will the local authority benefit too?	Only if you are part of the four categories of beneficiaries mentioned above.
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The stakeholder engagement meeting was attended by representatives from the superintendent's office, the city mayor, the paramount chief, different women group leaders, the VSLA group leader, the disabled president, and other prominent citizens. The meeting had a total of 125 persons from various communities within Bensoville and part adjacent.

Nyehn Town, Todee District

To inform and hold in-depth consultation with additional project stakeholders and beneficiaries about the project design and implementation methods and to get their input, the PMU of LWEF continued the stakeholder engagement in Nyehn, Todee District on June 7, 2024. The consultation meeting started around 10:30 am with a self-introduction followed by welcome remarks from the paramount chief, the district commissioner, and other local authorities in which they welcomed the team from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) and encouraged the would-be beneficiaries to take advantage of the opportunity.

The overview of the project background and components was presented by the project coordinator in which she outlined the activities involved while the environmental specialist provided the importance of stakeholder engagement and its impact on the project and the environmental and social issues that may occur as the result of the project implementation. The project gender aspect was presented by the gender specialist who stressed the issues of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) issues that may occur as a result of the project activities Furthermore, the project livelihood specialist provided the criteria and processes for project grants, while the communication/GRM officer showed the grievance channels. After these presentations, the stakeholders were given time to ask questions, and answers were provided as per the question asked, please see the following questions below and the answers provided.

Question	Answer
We are into vegetable production and soap making, can the project support us?	Yes! The project will support such business
I want to know what kind of farming system you want to support.	The project will support climate climate-smart farming system which includes organic farming.

How will the various communities get the information about the project?	Through the same stakeholder engagement, it is a continuous process throughout the project life cycle.
Why the project is only supporting women, not men?	The project supports both women and men but 70% are women while the other 30% are men because it is a women's project
I heard about soap making but never heard about swamp rice farming.	Yes! The project will also support lowland (swamp) farming.

The consultation meeting was attended by different stakeholders within the districts and parts adjacent which included women groups, youth leaders, persons with disabilities, etc.

Arthington City

June 8, 2024

The consultation meeting in the city of Arthington began with a self-introduction and was followed by welcome remarks from the county authorities particularly District 17 representative **Hon. Bernard Blue Benson** thanked the MGCSP and encouraged the women of the district to take advantage of such a great opportunity.

The engagement continued with the project coordinator, **Cllr. Margaret Nigba Gayedyu** outlining the various components of the project and its importance to women and girls and the targeted counties the project will benefit.

The project Environmental Specialist, **D. Enoch Foday** provided the importance of stakeholder engagement and information disclosure as essential pathways to gathering feedback and identifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, and ensuring their participation in the complete project cycle. Additionally, to ensure appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format with special consideration for the disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.

The project is due to empower women by providing grants to women farmers, VSLA, and individual enterprises and the livelihood specialist **Oliver Musa Lavaleh** provided the Dos and Don'ts of the various categories of granting processes which include the application of climate-smart innovations and organic farming systems.

Furthermore, since the project is due to support 70% of women and girls there might be SEA/SH issues arising during the project implementation; the project gender specialist **Atty. Evelyn Barry** her office will handle gender issues which range from GBV cases to intimate Partner Violence, etc while the Communication/GRM Officer **Lisa Tenneh Diasay** will be responsible for handling all grievance issues arising from the project activities. There will be forms and free toll numbers for lodging complaints.

After the various presentations, the stakeholders were provided the opportunity to interact with the PMU team by asking questions, and answers were provided as seen below:

Name	Question	Answer
City Mayor	You said the project will provide a grant, how do you intend to do that?	The grant will be provided based on four categories (individual enterprise, VSLA, livelihood groups, and farmer-based organizations)
Women President	How many women are due to benefit from the grant? And if so will charcoal producers benefit?	The grant is due to benefit approximately 36,000 people which 70% will constitute women. No! the project will not support charcoal producers because the project is against cutting down trees (deforestation)
Relieving commissioner	Will the local authority benefit too, I mean people like us?	It depends if you are into farming cooperatives and you meet the criteria.

The stakeholder engagement consultation meeting was attended by the district representative, the city mayor, the district commissioner, women's groups, youth groups, the disabled, and farmer groups.

GBARPOLU COUNTY (BOPOLU CITY, MORLAWELLEH, GBARMAH DISTRICT) MEETING MINUTES

Bopolu City, Bopolu District

As a mandatory requirement for all World Bank-financed projects to conduct stakeholder engagement and information disclosure, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Project Management Unit continued with the stakeholder consultation meetings in Gbarpolu County as the project pilot phase in two of the six counties.

The consultation meeting started with a radio appearance on the community radio station, the Voice of Gbarpolu providing the project overviews, the importance of stakeholder engagement, and the grievance redress mechanism pathways for the project. After the radio appearance, the consultation meeting began at the city hall in Bopolu with an introduction followed by welcome remarks from the county authority including the City Mayor of the city of Bopolu, **Madam Siah V. Keah** welcomed that team from MGCSP and lauded the government for such a great initiative to empower the women of Gbarpolu and further urged the beneficiaries to take seize of the opportunity.

The commissioner of the District of Bopolu, **Madam Justina V. Dukuly** also encouraged the various women groups at the stakeholder engagement to advantage of the empowerment scheme and encouraged them to ask questions where they deemed necessary.

Musu Kamara, the county gender coordinator lauded the Ministry for thinking about the county and encouraged the beneficiaries to take advantage of the project. She also thanked the government through the Ministry of Gender for bringing such an initiative to Gbarpolu among the 15 counties and urged the county and beneficiaries to take the program seriously.

From the civil society anchor, the civil society coordinator for the county, **Lydia Ballah** welcomed the team from the MGCSP and thanked the ministry for thinking about the women of Gbarpolu County, and urged those who will benefit from the project to take such empowerment seriously as a means of improving their livelihoods.

James Kpoto Scott, County Administrative Officer, At the same time, lauded the team from Monrovia for the project and thanked the participants for their warm reception.

He urged them to prioritize the project and improve their county, adding that the development of the community depends on how they personalize the initiative.

A summary of the Liberia Women Empowerment Project was provided by Madam Margaret Nigba Gayedyu, the project coordinator. She informed participants that the Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP), which is being carried out by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MGCSP) with funding from the World Bank, aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Liberian government to advance gender equality while also improving attitudes toward gender equality and the livelihood opportunities available to women in project areas. She further stressed that the project will fund activities that would: (a) enable positive social norms and pilot enhancement to basic social services; (b) build economic and social empowerment opportunities; and (c) strengthen public institutions to advance gender equality.

She also said the project will be implemented within the same communities in a total of 6 [six] counties, targeting an average of 750 communities in Liberia comprising Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh and River Cess and the project cost is 44.6 Million.

Mr. D. Enoch Foday, the Environmental Specialist of the Liberia Women Empowerment Project, gave an overview of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. According to Mr. Foday, the goal of the stakeholder

consultation meetings is to make sure that various stakeholder groups are successfully reached, involved, and fully aware of the project at the national, county, and community levels on the project background, implementation strategies, and pathways for conflict resolution, which include a way for people to voice concerns, offer feedback, or make comments about the project. He also stressed the involvement of the local communities as essential to the project's success. The stakeholder engagement provides the platform for smooth collaboration between affected and interested parties and helps minimize and mitigate likely environmental and social risks and impacts related to the project.

The Liberia Women Empowerment Project's Gender Specialist, Madam Evelyn Barry, gave an overview of the gender activities. She assured the participants that the project's goal is to empower women and that all GBV, SEA/SH, and intimate partner violence issues will be handled through her office. Additionally, Madam Barry urged the stakeholders to get involved with the team because the data gathered will be used to inform the creation of the SEA/SH plan. Mr. Oliver Musa Lavelah, the Liberia Women Empowerment Project's livelihood specialist, described the grant component of the initiative, stating that it comes under Component 3. He also emphasized that although there are many processes involved in the awarding of grants, these bureaucracies have been reduced to allow more beneficiaries. He outlined the four (4) livelihood categories for recipients below.

1. Individual Enterprise - those benefiting under this category, will be businesses that are run by an individual, for example, tailoring, bees, those who design coconut shells, fish mongering, weaving, soap making, baking, etc. According to the Livelihood Specialist, the ceiling for grant support in this category runs from USD 1000 – 2500.
2. Livelihood group - this group composition should be eight (8) to ten (10) persons, involved with similar activity to survive, for example, Agriculture, baking, soap making, tie and dye, the ceiling for grant support under this category, range from USD 2500 – 4000.
3. Village Savings and Loan Association Group 3. (VSLA), according to the Livelihood Specialist, those in this category will receive a revolving fund, meaning this money placed in the group box will not be shared at the end of the circle, only interest on this revolving fund will be shared. He said this fund intends to service creditors at any given time. According to the Livelihood Specialist, this group will comprise twenty-five (25) persons, when the group is more than twenty-five persons it will be shared into a group of twenty-five. Support for this group runs from USD 4000 - 8000
4. Farmers Group or Producer Group, this group comprises of cooperatives large women groups into cassava production, rice, etc. Support for this group runs from USD 4000 – 8000

The Grievance Redress Mechanism routes were described by LWEP's Communication/GRM Officer, Madam Lisa Diasay. "The project will put in place a hotline that is free to call when there are issues," she added. "The project will put in place a pathway for conflict resolution that includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make comments about the project." She claimed. She went on to say that the proposed GRM handbook will be influenced by the input received from the stakeholder engagement. After the various presentations, the participants were provided the opportunity to ask questions as stated below:

Question	Answer
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Will the project provide a safe home for the county?	No, the project will strengthen existing safe homes
I have a pineapple farm; will the project support me?	Yes, the project will support you
Town Chiefs, Clan Chiefs what is our responsibility?	Carry the message about the project to the people
Will the project support a fish pond?	Yes! The project will support fish pond farmers

The consultation meeting closing remark was given by the project coordinator, in which she thanked the participants for their fullest cooperation and look forward to working with all of them as the project kicks off. The meet was attended by different stakeholders from across the various towns and villages adjacent and local county authorities within the District.

Morlakwelleh, Bokomu district

Due to poor road conditions, the PMU team was delayed in arriving at the consultation meeting. Nevertheless, the meeting started at the school auditorium with self-introduction, and then was welcomed and thanked by the District Commissioner and Senior Paramount Chief for Bokomu, John K. Korse and Fredrick K. Massaquoi. They also cautioned those who would be eligible for the grant to utilize this livelihood initiative as a way to better their own lives. They said that as they work and live among the people, they can assist in getting to them quickly, and they further recommended including the local leadership in the project's execution. A brief overview of the project was presented by the project coordinator, where she outlined the details of the various components and their importance to women and girls.

The importance of stakeholder engagement was presented by the project Environmental Specialist who outlined the essence of the consultation and stated that the project will set a pathway at the national, county, and community levels to channel complaints that may arise from the project implementation. moreover, "There will be a free toll number to call and log your complaints", the environmental specialist averred. He also informed the participants that GBV, IPV, and SEA/SH issues that may arise from the project activities will be handled by the project gender specialist.

The project livelihood specialist told the stakeholders that component 3 of the project will provide grants to different women's groups and is intended to empower the women of Gbarpolu particularly the women of this area.

After the various presentations, the stakeholders were allowed to interact with the team and ask questions. The following questions below were asked and answers were provided.

Question	Answer
As a motorcycle business owner, is it possible for the project to assist me?	No
I am raising pigs, can I be supported?	Yes! The project will support animal husbandry including those who raise pigs.
I am fixing liquid soap and commode wash, can I be supported?	Yes! The project will support such business and it is under the individual enterprise.

The stakeholder engagement consultation meeting was attended by the district authorities, different women groups, youth leaders, the disabled, the senior chief paramount, and the other traditional leaders.

The consultation meeting ended with a closing remark from the project coordinator in which thanked the people of Morlakwelleh for their support during the process

Gbarmah Town, Gbarmah District

The week-long stakeholder engagement consultation meetings in the two pilot counties culminated on June 27 at the Gbarmah Town Hall with a self-introduction and welcoming remarks. The women president of Gbarmah District welcomed the team and expressed gratitude to the MGCSP for taking the initiative to empower Gbarpolu's women, particularly the Gbarmah women who frequently have to go above and beyond to provide for themselves and their children. The district commissioner also thanked the Ministry of Gender team for considering the Gbarmah women and encouraged those who might benefit from this wonderful opportunity. Additionally, Sylvester G. Varmah, Gbarpolu Coordinator for the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL). Made a brief remark "I want to encourage you, the stakeholders to listen to this message the Liberia Women Empowerment Project is giving so you can serve as ambassadors; take ownership of the activity to help yourselves, your families, and the government,"

This was followed by various presentations from the PMU team on the various aspects of the project including the project components, the importance of stakeholder engagement, the granting processes, the gender issues, and the grievance redress mechanism pathways. After this period, the stakeholders were provided the opportunity to clear their doubts and concerns by asking questions, and the answers were provided below:


Name	Question	Answer
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Sando Cansell	Is it possible for the Ministry of Gender to increase the number of men in the project?	The project is intended for women which constitute 70% women and 30% men.
Alice M. Zinnah,	Will the project provide a market to sell our products after harvesting?	The project will provide access to market and market linkages.
Jartu Williams	Will the recruitment be done by local MGCSP staff/CBAs?	The project beneficiaries' recruitment will be done jointly by the LSP and MGCSP involving local CBAs.
Mustapha Kamara:	Will Cash crop farmers benefit from the project.?	No
Fatu Swaray	How many people will benefit from the project	It is estimated that 36,000 people will benefit from direct grant

The closing remark was provided by the National Coordinator of the LWEF, Cllr. Margaret Nigba Gayedyu where lauded the participants for dedicating their time and resources to form part of the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement and further thanked the many stakeholders for their recommendations, stating that they will be used to enhance the project's monitoring, assessment, and implementation in the county in a transparent manner.

Below is some recommendation/findings from the stakeholder consultation meetings in the two counties:

- The project should focus on the grassroots levels to train more women beneficiaries, engaging community dwellers rather than the local county leadership to avoid unnecessary bottleneck
- LWEF to increase community levels of awareness and improve community levels of collaboration and partnership for proper sustainability of the project.
- The project should carry out periodic and participatory monitoring to ensure the desired beneficiaries are reached.
- Increase community participation to ensure transparency and void of corruption and manipulations from local leaders
- The project monitoring team should work with the local leaders for proper due diligence before grants are disbursed as a means of ensuring the rightful beneficiaries are reached.
- The project should try to extend to other faraway areas like Bellehyellah in Gbarpolu to ensure such a faraway community benefit.
- The project should create a market for harvested products or should link producers with buyers
- The project should provide some level of support to Anti-rape groups/victims in the counties

- The MGCSP should ensure that persons with disabilities are beneficiaries of the project.
 - That the PMU/MGCSP ensures that thorough monitoring of project beneficiaries as to realize the success of the project
 - During the project implementation GBV/SEA/SH cases should not be compromised like it has always been in the community and such cases should involve the police to apprehend the perpetrator.
- 

ANNEX 6: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS ATTENDANCE

Bensonville Participants



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado



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 Attendance Log

No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Macdoniel VAMPERT	M	NO	CWCKENDE	CHAIRMAN	0770616459	[Signature]
2	Lisa M. Kamara	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Secretary	0776309745	[Signature]
3	Blessing H. Washington	F	NO	Special Initiative for community empowerment (SIC)	Asst. project Coordinator	077631983 0886391975	[Signature]
4	Grateful Y. Washington	F	NO	Grain Heads Initiative for women of Montserrado	Head	0555185219 0725562896	[Signature]
5	Yannah S. Flomo	F	NO	Women of Success Agriculture	Chairlady	0777785504	Y S F
6	Robaska V. Kennedy	F	NO	Women of Success Agriculture	Member	0888022055	R.K
7	Esther Tokpah	F	NO	Women of Success Agriculture	member	0777977945	E.T
8	mamie Vermah	F	NO	Women of Success Agriculture	member	0778866060	M.V
9	Pauline Musa	F	NO	Women of Success Agriculture	Speaker	0770527037	P.M



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No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Rebbah Kamara	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Member	0776309708	[Signature]
2	Rebecca Toe	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Member	0776312447	[Signature]
3	Patience N. Neepky	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	SPEAKER	0226749670	P.N
4	Ruth Cantor	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Member	0775335492	R.C
5	Henneta D. Moore	F	NO	United Farmers	Secretary	077547134	[Signature]
6	Alice Saeki'e	F	NO	United Farmers	Member	0770658880	[Signature]
7	Massa Quennell	F	NO	United Farmers	Member	0881694868	[Signature]
8	Helena Bonds	F	NO	Leila Bent	Secretary	088649430	H. Bonds
9	Cecelia Boylan	F	NO	Leila Bent	Chairlady	0770350885	[Signature]



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No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	D Enoch Foday	M	NO	LWEP/MGSP	Environmental Specialist	dnachief@smil.com	[Signature]
2	Dr. Margaret Njoku - Gyedu	F		LWEP/MGSP	Project Curator	mg@smil.com	[Signature]
3	Atty Evelyn Bany	F	X	LWEP	G. Specialist	erechun@smil.com	[Signature]
4	Lisa T. Diason	F	N/A	LWEP	Comm/CEM		[Signature]
5	Kybond Moore	F			SUP. Office		
6	YATTA KIAMEL	F	X	Animal Hnd	Member	775734593	[Signature]
7	Annie Kamara	F	X	SUCCESS WOM	11	0778520914	A K
8	Harris Forte	M	NO	VRM Radio (89.3 FM)	Reporter	0775016050	[Signature]
9	Satta Viarmah	F	m	SUCCESS	Wom	0770693969	[Signature]



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No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Sankay momo	F	NO	Agriculture Women of SUCCESS	member	0777943624	S. m
2	Fotu Gibson	F	NO	Agriculture Women of SUCCESS	member	0777411633	F. G
3	Zoe momo	F	NO	Agriculture Women of SUCCESS	member	08811000898	Z. m
4	Success Wilson	F	NO	Agriculture Women of SUCCESS	Member	0770212566	S. W
5	Herritta mccauley	F	NO	Agriculture Women of SUCCESS	Member	0775154616	H. m
6	Grace Lorie	F	NO	The Jackson from Agriculture	Chair-lady	0778522149	[Signature]
7	Rachel Subah	F	NO	The Jackson from Agriculture	Secretary	0555453734	R. S.
8	Lincoln Zorpon	M	NO	Native Su president	Native Superend	0775870246	[Signature]
9	Success D. Wilson	F	X	Asistent	member	0770212566	S. Wilson



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado



June 2024
 Attendance Log

No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNA
1	Denese G. Harris	F	NO	ToVA Farmer Assn	Chair lady		
2	Angelina Briggs	F	NO	Bental	member	0776470906	Harris
3	Pestina Kollie	F	NO	Saving club Wolitenko	Secretary	0778407890	
4	Sarah Pankon	F	NO	Benton	member	0774186108	
5	Annie Morris	F	No	Rural Women	Member	0770591135	AM
6	Stephen G. Yekeh	M		MGLSP	Assistant Dir	0777265373	Sy
7	Beatrice Sweta	F	NO	Successful women Agricultural group	Chair lady	0779044094	Be
8	Betah Kanane	F	NO	Successful women Agriculture group	Member	0778212761	
9	Francis Harris	F	NO	Jacksonville Sustainable cooperative	Co-chair	0772703004	PH

Nyehn, Todee district participants



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Rural Montserrado



June 2024
Attendance Log

June 7, 2024
TODEE
Nyehin Town

No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Fatta Kamara	F	No	propentive	Member	—	
2	Musu Cooper	F	No	propentive women	Member	0886003488	
3	Harold Willie	F	No	propentive	member	—	
4	Janet Browne	F	No	propentive	member	0886088552	
5	Janet Bulu Kallie	F	No	propentive	member	0886980116	
6	Stephen T. Albert	M	No	Action Women	member	0886946075	
7	Kolu Kpoto	F	No	Action Women	Member	0886070400 088607	
8	Yassals Muelbals	F	No	propentive	member	0881905496	
9	Ruth Flomo	F	No	propentive	member	0886889100	



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Rural Montserrado



June 2024
Attendance Log

No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Rebbal Samara	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Member	07760970855	R T
2	Rebecca Toe	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Member	0776312447	R T
3	Patene Neopkay	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	SPEAKER	0226769676	P N
4	Ruth Cantor	F	NO	Success Youth Empowerment	Member	0775335492	R C
5	Hanneta D. Moore	F	No	United Farmers	Secretary	077547154	Hanneta
6	Alice Saeki'o	F	No	United Farmers	Member	0770668880	
7	Missie Oluemeh	F	No	United Farmers	Member	0881691868	
8	Hellen Bonds	F	NO	Leila Bent	Secretary	0886494307	H. Bonds
9	Cecelia Baylon	F	No	Leila Bent	Chairlady	0770350885	



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado



June 2024
 Attendance Log

No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	D. Enah Foday	M	NO	LWEP/MGSP	Environment Specialist	denahf@lweplb.com	[Signature]
2	Dr. Margaret Wright - Gyeduah	F		LWEP/MGSP	Project Curator	mwright@lweplb.com	[Signature]
3	Atty Evelyn Bany	F	X	LWEP	G. Specialist	erebany@lweplb.com	[Signature]
4	Lisa T. Drasan	F	N/A	LWEP	Comm/CIEM		[Signature]
5	Kuband Moore	F			SUP. Office		
6	YATTA KINAWU	F	X	Animal Hds	Member	775734593	[Signature]
7	Amie Kamara	F	X	Success Women	II	0778520914	[Signature]
8	Harris Forte	M	NO	VRM Radio (89.3 FM)	Reporter	0775016050	[Signature]
9	Satta Viarmeh	F	M	Success	Woman	0776693969	[Signature]



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado



June 2024
 Attendance Log

No.	NAMES	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Sankay Momo	F	NO	Agriculture Women of Success	member	0777943624	[Signature]
2	Fatu Gibson	F	NO	Agriculture Women of Success	member	0777411688	[Signature]
3	Zoe Momo	F	NO	Agriculture Women of Success	member	0881100898	[Signature]
4	Success Wilson	F	NO	Agriculture Women of Success	Member	0770212566	[Signature]
5	Herrita McCauley	F	NO	Agriculture Women of Success	member	0775154616	[Signature]
6	Grace Lamin	F	NO	The Jackson Farm Agriculture	Chair-lady	0778522149	[Signature]
7	Rachel Subah	F	NO	The Jackson Farm Agriculture	Secretary	0855453774	[Signature]
8	Licola Zorpan	M	NO	Native Su President	Supersend	0775870240	[Signature]
9	Success D. Wilson	F	X		member	0770212566	[Signature]

City of Arthington Participants



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado County



June 2024

Arthington City

Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Joe lugbor	F	NO	Former	member		
2	Princess miller	F	NO	farmer	member		
3	Sam walright	M	NO	Teacher	member	0775673595	
4	Samuel G. G. G.	M	NO		member	077278511	
5	Kenneth Obie	F	NO	BUSINESS	MEMBER	077229712	
6	Lucia Flomo	F	NO	BUSINESS	MEMBER	0778561221	
7	Elijah miller	M	NO			07786727	
8	Uross s. thid	M	NO	Youth Against Violence	Secretary	0771236558	
9	Sarah L. Warner	F	NO	Student	Member	077200222	S W
10	Priscilla H. Lockett	F	N	Student	member	N/A	P L



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado County



June 2024

Arthington City

Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Melissa Davis	F	NO		Youth Charader	0887411655	M D
2	D. Melvin Bracetum	M	NO		Community leader	077613556	
3	Korpo mulbah					0777893304	
4	Muesie Sere						
5	Sando Kamara						
6	massa Johnson						
7	HELENA T. FLOMO	F				07762340	
8	Kemah JOE	F	NO			0776 0776918003	
9	Kemah chileq	F	NO			0777807885	F B
10	Famatta Ben	F	NO				



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado County



June 2024

Arthington City

Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Juma Yekah	F	No	Farmer	Member	0778365182	Juma Yekah
2	Bandu Moore	F	No	Farmer	Member		
3	Mart William	F	No	Business	Member	077202596	M W
4	Bando Mariga	F	No	Business		0886159903	
5	Babygirl Tokpah	F	No			0880713231	
6	Esther Morris	F	No	Farmer		Nil	
7	Esther B. Dennis	F	No	Farmer		0777932021	E.B. Dennis
8							



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado County



June 2024

Arthington City

Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Josko J. Morris	F	No			0778895923	JJM
2	Sarah Dukuly	F	No				
3	Esther Savelle	F	No			0886632590	ES
4	Alice Peter	F	No				
5	Fatu Morris	F	No				
6	Jumrah Saffer	F	No				
7	Alice Peter	F	No				
8	Momo Passay	M	No		Teacher	0777476343	Momo
9	Jatu Washington	F	No		Member	0775797836	
10	Cyrus T. Gaye	M	No		LNP	0777220267	
11							



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Rural Montserrado County



June 2024

Arthington City

Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Sarah F Boatai	F	NO	Church member	Position	0778778731	
2	Joyce Bar-Jay	F	NO	Farmer	member	0772296085	
3	Musu Faltinbete	F	NO	Farmer	member		
4	Bendu Freeman	F	NO	Farmer	member		
5	Sando Sifaq	F	NO	Farmer	member		
6	Sum Zolu	M	NO	Farmer	member	0776213776	
7	Darlington D. muma	M	NO	Farmer	member	0771.23.97.49	
8	Sando K. Johnson	F	NO	Farmer	ll	N/A	
9	Everlyn Kanneh	F	NO	Business	ll	0776042624	
10	Hawa Bukutu	F	NO	Farmer	ll	0770669903	

Bopolu city participants



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Gbarpolu County



Bopolu City

June 2024
 Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	J. Sumo Ballah	M	NO	Totozua	Town chair	0886984073	
2	Memeh Siafa	F	NO	Bambu Town	Member		
3	James I. Jallah	M	YES	Bambu Town	Elder	0778528463	
4	Mamie Flomo	F	NO	Gargama	Member		
5	Mama Cospur	F	NO	Kaipai Women Barkellie Village	Chairlady	0886 284884	
6	somile Ispabeh	F	NO	GBAR	member	0790710635	
7	Patricia K David	F	NO	Katorcume	member	0770710635	
8	Mark Kamah	F	NO	Katorcume	member		
9	Blaze Darblol	F	NO	Pakuseh	Chairlady Representative		
10	Massa Fofann	F	NO	New Bopolu Farmer	Farmer	0881764484	



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
 Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
 National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
 Gbarpolu County



Bopolu City

June 2024
 Attendance Log

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	J. Sumo Ballah	M	NO	Totozua	Town chair	0886984073	
2	Memeh Siafa	F	NO	Bambu Town	Member		
3	James I. Jallah	M	YES	Bambu Town	Elder	0778528463	
4	Mamie Flomo	F	NO	Gargama	Member		
5	Mama Cospur	F	NO	Kaipai Women Barkellie Village	Chairlady	0886 284884	
6	somile Ispabeh	F	NO	GBAR	member	0790710635	
7	Patricia K David	F	NO	Katorcume	member	0770710635	
8	Mark Kamah	F	NO	Katorcume	member		
9	Blaze Darblol	F	NO	Pakuseh	Chairlady Representative		
10	Massa Fofann	F	NO	New Bopolu Farmer	Farmer	0881764484	



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



June 2024

Attendance Log

Location: Bopolu District

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Junior H.P. Borbor	M	NO	KUEGAI	Co. Chair	0778647961	
2	Kenneth M. Thorpe	M	NO	Bomboma Trade	Secretary	0770441819	
3	Aaron Zinnah	M	NO	Tofofo	Chairman		
4	J. Koruah Beyan	M	NO	KUKAJU	member	0881-113-860	
5	Helinor Kerkulal	F	NO	KAKUKAI	chairlady		
6	Sekou M. Sirleaf	M	NO	Gbojama Palm Farmer	Co. Chair	0886 872687	
7	James F. Ballah	M	NO	Trenufofo Buku Mach Farmer ASSO.	Sec.	0880186339	
8	Rebecca H. Scott	F	NO	Mach Farmer	Member	088011333	
9	Bernice S. Zumd	F	NO	Cloths Business	marketier	0888425011	
10	Kabbah Doller	F	NO	Kolliyah	co chair		



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



June 2024

Attendance Log

Location: Bopolu District/City

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Warbah mortu	F	NO	Kulcatona	Adm's	038114396	
2	Kpannah Barclay	F	NO	Kulcatona	Member	0881830974	
3	Flomo Cbisaie	M	Yes	Gbojama	Member	0886373774	
4	Moses L. Flomo	M	NO	Citizenry Bong County	General G. Sec	077324202	
5	Zoe TKPA	M	NO	LEOPARD	FINANCIAL	0773891314	
6	Annie R. Sirleaf	F	NO	Kpakugesh	Treasurer	0777513601	
7	Bendu Kpoto	F	Yes	Laelawomen	Advisor	0880974115	
8	Willie S. Johnson	M	NO	Tonotarkor	Chairman	0775307527	
9	Daddeh Dannah	F	NO	Binarfarkor	Chairlady	0880255064	
10	Janet Y. Sam	F	NO	Liberian Sister	Member	077991300	



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



June 2024
Attendance Log

Bopolu District/city

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Lasarah S. Jabateh	M	NO	King Sap Bossso, Henry town	General Secretary	0866 111867	[Signature]
2	Massa sherrif	F	NO	King Sap Bossso Henry town	Chairlady	0	[Signature]
3	Kiabehe Sumo	F	NO	Klugkpeh	Chairlady		[Signature]
4	Fatu P. Swaray	F	NO	United muslim Association Women Gbarpolu County	Chairlady	0886253473 0778608174	[Signature]
5	Thomas J. M. Konah	M	NO	Resource Center	Field Officer	0886838144 0776386761	[Signature]
6	Eyee Zazay	F	NO	Kpandema	Chairlady	5178898975	[Signature]
7	Varfae Kanyeh	M	NO	Naobilita women united group	Co-Chair	0772323359	[Signature]
8	Ballah Kpaka	M	NO	money institute	member	0555003719	[Signature]
9	Yassah Atulbah	F	NO	Kutalie women group	member		[Signature]
10	Chris Kollie	M	NO	YeBukaayma	member	08883618	[Signature]



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



June 2024
Attendance Log

Bopolu District/city

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Princess K. Scott	F	NO	KAPAKUNT	member	0775119498	P.S
2	Sankay Jallah	F	NO	KUKATONA	Chairlady	077000031	S.S
3	MOMO Ballah	M	NO	FaSeteTown	Chief	077885500	S.S
4	George B. Sumo	M	NO	TAKALADA	Paramount Chief	0880706769	B.Sumo
5	SATANDAY CLINTON	M	NO	055586723	Kapuma	Kapuma	[Signature]
6	BRATRICA KEMAH	F	NO	W.O.D	Chair	0886267111	B.K
7	FINDA TAYLOR	F	NO	KISSI DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	Co-Chair	0886408727	F.T
8	MUSU MASSAGUI	F	NO	Leela women group	Member	0886459802	M.Sugi
9	KAMARA SUMO	M	NO	Klugbeh	Farmer	0880089013	[Signature]
10	MOSES BRAHMA	M	NO	GAKA'	co-chair	0886373419	[Signature]



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



June 2024
Attendance Log

Bopolu District/City

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Mary Joe	F	NO	Kwageh	Chairlady	088661892	
2	Bendu Fofana	F	NO	Kpacel	Member	077753779	
3	Musu Sulon	F	NO	Kukatonan	Co. chair	0778564104	
4	Kemah N. Boima	F	NO	MIA	Commissioner	0777290785	Kul Boima
5	Flomo T. Supu	M	NO	Kukatornor	Chairman	0886576317	
6	Yorpor Kellesey	F	NO	Bombom-Ta	Chairlady	0775-682481	
7	Justin G. Johnson	M	NO	Youth Farmer	Chairman	0770973442	JGJ
8	Mohammed Massaley	M	NO	Youth Farmer	Secretary	0772148449	MM
9	Gibson Oranu	M	NO	Farmer	Co. chair	088757757	G.O.
10	Mary Bawkolie	F	NO	Welekeima	chairlady		



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



June 2024
Attendance Log

Bopolu City/ District

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Justina Dukuy	F	NO	MIA	Commissioner	088070331	J.D
2	Saymon P. Fahmbulleh	M	NO	Kukatornor	Secretary	0886421226	
3	Morris B. Johnson	M	NO	Kukatornor	Member	0880823214	
4	Abraham Kannel	M	NO	Bambayoun	Member	0887418547	
5	Victoria Bin Ja	F	NO	Farmane Women group	Chairlady	077270122	
6	Edward Mataley	M	NO	Nukwari	Sec	088177163	
7	Edward S. Benetoo	M	NO	Welekeima	Secretary	0886581943	
8	Watta Kannel	F	NO	IN O G T	Sec	077652401	W.K
9	Papo G. Ballah	M	NO	Kukatornor	Secretary	0855164953	
10	Samykei Tuany	M	NO	BKumeh	member	077634609	



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



THE WORLD BANK
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June 2024
Attendance Log

Bopolu City/District

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Miatta Tarnue	F	NO	Youth for Development	member	077711009	
2	Musu Varmah	F	NO	Youth Impact Development	farmer	0770959433	
3	Massa Kamarah	F	NO	Youth Impact Development	Farmer	0886596286	
4	Wredoi Pabai	F	NO	Women Peace Hub	Asst. Chairlady	0887051522	
5	Mork Jacob	M	NO	Liberian Women's Center	Chairman	077799130	
6	Marie Sackie	F	NO	Boon country citizen union	Chairlady	0779414030	
7	Old lady Korma	F	NO	KUKA FORMER	Chairlady	0880901149	
8	Miana Obessay	F	NO	Zukatornov	Chairlady	0778900174	
9	Annie D. Baddo	F	NO	Mawolo Enterprise	Member	0770 00 6169	
10	FATU DARRUE	F	NO	KAPAKUMTA	MEMBER		



Ministry of Gender Children & Social Protection
Liberian Women Empowerment Project (LWEP)
National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement
Gbarpolu County



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June 2024
Attendance Log

Bopolu City/District

No.	NAME	SEX F/M	Disability (Yes/No)	Organization/Inst.	POSITION	CONTACT/ EMAIL Address	SIGNATURE
1	Mayame Darkuly	F	no	Youth Impact Development	Leader	0888306193	M: D
2	Esther Mawolo	F	NO	Bonness	member	0881067433	E M
3	Louise K. Vorjpor	M	NO	Liberian Women's Center Agriculture Jobs & Organization Gbarpolu Co	Coordinator	0770774515	
4	Frances K. Smith	F	NO	Women of greater Tamu	Chair Person	0775498351	
5	Mary K Gaylor	F	NO	Center For Women Empowerment	PROJCH OFFIER	077861792	MKE
6	Joseph Florence	M	NO	KUKA FORMER	member		
7	Bendu Sheriff	F	NO	United Muslim Women	member	0776986650	
8	Anthony David	M	NO	Kulcatornov Women	Secretary	0886486790	ADP
9	Esther K. Zannah	F	NO	Kukugelle	Chairlady	088659116	Zinah
10	Sackie Bango	M	NO	KUKUGELLE	-	072148238	SB

ANNEX 7: SOME PICTORIALS DURING THE STAKEHOLDER ENG MEETINGS



During the questions and answer period



Group photo in Bentol city



Group photo in Arthington City



Group photo in Todee, Nyehn



Hon. Bernard Blue Benson
District 17 Representative,



Cross session of participants



LWEP Project coordinator making remark



Participants during registration



Cross-session of participants



women dramatizing GBV prevention in Bopolu



Community radio appearance in Gbarpolu



Group photo outside the radio station



Engagement in Bopolu city



Cross-session of participants in Arthington



Cross-session of participants



Daily OBSERVER
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www.liberianobserver.com

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
 MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
 LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER DOLLAR

	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024	L\$172,280.00	L\$181,840.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central Bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaus. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
 Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, Central Bank of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

US\$44.6M for Liberian Women Empowerment

-World Bank Project Targets Thousands in Rural Communities



The project has been met with enthusiasm, with many women expressing their hope for a brighter future.

Two Jailed for Illegal Mining in Gbarpolu



Gbarpolu County Officials inspect company mining site

CDC at a Crossroad

—“We the People” Demands national convention in three months, says the current leadership has lost the confidence and trust of the people



(L-R) Mr. Janga Kowo, CDC Chairman, and Jerome Snydee, Spokesperson of “We the People”

House Expresses Concerns over “Disrespect” Shown Ex-Prez. Weah



Rep. Yekah Kabaob of Montserrado County District #10 is one of two lawmakers who wrote the House’s leadership to show reasons why Weah was denied airport VIP Lounge

Liberia Women Empowerment Project Concludes National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement in Gbarpolu



The Liberia Women Empowerment Project has successfully concluded a three-day intensive National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement in Gbarpolu County, ahead of the full implementation of the World Bank-sponsored project valued at US\$44.6 million.

The engagement commenced in Bopolu City, Electoral District #1 on Monday, June 24, 2024 and continued in Bokomu, Electoral District #2, on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and concluded in Gbarma, Electoral District #3, on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. These sessions brought together adjacent communities, towns, and villages of the respective districts in Gbarpolu County.

Held in town halls, the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement included the participation of various local leaders from the three districts, fishermen, farmers, and members of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), among others.

The project is slated for implementation in six counties: Gbarpolu, Bomi, Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Rivercess, and Montserrado, targeting a total of 267,200 beneficiaries from 750 communities. Its aims include fostering positive social norms, enhancing basic services in health and education, promoting resilient livelihoods through community-led approaches, and strengthening public institutions to advance gender equality.

A total of 36,000 women are expected to benefit from the livelihood and grants provided by the project. Prior to Gbarpolu, the team conducted the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement in Todee, Arthington, and Bental in Montserrado County.

Stakeholders expressed their appreciation to the Liberian government for selecting their county and pledged full cooperation with the Ministry of Gender through the Liberia Women Empowerment Project to ensure the project’s smooth implementation. Mustu M. Kamara, Coordinator of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection for Gbarpolu County, praised the initiative as timely and a milestone achievement for the area. She urged potential beneficiaries to seize the opportunity to improve their lives.

Several recommendations for effective and transparent project implementation were provided by stakeholders from Bopolu, Bokomu, and Gbarma. Jestina V. Dukuly, Bopolu City’s first female Commissioner, encouraged participants to maximize the opportunity and support the national government’s efforts, emphasizing the importance of involving the local Agriculture Coordinator for better sector understanding.

Musa D. Kamara, Commissioner of Gbarma District, recommended a local assessment to ensure the right people benefit, while Fatu Swaray, a farmer in Gbarma Town, stressed the need for project implementers to verify the legitimacy of beneficiaries.

District Commissioner John K. Korse and Senior Paramount Chief Fredrick K. Massaquoi from Bokomu suggested involving local leadership in the project’s implementation, given their close connection with the community. Hawa Patrick, a VSLA member from Gbarma Town, stressed the importance of direct engagement with locals to ensure equitable benefit distribution.

Alice M. Zinnah, Secretary General for Rural Women in Gbarpolu County, suggested constructing a market structure for women farmers to sell their crops, noting that the absence of such a facility leads to significant crop loss.

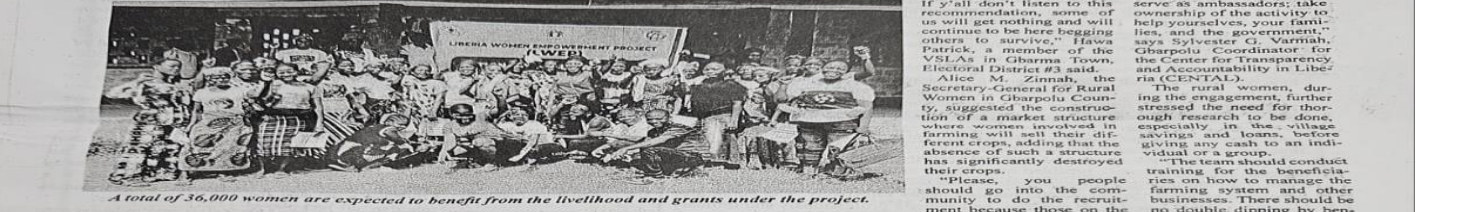
Jartu Williams, a farmer from Gbarma Town, urged project recruiters to conduct community-based recruitment to avoid biased selection by local interests. Lydia V. Ballah, Bopolu City CSOs Coordinator, highlighted the community’s impoverished condition despite abundant natural resources and advocated for the project to be truly need-based.

Sylvester G. Narmah, Gbarpolu Coordinator for the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), encouraged stakeholders to take ownership of the project activities to help themselves, their families, and the government.

The rural women emphasized the need for thorough research, particularly within the VSLA framework before disbursing funds. Farmers James K. Vorkor and Ballah Kpaka recommended training beneficiaries in farm and business management and preventing double-dipping by beneficiaries.

In her closing remarks, National Coordinator of the LWEP, Cllr. Margaret Nigba Gayedy, thanked participants for their dedication and contribution during the consultation and engagement. She assured that their suggestions would enhance the project monitoring, evaluation, and implementation in transparent manner.

Gbarpolu Gears Up for Women’s Empowerment ... as World Bank Project Sparks Hope and Calls for Transparency



A total of 36,000 women are expected to benefit from the livelihood and grants under the project.

By Blamo N. Tse

The Liberia Women Empowerment Project has finally climaxed a three-day intensive National Consultation and stakeholder engagement in the three electoral districts of Gbarpolu County ahead of the full implementation of the World Bank US\$44.6 million sponsored project.

The engagement began in Bopolu City, Electoral District #1 on Monday, June 24, 2024, continued on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, in Bokomu, Electoral District #2, and officially climaxed on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in Gbarma, Electoral District #3 as the sittings brought together the adjacent communities, towns and villages of those districts in Gbarpolu County.

The National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement held in town halls had in attendance the various local leaderships of the three districts, including fishermen, farmers, and women in Village Savings and Loan Associations (VLSAs) among others.

The Project is expected to be implemented in six counties: Gbarpolu, Bomi, Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Rivercess, and Montserrado, with a total of 267,200 beneficiaries from 750 communities.

The project aims to foster positive social norms; Enhance basic services in health and education; Promote resilient livelihoods through community-led approaches and strengthen public institutions to advance gender equality.

A total of 36,000 women are expected to benefit from the livelihood and grants under the project.

The team has already held the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement in Todee, Arthington, and Bental in Montserrado County before moving to Gbarpolu County.

The stakeholders have expressed excitement to the Liberian government for the selection of their county, promising their full cooperation with the Ministry of Gender through the Liberia Women Empowerment Project for the smooth implementation of the project.

Also speaking, the Coordinator of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for Gbarpolu County, Mustu M. Kamara, thanked the government through the Ministry of Gender for bringing such an initiative to the county, describing it as timely and a milestone achievement for the area, especially among the 15 counties.

She also urged would-be beneficiaries to take advantage of the opportunity to improve their lives.

Providing several recommendations for the effective and transparent implementation of the project in the county, the stakeholders of Bopolu, Bokomu, and Gbarma.

Bopolu City’s first female Commissioner, Madam Jestina V. Dukuly, urged the participants to maximize the opportunity brought to them and buttress the effort of the national government, something he believes will demonstrate the success of the project.

“In order for this program to be successful, I recommend that the Agriculture Coordinator in this town should be recognized by the Ministry to get the proper understanding of the sector. To this end, I put my team together to assess so the real people can benefit before you’ll come to carry on another assessment,” Musa D. Kamara, Commissioner of Gbarma District said.

Fatu Swaray who is a farmer in Gbarma Town, Electoral District #3, urged the project implementer to visit the field and make sure real individuals benefit, adding that many pretend to have a farm or operate a business, which is untrue but meant to deprive those in an urgent need.

In furtherance, the District Commissioner and the Senior Paramount Chief for Bokomu, John K. Korse and Fredrick K. Massaquoi suggested the involvement of the local leadership during the implementation of the project, adding that they live and work with the locals and they can help to quickly get to them.

“We want for you people to reach us no matter where we are instead of using other people to come to us. If you’ll don’t listen to this recommendation, some of us will get nothing and will continue to be here begging others to survive,” Hawa Patrick, a member of the VSLA in Gbarma Town, Electoral District #3 said.

Alice M. Zinnah, the Secretary-General for Rural Women in Gbarpolu County, suggested the construction of a market structure where women involved in farming will sell their different crops, adding that the absence of such a structure has significantly destroyed their crops.

“Please, you people should go into the community to do the recruitment because those on the grounds here always select their interest while we who want the opportunity can’t get anything,” Jartu Williams, a farmer from Gbarma Town, stressed.

Also speaking from the civil society sector, Bopolu City CSO Coordination, Madam Lydia V. Ballah highlighted the impoverished condition of Gbarpolu citizens despite the available natural resources and recommended that the project touches and benefits the needy who continue to struggle with their local businesses, farms, cooperative and VSLAs among others.

“I want to encourage you, the stakeholders, to listen to this message the Liberia Women Empowerment Project is giving so you can serve as ambassadors; take ownership of the activity to help yourselves, your families, and the government,” says Sylvester G. Narmah, Gbarpolu Coordinator for the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL).

The rural women, during the engagement, further stressed the need for thorough research to be done, especially in the village savings and loans, before giving any cash to an individual or a group.

“The team should conduct training for the beneficiaries on how to manage the farming system and other businesses. There should be no double dipping by beneficiaries,” James K. Vorkor and Ballah Kpaka, who are both farmers, noted.

In her closing remarks, the National Coordinator of the LWEP, Cllr. Margaret Nigba Gayedy lauded the participants for dedicating their time and resources to form part of the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement.

Cllr. Gayedy also thanked the stakeholders for their many suggestions, adding that those points will be used to improve the monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of the project in the county in a very transparent way.

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LIBERIA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT CONCLUDES THREE-DAY INTENSIVE NATIONAL CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT IN GBARPOLU

By: Blamo N. Toe, contributing writer

Monrovia

The Liberia Women Empowerment Project has successfully concluded a three-day intensive National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement in Gbarpolu County, ahead of the full implementation of the World Bank-sponsored project valued at US\$44.6 million.

The engagement commenced in Bopolu City, Electoral District #1, on Monday, June 24, 2024, continued in Bokomu, Electoral District #2, on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and concluded in Gbarma, Electoral District #3, on Wednesday, June 26, 2024. These sessions brought together adjacent communities, towns, and villages of the respective districts in Gbarpolu County.

Held in town halls, the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement included the participation of various local leaders, members, farmers, and

members of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), among others.

The project is slated for implementation in six counties: Gbarpolu, Bomli, Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Rivercess, and Montserrado, targeting a total of 267,200 beneficiaries from 750 communities. Its aims include fostering positive social norms, enhancing basic services in health and education, promoting resilient livelihoods through community-led approaches, and strengthening public institutions to advance gender equality.

A total of 36,000 women are expected to benefit from the livelihood and grants provided by the project. Prior to Gbarpolu, the team conducted the National Consultation and Stakeholders Engagement in Todee, Arthington, and Benton in Montserrado County.

Stakeholders expressed their appreciation to the Liberian government for selecting their county and pledged full cooperation

with the Ministry of Gender through the Liberia Women Empowerment Project to ensure the project's smooth implementation. Musu M. Kamara, Coordinator of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection for Gbarpolu County, praised the initiative as timely and a milestone achievement for the area. She urged potential beneficiaries to seize the opportunity to improve their lives.

Several recommendations for effective and transparent project implementation were provided by stakeholders from Bopolu, Bokomu, and Gbarma. Jestina V. Dukuly, Bopolu City's first female Commissioner, encouraged participants to maximize the opportunity and support the national government's efforts, emphasizing the importance of involving the local Agriculture Coordinator for better sector understanding.

Musa D. Kamara, Commissioner of Gbarma District, recommended a



local assessment to ensure the right people benefit, while Fatu Swaray, a farmer in Gbarma Town, stressed the need for project implementers to verify the legitimacy of beneficiaries.

District Commissioner John K. Korsee and Senior Paramount Chief Fredrick K. Massaquoi from Bokomu suggested involving local leadership in the project's implementation, given their close connection with the community. Hawa Patrick, a VSLA member from Gbarma Town, stressed the importance

of direct engagement with locals to ensure equitable benefit distribution.

Alice M. Zinnah, Secretary General for Rural Women in Gbarpolu County, suggested constructing a market structure for women farmers to sell their crops, noting that the absence of such a facility leads to significant crop loss.

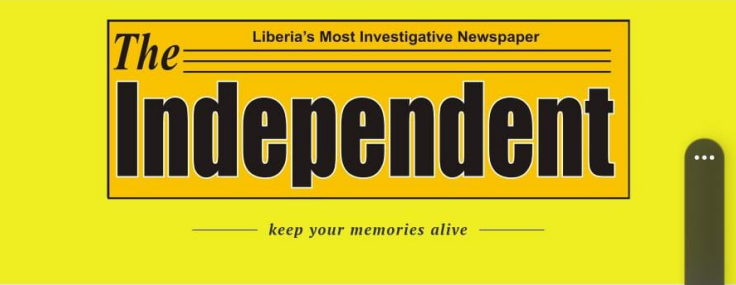
Jartu Williams, a farmer from Gbarma Town, urged project recruiters to conduct community-based recruitment to avoid biased selection by local interests. Lydia V.

Ballah, Bopolu City CSOs Coordinator, highlighted the community's impoverished condition despite abundant natural resources and advocated for the project to benefit the truly needy.

Sylvester G. Varmiah, Gbarpolu Coordinator for the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), encouraged stakeholders to take ownership of the project activities to help themselves, their families, and the government.

The rural women emphasized the need for thorough research, particularly within the VSLA framework, before disbursing funds. Farmers James K. Vorkor and Ballah Kpaka recommended training beneficiaries in farm and business management and preventing double-dipping by beneficiaries.

In her closing remarks, National Coordinator of the LWEP, Cllr. Margaret Nigba Gayedyu, thanked participants for their dedication and contributions during the consultation and engagement. She assured that their suggestions would enhance the project's monitoring, evaluation, and implementation in a transparent manner.



Gov't Unveils US\$20.4M Coastal Resilience Plan for...

Gbarpolu Gears Up for Women's Empowerment

By Blamo N. Toe Jun 28, 2024



A total of 36,000 women are expected to benefit from the livelihood and grants under the project.

ANNEX 9: PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE LINKS DURING THE SEP

1. <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/county-news/liberia-women-empowerment-project-concludes-three-day-intensive-national-consultation-and-stakeholders-engagement-in-gbarpolu/>
2. <https://www.womenvoicesnewspaper.org/women-group-climaxes-national-consultation-stakeholders-engagement/>
3. <https://promptnewsagenciesliberiaonline.wordpress.com/2024/06/27/liberia-women-empowerment-project-concludes-national-consultation-and-stakeholders-engagements-in-gbarpolu/>
4. https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/gbarpolu-gears-up-for-women-s-empowerment/article_87cdb450-3507-11ef-a744-d7659039a680.html
5. <http://africdailynewspaper.com/2024/06/30/women-group-climaxes-national-consultation-engagement/>
6. <https://inquirernewspaper.com/liberian-women-empowerment-begins-national-engagement/>
7. <https://www.theindependent.com.lr/2024/07/02/three-day-women-empowerment-engagements-consultations-end-in-gbarpolu/>