

Most Significant Change Story

Author

Partnership for Sustainable Development-PaSD
2ND Floor
Jetty Trading Corporation Building
24th Street
Sinkor
Monrovia-Liberia

Contact:

Phone: +231-776-582-878 or 776-053-594
Email: cuppadlinc@yahoo.com
Web: www.cuppadl.org



1.0 Introduction or the Problem

Following the approval of the Action for Accelerating SRH Right and Policy Implementation (AASPI), the project management team of the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PaSD)



and collaborating civil society, women and youth organizations commissioned dedicated advocacy campaign to mitigate the various problems to which the project advocacy designed proposed solutions. In the documentation and prioritizing of the various problems, the team realized that the Domestic Violence Bill which is very vital to protecting and promoting various rights of women and girls passage into law was been unnecessarily delayed at the National Legislature while the temporary legal framework that was been used as replacement of the Domestic Violence Bill, the

Executive Order #92 issued by former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had expired and the current President of Liberia HE George Manneh Weah had shown no serious sign to renew the temporary law.

The team also realized and documented the fact that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was been practiced in eleven (11) of the fifteen (15) counties and by all 16 tribes of Liberia. FGM is a serious harmful traditional practice been used to violate the sexual, reproductive rights and contributes significantly to high maternal mortality ratio of the country especially very widespread in the rural hard to reach communities. FGM practice is one of the many factors said to be responsible for the high unskilled attendance to women in child birth in Liberia, more than 39% of women in child birth are according to LDHS report 2015 attended by unskilled provider referred to as traditional birth attendance.

More so, since the last decades of fiscal management, public financing of maternal, sexual, reproductive health and rights was almost untraceable. The health sector allocations were not very visible (no clear budget line to public institution(s) for maternal, sexual, reproductive health and rights programs. As the result national, international and independent civil society public finance tracking of the Government fiscal commitment to these health issues were often



negative. This has repeatedly placed Liberia among countries that are branded as lacking political will to promote and meet the maternal, sexual, reproductive health and rights of her citizens. Critics of the Government of Liberia failure to insert in successive National Budget clear Budget Lines for and increase allocations in line with international commitments (the every women every child initiative) believe, the Government action is largely responsible for the low international investment in the sector. They believe the international community is not investing much in the sector because they hold the opinion that the government does not prioritize maternal,

sexual, reproductive health and rights pointing to low or no clear budget line for maternal, sexual, reproductive health and rights.

2.0 The Action for Accelerating SRH Right and Policy Implementation (AASPI) Interventions:

In the Partnership for Sustainable Development and collaborating civil society, women, girls and youths organizations deliberate efforts to influence the National Legislature passage of the Domestic Violence Bill, allocation of clear budget line and increase funding to maternal, sexual, reproductive health and rights and for the state authorities to end female genital mutilations, the following actions were taken:

Gathered Information and Conducted Evidence Based Advocacy: The Partnership for Sustainable Development and collaborating civil society, women, girls and youth organizations gathered related literatures, held working sessions, abstracted relevant information and documented them into a briefing paper and two fact-sheets. The fact-sheets and briefing paper content were summary of key information on maternal, sexual, reproductive health, FGM and the extent of public financing of those issues and recommendations for advancing progress. This information was structured to inform advocacy, planning and service delivery of relevant stakeholders including civil society, the media, decision makers, legislators and cabinet officials.

Trained Non-State Actors and the Media: Nine (9) days skills building trainings were



conducted for over fifty (56) civil society, women, youths, disabled and community based organizations in the three project counties of Montserrado, Gbarpolu and Lofa. The training skilled the 56 beneficiaries which included the media and non-state actors in method of using the fact-sheets and briefing paper to influence, contemporary advocacy techniques, community monitoring and reporting and contemporary

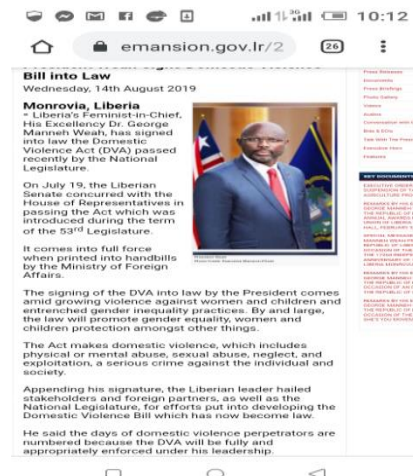
advocacy campaign planning and implementation. The skills building training were 20% theory and 80% practical in each of the three counties; additionally our team held coaching sessions and took campaigners to advocacy events to demonstrate their learning.

Convened Petition Actions: Hundreds of civil society, youth, women, community and other traditional leaders were converged at various public offices to petition the various line ministries, agencies, local government offices and the National Legislature demanding for action to end FGM, pass the Domestic Violence Bill and allocate clear budget lines and increase public financing of maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and newborn health initiatives.



The various petition ceremonies took place at the offices of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the National Legislature, the administrative offices of Lofa, Gbarpolu and Montserrado.

Held Lobby Meetings, Press Conferences, Media Campaign and Attended Budget Hearings: Civil society, youth, women, community and other traditional leaders who were trained at the various skills building workshops in the three project counties were engaged in advocacy to end FGM, pass the Domestic Violence Bill and allocate clear budget lines and increase public financing of maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and newborn health initiatives.



Selected well-informed trained non-state actors were sent to various media institutions, lobby meetings with relevant decision makers, budget hearings and address press conferences to articulate the project advocacy key messages aim at influencing actions end FGM, pass the Domestic Violence Bill and allocate clear budget lines and increase public financing of maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and newborn health initiatives.

pass the Domestic Violence Bill and allocate clear budget lines and increase public financing of maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and newborn health initiatives.

3.0 Change or Impact:



Domestic Violence Bill Passed by the House of Representatives, Concurred with by the Liberian Senate and signed into Hand Bill: As the result of the project interventions and other groups engagements with national and local officials of the Government of Liberia from both the executives and legislature, the long awaited Domestic Violence Bill has been passed into law by the National Legislature and signed into hand bill by the President of the Republic of Liberia.



The National Traditional Council of Liberia Banned FGM Activities in Liberia: The National Traditional Council of Liberia which is the umbrella body for traditional activities in Liberia for the first time in Liberia, banned FGM activities in Liberia. The members and heads of the National Traditional Council of Liberia reached the decision in 2019 in a Memorandum of Understanding they signed and issued at program making the observance of the ‘International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Mutilation’ (FGM) under the theme: **“end female genital mutilation”** held at the Monrovia City Hall. In June 2019, Traditional chiefs and elders fulfilled their commitment through resolution banning FGM at a two days’ dialogues held at a resort in Ganta, Nimba County, traditional chiefs and elders came up with a resolution to ban the two societies across the country, referencing reports of conscriptions and infringements on the rights of non-members.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



DRAFT NATIONAL BUDGET
Fiscal Year 2019/2020

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

DESCRIPTION	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
310 MINISTRY OF HEALTH	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31001 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31002 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31003 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31004 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31005 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31006 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31007 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31008 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31009 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31010 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31011 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31012 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31013 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31014 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31015 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31016 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31017 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31018 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31019 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31020 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31021 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31022 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31023 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31024 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31025 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31026 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31027 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31028 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31029 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31030 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31031 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31032 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31033 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31034 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31035 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31036 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31037 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31038 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31039 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31040 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31041 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31042 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31043 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31044 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31045 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31046 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31047 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31048 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31049 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31050 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31051 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31052 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31053 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31054 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31055 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31056 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31057 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31058 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31059 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31060 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31061 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31062 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31063 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31064 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31065 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31066 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31067 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31068 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31069 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31070 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31071 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31072 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31073 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31074 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31075 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31076 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31077 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31078 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31079 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31080 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31081 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31082 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31083 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31084 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31085 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31086 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31087 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31088 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31089 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31090 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31091 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31092 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31093 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31094 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31095 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31096 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31097 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31098 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31099 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
31100 Health Sector Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

Direct Budget Lines Created for RMNCH in Government 2019/2020 National Budget for Health: Clear lines has been created for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in the Draft 2019/2020 National Budget of USD200,000 constituting 0.24% of the total health budget which is currently before the Legislature for approval.

For the first time the Health Budget of Liberia has in its objectives and targets to reduce maternal mortality by 497 per 100,000 live births from current 1072/100,000 live births by 2023, stunting by 22% by 2023, reduce under-five mortality 57/1000 life birth by 2023 in line with Health Sector PAPD, National Health Policy and plan and the Investment Plan.

4.0 Related links

https://www.emansion.gov.lr/2press.php?news_id=4977&related=7&pg=sp

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/front-slider/liberia-house-of-representatives-finally-passed-domestic-violence-bill/>

<http://newrepublicliberia.com/traditional-leaders-want-fgm-practice-banned-in-liberia/>

Note: The Partnership for Sustainable Development (PaSD) formerly Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia (CUPPADL) is a pro-democracy, peace building, human rights, policy and development advocacy civil society organization. PaSD started working in Liberia since 2003 and is in good legal standing with the Government of Liberia, have acquired the relevant permits. The organization has been granted Special Consultative Status by the Economic and Social Council-ECOSOC of the United Nations following recommendation from the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations-NGOs, after the committee April 8, 2015 coordination and management meeting.
