

Most Significant Change Story

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1.0 Introduction or the Problem

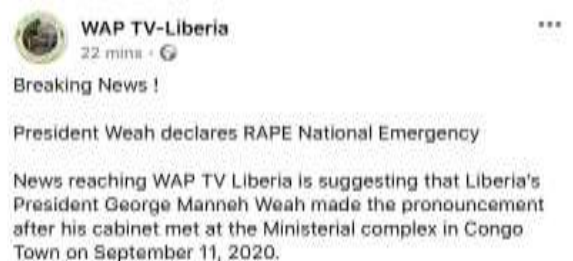
Media reportage and decisions makers interest in SRHR, RMNCH, SEA, SGBV, FGM, HTP and other Gender issues have always been low in Liberia especially over the 1st four years. In a deliberate drive to mitigate against this, PaSD and collaborating organizations sought support from a British Charity, AmplifyChange to which the Action for Accelerating SRH Right and Policy



Implementation (AASPI) II project was approved. Under the project, Partnership for Sustainable Development (PaSD) and collaborating community based, civil society, women and youth organizations commissioned dedicated advocacy campaign to mitigate the gap. To this end, PaSD and Collaborating stakeholders engaged conventional civil society, local government, media reporters and editors, community leaders and dwellers. The engagements were held through multiple advocacy platforms including lobby meetings, petition actions, skill building workshops, awareness creation events and media activities such as press conferences and radio appearances.

Additionally, in PaSD strategy to attract increased media reportage, several local Liberia Journalist were identified and compensated on a monthly basis to track and report on SRHR, RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, HTP, FGM, GEWE and EVAWG issues. Anxious to fulfil his obligations to report on the core project issues, Journalist Henry Gbolumb coincidentally received a tip-up via mobile phone that 3 year old little baby (Kpanah Kamara) had been raped

by a 17 year old boy (Ballah Varmah) in Mamadee Village, Gbarpolu, one of the four project counties. Journalist Henry Gbolumh reported the story on their local radio (Voice Gbarpolu 102.3FM) after which the National State Broadcaster (ELBC 99.9 FM) Correspondent in Gbarpolu during his daily report from the county lifted the story on the little girl incident from the local radio and updated the public and decision makers who widely listen to ELBC from Monrovia. Two peculiar occurrences in the little girl story attracted the public and decision makers attention including her age 3 years and the alleged using of razor blade to create enough opening on her private part for penetration.



Results

- This situation couple with the upsurge in rape cases across the country sparked days long protests from angry citizens and the protest claimed the attention of the government and development partners influencing President George Weah to order his Ministers of State, Gender and Social Protection respectively to commission a national conference on the draft SGBV Roadmap that had been lingering in policy cycle for more than two years to the presented.
- The National SGBV Roadmap was adopted by conferees and presented to the president of the republic of Liberia H.E. George M. Weah in the presence ariad of senior government officials including the presence of the speaker of the national Legislature, President Pro Tempore of the Liberia Senate, the former president of the Republic of Liberia Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the first lady and wife of the President of Liberia. The most senior government officials of Liberia made public speeches committing to take staunch action to mitigate SGBV issue and President George Manneh Weah declared rape as a national emergency.
- Due to a petition ceremony that was organized by PaSD and collaborating civil society organizations on the side-line of the conference, the approved Roadmap covered significantly the core and contemporary issues of SRHR, RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, HTP, FGM, GEWE and EVAWG and the government and Liberia Development partners immediately commenced the financing and implementation of reasonable programs and activities towards mitigating the core issues impasses.

