

PaSD Partnership for Sustainable Development

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Annual Activities Report



Period
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I. Introduction

Liberia has recovered from the 1989-2003 civil war which witnessed widespread damaged of infrastructures, slow basic social services such as water, sanitation, hygiene, electricity, education, general health etc. Additionally, peace, security, justice and human rights under the rule of law was badly affected thus resulting to the population taking the law in their hands when they feel aggrieved. Successive development agenda and the current Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), Liberia Demographic Health Survey, other national and international studies report findings suggest there are inadequate access to safe drinking water, human waste collection and disposal facilities, health care, justice, protection under the law, poor management of natural resources and public finances etc.

After 18 years of peace, Liberia has been declared United Nation's Peace keeping success story, the country in 2017 had its first successful democratic transition from one Democratic Government of different political party to another political party in more than 37 years. Basic social services, infrastructures and governance have improved to some extent better than when the war just ended in 2003. Citizens actions and engagement of public officials, private sector and development partners to improve service quality and access have gained momentum and service quality and access in these social sectors have improved but need more action to reach the need and expectation of the population. Citizen's engagement of their elected and appointed officials who have the primary responsibility to improve access to basic services, human rights redress mechanisms, policy implementation have improved but need to be accelerated to meet set target to the extent that significant proportion of the population can access basic services, infrastructures, peace and security, justice etc and basic human rights can be met and fulfilled.

In an effort to mobilize civil society and citizens voices aim at engaging and to hold relevant public officials, private sector and development partners to account on promises made and resources entrusted to them aim at improving access to social services, promote peace and security and human rights thereby reducing poverty, the PaSD has and continue to partner with national and international organizations to lead advocacy and engagement efforts at the national and sub national levels.

The PaSDL partnership and advocacy initiatives have been pursued through identification of problems and mobilization of support from development partners and networking with likeminded organizations, CBOs, and coalition of civil society organizations including the Liberia CSOs WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Network, Maternal and Newborn Health CSOs Advocacy Working Group, the National Budget and Human Rights Forum and other community based organizations at the local and national levels. These organizations and PaSD strongly subscribe to the believe that given the devastating effects of the civil war on Liberia's human and economic development, a coordinated approach to advocacy has the potential to put forth real effective citizens driven advocacy demand that could potentially speed the implementation and realization

of national and international development goals, and targets as clearly articulated in the SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063, UN Least Developed Countries Program of Action and the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

To this end, PaSD and partners have mobilized funding from several international organizations, bilateral organizations and friendly governments to implement advocacy and engagement action at addressing the human rights, development, peace, reconciliation, and security gaps of the country. This report will therefore inform readers, donors, the people of Liberia and the world about action taken in 2021 by PaSD to accelerate government and other stakeholders' action to end the social problems, promote peace and sustain security in Liberia. The report content includes the problems, activities implemented by PaSD, target set for which activities were implemented, location of activities, timeline, venue, lessons learnt, challenges experienced in over the year under review and recommended action for mitigating challenges in implementation and the problems as have been documented.

Vision

The vision of the CUPPADL is a Liberia where every person can access basic social services as well the space is provided for direct citizens role in policy formulation, implementation; development planning and public finances are directed for the goods of the population in a manner that promotes individual and general development.

Mission:

The mission of the CUPPADL is to contribute to the development of Liberia through supporting poor, marginalized, vulnerable groups to access basic social services and built the capacity of civil society and local government to input into policy processes, democracy and peace building initiatives using human rights based and pro-poor approaches.

1.0 Activities Implemented

Activities implemented aim at addressing the problems as mentioned in the introduction and to contribute to the attainment of the Vision, Mission and specific objectives of the PaSD included the following:

1.1 ‘Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia Project’: As part of fulfilling contractor agreement with UN Women on behalf of Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the PaSD and collaborating GEWE and EVAWG civil society organizations and coalitions have been implementing the ‘Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia Project’ activities in Gbarpolu, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties. The project trained and engaged civil society organizations in advocacy in support of GEWE, EVAWG, RMNCH, SRHR, etc through promoting improvement in the policy environment, public financing, implementation of interventions to the proportion needed to achieve set national and global development goals and targets.

Outputs, Activities Completed and Number of People Reached:

Indicator 6.1 Proportion of noticeable and inactive women's rights organizations, autonomous social movements and civil society organizations, increase their coordinated efforts to jointly advocate on EAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promoting SRHR: During this reporting period, over sixty organizations under the three coalitions were supported to implement plan activities in line with mini grant for implementation at the local level to promote EAWG, including SGBV/HP and on women's and girls' SRHR:



Indicator 6.1.1 Number of jointly agreed recommendations produced as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that include representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination: Over the reporting period, at least 78 jointly agreed policy, financing, program visibility and other vital recommendations in favor of GEWE and EAWG, and to discourage HTP and domestic violence against women were produced and advanced to decision makers as a result of multi-stakeholder dialogues that included representatives of groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination including women and girls rights groups, civil society organizations, community base organizations, youth groups, rural women and girls who are often venerable target of harmful traditional practices.

Indicator 6.1.2 Number of official dialogues with relevant government authorities and 2020 senatorial candidates with the meaningful participation of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersection forms of discrimination: Of the total 15 official dialogue target with relevant government authorities and 2020 senatorial candidates with the meaningful participation of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs, including representatives of groups facing multiple and intersection forms of discrimination were achieved.

Indicator 6.2.1 Number of supported women's right groups and relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy: 58 women and girls rights organizations who were supported with materials, tools and provided the appropriate training and relevant CSOs, CBOs, traditional groups have started the application of the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy. These organizations, through the establishment of coalitions, the holding of stakeholder's dialogues, and petition action have initiated join advocacy efforts and have issued fifteen (15) position papers with at least ninety-five (95) recommendations on GEWE and EAWG issues to policy and decisions makers. The 60 organizations and 60 trainees targeted for the 6 orientation sessions found not utilizing the mechanisms in advocacy, is largely because those 20 were inactive in activities implementation due to lack of donors founding during the quarter and



the project support to CSOs coalition through orientation Sessions on how to organize Community Monitoring and Reporting events; to use social accountability mechanisms such as Score Cards; PET-Budget Monitoring and Tracking; review related literatures (reports), desk study was also implemented during the period under review.

42 media and civil society coordinated intervention tracking, 9 training sessions leading to increasing in the use of social accountability mechanisms by civil society in order to monitor and engage in efforts to end VAWG, including SGBV/HP, promote women's SRH, 6 orientation sessions, 12 community monitoring and reporting using score card were achieved.

Indicator 6.3.1 Number of women's rights groups and relevant civil society organizations representing groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/

marginalization that have strengthened capacities and support to design, implement, monitor and evaluate their own programmes on VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and on women's and girls' SRHR: Sixty (60) women's rights groups and relevant civil society organizations representing groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/ marginalization capacities have been achieved, capacity strengthened and three counties civil society coalition were provided logistical and materials support and these organizations continue implement various advocacy and engagement intervention in support of EVAWG and GEWE, including SGBV/HP.

Indicator 6.3.2 Number of women's rights groups and relevant CSOs using knowledge products developed by the participating UN agencies in the design of their own programmes on VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and on women's and girls' SRHR: PaSD and collaborating civil society organization planed and implemented a two days Desk Review. As the result of the two days desk review, 3000 factsheets out-ling on GEWE, EVAWG, HTP, FGM, SRHR and RMNCH issues including financing trend, global, regional and national targets, commitments, data on rape, FGM, SEA, ECM and other forms of violence against women were developed, printed and been distributed to the project beneficiaries and same information is being used by the over 60 civil society organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of their own activities.

Through this, GEWE and EVAWG focus civil society organization knowledge increased on the challenges, influenced and created the space for women and girls participation in government functionaries such as coordination, learning and sharing meetings, SGBV County Level Task-Force Monthly Meeting, COVID-19 Incident Management System (IMS) and the 2020 Anti-SGBV

National Conference under theme A National Call to Action to Fight Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Liberia. Additionally, these government functionaries offered women, girls rights and civil society organizations the space to participate in national decision making on GEWE and EVAWG while serving as a platform to advance policies recommendations and have a voice on issues that affect or benefit them.

Through the project sixteen (16) activities were planned and implemented fully, 2,625 direct beneficiaries and approximately 515,004 indirect beneficiaries were reached in the three (3) project counties. 750 of the 2,625 direct beneficiaries were directly reached through the Multi-stakeholders Dialogue with the participation of women right groups and local authorities, four hundred eighty (480) reached through community monitoring and reporting event using score cards, three hundred fifty (350) reached through 7 petition actions, seven hundred fifty (750) reached through fifteen (15) Dialogues with local and national government authorities, 2020 senatorial candidates with the participation of women rights groups, one hundred fifty (150) reached through three (3) women conferences.



Additionally, five (5) Group Lobby meetings were held, fifty (50) stakeholders reached, sixty (60) reached through 3 skill building workshops one in each of the three project counties, thirty (30) reached through three (3) project counties civil society peer coaching and mentoring sessions, three (3) months media and civil society coordinated interventions tracking, documentation and reporting, Support to CSOs coalitions, women and girls groups designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating their own programmes and policies on ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and on women's and girls' SRHR in each of the three project counties while approximately 10,000 were reached with behavior change messages promoting end to violence against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health rights and women empowerment through Media campaign via radio talk shows and Jingle.

The direct beneficiaries reached through the '**Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia Project**' included targeted GEWE and EVAWG focused civil society and community based organizations, coalitions, local government authorities, Ministry of Gender County Focus points, traditional leaders, Head of County health teams, community dwellers and leaders, the Liberia National Police Women and Children Protection Sections, Umbrella Youth and Women Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and the media. The indirect beneficiaries included the populations of the three project counties of Gbarpolu – 83,388,



Margibi - 209,923 and Grand Bassa – 221,693 who were indirectly reached via media and other mobilization outreach engagements.

Approximately 60 noticeable and inactive civil society, community based, youth, women and civil society networks organizations within the three project counties carry on joint coordinated advocacy efforts in favour of promoting EVAWG and GEWE and to discourage FGM, SEA, Rape and Maternal Deaths. Through the coordinated joint advocacy efforts of CSOs networks, youth and women group's, 95 policies recommendations from the one Multi-stakeholders Dialogue with the participation of women right groups and local authorities and 30 community monitoring and reporting event using score cards.

Over sixty (60) women's rights groups and relevant civil society organizations representing groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization were accorded

increased opportunities and support to share knowledge, network, and partner to jointly advocate for GEWE and ending VAWG, including SGBV/HP, and promoting SRHR, with relevant stakeholders at sub-national and national levels. Additionally, local women's rights groups and relevant CSOs of the three project counties continue to utilized knowledge products of international and national organizations such as UN Agency, ECOWAS, AU and the Government of Liberia in the design of their own advocacy and engagement programmes on EVAWG, GEWE including SGBV, HTP, FGM, Rape, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and women's and girls' SRHR.

1.2 “Civil Society WASH Private Sector Involvement and Revenue Promotion Initiative”:

The Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETs) project “Civil Society WASH Private Sector Involvement and Revenue Promotion Initiative” is eight months intervention been financed by the USAID LEAPDI Project, and is a Civil Society Study on the WASH Sector that seeks to establish funding flow, gaps, policies weaknesses and advance recommendations towards Private Sector Involvement, Revenue generation and governance improvement. The project goal primarily was to gather data and information on the current status of WASH financing in Liberia relative to Government and donors' expenditure through interrogation of relevant background documents, policy instruments, plans, programs on WASH development and hearing from sector experts from local and international perspectives with a view to establish baseline for the study.

The intervention specific objectives:

- To establish real-time credible data on the current level of WASH public, donor financing and potential sources of revenue generation in six of Liberia’s fifteen counties aim at informing decision making, planning, advocacy and engagement.
- To advance policy options to government and development partners in six of Liberia’s fifteen counties aim at improving WASH private sector business climate, increasing domestic revenues, and supporting private-sector development
- To Improve and increase the flow of funds from government and donors to the relevant WASH service providers thereby improving WASH sector service delivery in six of Liberia’s fifteen counties

The study sought to contribute to USAID Liberia Economic Policy Dialogue Activity (LEPDA) project which aims to strengthen the policy-making capacity within the Government of Liberia (GOL) and facilitate the designed and implementation of specific reforms to promote private sector-led, broad-based economic growth and development. The study additionally seeks to contribute to the achievement of LEPDA’s goals and two of three main objectives set as follow:



- establishment and implementation of a framework to promote reforms in specific areas, with focus on improving the business climate, increasing domestic revenues, and supporting private-sector development;
- strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to conduct robust policy analysis as “think tanks” while increasing citizen participation and advocacy in the policy-making arena, leading them to be more effective partners in the overall policymaking process in Liberia.

The desk review is part of series of research and other advocacy activities planned and agreed to be implemented as part of the PaSD/LEPDA memorandum of Agreement Reference #ADI-72066919-C-00003 signed with PaSD.

The context of WASH development and operations in Liberia the study focused on included national and international guidelines, policies, and frameworks; status of present and past work accomplishments on WASH development interventions in Liberia; Government and donor expenditure on WASH interventions; potential opportunities for market development in the WASH Sector; and critical policy concerns for improvement in the WASH Sector. Lack of uniformed data on WASH public expenditure and fragmentation of institutions across the Sector were major challenge for the study and remains as well for the sector because there is no defined



baseline and reliable data point. However, for the purpose of the survey, premium was placed on primary data gathered from the field for the study. As the study also seeks to assess the potential for market development within the WASH Sector, there are no defined price indexes for WASH services across the Country which makes it difficult to monetize such development. However, proxy data from other geographies were used as reference point in this context.

The study is limited to six viable economic areas (County Capitals) of Liberia's fifteen counties (Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Bong, Maryland and Nimba). Movement accessibility, population size, presumptive WASH business potential etc were other factors that were considered.

The study including Focus Group Discussions, survey, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Desk Review which are expected to be conducted over a maximum period of 100 days. Meanwhile, during this reporting period, only one component of the study was completed and the remaining are expected to be completed by 2022. The Desk Review which is completed in 2021 was conducted over a period of 21 days including 3 days for gathering of related documents, 4 days indoor review related literatures and analysis sessions, 10 days outdoor and email outreach fact finding missions, and 4 days information and data consolidation sessions to derive the final draft report.

Summary of findings

- Generally, data and information on WASH in Liberia are found to be fragmented, limited to sector need, no centralized point of management and shearing. Particularly, there is no trace of data and information on the level of private sector involvement, revenue generation potential and sources to inform private sector investment.
- The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) Aid Management Department system of tracking aid flow doesn't have mechanism for tracing WASH Aid flow. Therefore, there isn't Realtime and genuine means of accessing information on WASH Funding attracted into the country by development partners. There is no mandate from senior officials of government in line with the Freedom of Information Law to the disposal of junior officials to grant non-state actors' access to WASH finances management platform and information. This largely impeded the study efforts to gather WASH public financing information related to allocation, disbursement, expenditure and audit.

- Recent estimates produced by the World Bank (Hutton & Varughese, 2016) suggest that Liberia must invest about 8.33 percent of its current GDP, or USD 201 million per year (2015 prices), to achieve SDGs 6.1 and 6.2 by 2030. Over the period FY2012-17, the Sector Investment Plan estimated funding needs of approximately USD 120 million per year to stay on track for the access targets set by the Government's Agenda for Transformation (MPW, 2013, p. 13). However, over our period of review, annual government and donor budget disbursements are nowhere close to meeting either the national or international targets and are only at around USD 37 million per year.

Recommendation(s)

- There is a need for the establishment, equipment and operationalization of an online and offline one-stop-shop unify WASH data and information management, storage and dissemination center under the stewardship of the National WASH Commission.
- MFDP Aid Management Department aid tracker mechanism must have to be remodel to disaggregate data and information by sector rather than the traditionally use methods which are not WASH sensitive while additionally, there is a need for training on MFDP Aid Management Department personnel on WASH data and information gathering and management.
- There is serious need for increase public financing in a clear and disaggregated budget lines by water, sanitation, waste management, hygiene and human resources services and institution of monitoring mechanism tailor financing targets per the relevant public institutions in the National Budget law, IFMIS system and MFDP Aid Management Tracker and NASHC regulatory system.
- There is serious need for WASH services to be commercialized to some extent to ensure sustainability, efficiency and access is reach to the most needed and major water resources users should compensate for water pollution and extraction through payment of license fees and construction of public facilities. In this regard, NASHC should work with the relevant WASH MACs to subdivide Liberia into WASH Economic Zones, identify private sector entities, grant each private sector entity legal permit to deliver services in specific zone of jurisdiction bearing in minds that various MACs fees shall be paid by the private sector entity and that WASH is a human rights issue, therefore user fees should be reasonable.

1.9 Action for Accelerating Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Policy Implementation II (AASPI):

Under the Project AASPI II, with funding support from AmplifyChange, a British Charity, PaSD planned and implemented several activities notable among which included but were not limited to Information Gathering and Documentation exercise, two days technical working sessions to develop factsheet and briefing paper, skills building training workshops to increase the knowledge of CSOs and CBOs in three counties, budget tracking, lobby meeting, petition actions, dialogues, awareness creation about SRHR, FGM, Rape, SEA, SGBV, GBV and media campaigns as follow:

Information Gathering and Documentation Working Session to Develop SRHR Factsheet and Briefing Paper

The information gathering and documentation exercise created the space for civil society to review various policy documents and other relevant information sources on SRHR, rape, SEA, SGBV and FGM, RMNCH and data collected were developed into factsheet and briefing paper that were used



to inform policy, financing and service access advocacy engagements. One fact sheet on SRHR global and national policy commitments, targets, and goals, financing projection, allocations and activities was developed. One briefing paper on FGM, rape, SEA, SGBV issues in the three project counties and accompany economic, social and health implications was also developed and these documents were used to inform the creation of behavior change communication and influencing awareness and education.

Relevant reports and documents from which information were gathered included but were not limited to: The Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development; the Investment Case for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health 2016/ 2020; expired Roadmap

for the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Morbidity and Mortality in Liberia 2007/2015; the Domestic Violence Bill; the National Health Financing Policy Plan; Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Annual SBV Statistical Reports 2016, 2017 and 2018, national budgets from 2018 to 2021 fiscal years. Additionally, our program team make use of the internet through google search to fetch key national, international, regional and global policies, commitments, declarations which included UN Sustainable Development Goal 2030; Family Planning 2020; Africa Health Strategy; the Paris Declaration; Mabutu Call to Action; UN Secretary General Global Strategy for RMNCH Accountability and every woman, every child initiative.

The two (2) Days Working Session on information analysis, documentation and consolidation into the factsheet and briefing paper took place in the Conference Room of PaSD at J. Mack Kollie Compound, 72nd SKD Boulevard in Paynersville City. The event started from the 19th and ended on the 20th of August 2021, the session lasted for 4 hours 30mins each day and brought together 30 participants, 12 males representing 40% and 18 females representing 60% drawn from National NGOs, civil society, faith-based, community-based, women and youth organizations, universities student's leaders and the media.

During the Two-Days Working Session, an hour-long overview of the AASPI 2 Project presentation was made by Mr. David P. Flomo, Acting National Executive Director of PaSD outlining the objectives, goals, scope of the project, targeted stakeholders and beneficiaries, project duration, project cost which deepened and informed attendants' participation. Additionally, through the

working session participants researched, reviewed, identified, summarized and documented key national, regional and global commitments, policies and coverage on SRHR, maternal, newborn, and child health issues with the guidance and supervision of a knowledgeable and experienced consultant.

CSOs/CBOs Skills Building Training Workshop

The skills building workshop increase civil society, community based, women, youths and coalition organizations knowledge in contemporary methods of advocacy engagement in the areas of communication, lobby, policy analysis, budget tracking, and how to utilize the attending data and



information in advocacy and engagement in support of ending rape, sexual exploitation and abuse, female genital mutilation, sexual gender-based violence, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health gaps.

The Training Workshop took place in the four project counties of Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu and Lofa and lasted for two days each, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily. The training workshops brought together the

total of 92 participants including local government authorities, civil society, community, faith-based organizations, women, youth and traditional groups, students' leaders, and the media, 37 were males representing 40.2% and 55 were female representing 59.8%. There was disparity in gender participation on the average across the 4 counties; female participation acceded male participation by 18 constituting 19.5%. Additionally, the 92 participants received 130 copies of SRHR, FGM, SEA, SGBV issues Factsheet, 69 copies of the presentations.

The training workshop in Montserrado County took place at the Devine Fingers Conference Hall on the 72nd Boulevard Road, Paynersville City and was conducted for two days from October 18-19, 2021, 5 hours each day and was attended by 20 persons, 8 males representing 40 % while 12 females represent 60%. There was gender disparity in participation; female participation acceded male participation by 12 which constitute 20% difference. In Lofa County, the training workshop took place at the HE for SHE Conference Hall in Voinjama City and was conducted for two days from October 8-9, 2021, 4 hours each day and was attended by 27 persons, 13 were males representing 48.1% and 14 were females representing 51.9%. There was gender disparity in participation; female participation acceded male participation by 1 which constitute 3.7% difference. Additionally, the training workshop in Gbarpolu County, the training workshop took place at the Gbarpolu County service Center Conference Hall in Bopolu City and was conducted for two days from January 10-11, 2022, 5 hours each day and was attended by 20 persons, 9 were males representing 45% and 11 were females representing 55%.

There was gender disparity in participation; female participation exceeded male participation by 2 which constitute 10% difference. In Grand Bassa County, the training workshop took place at the Bassa Youth Caucus Conference Hall in Buchanan City and was conducted for two days from November 5-6, 2021, 5 hours each day and was attended by 25 persons, 18 were females representing 72 % and while the remaining 7 were males representing 28%. There was gender disparity in participation; female participation exceeded male participation by 11 which constitute 44% difference.

Through the training workshop, PaSD hired four (4) facilitators. The facilitators developed training lessons tailor towards training needs of beneficiaries and the 4-facilitator worked across the four project counties and facilitated the training workshop. There were seven (7) presentations developed and used across the four counties. The seven presentations were developed and delivered in four areas relevant to the attainment of project which included Government of Liberia & partners' roadmap on ending SGBV, Advocacy Skills Building Workshop Budget Tracking, Community Monitoring and Reporting An Introduction to the Methodology, Presentation on SRHR, RMNCH, GEWE & EVAWG, Policies and Data, Advocacy Campaign Planning and Techniques, Advocacy Lobby Planning and Techniques and Presentation on the project activities, objectives and targeted goal.



During the training workshop in the four project counties, PaSD program team along with the program focus persons reactivated the three existing coalitions including Gbarpolu, Montserrado and Lofa and established additional one coalition in Grand Bassa County through the development, validation and signing of four separate Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs). The objective of the four coalitions is to sustain advocacy on the project core issues at the national and local levels during and after the project implementation.

Additionally, each coalition developed separate advocacy strategy plan containing their respective coalitions' objectives, targeted stakeholders and their power leverage, roles and responsibilities, allies and partners, activities and outputs, timelines. After the reactivation and establishment of the respective coalitions, four separate position statements were also developed, validated and presented to the public through press conference. The position statements outlined the coalitions' objectives, positions on sexual reproductive health (rape, SGBV, SEA and FGM) and reproductive, maternal newborn, child health.

Prior to the conduct of the CBOs/CSOs Skill Building Workshop in the four project counties, PaSD program team recruited training beneficiaries through the conduct of training need assessments in

Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa and Lofa Counties respectively. PaSD program team worked with the established community-based organization coalitions in the four project counties and identified relevant civil society and community-based organizations working on sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health issues. Through the needs assessment and recruitment exercises, over 81 civil society and community-based organizations 20 in Montserrado, 20 in Gbarpolu, 25 in Grand Bassa and 27 in Lofa were identified.

After identifying the beneficiaries in each of the project counties, PaSD program team developed training needs assessment tools. The tools were used to evaluate recruited beneficiaries to determine their level of understanding of SRHR, RMNCH, FGM, SEA, SGBV, Rape issues and the level of their skills in various advocacy areas. During the training need assessment, it was established that majority of recruited beneficiaries in 3 out of the 4 counties had appreciable knowledge at different levels on SRHR, FGM, SEA, SGBV, Rape, RMNCH issues while one had limited knowledge on the project focus area and the level of their skills in various advocacy areas, based on the result, our program team concluded on the various areas and levels of training facilitators delivered on trainings. Additionally, based on the training need assessment, 20% theory and 80% practical training approach were adopted by facilitators and delivered.

Two Days Budget Tracking Working Session

The Budget Tracking Specific Working Session presented the forum at which civil society tracked the Government of Liberia past and current National Budgets 2018 to 2021 health allocations, analyzed health policy documents and identify health financing trends, targets, gaps and develop a briefing paper that informed advocacy engagements.



The 2 Days Budget Tracking Session was held in PaSD Conference Room, 72nd Boulevard, J. Mack Kollie Compound, Paynersville City. The sessions were conducted for 2 days started October 11 and ended October 12, 2021 and lasted for 5 hours 45 minutes each day. The working session brought together 10 participants, 6 males representing 60% and 4 females representing 40%. Participants were drawn from civil society, community-based organizations, women and youth groups and the media. There was gender disparity in participation, male participation acceded female participation by 20% which constitutes 20% difference.

Before the start of the 2 days budget tracking session, PaSD and collaborating organizations program team developed budget tracking and information gathering tools and documented information gathered in a matrix form which outlined budget years, total national budget per period, total health allocations per year, Every Woman Every Child Initiative 10% RMNCH target and the 15% Investment Case Target. Those tools were used

to track require information from 2018 to 2021 National Budget health allocations, every Woman Every Child Initiative 10% health budget target, the National Health Financing Policy Plan 2016/2021 funding target, the expired Roadmap for the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn morbidity and mortality in Liberia 2007/2015 funding target, the Investment Case for Accelerating Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in Liberia 2016/2020 funding targets and the Global Financing Facility (GFF).

Through the 2 day budget tracking sessions, participants researched, tracked, analyzed, summarized national budget health allocations focus on sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, rape, sexual exploitation and abuse, female genital mutilation and documented gathered information or statistics from 2018 to 2021 into a briefing paper. At the conclusion of the budget tracking session, a press statement was developed, adopted by participants and presented to the press proving Government of Liberia non-compliance to national, regional and global health policies, commitments, declarations that the country acceded or is signatory to. The statement additionally outlined health financing gaps identified during the session and proffer appropriate recommendations to mitigate those problems. Madam. Jannet O. Paye, Executive Director, Women Care Initiative (WOICI) read and presented the press statement to the press on behalf of the participating organizations.

Influencing Lobby Meetings

The meetings provided the platform where civil society influenced targeted stakeholders' policy decision in support of reproductive, maternal, new-born, child Health, sexual health right. Additionally, those meetings accorded civil society the space to influence full implementation of PADP gender component, increased National Budget 2021/2022 allocations to RMNCH and SRHR programs, processes leading to the development of a new roadmap for the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity to replace the expired roadmap of 2007-2015 and to accelerate processes leading to the development of a new regime of the Investment Case for Accelerating Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health 2015/2021.



One Group Lobby Meeting took place at the Conference Room Gbarpolu County Service Center in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County. The meeting which brought together key stakeholders of Gbarpolu County local authority and it was held on the January 7, 2021 and lasted for 2 hours 15 minutes. Participants at the meeting were ten (10) stakeholders 8 males representing 80% and 2 females representing 20%. There was gender disparity in participation, male participation acceded female participation by 6 which constitute 60% difference.

Gbarpolu County Local Authority: Mr. Anthony Yorkor Assistant Superintendent for Fiscal Affairs, madam. Nelly Kamara Commander of the Liberia National Police Women and Children Protection Section Gbarpolu County detachment, Mr. Jusu M. Kiadii Commander of the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency Gbarpolu County detachment, Mr. Mark M. Nimely Acting County Health Officer and TB&HIV focus person on the Gbarpolu County Health Team, Mr. James Q. Gbarto Data Manager of the Gbarpolu County Health Team, Madam. Lydia V. Ballah County Coordinator of the Liberia Crusader for Peace and County Chair Person of the Civil Society Council of Liberia, Mr. Zinnah Konah Secretary to the Bopolu County City Mayor, Worbo J. namah EDC Coordinator & Surveillance Officer of the County Health Team and Mr. Mustapha Y. Massaquoi Special Aid to the Gbarpolu County Superintendent.

During the meeting with the local stakeholders, PaSD program team and program focus persons of the collaborating Coalitions presented information and data documented in the briefing paper and factsheets developed from the outcome of the working sessions to inform their decisions and planning on SRHR, RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, Rape and RMNCH FGM issues during the Government of Liberia National Budget 2021/2022 preparation, approval processes and implementation. Additionally, during the meeting, civil society had the space to discuss, dialogue and agreed with local authorities on workable solutions on the core project issues, proffered recommendations to mitigate gasps.



At the one-day group meeting, Assistant Superintendent for Fiscal Affairs, Mr. Anthony Yorkor, appreciated PaSD and collaborating organizations efforts and acknowledged that recommendations proffered by teams are very important in the interest of the Liberian people. He also added that there is a need for political will from national leaders in resolving this national crisis. He promised to rally his colleagues' lawmakers to ensure that recommendations proffered are implemented. Mr. Yorkor also noted that there is a need for the Health Ministry to renew roadmap because the PADP health component on RMNCH cannot be achieve without a new version road map and he then promised to mobilize Health Ministry stakeholders and other relevant actor to in the health sector to implement recommendations proffered

Mr. Mark M. Nimely Acting County Health Officer and TB&HIV focus person on the Gbarpolu County Health Team thanked PaSD for the research and said that the meeting is timely because the Draft 2022/2023 National Budget has already been submitted to the National Legislature for passage into law and with this advocacy there is a need for increase allocation to the health budget. He added by saying that the Gbarpolu County Health Team is currently running on performance-based financing due to the lack of adequate support.

One Group Lobby Meeting took place in the Development Superintendent's office in the Administrative Building of Grand Bassa County. The meeting which brought together key stakeholders of Grand Bassa County local authorities was held on the January 7, 2022 and lasted for 1 hour 15 minutes. The meeting brought together eight (8) stakeholders. Four (4) of the participants were 4 males representing 50% and four (4) were 4 females representing 50%. There was no gender disparity in participation.

Grand Bassa County Local Authorities: Hon. Flee A. Glay-Development Superintendent, Mrs. Yassah V. Sumo-District Health Officer, Madam Monigo Sorwor- Social Worker of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection (MGCSP)-Grand Bassa Chapter.

During the meeting with the local stakeholders, PaSD program team presented information and data documented in the briefing paper and factsheets developed from the outcome of the working sessions to inform their decisions and planning on SRHR, RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, Rape and RMNCH FGM issues during the Government of Liberia National Budget 2021/2022 preparation, approval processes and implementation. Additionally, during the meeting, Grand Bassa civil Coalition members had the opportunity to discuss, dialogue and agreed with decision makers' on workable solutions on the core project issues, proffered recommendations to mitigate gaps.

At the One Day Group Lobby Meeting, Hon. Flee A. Glay-Development Superintendent of Grand Bassa County, appreciated PaSD and collaborating organizations efforts and acknowledged that recommendations proffered by teams are very important and will help improve SRHR and RMNCH programmes in Grand Bassa County and Liberia at large. He vowed to rally with his colleagues' lawmakers to ensure that recommendations proffered are implemented. Hon. Glay further stated that there is a need for the expired Roadmap for the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Mobility in Liberia which sought to create an enabling environment at all levels of the health care delivery system to support Maternal Newborn Health services to be speedily re-new.

Madam Yassa V. Sumo- District Health Officer of Grand Bassa County Health Team appreciated PaSD team and other collaborating CSOs for the effort and the initiative taken. She further stated that she and other relevant health stakeholders will influence national health authorities to meet the realization of the 10% allocation of the health budget to rape, Female Genital Mutilation, maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and adolescent health in adherence to every woman, every child initiative or the international conventional mandate of which Liberia had committed itself to.



One Group Lobby Meeting took place at the conference room of HE 4 SHE office in Voinjama City, Lofa County. The meeting which brought together key stakeholders of Lofa County local authority and CSOs and was held on the January 24, 2022 and lasted for 1 hours 30 minutes. Participants at the meeting were three (3) stakeholders 2 males representing 66.67% and 1 females representing 33.33%. There was gender disparity in participation, male participation acceded female participation by 1 which constitute 33.33% difference.

Lofa County Local Authorities: Mr. Alexander H. Kollie-Social Welfare Supervisor and acting Coordinator of the Ministry of Gender, Children, Social Protection (MOGSP) and Mr. Eric S. Kollie, SHE for SHE Assistant Coordinator and Mr. Saah Korvah Deputy Commander Operation of the Liberia National Police Women and Children protection Section Lofa County Detachment.

During the meeting with the local stakeholders, PaSD program team presented information and data documented in the briefing paper and factsheets developed from the outcome of the working sessions to inform their decisions and planning on SRHR, RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, Rape and FGM issues during the Government of Liberia National Budget 2022/2023 preparation, approval processes and implementation. Additionally, during the meeting, members of the Lofa county civil Coalition had the opportunity to discuss, dialogue and agreed with decision makers' on workable solutions on the core project issues, proffered recommendations to mitigate gaps.

At the group Lobby Meeting, Mr. Alexander H. Kollie-Social Welfare Supervisor and acting Coordinator of the Ministry of Gender, Children, Social Protection (MOGSP) appreciated PaSD and collaborating organizations for organizing the One Day Group Lobby meeting and said that recommendations proffered by the teams are in the interest of the Liberian people. He also added that there is a need for increase budget allocation to the Ministry of Gender which will help in resolving problems within the health sector. He promised to rally with others in sector to ensure the full implementation of recommendations proffered by the team.

One Group Lobby Meeting took place at the conference room of the Speaker of the House of Representation on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, Montserrado County. The meeting which brought



together key stakeholders of Montserrado County Legislature and CSOs and was held on January 13, 2022 and lasted for 2 hours. There were forty (40) stakeholders' 31 males representing 77.5% and 22 females representing 55%. There was gender disparity in participation, male participation acceded female participation by 3 which constitute 60% difference.

Montserrado County Local Authorities: Hon. Joseph M. Matthew Representative of District #2 Gbarpolu County, Hon. Hon. Ivar K. Jones Representative of District #2 Margibi County, Mr. Chester M. Dennis, Secretary General of the Civil Society Network for Universal Health Coverage (CSNUHC), Hon. Thomas P. Falllah, Representative of District #5 Montserrado County and Mrs. Jannet O. Paye, Executive Director of the Women Care initiative (WOCI).

During the meeting with these relevant legislative committee officials and members, the project influencing team presented information on Liberia's National Budget (2021-2022) Health allocations, national and global health commitments, policies and declarations on core project focus issues (SGBV, SEA, Rape, FGM, RMNCH) documented in the briefing paper and factsheets developed out of data from the various working sessions. Additionally, the program team informed lawmakers on problems, challenges and financing gaps of the health sector and recommended to them the appropriate policy and financing solutions to mitigate the gaps.

The campaigners called for the creation of a clear and disaggregated budget lines for RMNCH through allocation of 10% of the health budget to RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, Rape and FGM programs. Additionally, calls were advanced for government to ensure the development of a new roadmap for the reduction of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality in Liberia to replace the expired 2007 to 2015 version and accelerate processes leading to the development of a new regime Investment Case for Accelerating Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and call was made for the Legislature to passed into law the Domestic Violence Bill.

The campaigners shared with the legislators factsheet on SGBV, SEA, Rape, FGM and Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, copy of the expired roadmap for the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Morbidity and Mortality in Liberia 2007/2015, the Investment Case for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health accompanied with and made references to others relevant national, international, regional and global documents, commitments, policies and declarations on SRHR and RMNCH. The purpose of sheering these 10 documents was to inform the legislator's decision making and to serve as resource material that they can reference from time to time in their oversight role on the executive Branch of the Liberian Government.

During the meeting, the Health Committee Chairman, Rep. Joseph N. Somwarbi, appreciated PaSD and collaborating organizations efforts and acknowledged that recommendations proffered by PaSD and collaborating organizations are in the interest of the Liberian people. He promised to rally his colleagues' lawmakers to ensure the recommendations proffered are implemented. Hon. Somwarbi also noted that there is a need for the Health Ministry to develop a new roadmap because the PADP health component on RMNCH cannot be met without a version and he then promised to invite officials of the Health Ministry to ask why since the expiration of the roadmap the Ministry has not developed a new one.

Rep. Julie F. Wiah, Chairperson on Gender and Child Development Committee at the House of Representatives thanked PaSD for the research and said that the meeting is timely because the 2022 Draft National Budget is already been submitted to the Liberian Senate for passage into law. She said while it is true that there are competing priorities, the issues of health specifically Maternal and Newborn Health should be giving serious attention. She promised to work with her colleagues' lawmakers to ensure MNCH, SGBV, SEA, FGM, Rape issues are addressed and she informed the meeting participants that the Domestic Violence Bill will be passed into law the following week of the event.

Fourteen (14) Individual lobby meetings were conducted at both the county levels with individual Local Government Authorities. Stakeholders who have the power to affect the realization of the project objectives that were targeted for the meetings were 23, nineteenth (19) males representing 82.6% and four (4) females representing 17.4%. There was gender disparity in participation, male participation acceded female participation by 15 which constitute 65.2% difference. The 14 lobby meetings with individual decision makers were facilitated by a team of 8 campaigners.

Local Government (Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Iofa and Montserrado)- In Gbarpolu County four (4) individual lobby meetings held, The 1st was held with the Development Superintendent Mr. Joseph B. Akoi, 2nd was held with commander of the Gbarpolu County Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police Madam. Nelly Kamara, 3rd was held with the resident District Education Officer Mr. Latta V. Bemah and 4th was held with the Bopolu District Health Officer. In Grand Bassa County four individual lobby meetings was held. 1st was held with the Development Superintendent Hon. Flee A. Glay, The 2nd was held with gender coordinator of Grand Bassa County Madam Nettie Doepoe, 3rd was held with the office of the Development Superintendent the project planner of Grand Bassa County Mr. Christian S. Logan, the 4th was held with the commander of the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police Grand Bassa County Detachment Mrs. Comfort D. Sarkie,.

The second badge of individual lobby meetings was held in Iofa and Montserrado counties. In Iofa County two (2) individual lobby meetings was held. The 1st was held with Madam Cecelia K. Howard and Mr. Richard A. Mulbah Commander and Deputy Commander of the Liberia National Police Women and Children Protection Section Iofa County detachment, the 2nd was held with Mr. Johnson S. T. Ndupellar at the office of the county information officer to the Superintendent and Development Superintendent of Iofa County. In Montserrado County, two individual lobby meetings was held. The 1st was held with Tarnue Kollie Gomo-Acting Gender Coordinator of MoGCSP while the 2nd was held with Mr. Jeff Mewon Executive Secretary from the House of Representative of the Republic of Liberia respectively.

During these meetings with these national and local stakeholders, our team presented information and data documented in the briefing paper and factsheets developed from the outcomes of the various working sessions to inform their decisions and planning on SGBV, SEA, Rape, FGM and RMNCH issues during the Government of Liberia National Budget 2018/2021 preparation, approval processes and implementation. Additionally, during those meetings, civil society had the space discussed, dialogue and agreed with decision makers' workable solutions on the project core project issues, proffered recommendations to mitigate gasps.

Petition Action and Grassroots Mobilization

Objective: The objective of the petition ceremony sought to demand local and national authorities policy decisions and actions to promote RMNCH and SRHR, county health team to influence national government to develop a new roadmap on RMNCH and SRHR and to accelerate processes



leading to the development of a new regime of the expired Investment Case of 2021 on Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child Health, Sexual Reproductive Health Right (SRHR and RMNCH) and reduction of harmful traditional practices related to sexual and reproductive health.

Sub-activity 6.1 Development of Petition Statements and Mobilization of Petitioners (Montserrado, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa and Lofa). Petition Statement Development-Before the conduct of the five petition actions in the four project counties, PaSD and collaborating organizations held specific working sessions to develop the petition statements. A committee of five

was constituted to consolidate the information agreed in the working session into statement and the draft were widely circulated to various civil society organizations for input before adoption.

Several informative materials or papers were consulted in the development of the statements including briefing papers, factsheets, current and past National Budgets 2018 to 2021, Liberia

Health Financing Policy Plan, the Investment Case for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health in Liberia, the expired Roadmap for the Reduction Maternal and Newborn Morbidity and Mortality in Liberia 2007/2015, the Abuja Declaration, Every Woman Every Child Initiative which demand countries to spend at least 10% of the National Health Budget to Maternal Newborn Child Health, UN Sustainable Development Goal 2030 and the Global Health Financing facility under the stewardship of the World Bank.

Five Petition Action-The 5 Petition Actions took place in the four project counties, two took place in Montserrado, one in Gbarpolu, one in Grand Bassa and one in Lofa. The 5 petition actions were attended by the total of 391 participants 232 were males representing 59.33% and 159 were female representing 40.67% which included national and local officials of the Government of Liberia, civil society, community and faith-based organizations, women, youth and traditional groups, students' leaders, community leaders and dwellers, the media and other relevant stakeholders of the four project counties. There were gender disparity in participation across the three counties, generally male participation acceded female participation by 73 constituting 18.67%.



The five petition actions took place at the Ministry of Health, at the National Legislature in Monrovia, Gbarpolu at the Grounds of the Administrative Building in Bopolu City, Grand Bassa County at the Administrative Building in Buchanan City and Lofa County at the Grounds of the Administrative Building in Voinjema City. Through the five petition actions, the 5 separate and uniform petition statements developed during the working session were presented on five separate dates in the four counties to national and local authorities respectively. The petition statements outlined citizens 'demands for their sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health rights with heavy concentration on maternal, sexual, reproductive health, SGBV, SEA, Rape and FGM. The statements among other things call for:

- The Ministry of Health should ensure that 10% of the Health Budget is allocated to rape, Female Genital Mutilation, maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and adolescent health in adherence to every woman, every child initiative or the international conventional mandate of which Liberia has acceded to
- The Ministry of Health should commence the necessary process leading to the development of a new regime of the expiring Investment Case of 2021. adherence to the Abuja Declaration and reflect clear disaggregated lines on rape, Female Genital Mutilation, maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and adolescent health
- The National Legislature should begin taking steps to ensure that the health component of the proposed 2023 National Budget and onward is increased to reflect the projections in Investment Case

- Ensure the Ministry of Health should accelerate processes leading to the development of a new roadmap for the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity to replace the expired roadmap of 2007-2015 version
- Executive Branch of Government should ensure the full implementation of the domestic violence bill



Two of the petition actions took place at the National Legislature and the Ministry of Health jointly on the December 16, 2021 and those petition statements were by Mr. Alieu M. Fahnbulleh, Program Officer of PaSD and Mr. Thomas B. Sellie, Communication and Advocacy Officer of PaSD read and presented petition statement on behalf of the petitioners to Mrs. Bento Z. Tehmngue Director of the Family Health Division of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia and Mr. Dennis Paye the chief of office staffs of Hon. Gunpur L. Kargon Chair on Claims and Petitions and Mr. Jeff Mewon Executive Secretary broth from the House of Representative of the Republic of Liberia.

The two-petition action in Montserrado County was attended by over 200 petitioner's 127 males representing 63.5% and 73 females representing 36.5%. One in Gbarpolu County on the 10th of

January 2022 at the Grounds of the Administrative Building in Bopolu City and Student and Adolescent girls advocate Princess K. Bainda of the Bopolu Central High school (BCHS) read and presented petition statement on behalf of the petitioners to Mr. Beyan S. Siryon, Secretary to the Superintendent of Gbarpolu County. The petition action in Gbarpolu County was attended by over 50 petitioner's 20 males representing 40% and 30 females representing 60%.

Another one took place in Lofa County at the Grounds of the Administrative Building in Voinjema City and attended by 50 petitioners, 32 males representing 64% and 18 females representing 36%. Mr. Losene M. Sheriff, Program Assistant of He 4 SHE read and presented petition statement on behalf of the petitioners to Alexander H. Kollie, Ministry of Gender Social Welfare Supervisor of Lofa County. Additionally, another petition action took place at the Grounds of the Administrative Building in Buchanan City and was attended by 50 participants. The statement was read by Mr. James L. King, Executive Director of United Youth for Positive Change on behalf of the petitioners to Hon. Flee A. Glay, Development Superintendent of Grand Bassa County.

After the conduct of the first five (5) petition actions at the county level and on the grounds of the Ministry of Health and the National Legislature, PaSD program team and collaborating civil society organizations were timely in planning and implementing the advocacy actions. Within that time the Executive had just presented the draft National Budget 2023 for it passages. Upon receipt of the various petition statements, national and local stakeholders made the following statements:

Key Quotes:

- ✓ Hon. Flee A. Glay, the Development Superintendent of Grand Bassa County appreciated the petitioners for the initiative and promised to present the statement to his colleagues that

were not present. He also said; “while it is true that the issue of sexual reproductive health right is a challenge, there have been some work done through the county health team to improve the situation and further praise the CSOs of Grand Bassa County for their continuous advocacy around RMNCH and SRHR. He stated that the local authorities will accept the petition and will do everything to look into recommendations made by citizens and CSOs of the county in finding solution to this problem;

- ✓ Mr. Dennis Paye the chief of office staffs of Hon. Gunpur L. Kargon Chair on Claims and Petitions, welcomed the initiative and promised to present the statement to his boss for onward presentation to the National Legislature as required by their rules. He also said; “while it is true that there



are competing priorities and budgetary constraints, the issues of health are important more especially maternal, newborn, child health because mothers go to give birth and there is a situation that we lost the child or the mother, he also added that rape, female genital mutilation (FGM) and violence against women, children and girls are serious threat to our country and promise that the house accept the petition and will do everything to look into recommendations;

- ✓ Mr. Beyan S. Siryon, Secretary to the Superintendent of Gbarpolu County, appreciated the petitioners for the initiative and promised to present the statement to his boss and he believe that action will be taking by local authority to address petitioners’ demand. He also said; “while it is true that the issue of sexual reproductive health right is a challenge, there have been some work done through the county health team to improve the situation. At which time some volunteers were trained to create awareness in some hard-to-reach areas and promise that the local authorities will accept the petition and will do everything to look into recommendations made by the petitioners;
- ✓ Mr. Alexander H. Kollie, Ministry of Gender Social Welfare Supervisor of Lofa County, appreciated the petitioners for the initiative and promised to present the statement to his colleagues that were not present. He also said; “while it is truth that the issue of sexual reproductive health right is a challenge, there have been some work done in the county to improve the situation and further embraced CSOs of Lofa County for their continuous advocacy around RMNCH and SRHR. He also stated that local authorities will accept the petition and will do everything to act on petitioners’ recommendations;

- ✓ Mrs. Bonto Z. Tehmngue Director of the Family Health Division of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Liberia, Mrs. Tehmngue welcome and appreciated PaSD and collaborating civil society organizations for the vibrant petition and she also stated that the PaSD is not alone in this fight and the petition is timely. She further stated that efforts have been applied on the expired Roadmap for the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Mobility in Liberia 2007/2015 and the expiring 2016/2021 Investment Case on SRHR and RMNCH. The 2016/2021 Liberia Investment Case for Accelerating Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health was developed in consideration of issues that were not achieved in the expired 2007/2015 Roadmap immediately after its expiration in 2015. She also disclosed to CSOs that there are several strategic documents that have been developed as the result of the 2007/2015 Roadmap which has translated into the 2016/2021 Investment Case which several CSOs were part of the development process and She also stated that Liberia is not only part of the Abuja Declaration but she is also a member of an international board on Primary Maternal New-born Child Health (PMNCH Board) which objective is to resolve member countries issues that international organization can assist with;

Awareness Creation

The awareness creation set the stage whereby the understanding of local community dwellers on issues affecting promotion of RMNCH and SRHR programs, county health team to influence national government to develop the new roadmap on RMNCH and SRHR and to accelerate processes leading to the development of a new regime of the expired Investment Case of 2021 on Reproductive, Maternal, New-born Child Health, Sexual Reproductive Health Right (SRHR and RMNCH).

Seven (7) Days of Awareness Creation outreaches were planned and implemented From January 7, 2022 to January 28, 2022 aimed at increasing the understanding and influencing behavior change among local population on issues that undermine policies, financing and access to services related to reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, sexual health and rights. The seven (7) Awareness Creation meetings brought together one hundred and eighty-two (182) participants. One hundred and thirty (135) of the participants were males representing 74.2% and forty-seven (47) were females representing 25.8%. There was gender disparity in participation across the four counties, generally male participation acceded female participation by 88 constituting 48.4%.

Before the conduct of the Seven (7) Awareness Creation ceremonies in Grand Bassa County, PaSD and collaborating organizations held specific working sessions in the four project counties to develop presentations. A committee of four was constituted to consolidate information agreed during the working session into presentations and the draft were widely circulated to various collaborating civil society organizations for input before adoption. Several informative materials or papers were consulted in the development of the presentations including briefing papers, factsheets, current and past National Budgets 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2021/2021, the expired Investment Case for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health in Liberia 2016/2021, the expired Roadmap for the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Morbidity and Mortality in Liberia 2007/2015, the Abuja Declaration, Every Woman Every Child Initiative which demand countries to spend at least 10% of their National Health Budget to Maternal Newborn Child Health, Global Financing Facility under the stewardship of the World Bank and the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2030.

Two of the Awareness Ceremonies took place at the Good Will Intellectual Forum in Buchanan City and Hardlandsville Intellectual Exchange New Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County on the January 7, 2022 and those Awareness Ceremonies was facilitated by Mr. Joe T. Kollie, PaSD Grand Bassa County Coordinator. One Awareness Creation ceremonies brought together sixty (60) women and children rights organizations, civil society organizations, community base organizations, faith base organizations, students, community leaders and dwellers and other relevant stakeholders from both sex, 46 males representing 76.7% and 14.7 females represents 23.3%, one at the Liberty Intellectual Forum in Bopolu City, Gbarpolu County on the January 7, 2022 and was facilitated by Mr. Alieu M. Fahnbulleh, PaSD Program Officer.

Another two Awareness Ceremonies took place at the Madingo Quarter Youth Center Intellectual Forum and Morlubah Keselleh Intellectual Forum on from January 20 – 21, 2022 in Voinjama City, Lofa County with the participations of women and children rights organizations, civil society organizations, community base organizations, faith base organizations, students, community leaders and dwellers and other relevant stakeholders. There were 47 participants in attendance from both sex, 34 males representing 72% and 13 females represents 28%. Additionally, two of the seven (7) Awareness Ceremonies were held in Paynesville and Brewerville Cities, Montserrado County on the 19th & 24th of January 2022 with the participation of 29 male representing 61.7% and 18 female representing 38.3 and the two Awareness Ceremonies were facilitated by Mr. David P. Flomo Executive Director.

During the seven (7) Awareness Creation Ceremonies in four (4) project counties with National and local stakeholders, PaSD program team and program focus persons of the collaborating Coalitions presented information and data documented in the briefing paper and factsheets developed from the outcome of the working sessions to inform their decisions and planning on SRHR, RMNCH, SGBV, SEA, Rape and RMNCH FGM issues during the Government of Liberia National Budget 2021/2022 preparation, approval processes and implementation. Additionally, during the meeting, civil society had the space to discuss, dialogue and agreed with local authorities on workable solutions on the core project issues, proffered recommendations to mitigate gasps.

During the Awareness Creation meetings in four project counties, several remarks were made by stakeholders. Mr. Manyango M. Kromah, secretary of the Good Will Intellectual Forum in Buchanan City, Grand Gassa County welcome and appreciated PaSD and collaborating CSOs for the initiative and urged participants to give their fullest attention various presentations that will be made by the facilitators. He also stated that “sexual reproductive health right is very important to the survivability of every child bearing woman and girl, so there is a serious need for both local and national government authorities to make available all require support which could help in the acceleration of SRHR and RMNCH in Grand Bassa County and Liberia at large”, Mr. Joseph B. McCay moderator of the Liberty Intellectual Forum welcome and appreciated PaSD and collaborating CSOs for the initiative and urged participants to give their fullest attention various presentations made by the facilitators.

He also stated that “sexual reproductive health right is very important to the survivability of every child bearing woman and girl, so there is a serious need for both local and national government authorities to make available all require support which could help in the acceleration of SRHR and RMNCH in Gbarpolu County and Liberia at large”, Mr. Prince K. Tokpah, Care for Life Executive Director stated that the government of Liberia is not adequately supporting maternal child health programs which makes it difficult for the government commitment to reducing the alarming

maternal mortality ratio from 1,072 per 100,000 live birth to 497 per 100,000 live birth in five-year period as clearly defined in the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development by 2023, Mr. Eric K. Zubah, County Coordinator of YOTAN and senior member to the forum stated that national and local authorities will be fully responsible if child bearing mothers continue to die while given birth due of lack of adequate support to the health sector which makes it difficult for the government to meet up with commitment to ensure that 15% of the country's national Budget is allocated health in adherence to the every woman, every child initiative or the international conventional mandate of which Liberia has acceded and Mr. Chester m. Dennis, Secretary General of the Civil society Network for Universal health Coverage (CSNUHC) "The Government of Liberia needs to Ensure that 10% of the Health Budget is allocated to rape, Female Genital Mutilation, maternal, sexual, reproductive, child and adolescent health in adherence to every woman, every child initiative.

2.0 Communication and Media Campaign

Over the reporting period, the PaSD and collaborating GEWE and EVAWG civil society and community-based organization developed and utilized several knowledge product and communication materials in the designed and implementation of the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia project. Knowledge products and communication materials developed and fetched from other sources included fact-sheet on GEWE and EVAWG, training facilitator manual, activity implementation reporting form, training evaluation tool, Media, Civil Society Coordinated Intervention Tracking Tool, the National Health Policy, National Roadmap on the acceleration and reduction of RMNCH HEALTH, the SDGs Goal 5, the National Budget 2019/2020, Liberia's PAPD, MOGCPS 2019 GBV Report.

Links to these communications and knowledge products developed and fetch from other sources over this reporting period are attached as an appendix to this report. Additionally, the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia project were published in several media outlets below:

<https://datapopalliance.org>

<https://land-links.org>

<https://msmagazine.com>

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-partnership-for-sustainable-development-petitions-government-to-end-rape-sexual-based-violence/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ETVBassa/videos/1380323868829867>

<https://www.facebook.com/ETVBassa/videos/318592392588503>

<https://www.facebook.com/wapliberia/videos/2691953031053517>

<https://www.facebook.com/wapliberia/videos/2691874897727997>

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-partnership-for-sustainable-development-petitions-government-to-end-rape-sexual-based->

Challenges encountered over the period of the operational year of the organization and the mitigation measures we instituted over the period under review included but were not limited to the following:

No.	Challenge	Mitigation Measure
01.	Limitation of resources was serious challenge that limited the geographical scope and interventional parameter covered by the organizations in the implementation of activities and this additionally made it difficult if not impossible to implement follow-up actions that were identified towards acceleration of the attainment of goals, objectives and targets	In an effort to ensure limited resources doesn't stop the attainment of organizational and project anticipated goals, objectives, and targets. We strategically targeted geographical and interventional areas that were concentrated on. Our program and advocacy teams ensure that geographical and interventional areas selection process were SMART and took into account global and nationally priority
02.	COVID-19 restriction and the attending funding access limitation were additional challenges	To ensure that the outbreak of the various and the restriction measures that were put into place do not undermine resources mobilization effort, solving many problems and attainment of the organizations and projects objectives. We linked our interventions to COVID, planned and implemented project activities taking into account restriction measures
03.	Various donors have different reporting requirement which are often conflicting and confusing to project implementation staff of PaSD.	To ensure that the conflict and confusion do not negatively impact reporting on project activities, we developed reporting tools unique to each project or donor requirements and conducted training of responsible staff to the use of those tools to report on project activities, challenges, results and opportunities.
04.	Putting communities' dwellers at the center of project planning and implementation to enhance local ownership and sustainability especially considering their capacity gap in programming often slow the attainment of progress.	In an effort to ensure that this approach doesn't stop the attainment of objectives and targets, we planned and implemented sample activities as coaching session to inform and increase the skills of the locals anticipated to be placed in the center of planning and implementation
05.	Getting local county officials, legislators of the counties and community leaders to	To mitigate against turn-up of these important stakeholders, we agreed event

attend events were difficult due to COVID restriction and inaccessibility posture adoption.	dates with stakeholders and utilized COVID friendly approaches such as planning activities taking into account social distancing, utilizing nose masks, etc and conduct of online events. Additionally, key community dwellers and leaders who are themselves influential in project areas and key determiners on which politician get elected were influenced to get involve in effort to secure elected and appointed officials of government attention to project activities.
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5.0 Innovation and Best Practice

Best Practices:

Over the reporting period, during the implementation of the project activities, best practices and innovations employed by PaSD and collaborating organizations program team included the documented narrative as indicted below:

Putting Locals and Vulnerable Targets at the Center of Mobilization and Engagement: Putting local and vulnerable target such as community based women rights organization, girls social clubs, chief, elders, community leaders and dwellers and CSOs network and coalitions at the center of mobilization of targeted beneficiaries, decision makers and implementation of activities was found to be an effective method for the accelerated mobilization of local government officials, targeted beneficiaries, community leaders, community dwellers, CSOs network, CSO coalitions and the media. This best practice and/or strategy had and continue to assist in promoting ownership of the project among the three project counties inhabitants and relevant project context stakeholders.

This also influence local political leaders to develop interest in the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia Project activities, largely because those locals are relevant actors in election decision making and those local political leaders acquire their power and influence through electioneering processes, therefore, local political leaders want to establish positive relationship with the people which could intend pay-off for them in electioneering processes. PaSD and collaborating organizations will replicate this best practice or innovations to related project implementation will share same with peers and colleagues’ civil society to inform the planning and implementation of their institutional specific project and programs. This we believe, will help in a very meaningful way to accelerate the realization of goals, objectives and targets set in project and program design.

Involving the participation of local authorities and leaders of local organizations is vital to achieving project objectives: It has been established that getting leaders of organizations, tribal groups, victims, the media and authorities at the local levels who themselves are believers of tribal norms to agree for reform in traditional believe and engaged them in advocacy and engagement to discourage harmful traditional practice was a vital strategy. The PaSD will continue to replicate this strategy in future project activities and share same with other organization who is involved in similar work.

Using Evidence Based Approaches to Influencing Policy and Behaviour Change: Using Evidence Based Approaches to Influencing Policy and Behaviour Change have been proven to be one of the most effective advocacy methods and procedure to inform engagement advocacy and influence behaviour, social and policy changes. Over this reporting period, the project program and advocacy team have made it a best practice and vital strategy to gather facts and evidence about campaigning issues to inform media engagements, relevant decision makers influencing and to inform the development of key messages using these key messages informed by facts gathered from national and internationally approved sources have been very instrumental in giving credibility to the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia project advocacy and engagement efforts.

This was very vital in influencing the relevant decision maker's interest and positive actions towards GEWE, EVAWG policies, social behaviour changes. Taking facts from national and internationally approved GEWE, EVAWG, SGBV, SEA, FGM, ECM and HTP sources and using those to inform the development of position papers, fact-sheet, pledge cards and policy recommendations tracker instant acceptance from decision makers of the campaign call to action. PaSD and collaborating organizations will replicate this best practice or innovations to implementing activities of future and will share same with pears and colleagues' civil society to inform the planning and implementation of their institutional specific project and programs. This we believe, will help in a very meaning way to accelerate the realization of goals, objectives and targets set in project and program design.

Establishing Networks at the Based and providing them capacity support in the three Project Counties: It has been proven at the local level that establishing networks at the base, providing them capacity support and utilizing those networks in advocacy is an effective means of influencing policy, behaviour and social changes. At the locals, networking and coordination amongst civil society and community-based organizations working to advance GEWE and EVAWG was almost nonexistence in two of the three project counties (Margibi and Grand Bassa), however, as the result of the activities implementation, PaSD program team through the Skill Building Training Workshop established two networks of women and girls rights civil society and community based organizations and revitalized one coalitions in Gbarpolu.

The existence of those networks in the three project counties has established a framework for CSOs advocacy coordination and engagement and has given CSOs the strong leverage to adequately hold decision makers to account, demand proficiency and CSOs participations in various government

and development partners' functions. This has aided the quick mobilization of CSOs to participate in joint advocacy engagements, and the diversity, capacity and individual added value that each CSOs in the network bring to the table has played significant role in the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia project influencing efforts. This diversity and added value brought on the table by each CSOs have also helped in many ways in the achievements of part of the project goal and targets including accessing difficult to reach policy makers, preparation of joint statements, effective preparation of policy brief, attracting government actors attention amongst others.

6.0 Project Results

There are some immediate results of the various projects activities while many of those results as outlined in those projects designs could be realized over a long-term period before they are visible. Immediate results of those projects specific activities are but not limited to the following:

- ✓ Over the project implementation period, over sixty (60) noticeable and inactive women's rights organizations have implemented joint coordinated advocacy efforts in favour of promoting EVAWG and GEWE and to discourage FGM, SEA, Rape and Maternal Deaths. Through coordinated joint advocacy efforts of CSOs networks, youth and women group's, 120 policies recommendations from Multi-stakeholders Dialogue with the participation of women right groups and local authorities and community monitoring and reporting event using score cards have been produced and advanced to decision makers at the national and local levels.
- ✓ Local and National government's officials (Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents for Development, Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection statistician, Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberian National Police, County Health Officers, District Health Officers, County Inspectors, and Assistant Superintendents for Fiscal Affairs, Gender Coordinators and County solicitor of the magisterial courts) attended PaSD events in the three project counties. They made separate commitments to take actions within their individual and collective scopes to improve GEWE and EVAWG policy implementation, increase public financing, create awareness, promote participation and capacity development of women and girls and other non EVAWG and GEWE concentrated organizations.
- ✓ During the implementation period, over sixty (60) Civil society, Community Base and Faith Base organizations working through coalition more effectively conducted joint advocacy initiatives, influenced decision makers through the advancement of at least 202 policies recommendations from Multi-stakeholders Dialogue with the participation of women right groups and local authorities and community monitoring and reporting event using score cards have been produced and advanced to decision makers at the national and local levels in support of GEWE and EVAWG, including SGBV/HP Women and girls' safety, security and human rights.

- ✓ Over 90 (male 41 and female 49) targeted GEWE and EVAWG focused civil society and community based organizations, coalitions of GEWE and EVAWG civil society organizations, local government authorities such as Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents for Development, Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection statistician, County Health Officers, District Health Officers, County Inspectors, and Assistant Superintendents for Fiscal Affairs, Gender Coordinators and County solicitor of the magisterial courts, community dwellers and leaders, the Liberia National Police Women and Children Protection Sections, Umbrella Youth and Women Organizations and the media etc, were informed and knowledge increase about the background of the Campaign to Accelerate Women Rights in Liberia through the UN Women on behalf of Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund project.

- ✓ Due to the significant role played by PaSD and its established coalitions in the three project counties, members of those coalitions' leaderships continue to play administrative and influencing role in the operations of the Sexual Gender Based Violence Taskforces (SGBV Taskforce) of the three project counties. Currently in Gbarpolu the Chair and Co-chair persons of project established and supported coalition are both serving as the chair and secretary of the Gbarpolu county SGBV Taskforce and due to the significant administrative and influencing role played by those executive members, USD \$10.000 was appropriated by local authorities during their 2021 county council sitting for the construction of save home to be used for the protection of SGBV survivors and witnesses at the county level.

- ✓ Seventy-six hours and thirty minutes (76hrs, 30mins) in airtime of behavior change messages promoting end to violence against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health rights and women empowerment were made on seven local radio stations, online Televisions in the three project counties (Margibi, Grand Bassa and Gbarpolu) from June 15, 2020, to November 30, 2021. Assuming the maximum of two hundred people are reached by the seven local radio stations and online televisions per minute means, approximately, 15,000 population have been reached with behavior change messages promoting end to violence against women and girls, sexual and reproductive health rights and women empowerment in the two referenced project counties. However, the number 15, 000 population assumingly reached may have double or triple base on the real coverage capacity per minute of the five rural community radios.

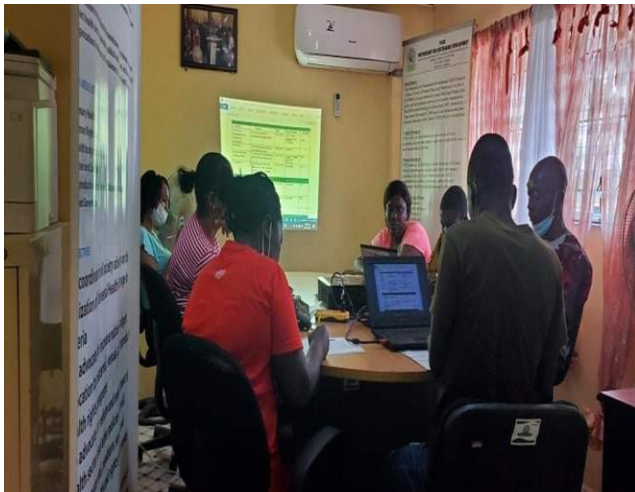
7.0



MR. DAVID P. FLOMO, PASD ACT. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GIVING OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT, AUGUST 19, 2021



ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS MAKING A BRIEF REMARK ON THE OVERVIEW ON AUGUST 19, 2021.



PARTICIPANTS ASKING QUESTIONS, MAKING COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON AUGUST 19, 2021



MR. SAYMAH D. WEADATU, PROJECT MANAGER, DOING REGISTRATION ON AUGUST 19, 2021 TO AUGUST 20, 2021



MR. ALIEU M. FAHNBULLEH IS PRESENTING OVERVIEW ON DAY ONE OF THE TWO DAYS WORKING SESSION TO CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION INTO FACT SHEET



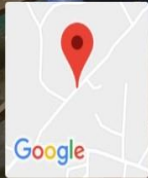
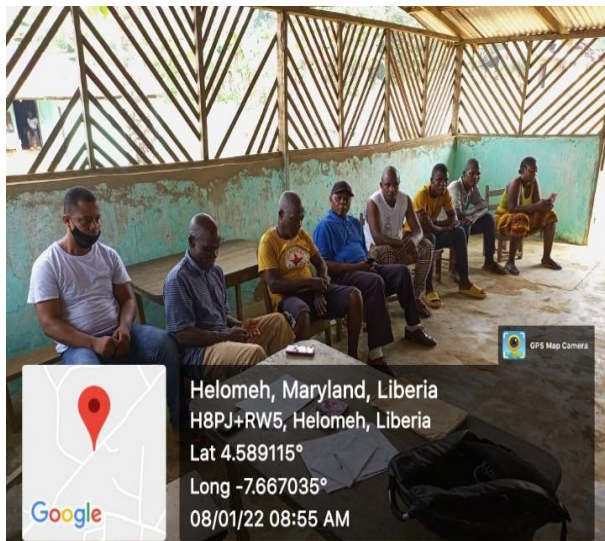
MR. ALIEU M. FAHNBULLEH IS PRESENTING OVERVIEW ON DAY ONE OF THE TWO DAYS WORKING SESSION TO CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION INTO FACT SHEET



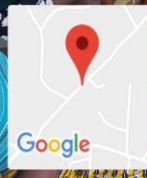
ASSEMBLING OF GROUP ONE MEMBERS ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE DESK REVIEW TO OUTSOURCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, TARGETS, TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS.



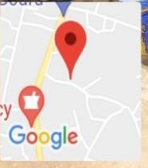
PARTIAL VIEW OF GROUP ONE MEMBERS RESEARCHING ON INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS, TARGETS, TREATIES, AND CONVENTIONS.



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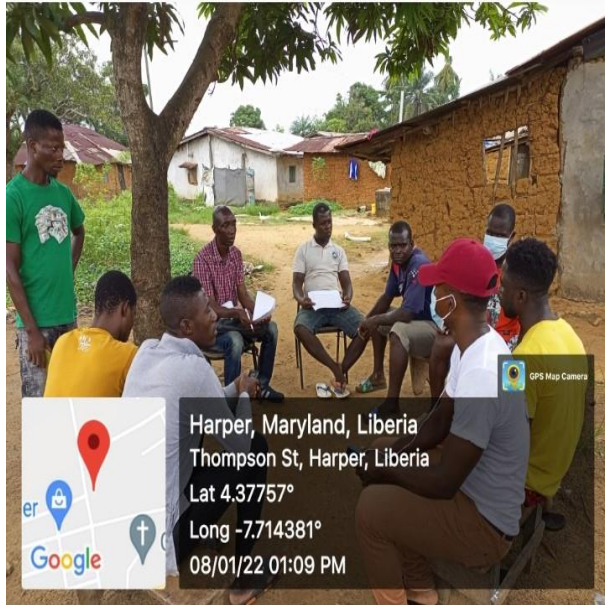
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PETITIONNERS CHANTING SRHR & RMNCH SLOGAN ON THE GROUND OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OF GBARPOLU COUNTY, BOPOLU CITY



MR. BEYAN S. SIRYON, SECRETARY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GBARPOLU COUNTY RECEIVED PETITION STATEMENT, 2022.



PETITIONNERS CHANTING SRHR & RMNCH SLOGAN ON THE GROUND OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE IN MONROVIA MONTSERRADO COUNTY ON DECEMBER 16, 2021.



MR. THOMAS B. SELLIE COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY OFFICER READING PETITION STATEMENT TO LEGISLATORS IN MONROVIA MONTSERRADO ON DECEMBER 16, 2021.



MRS. BENTO Z. TEHNGUE DIRECTOR FOR FAMILY HEALTH DIVISION MOH RESPONDING TO CSOs PETITION STATEMENT ON SRHR & RMNCH AT THE HEALTH MINISTRY IN MONROVIA ON DECEMBER 16, 2021.



PETITIONNERS CHANTING SRHR & RMNCH SLOGAN ON THE GROUND OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN MONROVIA ON DECEMBER 16, 2021.



PETITIONNERS HOLDING PLACARDS WITH PROMOTIONAL SRHR & RMNCH INSCRIPTIONS DURING THE PETITION ACTIONS ON DECEMBER 16, 2021.



PETITIONNERS ARE PASSIONATELY CHANTING SRHR & RMNCH SLOGAN DURING THE PETITION ACTION AT MOH IN MONROVIA ON DECEMBER 16, 2021.



PARTICIPANTS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE DIALOGUE MEETING, HEAL AT THE JOMOTEE VILLAGE GUEST HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM, PAYNESVILLE CITY, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, OCT. 9, 2019



PARTICIPANTS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE DIALOGUE MEETING, HEAL AT THE JOMOTEE VILLAGE GUEST HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM, PAYNESVILLE CITY, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, OCT. 9, 2019

8.0 Appendix:

- ✓ Financial statements and source documents
- ✓ Audit of the projects and accounts of PaSD
- ✓ Bank statements 2021
- ✓ Fact sheets
- ✓ Briefing papers
- ✓ Attendance of events
- ✓ Petition statements
- ✓ Detail of various project, research and assessment reports