



## Strengthening and extending local solidarity and protection networks to reduce violence against women and girls

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of violence against women and girls, to their wellbeing and empowerment, particularly survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), and to more gender balanced and less violent interaction in communities.

medica Liberia (mL) uses a holistic approach by establishing and strengthening local protection networks, providing medical, legal and psychosocial quality counseling and treatment for survivors of violence, and improving public services through training and awareness raising on SGBV in 12 communities in Sinoe County, South East Liberia. An economic empowerment component for survivors and women voluntarily dedicating their time to the network is included to achieve sustainability.

An evaluation was carried out between February and March 2019. It was conducted in line with OECD/DAC evaluation criteria and standards. Findings reflect that the community protection networks have been effective in addressing SGBV in the communities. Women perceive life as more peaceful than before the project, and violence has reduced in homes. However, while women have been strengthened economically, components for economic empowerment still pose challenges and need further support.

**Project duration:** 09.2016 – 08.2019

**Funded by:** Fondation Pro Victimis, Medicor Foundation, *medica mondiale*

**Project budget:** 1.316.863 US Dollar

**Type of evaluation:** Final evaluation

**Consultant team:** Juliane Westphal and Sandra Okoed

**Evaluation period:** 02.2019 – 03.2019

# Executive Summary

## CONTEXT

Liberia still manages the effects of the 14 year civil war and multiple shocks in recent years – namely the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in 2014-2015, collapse of commodity prices, and United Nations Mission In Liberia's (UNMIL's) withdrawal. The rise in the cost of living due to inflationary pressures and limited employment opportunities continue to undermine the welfare of Liberians.

In the South East, communities have limited access to public services characterized by insufficient functional health systems, poorly equipped police and weak judicial systems. Well-trained public service staff is reluctant to work in health facilities, schools, courts or the police in such remote areas. The population suffers from high poverty rates.

The legacies of the war and of pre-war gender-based discrimination have persisted. Girls and women were forcibly recruited into the armed groups, where they suffered systematic and repeated rape by multiple men and boys. The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process has been criticized for insufficient attention to the experience of girls and women – as well as younger boys – associated with the armed groups.

It is important to recognize that gender-based violence in Liberia was not solely a result of the civil war, but that there has been a culture of impunity and silence for generations. It was only with the advent of post-war reforms, for instance, that it has become a criminal offence for one man to rape a woman.

Still, many communities in South Eastern Liberia are very misogynistic. Although women play a central role in agricultural production, and the 2018 Land Rights Act recognizes their right to land, in rural areas women are still left out of land-related discussions and decisions. Women are usually financially dependent on men and therefore find it difficult to leave abusive situations. The same communities further discriminate against girls, often treating them differently from boys. Girls are forced to work at an early age, given less food to eat and not encouraged to

go to school. As a result, girls in their formative years are socialized into accepting that they are less valued than boys and men.

In many rural areas, the stereotypes against women who have been raped or are victims of domestic violence, are so strong that women and girls are blamed for what happened to them and cannot easily find solidarity (accusations vary between “loose” moral, “too sexy dressing”, “bad wife”, etc.). These stereotypes create a situation in which women rather keep quiet than to share with anybody what happened to them. In this way, the culture of silence continues.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2013, *medica mondiale* Liberia (mmL), which became 2015 the national organization *medica Liberia* (mL), started the project “No to post war violence against women: Setting up solidarity and protection networks” in Sinoe County (Sinoe I), to address the long lasting consequences of war trauma and high incidence of violence. The program addresses violence through a holistic and inter-disciplinary approach that tackles the effect of violence on physical, legal and social levels. The program provides direct support to survivors comprising of psychosocial counseling, legal assistance, reproductive health care and awareness-raising. mL builds the capacity of public service providers such as court staff, police and security personnel on gender and on the trauma-sensitive approach. In 2014, mL introduced the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) to make the Women Support Groups (WSG) more sustainable, empower survivors economically, and to ensure that emergency response funds were available to support survivors without mL's support.

mL extended the outreach into a second project phase “Strengthening and extending local solidarity and protection networks to reduce violence against women and girls” (Sinoe II, September 2016 - August 2019,) so that more women and girls can benefit from better protection and the prevention of violence.

The project intervention area of Sinoe II focuses on 12 communities in Sinoe County in Southeastern Liberia. Four communities were already part of Sinoe I and already had functioning protection networks. Eight new communities, neighboring



Women in Liberia organize themselves in economic solidarity groups, so called Village Savings and Loans Associations. In this way they try to jointly build up credits, establish own small businesses and face poverty.

communities of the four “old” communities, were selected to extend the protection networks and to increase cooperation between the communities.

The beneficiaries of the Sinoe II - activities are approximately 1,000 women and girl survivors of SGBV, who seek advice and support through the mL supported protection networks built up within the project. Direct target groups of the project are women and girls in 12 communities, who are affected by sexualized and gender based violence and who are not adequately and sufficiently protected. The survivors of violence are in need of psychosocial counseling, health and legal counseling as well as referral to appropriate public services.

Indirect target groups are those who benefit from training: Elders, traditional leaders, Male Change Agents (MCA) and employees of public health institutions, the judiciary and police. Women’s and girl’s children, families and communities are also indirect target groups.

### KEY ELEMENTS OF THE APPROACH

The project “Strengthening and extending local solidarity and protection networks to reduce violence against women and girls” has the overall objective to “contribute to the reduction of violence against women and girls, and to their well-being and empowerment, particularly survivors of SGBV; and to more gender balanced and less

violent interaction in communities in South East Liberia, so that they can contribute to the reconstruction and recovery of a peaceful post-war Liberia.”

The 3 project outcomes are related to the following goals

1. the capacity of the communities is enhanced to mitigate and report incidence of GBV
2. Survivors in the target areas have access to adequate psychosocial, legal and medical support
3. women and girls in the community are organized in solidarity saving groups with a survivor fund.

The project, implemented by mL with medica mondiale e.V. as project partner and with funding from Pro Victimis and Medicor Foundation, started in September 2016 with a conclusion date of August 2019. The project was implemented in 12 communities in Sinoe.

### OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS OF THE EVALUATION

The main objectives of the final evaluation were to provide sufficient information about the performance of the project, document lessons learnt and to provide practical recommendations for

follow-up actions and similar future projects. Field work was conducted in March 2019, after reviewing project proposal, reports and sending a questionnaire to mL management staff. The evaluators visited 8 out of 12 project intervention areas in Sinoe from each of the 4 geographical clusters established by mL, conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGD), socio-metric position line-ups and interviews. The evaluation team also collected 3 Most Significant Change stories to get insight into mL's psychosocial, health and legal services. Finally they reviewed project and monitoring documents.

Different types of triangulation were used to check the validity of the information and data collected. Preliminary findings and recommendation were discussed at a participatory workshop with mL staff and stakeholders in Sinoe using elements of the Open Space Technology approach. The evaluation was conducted in line with OECD/DAC evaluation criteria and standards.

## LIMITATIONS

Due to limited planning time and staff illness there was limited feedback shared about the evaluation approach, field schedule and evaluation tools before start of the mission. In order to manage this challenge, the evaluation team worked closely with the mL program team to fine tune the evaluation approach and field schedule.

The timing of the evaluation was not ideal as it coincided with 2 public holidays and observation of International Women's Day. In order to fit within the established time frame, the evaluators sampled 8 instead of 12 communities.

The evaluation team experienced time constraints in scheduling interviews with mL Greenville staff. They addressed this by scheduling appointments with staff during evenings, weekends and public holidays.

During the FGD in some schools, there was no privacy to conduct discussions with members of the Girls Clubs. Due to the fact that some of the topics discussed were perceived as private issues (including issues around personal hygiene, Sexually Transmitted Infections and rape), some of the Girls Club members did not feel comfortable contributing in larger FGD. The Evaluation

Team addressed this limitation by having one-to-one conversations with girls who wanted to respond to questions, wherever possible. As a result, the evaluation team was able to get information that would not have been expressed in the larger group.

The evaluation team used the limited time available to visit communities and look into activities. A financial analysis could not be done because detailed financial reports were not available. Therefore, the findings regarding efficiency are based on some general observations.

## FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

### Relevance

The prevalent culture of violence and the traditional belief that women are men's property compounded by poverty, manifests itself in domestic violence, persistent non-child support and teenage pregnancy.



The Evaluation team during a meeting from left to right: Lorraine G. Mennoh (Translator), Sandra Okoed (Co-Evaluator), Stephen Logan (Driver), Juliane Westphal (Evaluator).

mL's holistic approach is well aligned with local needs and priorities, establishing a response network at community level which allows survivors to access psychosocial, economic, legal and medical support. The approach builds up service providers' capacity to provide trauma sensitive services to SGBV survivors, girls and women. The stress and trauma sensitive approach® from *medica mondiale* (STA) strengthens the resilience of survivors building their confidence to work through the trauma



sions equipped Elders with the tools to differentiate between cases that could be mediated at community level and those that should be referred to the state legal system.

The establishment of 12 Girls Clubs is relevant in an environment where teenage pregnancy rates are high and girls and conversations around sex and sexuality are perceived as taboo. In the protected space, girls are able to openly discuss and access information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender, relationships and contraceptives. This intervention can help adolescent girls to make more informed decisions about their life.

*Vocational counselling in schools offers girls in Liberia for the first time the opportunity to make plans for their future and break through the cycle of poverty and violence.*

they have experienced, and supports them in finding strategies to plan for their futures.

The establishment of 12 Women Support Groups (WSG) made up of women nominated by community members, provides a key link between survivors, service providers and mL. This structure stimulates community level participation in addressing SGBV – a link that was absent prior to mL’s intervention. The WSG are an essential pillar of the program as they play a very active role in the prevention and response to SGBV. They provide counseling and mediation between couples and refer survivors to the hospitals and police, and also raise awareness within the community. These services are highly relevant in a context where there is a general lack of quality public services, including health, police, and judicial services.

Integrating men in the community based protection network is important to set positive examples and raise awareness among men, especially in response to an increased number of women who are not accepting traditional power hierarchies and authoritative behavior against them. In South East Liberia, many conflicts are mediated by Elders who are not aware of the negative effects of SGBV on women and the community. These Elders often consider consensus and established order in the communities as more important values than the physical and emotional well-being of women and girls. mL training ses-

At times, mL is obligated to donate medical supplies, stationery, office equipment and fuel to the clinics, police and courts respectively. Capacity building of service providers to enhance their ability to respond to SGBV cases is needed and highly relevant in an area which has been neglected in terms of infrastructure and government services (apart from police check posts, there is only one police station in the county capital Greenville) and which is difficult to access during the rainy season (May-October). Qualified health, justice and security personnel are reluctant to work in remote areas such as Sinoe, which has resulted in high staff turn-over which poses a challenge to the project’s training component.

mL’s strategy to contribute to the economic empowerment of survivors and members of the WSG through the establishment of VSLA is a relevant approach. The VSLA have increased women’s access to loans to set up or strengthen small businesses or to pay school fees. Responses from FGD and interviews provide anecdotal evidence of improved livelihoods as a result. 20 % of the VSLA funds are meant to support survivors in terms of transport to the hospital and police stations.

The project’s relevance is rated as **very good**.

## EFFECTIVENESS

The reduction of intervention areas from 14 to 12 in the current phase Sinoe II and increasing the number of District Counselors (DC) from 3 to 5 lead to increased effectiveness.

Due to the effectiveness of capacity building sessions, WSG are now more independent, women possess basic counseling skills, can refer survivors, hold monthly meetings and conduct awareness raising sessions and follow up on cases without DC support. WSG independence has transformed the DC' role from community based training and support to that of mentoring WSG, and following up on economic empowerment activities. Despite the gains made, some DC reported still spending a considerable amount of time in communities counseling survivors. Cluster meetings with all community stakeholders help people to learn from each other's experiences.

Sinoe II made perceptible contribution to the overall project goal. Members of the social protection network within communities and schools demonstrated knowledge, awareness and shifts in attitudes around SGBV. Elders, Male Change Agents (MCA) and WSG indicated that this knowledge came about as a result of mL trainings and awareness raising. Through training of health, law enforcement and judicial partners, the project has established a clear referral pathway that is now functioning at community level. According to evaluation results, 24,7 % of cases recorded by mL till the end of 2018 were referred by WSG. However, the indicator demanding 50 % will unlikely be met by the end of the project.

WSG play a crucial role in providing counseling following trauma and abuse. According to the WSG, counseling is the most requested service in the community. All WSG members stated that they can now counsel cases effectively.

The project used the MCA<sup>1</sup> and Elders to enable men to play a role in the community protection network. The MCA and Elders were trained on SGBV, gender, human rights and the referral pathway and are now able to distinguish between

cases which should be taken to court and those which can be settled within the community.

The Girls Clubs play a central role in addressing SGBV in the schools and in the communities. The girls have comprehensive knowledge of issues surrounding SGBV and are able to direct Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) related questions to the Reproductive Health Officer or others capable of helping them with their problems.

Awareness raising by WSG, MCA, Girls Clubs and mL staff, advocacy events and accompanying radio programs are crucial interventions for SGBV prevention. Using more visual aids during awareness raising sessions is recommended to increase effectiveness.

Understanding that there is a need for an effectively coordinated SGBV response amongst actors, mL has made deliberate strides to support the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection (MOGSP) convene the SGBV Task Force<sup>2</sup> meetings and to organize joint advocacy events. Despite this support, the meetings are not well attended. This inability of the state actor to convene SGBV Task Force activities places the onus on mL to take on this responsibility which is not sustainable.

The VSLA component empowered women to some extent economically. The establishment of farms as Income Generating Activity (IGA) has had varying results. Differing crop yields amongst the groups in the first and second harvests were attributed to factors such as delayed rains, crop theft, crop destruction by animals, limited farming capacity of WSG and lastly, limited interest in farming. Additional training for less experienced farmers and different skills trainings for starting a business are needed.

The overall rating of effectiveness is **good**.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to lack of incentives only 19 out of 36 MCA are active.

<sup>2</sup> The SGBV Task Force is an information sharing and coordination mechanism convened by the MOGSP. Members meet on a regular basis to discuss prevention and response strategies as well as to coordinate advocacy events.



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*medica Liberia's Girls Clubs support girls and young women by imparting knowledge and strengthening their self-confidence so that they can strongly advocate against violence and defend their rights.*

## EFFICIENCY

The local solidarity and protection networks functioned efficiently. Since the beginning of the project until December 2018, WSG, at times with support of Elders and MCA, conducted 849 house to house awareness raising sessions, surpassing the targeted 120 sessions. A total of 34,171 community members (18,282 females, 15,889 males) were reached during this period. To facilitate learning and sharing and experiences, communities were organized into clusters. In 2018, a total of 22 out of the targeted 56 cluster meetings were held.

The IGA component is in many groups not efficient, as the resources invested in the activity were higher than the output. mL distributed seeds and tools, and a total of 109 meetings were convened with WSG to plan the implementation of IGA. More assessment is required to determine how IGA can be profitable, and how MCA can participate in economic empowerment activities without changing gender power dynamics within the community networks.

Seven VSLA groups out of eight are functioning well. A total of 240 women are engaged in the community based saving groups after they were trained and given saving kits worth \$250. However, only 2 out of the 8 VSLA have allocated monies to the emergency survivor fund despite

signing a memorandum of understanding mandating them to do so. In the initial stages of VSLA establishment, mL staff observed that most of the VLSA were experiencing conflicts, a challenge that was later rectified by hiring a consultant who conducted an assessment and training to clarify the concept and improve implementation.

Costs associated with survivor treatment and well-being are high but required. These include psychosocial counseling, legal support and medical costs. In order to facilitate an efficient response to SGBV cases mL contributes drugs and pays for medical procedures including surgeries. By the end of 2018, mL had trained 25 health staff in clinical management of rape and STA, and 238 court official and security personnel in SGBV.

The evaluators rated the efficiency of the project as **satisfactory**.

## IMPACT

The implementation of project activities has positively impacted on communities, as women feel safer now. Women reported that as a result of mL activities, they enjoyed freedom of movement and could sleep at night without fear of being beaten by their husbands. 35.7 % women in FGD said they felt completely safe, while 52.8 % stated that they felt partially safe, and 11.4 % said that

they were not safe. It was noted that communities became safer, but not completely safe due to factors such as increased crime rates in some of the communities.

There is strong evidence that the project stimulated discussion on SGBV amongst women. While women said that rape cases still occur but have decreased, men claimed that there was no more rape in their communities. These responses portray the increased awareness, but at the same time a level of denial that rape still exists in the communities.

Women as a result of mL's training and capacity building are now more engaged in community affairs. Anecdotal evidence reveals that women are participating in town hall meetings; they are less afraid to report cases and are more aware of their rights. Women are less likely to remain silent about abuse.

The project activities positively impacted on members of the Girls Clubs, increasing their knowledge of SRHR, increasing their awareness of ways they can protect themselves from SGBV, building their confidence levels and facilitating their ability to share SRHR information with their peers. During FGD all girls stated that the Girls Clubs had changed their lives. However, the evaluators could not assess if the number of teen age pregnancies had changed.

The VSLA component of the project economically empowered women in several ways; they either started or expanded their small businesses, built or repaired houses and paid their children's school fees. The ability to access funds and slowly pay back increased their independence allowing them to make decisions about their homes and children. Despite making economic gains, an unintended impact from the VSLA is that women have now become targets of crime. Women reported that while they are selling in the market their possessions are stolen from their homes. In some cases, in order to protect themselves from being robbed, women travel in groups to source goods from neighboring towns.

The yields of the IGA harvests varied greatly. Emergency funds were generated in some cases but no income for WSG members. The Snohgbay's Town farm generated funds to cater for WSG and community women's urgent needs,



*In order to support women and girls affected by violence, medica Liberia maintains an examination room in the J. F. Grant Hospital, Greenville.*

while the Murrayville farm members established a second farm with the profits generated from the first farming cycle.

Most activities and outputs were consistent with the intended effects and impact, and as the main goal of making life of women peaceful and more secure has materialized as much as can be expected within the given time frame, the impact is rated as **good**.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

A more peaceful co-existence of women and men in the communities was regularly mentioned, and some level of change in the perception of gender roles was observed, e.g. in the gender division of labor when some men are now helping women with household chores like carrying water. It was mentioned frequently that women and girls speak out more in meetings. The WSG and other members of the community protection network have gained knowledge on SGBV; they are able to conduct basic counseling and follow the referral pathway. However, it is questionable if WSG members will continue to hold meetings and conduct awareness raising activities in the community without mL support. Likewise, it is not clear if exchange within the networks on cluster level will continue due to high cost of transport needed to meet as a network.

It is unlikely that MCA will continue raising awareness and engage with men and members of the community without compensation or incentives.



Joining together: Liberian Women in Delkio City, Kpanyan Statuary District, demonstrate for their rights during the International Women's Day on March 8th, 2019.

This is a major bottleneck, as their role as men is crucial in bringing about behavioral change in the communities, as they can better address SGBV issues with men.

Members of the Girls Clubs have internalized the knowledge they gained and will continue to apply it to their lives, as well as transfer it to their peers in the communities. Connecting the Girls Clubs additionally to career and vocational training opportunities, as it is done in one case, is more sustainable as it prepares girls for future non-motherhood related roles.

mL has succeeded to instill a deep sense of ownership in SGBV related issues amongst some service provider staff. Due to the challenges associated with living and working in remote and under-resourced communities, high staff turnover of health, police and court personnel will severely affect project sustainability.

The VSLA are likely to continue functioning, while it is not clear if the survivor fund contribution which is part of the agreed set-up will continue to work. Successful group farms may continue operating without mL support, while those which have limited yields and are managed by less cohesive groups might not be sustainable. It has to be ensured

that WSG are able to strike a balance between spending time on farming activities and conducting SGBV prevention and response activities.

The overall rating of sustainability is **satisfactory**

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The program management team is well trained and effective in project implementation, coordination and communication. Monrovia based staff provide the back-stopping and technical support when required by the County team. The mL Sinoe and Monrovia interaction was found to be effective in ensuring that project activities were implemented.

The Monrovia based M&E Consultant manages a team of two responsible for collating, entering and analyzing data. Data collection is done at field level using standardized reporting formats. Sinoe program staff use a variety of data collection tools to track numbers of cases, trainings and other project related activities. During the evaluation there were a few discrepancies in the data which were attributed to double counting at field level and some weaknesses in the handling of the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) database.



*In order to overcome violence, medica Liberia specifically involves men in their work who promote themselves as “Male Change Agents” for a respectful togetherness.*

## MAJOR CONCLUSIONS

The project was relevant to the socio-economic context of the intervention. Findings reflect that the community protection networks have been effective in addressing SGBV in the communities. The holistic approach allows survivors to exercise their rights, economically empowers women and strengthens service provider capacity in SGBV response and provides professional care for SGBV survivors. The importance of counseling and awareness raising activities has had a positive impact on survivors and on raising SGBV awareness in the communities which confirms that the activities and output are in line with the overall project goals and achievement of its objectives. The lack of a safe home for survivors is a gap that mL can address by collaborating with other stakeholders.

Communities were sensitized on SGBV and its consequences. The capacity of the community protection network has been strengthened, facilitating their ability to mitigate and report cases of SGBV. The WSG and Girls Clubs are functioning well, while the MCA role is only satisfactory due to the high number of inactive members. mL’s advocacy work is effective, while more effort could be made to target boys and girls using radio program. The project has met most of its targeted indicators and surpassed a few, such as the indicator on community members reached. While the

VSLA component’s result is assessed as good, it is unsatisfactory for the IGA component.

Women’s perception of safety has considerably changed as a result of mL’s work in their communities. They perceive life as more peaceful – men and women are able to live in peace and violence has reduced in homes.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations directed to mL Sinoe for the current project

#### VSLA

- » Mentor VSLA members before project closure to ensure the effective establishment of operating systems and good practice principles are followed.
- » DC should document lessons learned from the VSLA process.

#### IGA

- » Install and train WSG members on cassava mill operation and maintenance as a means of adding value and therefore increasing profits from the sale of cassava by-products.
- » Increase farming support and train WSG members from poorly operating farms on improved farming methods.

## Community Networks

- » Increase the number of mentoring sessions between DC and WSG in order to strengthen WSG counseling, SGBV prevention and response skills.
- » Increase the number of cluster meetings as a means of accelerating learning between communities.
- » Organize/Include old communities in cluster meetings to motivate them to remain active; in the long run strengthening the overall network.

## Recommendations directed to mL for future programming and organizational structure and strategy

- » Extend SGBV programming to GBV prone remote communities e.g. mining and concession areas and recruit more staff to manage the increased workload.
- » Provide suitable transportation and rain gear for staff e.g. second vehicle, rain boots and coats.
- » Tailor the program to meet Greenville based WSG needs e.g. include skills training and processing, rather than farming.
- » Expand the “One Stop Centre” premises to accommodate a Women and Child Protection and legal section.
- » Explore the possibility of coordinating service provider training with central/relevant government actors in order to time recruitment of new staff.
- » Partner with organizations such as Oxfam/FCI to set up/operate/support a safe home.
- » Train Sinoe program staff in report writing skills in order to strengthen their documentation skills.

## Women Support Groups

- » Include WSG members in decision making processes in a bid to strengthen their independence e.g. budgeting for meeting refreshments.
- » Strengthen VSLA and IGA operation to ensure that WSG can benefit from their operations.
- » Encourage participation of WSG from old communities in the protection network by organizing refresher training sessions and including them in economic empowerment activities.

## Male Change Agents

- » Involve MCA in IGA activities (they should comprise 25 % of the group).

- » Design awareness raising materials for MCA sessions.
- » Include active MCA in new MCA training.
- » Partner with organizations engaging with boys and men to expand the approach of promoting gender equality.

## Girls Clubs

- » Introduce peer education and mentoring to make Girls Clubs more sustainable.
- » Equip Girls Clubs with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material to enhance learning.
- » Strengthen and merge out-of-school Girls Clubs with school based Girls Clubs.
- » Integrate a skills training and career guidance component into the program.
- » Advocate for the integration of Girls Clubs into the curriculum of schools involved in the project.
- » Collaborate with organizations or consultants that have experience working with boys to set up Boys Clubs.
- » Review the role of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in Sexual Exploitation and Abuse prevention.

## VSLA

- » Organize regular orientation/refresher sessions for VSLA members to promote a collective understanding of VSLA principles<sup>3</sup>.
- » Integrate financial management, business coaching and skills training into the VSLA model to increase profits.
- » Research organizations to provide skills training and adult literacy classes to women and survivors.
- » Conduct a periodic assessment of the VSLA impact at household and survivor level.
- » Set up a sustainability plan in collaboration with the VSLA groups.

## IGA

- » Conduct regular training on improved farming methods, where possible engage peer farmers from successful WSG supported farms in the activity.
- » Research strategies/measures to prevent theft of crops from WSG farms, and consider including engaging MCA to police farms.

<sup>3</sup> Clarify mL's input into the VSLA is to ensure contributions to the survivor fund as well as economic empowerment.

- » Research possibilities of establishing a processing and packaging network, and possibly a cassava packaging unit for WSG members as a way of increasing profits.

### **Economic empowerment of survivors**

- » Consider looking into alternate income generation methods for survivors e.g. skills training in soap making, pastry making and adult literacy classes.

### **Advocacy on county level**

- » Develop visual aids to facilitate awareness raising, advocacy and training related activities conducted by service providers, Girls Club members and MCA.
- » Support the use of music, dance and drama to sensitize the public.

### **Advocacy at national level**

- » Target advocacy efforts at the passing of new SGBV related laws and enforcing existing ones.
- » Consider launching an internationally published report on the consequences of mining and land concessions in collaboration with partners e.g. Sustainable Development Institute (SDI).

### **mL Staff**

- » Consider increasing salaries of traditionally female dominated positions within the project e.g. counseling.
- » Conduct regular staff training on report writing skills.
- » Strengthen M&E staff GBVIMS skills.

### **Recommendations directed to *medica mondiale* Cologne**

- » Consider supporting the launching of an internationally published report on the consequences of mining and land on SGBV in collaboration with partners e.g. Sustainable Development Institute (SDI). A film/documentary could be an alternative.
- » Link the reality in Sinoe to German/international politics e.g. the UN resolution on violence against women.

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