

Annual Report
2020/2021



WEST AFRICA, MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network Annual Report

Report Documented by:
Report Committee & M&E Team, DCFENETWORK, Inc.

Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network (DCFENETWORK, INC.)
Don Bosco, Brewerville City, Montserrado County
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These project implementations would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of all DCFENETWORK Staffs, volunteers and experts who have shared their insights in their formal or personal capacities. Many thanks to our donors the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), International Development Association (IDA) and EU/UN Spotlight Initiative for trusting the Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network with its resources and funding which effectively improved and strengthened the organization's capacity to promote women and children with disabilities rights, against violence and increased representation in leadership and peacebuilding processes. We acknowledge the efforts of Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and local government authorities for their participatory and extensive efforts in making sure these project implementations became a success.

A special thanks to UN Women Liberia for their technical role during the implementation of the WPHF project. We also extend thanks to DEN-L for their extensive role during the implementation of the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative Project.

Whole heartedly, we acknowledged the extensive efforts of the Board of Directors of the Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network for their moral supports and guidance throughout the year. We also extend a deepest and sincere appreciation to the Executive Director, Mr. Thomas Kenagea Brown, Jr. of DCFENETWORK for his numerous managerial efforts in making sure that the organization always is on the map of advocacy for the rights of people with special needs; remains functional perpetually.

Foreword

I am exceptionally delighted to write the first ever forward in service to promoting the rights of women and children with disabilities through the Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network (DCFENETWORK, INC.), with offices in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County (America Conner Building, Bassa High); Grand Cape Mount County (Tahn Town, Mana Clan Gola Konneh District); and head-office in Don Bosco Community, Brewerville City, Montserrado County, 100 Monrovia 10 Liberia. The Report Committee which developed this document is a committee encompassed potential staffs from DCFENETWORK, so it gives me honor to convey this worthy and important task.

DCFENETWORK is a non-for-profit and nongovernmental Organization established May 2018 with the mandate to advocate for women and children with different form of disabilities, against discrimination, empowerment in society and the representation of women with disabilities in Leadership and Politics in Liberia. As the Executive Director of DCFENETWORK with the mandate to direct and oversee investments and fundraising efforts, secured \$USD 24,400.00 from WPHF under Outcome 5 of the WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window: Strengthening of CSOs Institutional Capacity 2020/2021. The EU/UN Spotlight Initiative entrusted DCFENETWORK with \$USD5,000.00 through DEN-L for the implementation of the COVID-19 and SGBV Response Project 2020/2021. DCFENETWORK as Lead organization in a consortium with the New Generation Architecture and Construction Company secured \$USD22,500.00 from IDA through the Ministry of Education for the implementation of the 2021 IRIS School Improvement Grant through the Ministry of Education. Generally, the overall funding received in 2020/2021 was \$51,900.00 USD.

Additionally, the DELL Technologies provided a consultancy for DCFENETWORK Team in developing a mobile application (Microsoft 365 not-for-profit platform) for data collect (violence, population, livelihood, etc.) on persons with disabilities in the five counties in the five regions in Liberia (River Gee, Sinoe, Montserrado, Gbarpolu and Lofa Counties). The data when collected will be used as reference document for developmental purposes by Dell Technologies, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, Individual and the Government of Liberia.

The successful operations of DCFENETWORK including the implementation of projects in 2020/2021, has been inspired by the overwhelming efforts and commitment demonstrated by every staffs, volunteers, members of the network, and our Donors, including the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), EU/UN Spotlight Initiative, and ADI/IRIS who in the last few years' have made important decisions in advancing the rights of women and children with disabilities in Liberia. Institution whose technical expertise have case DCFENETWORK successful implementation of Projects includes: UN Women Liberia, and DEN-L. These institutions continue to provide their extensive support and expertise towards DCFENETWORK for the provision of services towards PWDs. DCFENETWORK has the membership of 10-DPOs and CSOs that share the beliefs expressed in international human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Commission on Disability Acts of 2005, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; recognized the Sustainable Development Goals, "Leave no one Behind."

This Annual Report could not have come at a better time. The document attempts to explore, in an ethically/ideologically neutral manner, and subject to the data available, the report aims at being a clear-cut tool for allocation of sufficient resources for advocacy on empowerment, access to justice, representation and equal participation of women with disabilities in Leadership, politics and peacebuilding processes in Liberia.

Furthermore, we hope that the findings and recommendations of the reports will provide the readers with the necessary information to develop and improve future initiatives in the interest of women and children with special needs in Liberia.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Kenagea Brown, Jr.", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Mr. Thomas Kenagea Brown, Jr.
Executive Director
Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network, Inc.

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ACRONYMS

DCFENETWORK	Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network
WPHF	Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund
EU	European Union
UN	United Nations
IDA	International Development Association
DEN-L	Development Education Network Liberia
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MOE	Ministry of Education
DPOs	Disabled Persons Organizations
GOL	Government of Liberia
CWDs	Children with Disabilities
NGACCOM	New Generation Architecture and Construction Company
LSD	Liberia School for the Deaf
LSB	Liberia School for the Blind
WOPA	Women for Positive Action
YSP	Youth for Sustainable Peace
UNCRC	United National Convention on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
SGBV	Sexual Gender-Based violence
DBV	Disability-Based Violence
M-APP	Mobile Application
COVID 19	Corona Virus

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network is a youth-led, Women's and child's rights institution that has the membership of 10 local CSOs and DPOs, 12 staffs, and 20 volunteers. DCFENETWORK established in 2018, to advocate for Women and children with different form of disabilities, against discrimination, empowerment in society and the representation of women with disabilities in Leadership and Politics in Liberia. The organization has operational offices in Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa Counties; with head-office in Montserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia.

WPHF COVID19 Emergency Response Window: Strengthening of a Civil Society Organization's institutional Capacity project

In June 2020, WPHF entrusted DCFENETWORK with \$24,400.00 USD under Outcome 5 Stream 1 of the WPHF COVID19 Emergency Response Window: Strengthening of a Civil Society Organization's institutional Capacity in Montserrado County. The project implementation started in August 2020 at which time the COVID-19 outbreak had significantly impacted all program areas in Montserrado County. the project was implemented in four (Iron Gate, Baby-ma Junction, Banjor and Virginia) communities in District#17 supporting directly 140 direct beneficiaries; and reached 3500 indirect beneficiaries including women, girls, men and boys with disabilities in Montserrado County.

Through the provision of institutional funding DCFENETWORK secured a four room-office space for 12 months and procured necessary equipment that is required to successfully continue its operation on women's protection during and after the era of the COVID-19. These equipment are currently being used by DCFENETWORK for it effective operations. Staff of DCFENETWORK, INC. have improved skills in technical, managerial, and financial management which has enabled DCFENETWORK to effectively promote women's protection against GBV and human rights violation. DCFENETWORK was able to provide monthly remuneration. As a result of this, DCFENETWORK has been able to collaborate further with women's groups and advance its mission to be able to address issues of SGBV and prevent COVID-19 in target communities. Visually impaired/blind women now have access to the Domestic Violence Act of 2019 in braille, which is vital to the participation and inclusion of disabled women into peacebuilding and security processes. Additionally, this increased organizational and coordination capacity has also contributed to the development of an electronic Mobile application that has been used to collect, manage, track and report data on cases of GGBV against women and girls with disabilities during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic. The M-APP is disabled friendly and is called Kobocollect. The App was piloted, and as a results of the pilot the application was finalized. Furthermore, in 2020-2021, with support from WPHF, DCFENETWORK conducted a simple survey targeted 3000 people with disabilities in Montserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia. The survey identified challenges women and girls with disabilities are faced with daily, and their special needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. DCFENETWORK staffs and Women's Rights Actors were trained and capacitated to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities against GBV through collaboration/networking, policy analysis, advocacy and awareness. The organizations

successfully conducted an Advocacy Campaign (awareness) on “*Stop Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities.*” The awareness reached over 3500 communities dwellers, motorcyclist and marketers in four communities: Babyma Junction, Banjor, Virginian, and Iron Gate Communities in District#17, Brewerville City, Montserrado County.

As the results of this institutional strengthening, DCFENETWORK has expanded her office to two other counties (Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount Counties).

EU/UN Spotlight Initiative: SGBV & COVID-19 Response Project

In 2020, EU/UN Spotlight Initiative through DEN-L under the SGBV & COVID-19 Response project provided \$5,000.00 USD funding to DCFENETWORK to Increase public awareness on SGBV against women and girls with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as sensitizing them on the importance of hand washing, social distancing, signs and symptoms of the COVID-19, encouraging the disabled community adherence to the national health protocol, and why they should call/text 4455 if they or someone in their community feel sick. The project started in August 2020, and was implemented in three communities in Montserrado County and reached 300 direct beneficiaries and 1000 indirect beneficiaries.

DCFENETWORK increased and strengthened its workforce and 20 CSOs actors to fully response to SGBV and COVID-19 cases against women and girls with disabilities in the targeted project communities in Montserrado County. From August 11-13, 2020, DCFENETWORK conducted and completed three days awareness on SGBV against women and girls with special needs to over 300 community dwellers in Virginia, Banjor and Babyma Junction communities. DCFENETWORK in collaborated with DPOs and CSOs Actors; rolled-out three days house-to-house sensitization on COVID-19, the importance of hand washing, and encouraged the disabled community adherence to the national health protocol in three spotlights communities. Additionally, on December 3-4, 2020, DCFENETWORK in collaboration with DPOs and CSOs Actors successfully conducted a media engagement (radio talkedshow/Newspaper), during which issues/challenges and the practical needs of women and girls with disabilities during the COVID-19 were discussed/flagged out highly.

IRISE Improvement School project

In September 2021, with funding (\$22,500.00 USD) from IDA through MOE under the IRISE Improvement School Grant, DCFENETWORK in consortium with NGACCOM renovated the Tahn Public High School in Tahn Town, Mana Clan, Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County. 500 students are currently benefiting from this project. This project created an inclusive, safe and adequate learning environment for students including students with disabilities.

Dell Technologies Pro Bono Consultancy

The Pro Bono Consulting Workshop, Dell Technologies team members engaged DCFENETWORK Team members to address carefully honed opportunities for DCFENETWORK to improve an approach, process, or tool core to their organization’s success across two 4-hour session. The training sessions was held on zoom, during the sessions on December 8-9, 2021, Dell Technologies Team trained DCFENETWORK to develop a survey application for data collection on Persons with disabilities in the 5 region in Liberia, Microsoft

365 has been leveraged for website access and data collection, this will enable DCFENETWORK to collect and manage data on PWDs in Liberia.

Summary of Key issues

- There is no means of income generation for women with disabilities, so they get involve into so many bad deeds (selling their own children, street begging, sex for money, etc.)
- There are limited trained professionals and inadequate supports (safe homes, etc.) for survivor of SGBV (rape).
- A disabled woman has 4-8 children with no father, the mothers end up begging just to support her children, this also make them vulnerable in society
- Rape cases are on the increase, if nothing is done to put the situation under control, the society will be left with too many vulnerable women and girls, and because of that they will turn to become prostitute and women of no values.
- Majority of the Women been violated at the household and community level do not have money to afford a lawyer, so their cases are compromise
- Drugs abuse is factors to SGBV (sexual harassment and rape) against women and girls with disabilities, and it needs timely intervention.
- Lack of professional (braille reader and sign language interpreter) at the WACPS/police, court, and hospital to fairly investigate SGBV cases involving women and girls with disabilities.
- Due to limited awareness, majority of the communities' dwellers have forgotten about COVID-19
- Women and girls with disabilities finds it challenging to protect and safeguard themselves from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Lack of practical Sexual Reproductive Health services and Income generation for women and girls with disabilities; adolescent girls with disabilities does not have access to sanitary products, including menstruation pad
- Women with disabilities are not fully supported in the fight against GBV and COVID-19.
- Majority of the community dwellers in the four communities do not have knowledge about the SGBV referral Pathway, Rape Law and the Domestic Violence Law of Liberia

Summary of budget and funding implemented

DCFENETWORK developed a budget of \$USD50,000.00 for 2020/2021 project implementation of organization strategic plan; and as part of the strategic to raise said funding DCFENETWORK solicit funding from donors through donor's called for proposal, or submission of unsolicited concept note to donor for support. As a results of our extensive efforts, DCFENETWORK secured \$USD 24,400.00 from WPHF and implemented Outcome 5 of the WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window: Strengthening of CSOs Institutional Capacity 2020/2021. EU/UN Spotlight Initiative entrusted DCFENETWORK with \$USD5,000.00 through DEN-L for the implementation of the COVID-19 AND SGBV Response Project 2020/2021. Additionally, DCFENETWORK as Lead organization in a consortium with the New Generation Architecture and Construction Company secured \$USD22,500.00 under the 2021 IRIS School Improvement Grant through the Ministry of Education for the renovation of Tahn Public High School, Mana Clan, Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County. for the year 2020/2021, DCFENETWORK implemented the total of USD \$51,900.00 (donor's supports) projects

1.1. Background of 2020/2021 project implementations

The COVID-19 pandemic was confirmed to have reached Liberia in March 2020; it has everyone spooked, and hopefully, taking steps to control the outbreak and prepare to get through whatever may come of it. But women and children with disabilities face additional risks and consequences. Everyone's interest has been drawn to the COVID-19, rather than human rights issues, and this has imposed a higher increase in violence against women and children, especially those with disabilities. According to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), after the Ebola Virus outbreaks in Liberia, Gender Based Violence (GBV) Data, and 1,413 GBV Cases were documented in 2016, and 1,685 GBV Cases documented in 2017. Physical and sexual violence against women and children, including those with disabilities has exacerbated at an alarming rate and victims are often left with lasting physical and emotional scars. Quite interestingly, there have been some efforts to curtail such dreadful acts however; the need to do more needs to be overly emphasized.

The Government of Liberia developed the National Health Protocol (NHP) to fight this deadly coronavirus pandemic: Social distancing, hand washing, covering of nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing, and call/ text 4455 if they or someone in the community feel sick, as a way to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. However, it can be harder for disabled people to take prudent steps to protect themselves from the deadly coronavirus pandemic. For one thing, some disabled people cannot isolate themselves as thoroughly as other people, because they need regular, hands-on help from other people to do every day self-care tasks. People with disabilities, especially women are more vulnerable to this deadly coronavirus. Street begging and prostitution is the only source of income for majority of the disabled women. The deadly coronavirus has imposed hardship on women living with disabilities. It also increased violence against them. For example, other forms of SGBV are also exacerbated in crisis contexts. In addition, life-saving care and support to GBV survivors (i.e. clinical management of rape and mental health and psycho-social support) may be disrupted when health service providers are overburdened and preoccupied with handling COVID-19 cases. Furthermore, a deaf woman who encounters a danger or carrier of the Coronavirus Disease in the neighborhood has no way of passing said information over to relations or even health workers. They lack the skills or basic training necessary to enhance communication with their deaf relations. However, awareness and sanitization about the coronavirus pandemic will hugely help them in respect to safeguarding and protecting themselves.

The coronavirus declared by the Ministry of Health in Liberia in March 2020. Prior to coronavirus, Liberia was grappling with post-crisis recovery (Civil War and EBOLA Virus) characterized by: nascent/fragile institutions and systems, particularly in governance and the delivery of basics, including in weak human capacity, and weak social contract, including in health and GBV response. The education condition in Liberia, including good and inclusive learning environment for children to learn has been a huge challenge in Liberia prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, however, the outbreak of the pandemic caused disruption in education at a very disturbing level. Providing children with quality education is fundamental to Liberia's progress and prosperity. Nevertheless, as a result of the long-lasting effects of the 14-year civil war, compounded by the 2014 school closure due to Ebola outbreak; 2020 school closure due to COVID-19 has made it a struggle to get good education in Liberia. The conflict destroyed or damaged close to 60% of schools.

buildings (UNICEF Report). Even though Liberia has made some noticeable gain in the educational system, yet children's access to education is limited by numerous factors including inadequate learning environment/poor infrastructure, which have limited the learning opportunity for many children living in rural areas. These challenges have resulted to poor learning outcomes, over-age enrollment and huge number of out-of-school children. In addition, the education sector also faces serious equity challenges including important geographic differences in access to equity education. For example, at Tahn Public School in Grand Cape Mount County, students sit in class room with leaky roof, no ceiling tiles, etc... a classic example of the deplorable condition of educational facilities in the Administrative District is Tahn Public School where some students sit on the floor to learn, and limited teaching materials/equipment's for teachers.

DCFENETWORK deemed it necessary to endeavor upon initiative that would bring behavior change and ensure survivor's access to justice and services; and to also provide safe and adequate learning environment for children including children with disabilities. Therefore, DCFENETWORK designed a **\$50,000.00** USD plan that targets **10,000** people, especially women and children with disabilities for the year 2020/2021.

The Disabled Children and Female Empowerment Network is a youth-led, Women's and child's rights institution that has the membership of 10 local CSOs and DPOs, 12 staffs, and 20 volunteers. DCFENETWORK was established to advocate for Women and children with different form of disabilities, against discrimination, empowerment in society and the representation of women with disabilities in Leadership and Politics in Liberia. The organization has operational offices in Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa Counties; with head-office in Montserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia. The organization is fully registered under the Laws of the Republic of Liberia, and it is open to working with the governments, communities, civil society organization, DPOs, NGOs, UN Agencies, the private sector, and other partners worldwide to advance the rights of women and children with disabilities; to provide sustainable development programs including life-skills to physically challenge and visually impaired females, 13-35, as well as exploring avenues that would make women and children with disabilities live freely and comfortably. DCFENETWORK is guided by its internal framework and policies, and some international human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the National Commission on Disability Acts of 2005, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As recognized in the Sustainable Development Goals, "Leave no one Behind"

1.2.WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window: Strengthening of a Civil Society Organization's institution capacity project

Activity 1.1. Provide adequate equipment and environment for the DCFENETWORK to successfully continue its operation on women's protection during the era of the COVID-19

Prior to the WPHF support/funding, DCFENETWORK was consequently grappling with institutional gaps, including poor working environment, limited capacity of organizational staffs, inadequate resources and equipment that will enable DCFENETWORK to effectively operates and advance the rights of women and children with disabilities.



With support from WPHF,

DCFENETWORK secured a four room-office space for 12 months and procured necessary equipment that is required to successfully continue its operation on women's protection during the era of the COVID-19.



Activity 1.1. Conduct three days capacity building training for DCFENETWORK, INC. workforce in technical, managerial and financial skills, for the organization to effectively and efficiently promote women's protection against GBV and Human rights violation

DCFENETWORK conducted 3-day capacity building exercise which built the technical, managerial and financial skills of DCFENETWORK staffs. The training mainly focused on the basics of financial management in the NGO's Sector and the management of donors' funding. This capacity building initiative was funded by the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) through outcome five (5) of the WPHF COVID-19 Emergency Response Window, under funding Stream one (1). To have the program achieved, DCFETWORK in consultation with WPHF, hired a training consultant (Mr. Allison K. Teele Jr., an experienced public financial management



professional who currently works as Senior Economist at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and assigned in the Debt Management Unit) to conduct the 3-day training sessions which was held at the organization's office in Brewerville City, and started on September 28 -30, 2020. The training followed by one week of in-person coaching and mentoring sessions and the development of a financial manual. The manual is being used to guide DCFENETWORK financial practices and

serve as reference material for the organization. As a results of the training sessions, Staff of DCFENETWORK have improved skills in technical, managerial, and financial management which has enabled DCFENETWORK to effectively manage donors' funding and promote women's protection against GBV and human rights violation. DCFENETWORK was able to provide monthly remuneration. Twelve (12) trainees was earlier targeted, and all were in attendance and trained [one (1) girl under 19, four (4) females under age 35; six (6) males under 35 and one (1) male under 54].

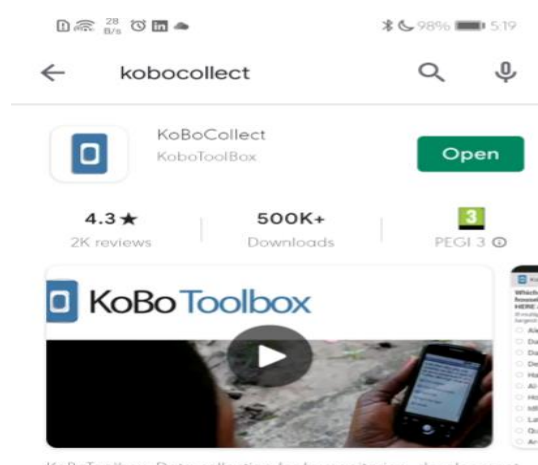
Activity 1.3. Enhanced technical knowledge and skills of DCFENETWORK, INC. staff to collect, manage, track and report on data on all cases of GBV against women and girls, especially those with disabilities during the COVID-19 period

In 2021, DCFENETWORK conducted a simple survey targeted 3000 people with disabilities in Montserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia. The survey identified challenges women and girls with disabilities faced daily, and their special needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the



survey conducted by DCFENETWORK, 60% of the population were women with disabilities, and 30% were children under 19; 10% are men. 83% of the total population are unemployed and have no livelihood; prior to the COVID-19, disabled adolescent girls had limited access to sanitary products for menstruation; and the COVID-19 outbreak has decrease the possibility of disabled adolescent girls access to sanitary products for menstruation, for example, menstruation pad due to their inability to purchase sanitary products; these

adolescent girls during the survey also disclosed that they do not know how to use menstruation pad, so they preferred using lapper (old cloth), and this has been a huge problem for them. 60% of the women (especially the blind) were not street beggars, but since the COVID-19 outbreak, limited institutional supports, no family's support, and they have to survive, thus, they end up on the street begging and doing sex-work (prostitution). According to the simple survey, 30% of the dead COVID-19 population in Montserrado County were people with disabilities, as a results of not following health protocols on COVID-19. This means, they do not have the ability to protect themselves from the virus (for example, how is it possible for a woman with disabilities to observe social distancing when she does not have anything to live on? or how is it possible for young blind female to wear nose mask or observe social distancing when she is depending on street begging for survivor?). On a daily basis, majority of women and girls with disabilities are violated (rape, harassment, corporal injury, etc.) As a results of the survey, DCFENETWORK, INC. successfully developed a disability-based mobile application (KoBoCollect) that is being used f or the management of GBV cases against women and girls



with disabilities during the COVID-19 period. The Kobo Toolbox has been leveraged with a conduit for the prompt transmission of field investigation reports. This platform has web and android interfaces, which eased the challenges in capturing data in challenging environments. The Toolbox has been programmed with three immediate reportable forms focus on gender-based violence – the victim/ survivor, alleged perpetrator, and referral forms. These forms are built



into the application, and can be downloaded from “google playstore. “The “DISABILITY-BASED MOBILE APPLICATION” is being used to support the government of Liberia through Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with SGBV data that involves women and children with disabilities. The Kobo Toolbox has been leveraged upon a conduit for the prompt transmission of field investigation reports. This platform has web and android interfaces, which eased the challenges in capturing data in challenging environments. The Toolbox has been programmed with three immediate reportable forms focus on gender-based violence – the victim/ survivor, alleged perpetrator, and referral forms. These forms are built into the application, and can be found on “google ply store. Through a two days’ capacity building workshop, from January 13-14, 2021, DCFENETWORK, INC. enhanced thirteen staffs and disabilities-based actor’s (7 females under 35, and 6 males under age 35) knowledge on the usages of the disability-based mobile application to collect, track and manage SGBV data during the COVID-19. Based upon the recommendation as a results of the survey, DCFENETWORK transcribed five copies of the



Domestic Violence Act of 2019 into braille. This Act is vital to the participation and inclusion of women with disabilities into peacebuilding and security processes. A copy of the transcribed document was given to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, UN Women Liberia, and three national disability institutions in Montserrado County, Monrovia, Liberia. Visually impaired/blind women currently have access to the Domestic Violence Act of 2019.

Activity 1.4.: Conduct two days capacity building workshop to strengthen the institutional capacity of DCFENETWORK, INC. and five Women’s Right Organizations for collaborations and networking, policy analysis, advocacy and awareness on addressing GBV and women’s rights issues during the Coronavirus Disease Outbreak period

The training was held at the FAWEE training center. It lasted for two days beginning Wednesday, January 27 and ended on Thursday, January 28, 2021. The training included theoretical sessions on SGBV, policy analysis and advocacy, and collaboration and networking. Practical methods such as roleplay, lecture, presentation, and group activities were employed throughout the training. In



other words, it was characterized by interactive group discussions, presentation and exercises. During the training, DCFENETWORK staffs and five women right organizations capacity were built and strengthened in collaboration and networking, policy analysis, advocacy and awareness on addressing SGBV and women's rights issues during COVID-19 in Liberia. On January 27, day one had six training sessions (The scope of SGBV as a problem; Gender, Sex, Gender Norms and Power; Defining SGBV in relation to consent, violence, threats of violence and

coercion; SGBV against girls, women, Boys, and men during the COVID-19 era; Human Rights and the International Legal Framework; and the Four approaches to Addressing SGBV) In the scope of SGBV as a problem, participants and trainer/consultant reviewed existing statistics on SGBV in Liberia before COVID-19 and during COVID-19 to give participants an understanding of how SGBV is evading our country. Several reasons why SGBV continues to go unreported and of course the beliefs surrounding SGBV was discussed. The discussion also focusses on how gender, sex, gender norms and power are closely linked to SGBV but can misunderstood/misinterpreted at times. This session covers the definitions of the four approaches to addressing SGBV, examples of each of them and with group work and presentation on each of them. We then defined SGBV in relation to consent, violence, threats of violence and coercion because these variables accompany SGBV in many instances. It was clarified that while SGBV occurs without consent, perpetrators use the rest of the variables to commit SGBV. In session 4, SGBV against girls, women, Boys, and men during the COVID-19 era, participants were trained on facts about Covid-19 related SGBV, contributing factors to SGBV during Covid-19 in Liberia, and how to respond to and address SGBV, the showdown pandemic during COVID-19. In session five, the topic covered was "Human Rights and the International Legal Framework." As SGBV actors, it is sad and can undercut our efforts to mitigate SGBV when we lack understanding of basic human rights and the international legal framework that protect those rights. In this session therefore, participants were taught the seven major categories of legal frameworks underpinning protection against SGBV. Day one ended with training participants on how to use the four key SGBV addressing approaches (Community-based protection, Survivor centered approach, Age, Gender and Diversity approach and the Rights-based approach) and the participants convincingly role-played all the approaches.

Policy Analysis and Advocacy to Combat GBV in COVID-19

In the policy analysis and advocacy component of the training, participants/trainees were trained on how to use the three main approaches, (The analysis centric, The policy process, The meta-policy approach) to policy analysis. Further, methodologies in policy analysis, qualitative research which may include case study and interviews with community members and quantitative research which includes survey research and statistical analysis (also called data analysis) were covered to deepen participant knowledge on how to analyze existing policies on SGBV and disability.

Participants were then taught dimensions for analyzing policies as a crucial tool to examine any policy. The topics covered under dimensions are:

- Effectiveness—What effects does the policy have on the targeted problem?
- Unintended effect—What are the unintended effects of this policy?
- Equity—What are the effects of this policy on different population groups?
- Cost—What is the financial cost of this policy?
- Feasibility—Is the policy technically feasible?
- Acceptability—Do the relevant policy stakeholders view the policy as acceptable

Collaboration and Networking to Combat GBV

During this session, participants were trained on how to ensure that relevant stakeholders are identified and included to build consensus to tackle challenges and find solutions to GBV. Participants were trained on how to collaborate and encourage stakeholders to partner and adopt the principles of human rights in fighting SGBV during the COVID-19 era. Therefore, this section of the training focused on three main areas (How can SGBV actors network and collaborate effectively, some useful networking and collaboration skills, and where and how do victims get justice). Listing individuals, government ministries and organizations involved in SGBV; identifying the roles of the above actors in combating GBV; arranging periodic meetings with all SGBV actors; creating WhatsApp groups—if confidentiality will be guaranteed; and listing all justice and protection institution/actors in a location with contact numbers were taught to participants. We then identified a host of SGBV actors or potential actors, discussed with participants the roles they could play to respond to or prevent SGBV during COVID-19 and even beyond. Participants replayed this session and trainer made his input. Some of the actors identified and whose roles were discussed included government—MOGCSP, market/businesses, Civil society organizations, political parties, community/family, media, and development partners.

Activity 1.5.: Collaborate with SGBV Taskforce and conducted the advocacy campaign on stop gender based violence (GBV) against women and girls, especially those with disabilities

DCFENETWORK, INC. successfully conducted an advocacy/awareness campaign on *“Stop Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities”* in Babyma Junction, Banjor, Virginian and Iron Gate Communities in District#17, Brewerville City, Montserrado County. The awareness increased the knowledge and sensitized over 3,500 people at the household and community level on the effect of SGBV against women and girls; and also educated women and girls with disabilities about sexual reproductive health (including menstrual hygiene). The awareness was rolled-out for two days, during which we used different approaches (palawa hut discussion and house-to-house sensitization). [@disablednetwork](#)

The **palawa hut** discussion reached 150 community’s dwellers, town chiefs, youth chairman, chairlady and religious leaders, and people with disabilities. During the palawa hut discussion, we increased their knowledge on the effects of sexual gender-based violence (rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, child marriage, etc.), and how to report a SGBV (rape) case, following the SGBV referral pathway. We also educated women and girls, including disabled women and girls about menstrual hygiene. During the palawa hut discussion we established women’s group called “Community SGBV Group” in the four communities. These women group will monitor all SGBV

cases at household and community level; they will also track-down SGBV cases using the mobile application “Kobocollect”, and report all comprised cases at the household and community level.

During the palava hut discussion at the Virginia community, the *community dweller told us that the awareness is very necessary and timely, because men in that community are in the constant habit of harassing and beating on women, one of the female resident of the Mango Town, Virginian community disclosed that, “rape is a common thing in this community, and the police, and the family are in the constant habit of compromising rape cases.” The community chairman of Babyma Junction Community said, “we will never carry any rape, sexual harassment, etc. cases to the police, we will handle the case our own way, the police are in the habit of asking for money as ‘registration fees’ before investigating a rape case.”*

Furthermore, during the Palawa hut discussion we rolled-out COVID-19 awareness messages, but During the discussion, the chairman of the Virginian community stated that he is *“glad about the initiatives, because most of the people have forgotten due to the lack of consistence awareness/sensitization” Some communities’ members, during the palawa hut discussion, noted that COVID-19 is real, but it is not in Liberia. In fact, the government is using the COVID-19 Pandemic to make money.* After all of their statements, the DCFENETWORK, INC. awareness team make them to understand that COVID-19 is real and it is still in Liberia, and the Government of Liberia is not using the pandemic as a business. To protected our families, love ones, friends and communities’ member, we all need to fight the COVID-19 together.

The house-to-house sensitization: reached over 3000 people (motorcyclist, marketers, community’s dwellers, marginalized group, stud ents, etc.). the awareness campaign sensitized the public about SGBV and the referral pathways.



In Baby Ma Junction the community dwellers said, *“awareness on SGBV needs to take different direction, over the period of time awareness has been done but violence against women has increased even more”.* One of the community dwellers said mothers are in the constant habit of sending their girls children out to look for money while they sit home doing nothing, and in Baby Ma Junction the highest age for a girl child to become a mother is age 15. During the awareness in the four communities in the past two months, over 50 cases were highlighted (especially rape and sexual

harassment and domestic violence), but Ten (10) cases was reported to the police (**Zone-6, Depot-3**), and five was reported to the tradition bush in Banjor and Baby Ma; and the rest was handled by the community leaders. According to the Assistant WACPS officer of Zone-6, Depot-3, Mr. Momoh N. Barbar, since January 2021 to present there have been several of cases reported to this police station-most especially in the month of February 2021, presently they have received Twenty-five (25) SGBV cases, and five cases out of Twenty-five cases have been sent to court and some are now in jail. According to the police commander of Zone-6, Depot 3, the number of perpetrators of SGBV arrested and sent to court are presently in total of five (5) and these perpetrators are currently in Monrovia center prison (salt beach). The awareness was rolled-out on

March 25-26, 2021. And there were 21 participants/ SGBV actors and DCFENETWORK's staffs that rolled-out the awareness.

Based on the awareness conducted we observed that:

- Adolescent girls with disabilities does not have access to sanitary products, including menstruation pad
- Majority of the Women been violated at the household and community level do not have money to afford a lawyer, so their cases are compromise
- Women with disabilities are not fully supported in the fight against GBV
- Majority of the community dwellers in the four communities do not have knowledge about the SGBV referral Pathway, Rape Law and the Domestic Violence Law
- Drugs abuse is the key factors to SGBV (sexual harassment and rape), and it needs timely intervention.
- Lack of train professional (braille reader and sign language interpreter) at the WACPS/police, court, and hospital to fairly investigate SGBV cases involving women and girls with disabilities.

Recommendations during the WPHF project implementation

- ❖ *Lobby with the WPHF, through UNWOMEN to provide resources to extend the tracking and management of GBV cases against women and girls with disabilities beyond Montserrado County*
- ❖ *Lobby with WPHF through UNWOMEN to provide sanitary products for young women with disabilities during this COVID-19 outbreak*
- ❖ WPHF, UN Women, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia should promote sign language interpreting, braille reading, etc. at the WACPS/police, court and hospital to fairly investigate SGBV cases involving women and girls with disabilities
- ❖ WPHF and UN Women should promote legal services (including lawyer) for SGBV survivor at the household and community level
- ❖ ***WPHF and UN Women should provide adequate training for people with disabilities, especially the deaf and the blind on the prevention and response on SGBV and violence mete against them.***
- ❖ WPHF and UN Women should support DCFENETWORK, INC. to transcribe the Rape Law in to braille for visually impaired and blind women to have access to laws that is vital to their protection and participation in peace and security sector in Liberia.
- ❖ WPHF, UN Women, and the Government of Liberia should increase the promotion of sexual Reproductive Health Rights for women and girls, especially those with disabilities.
- ❖ WPHF, and the Government of Liberia needs to support Local NGOs and CSOs to raise sufficient awareness on SGBV, and women's participation in the peace and security sector at the national level.
- ❖ WPHF and UN Women should support DCFENETWORK, INC. to lobby and advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the United National Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities by the Government of Liberia.

Recommendations:

From past experiences, responding to and preventing SGBV has always been critical to handle because of several reasons. Lack of professional practitioners, resources, and awareness about SGBV actors or potential SGBV actors have been part of the problem. Drawing from the training experiences, the below recommendations could serve to address some of the issues. Some of the recommendations are also part of training manual and are placed under the last bullet point, “What role can each of these actors play to prevent or minimize GBV or Discrimination against PWD” for facilitators easy reference.

- ❖ Reference to Training Manual—it is strongly recommended that staff who will be designated to conduct SGBV training using the PowerPoint slides prepared by the consultant of this contract, always reads the manual completely and refer to it whenever there is a doubt and a need for clarifications.
- ❖ Training of DCFENETWORK Staff—to have a strong team that responds to and prevent SGBV during COVID-19 and further, the staff need a basic social work training. The Mother Patern College of Health Sciences offers a three months Basic Social Work Training for staff for reasonable cost.
- ❖ Government—MOGCSP—DCFENETWORK should liaise with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to set standards, develop SGBV guidelines, disseminate and monitor their operationalization. Liaise with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to institutionalize and monitor gender mainstreaming in the counties and the Liberia government to ensure county development plans, programs, budgets and services that benefit women and men, girls and boys, and PWD.
- ❖ Market/Businesses—DCFENETWORK should coordinate with the Liberia Marketing Association to undertake corporate social responsibility initiatives and interventions to prevent SGBV and safeguard PWD in marketplaces, and ensure that essential products supplies, and services are accessible to both men and women including PWD equally.
- ❖ Alliance—DCFENETWORK should develop broad alliances to address the democratic deficit of the very low share of women and PWD at the legislature. Participate in Sectoral County and Regional working groups to promote GBV and PWD. Promote affirmative action and non-discrimination in all sectors.
- ❖ Political Parties – DCFENETWORK should collaborate with MOGCSP to mainstream gender, institute affirmative action measures in party structures, processes and mechanisms to prevent SGBV but promote gender equality.
- ❖ Media – DCFENETWORK should routinely liaise with all media institutions in Liberia eliminate all gender stereotypes and negative portrayal of women in the media and promote wide and consistent coverage on themes of SGBV and disability. Publicize, inform, and educate citizens about SGBV and disability including exposing cases of SGBV through investigative journalism.
- ❖ Civil Society Organizations– DCFENETWORK should collaborate with Civil Society Organizations to push the government of Liberia to design and implement programs that address key SGBV interventions strategies and hold government accountable.

1.3.IRISE Improvement School project: Renovation of the Tahn Public School



In September 2021, with funding (\$22,500.00 USD) from IDA through MOE under the IRISE Improvement School Grant, DCFENETWORK in consortium with NGACCOM renovated the Tahn Public High School in Tahn Town, Mana Clan, Gola Konneh District, Grand Cape Mount County. 500 students are currently benefiting from this project. This project created an

inclusive, safe and adequate learning environment for students including students with disabilities.

Program Implementation



With funding from IDI through the IRISE Improvement School Grant, NGACCOM

demolished and recast the floor of the Junior and Senior High Building of the Tahn Public School. Procured and installed panel doors on the junior and Senior high

building of the TPS; *Fixed and Ported ceiling tiles, and painted the entire (inside and outside) of the Junior and*



Senior building of the Tahn Public School.



Furthermore, as part of the implementation to create an inclusive and safe learning environment for children, on September 27-28, 2021, at the Tahn Public School Auditorium, DCFENETWORK facilitated two days capacity sensitization sessions for teachers, students and community dwellers on the maintenance of the school campus and good Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Practices in School and at Home.

1.4.Dell Technologies Pro Bono Consultancy: Data collection and management for PWDs

The Pro Bono Consulting Workshop, Dell Technologies team members engaged DCFENETWORK Team members to address carefully honed opportunities for DCFENETWORK to improve an approach, process, or tool core to their organization's success across two 4-hour session. The training sessions were held on zoom, during the sessions on December 8-9, 2021, Dell Technologies Team trained DCFENETWORK to develop a survey application for data collection on Persons with disabilities in the 5 regions in Liberia, Microsoft 365 has been leveraged for website access and data collection, this will enable DCFENETWORK to collect and manage data on PWDs in Liberia.

1.5.EU/UN Spotlight Initiative: increase public awareness on SGBV against women and girls with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as sensitizing them on the importance of Hand Washing, social distancing, signs and symptoms of the COVID-19, encouraging the disabled community adherence to the national health protocol, why they should call/text 4455, if they or someone in their community feel sick.

Activity 1.1.: Conduct two days workshop to strengthen the organization workforce so as to fully implement/respond to SGBV and COVID-19 against women and girls with disabilities

A. Programme implementation:

From August 6-7, 2020, DCFENETWORK with support from EU/UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE, conducted two days capacity building workshop at the FAWE-Liberia Conference Hall, Airfield Shortcut, 24th Street, Gbankay Junction. The training strengthened DCFEMNETWORK workforce which enabled them to fully respond to SGBV and COVID-19 against women and girls with disabilities in three targeted communities. The workshop was categorized in three models, and there were three facilitators: Mr. Thomas Kenagea Brown, the Executive Director, DCFENETWORK, INC. and he facilitated two sessions (model 1&2); Rev. Andrew Tugba, the Dean of Students & Sign Language Interpreter of the Liberia school for the Deaf and a volunteer of the DCFENETWORK, INC. served as the sign language interpreter for the deaf participants during the two days of the workshop. Mr. Jarvis S. Fletch, the Administrative and M&E Officer of the FAWE-LIBERIA; Mr. Fletch was one of the facilitators during day two of the workshop.



The workshop was categorized in three model; they are as follow:

- I. Model 1: opening of the program/Introduction
- II. Model 2: understanding Sexual gender-based violence
- III. Model 3:
 - ❖ Model 3-Session 1: SGBV prevention and response
 - ❖ Model 3-session 2: COVID-19 Pandemic

The training strengthened DCFENETWORK, INC. staffs, and it enable them to effectively response to the increasing violence mete against women and girls in Babyma Junction, Virginia Community and Banjor Community in District #17, Montserrado County, and to successfully implement the EU/UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE SGBV and COVID-19 project.

B. Evaluation of the two-day capacity building workshop

During the workshop, a visually impaired (blind) staff of DCFENETWORK participated hugely using braille to take note.

During the training one of the participants said, *“this training is very helpfully, especially for me, because I was raped and I got impregnated from the result of the rape; I have been very depressed, and frustrated, I wanted to kill the man that raped me, because I sees his face every day, and it hurts my heart. So many times, I asked myself, what can I do in such situation? but I have learnt on the first day of the workshop about victims and survivors of RAPE, therefore I am a survivor so I will live with it and move on with life.”* A Deaf participant (deaf female) appreciated the EU/UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE for this program, because since the outbreak of the COVID-19, this is the first workshop that I have participated in as a deaf woman, she said, *“over the past time, people have given her food with no education on how to save herself (no one to communicate with her) from the virus and prevent herself from SGBV. So, this program is very important for them to be aware of the response against SGBV.”*

Activity 1.2. Conduct awareness in Babyma Junction, Virginian, and Banjor Community on SGBV against women and girls with disabilities during the COVID-19

A. Programme Implementation

From August 11-13, 2020, DCFENETWORK conducted and completed three days awareness on sexual gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities to over 300 community dwellers in Virginia, Banjor and Babyma Junction communities.

Methodologies/Strategies used to conduct the awareness:



DCFENETWORK successfully conducted a three days awareness in the three spotlight communities in line with the follow strategies:

The awareness was done through rigorous community/household engagement [banner, T-Shirt, flyers, megaphone, and writing on poster sheet, etc.]. DCFENETWORK staffs and, Women’s rights CSOs and DPOs Actors participated in the three-days awareness; participants were divided into groups and assigned into communities, and disseminated awareness messages to the public. The community/household awareness tackled SGBV against women and girls in the

community. The awareness was rolled-out at household and community levels, and informed households and communities’ dweller on the risks and effects of sexual gender-based violence against women and girls and an effort to bring about behavior/practical change within household or community settings. During the awareness, participants were on the principle streets of the

selected communities in District#17, Brewerville City, Montserrado county sensitizing public about the effects of SGBV against women and girls and punishment associated with it.

Goal

The goal of the awareness was to reduce the increasing proliferation of sexual gender-based violence instituted against women and girls, especially women and girls with disabilities in three communities in District #17, Montserrado County.

Specific Objectives

Provided awareness and sensitized the public (communities) on the effects of SGBV against women and girls curtail the high prevalence of SGBV against women and girls at household/community settings Sensitized the communities about SGBV referral pathway

Activity 1.3.: Conduct house-to-house sensitization on the importance of hand washing, social distancing, signs and symptoms of the COVID-19, encouraging the disabled community adherence to the national health protocol, and why they should call/text 4455 if they or someone in their community feel sick.

A. Programme Implementation

From November 25-27, 2020, DCFENETWORK, INC. in collaboration with the National Union Organization of the Disabled (NUOD) and CSOs Actors Conducted and completed a three days house-to-house sensitization on COVID-19, the importance of hand washing, and encouraged people, especially women and girls with disabilities adherence to the national health protocol on COVID-19 in three spotlights communities (Virginia, Banjor and Babyma Junction communities).

Methodologies/Strategies used to conduct the awareness:

DCFENETWORK successfully conducted a three days awareness in the three spotlight communities in line with the follow strategies:



The awareness was done through rigorous community/household engagement [banner, T-Shirt, flyers, megaphone, and writing on poster sheet, etc.]. The DCFENETWORK staffs and SGBV/CSOs actors participated in the three-days awareness; participants were divided into groups and assigned to communities; awareness messages were disseminated to the public.

The community/household awareness tackled the sensitization of people with disabilities about COVID-19, and the importance of hand washing, and encouraging the disabled community adherence to the national health protocol on COVID-19.



DCFENETWORK, INC. and other collaborating partner's rolled-out the awareness at

Household/community levels, and informed households and communities' dweller on the risks and effects of sexual gender-based violence against women and girls and an effort to bring about behavior/practice change within household or community settings.

Goal

The goal of this community engagement is to increase the disabled community adherence to the National Health Protocol on COVID-19 in the Babyma Junction, Banjor and Virginia Communities in District#17, Brewerville City.

Specific Objectives

- Provided awareness and sensitized the public (communities) on the effects of COVID-19 against women and girls with disabilities
- Increase public awareness on the importance of Hand Washing, wearing of nose mask, and observing social distancing
- Encouraged the disabled community adherence to the National Health Protocol on COVID-19
- Sensitized the disabled Community on the importance of calling/texting 4455 if their family, community members or other people showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Activity 1.4.: Network with Disabled People Actors and SGBV Actors to conduct a media engagement/awareness (print and electronics) flagging the issues/ challenges disabled women and girls encounter daily relative to violence meted against them

A. Programme Implementation

On December 3-4, 2020, DCFENETWORK in collaboration with DPOs and CSOs Actors successfully conducted a media engagement (radio talkshow/Newspaper), during which issues/challenges and the practical needs of women and girls with disabilities are face with during the COVID-19 were discussed/flagged out highly.

Methodologies/Strategies used to conduct the media engagement: The media engagement was done in two phases:

- I. Radio engagement
- II. Newspaper engagement

2. Radio engagement

The DCFENETWORK, INC. conducted a radio talk-show on Radio Net <https://www.facebook.com/UMNLIBERIA/videos/719962971970792/?app=fbl> on December 3, 2020, during the radio talk-show, the challenges women and girls with disabilities was flagged out rigorously. The radio talk-show was done in two radio stations, Radio Net 90.5 FM and Red Power 100.3 FM, located Brewerville City, Montserrado County. During the

media engagement, 12-participants were anticipated, but 8 person appeared on the radio talk-show. The two media stations were accepting only four (4) persons in their studio, taking into consideration the National Health Protocol on COVID-19, that was communicated to media (radio stations) institutions. During the radio talk show, we unveil that, the main reason for the increase violence against women and girls with disabilities in Liberia is the lack of laws and policies that protects women with disabilities, and the failure of government to sign the Optional Protocol to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD); and the limited representation of disabled women into democratic engagement, peacebuilding and accountability process in the local and national level in Liberia.

We also uncovered that the COVID-19 has increased the economic hardship on women and girls with disabilities, thus increasing their involvement it to street begging, sex work, and increasing their vulnerability in society. Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services has been a major problem for women and adolescent girls during this COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Newspaper

After the radio talk-show, the DCFENETWORK, INC. wrote an article, which was publish on the Heritage Newspaper and the Daily Observer Newspaper.

The publication of the article is based upon the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls with Disabilities.

Goal:

The goal of this media engagement is to increase the public knowledge on the challenges women and girls with disabilities are faced with, and their practical needs during the COVID-19

Specific Objectives:

- Provided awareness and sensitized the public (communities) on the increased economic burden imposed on women and girls with disabilities due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic
- Increased public knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health Services for adolescent girls and women with disabilities during this COVID-19 pandemic
- Increased the public knowledge on the gaps in laws and policies that protects women and girls with disabilities.

1.1.1. Challenges

- ❖ Many people believe that COVID-19 has finished, so they are not observing the National Health Protocol on COVID-19
- ❖ People are taking rape case for play, and if nothing is done to put the situation under control, the society will be left with too many vulnerable women and girls, and because of that they will turn to become prostitute and women of no values.
- ❖ There is no trained professionals and adequate supports (safe homes, etc.) for survivor of SGBV (rape).
- ❖ There is no means of income generation for women with disabilities, so they get involve into so many bad deeds (selling their own children, street begging, sex for money, etc.)

- ❖ A disabled woman has 4-8 children with no father, the mothers end up begging just to support her children, this also make them vulnerable in society
- ❖ Due to limited awareness, majority of the communities' dwellers have forgotten about COVID-19
- ❖ Women and girls with disabilities cannot protect and safeguard themselves from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Lack of practical Sexual Reproductive Health services and Income generation for women and girls with disabilities

1.1.2. Recommendation

- ❖ EU/UN, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia should promote sign language interpreting, braille reading, etc. at the WACPS/police, court and hospital to fairly investigate SGBV cases involving women and girls with disabilities
- ❖ European Union and the United Nations (EU/UN), Internationals NGOs and Government of Liberia needs to support Local NGOs and CSOs to raise sufficient awareness and monitoring and Evaluation on SGBV, in both rural and urban areas
- ❖ Local, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia should provide adequate training for people with disabilities, especially the deaf and the blind on the prevention and response on SGBV and violence mete against them.
- ❖ EU/UN, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia should provide adequate equipment and funds to Local NGOs and CSOs so as to empower them in the fight against SGBV
- ❖ EU/UN, International and Local NGOs and the Government of Liberia should promote and capacitate community leaders so as to advance on initiatives that will eliminate violence against women and girls at the community level.
- ❖ EU/UN, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia should empower women and girls with disabilities by provide life skills for income generation, this will add values to their lives
- ❖ EU/UN, International NGOs, Local NGOs and the Government of Liberia needs to raise sufficient awareness on COVID-19.
- ❖ EU/UN, International NGOs and the Government of Liberia should increase the promotion of sexual Reproductive Health Rights for women and girls with disabilities.
- ❖ EU/UN, local and international NGOs to help the disable community with their practical needs (sensitizer, nose mask and other material) which will help the disabled community adherence to the National Health Protocol and to help protect them from the virus
- ❖ European Union and the United Nations (EU/UN), Internationals NGOs and Government of Liberia needs to support Local NGOs and CSOs to raise sufficient awareness and monitoring and Evaluation on COVID-19
- ❖ EU/UN, Local and International NGOs to help provide, hand washing bucket, mosquito net, soap and tablets to people with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.
- ❖ EU/UN, International NGOs, Local NGOs and the Government of Liberia needs to raise sufficient awareness on COVID-19.
- ❖ The disabled community recommend that person with disabilities are at risk during this time of COVID-19 so government, NGOs and other partner should please fine mean to help the disable with foods, medicine, so that they can stop begging in the corner of the street.

2.1. Methodologies used during the operation and implementation

DCFENETWORK as an institution always implement its project or programs in collaboration/partnership/networking as a way to speedily and successfully achieve project/program implementation. DCFENETWORK uses the inclusive principle (leave no one behind) in prioritizing gender sensitivity at all levels of its project management by being inclusive and bringing on board women from all backgrounds ethnicities, religions, sexual identity, sexual orientation or age.

DCFENETWORK used rational and methodical approaches that focus on “strengthen-to-lead” approach where women/beneficiaries were supported, inspired and lead project/ program implementation. We also used the, “Lead-to-change” approach, where women with disabilities were capacitated and supported to challenge and change attitudes and behavior towards women, their value, roles, and responsibilities.

Furthermore, for the successful implementation of project, approaches and strategy changes based on the context/nature of the project/ program and program settings.

2.2.M&E Strategy used during projects implementation

The projects implementation was monitored jointly by Communities leaders and DCFENETWORK on a quarterly basis led by DCFENETWORK M&E Team. WPHF and EU/UN Spotlight Initiative Project’s implementation based on participatory approaches from its inception to completion. This means that different stakeholders were regularly engaged in the designed and implementation of monitoring and evaluation of activities, data collection, feedback to the beneficiaries and stakeholders all of which formed part of our transparency and accountability actions. Also, the project team regularly prepared monthly and quarterly reports on implementation; conducted regular joint field visits with stakeholders and assessed the impact, progress and outcomes of the program on beneficiaries. At the beginning, middle and end of the project, the M&E team headed by the DCFENETWORK M&E team conducted baseline, mid-term and end-term surveys which assessed and established community’s profiles including prevalence of women’s political participation and leadership representation, and captured lessons learned for sharing with relevant stakeholders and donors. DCFENETWORK M&E framework was used as a tool to rolled-out the M&E.

The M&E plan included mechanisms for both quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and performance monitoring to ensure effective tracking of the progress towards expected results as presented in the Implementation Plan. The M&E team interfaced closely with project implementation team, ensuring that learning approaches were integrated throughout the program

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Figure 1: Cross Section of Project

The WPHF project brought together five women's rights CSOs from across Montserrado County. The 5-CSOs mostly encompassed National Union Organization of the Disabled, Women for Positive Action, Alliance for Women and Children Development, Action for Women and Girls Survival; and Youth for Sustainable Peace.

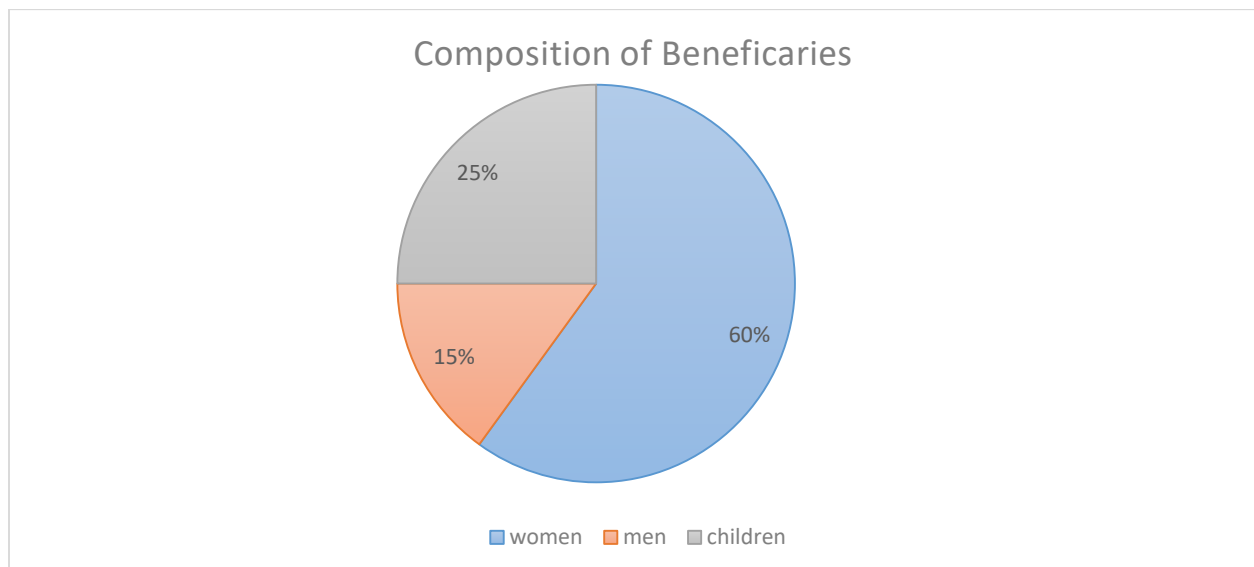
The WPHF project implementation reached 140 direct beneficiaries; 3500 indirect beneficiaries in Babyma Junction, Virginian, Iron Gate, and Banjor Communities. The project implementation team included 12-staffs from DCFENETWORK. WPHF project implementation started on July 2020 and ended April 2021.

IRISE Improvement School project reached the direct beneficiaries of 500 students in Tahn Public High School in Tahn Town, Mana Clan, Gola Konneh District, Grand

Cape Mount County. project implementations started September 2021. This project created an inclusive, safe and adequate learning environment for students including special needs students.

EU/UN Spotlight Initiative project implementation began 2020 and reached 300 women and children; and reached 3000 indirect beneficiaries includes female, male and children. the total of 60% of the project beneficiaries were female; 25% were children; and 15% were men. as displayed by **figure 2**, the pie chart below. The need to implement project in Babyma Junction, Banjor, Virginian, and Iron Gate was based on the fact that more violence against children occurred and affects every part of these communities, stated in the Child Protection Network (CPN) 2020 report of child right violations. and it is necessary that everyone is given the opportunity to get some understanding about child protection and safeguarding, for example, that they will ably make sound decisions to protect and support children in Liberia.

Figure 2: project beneficiaries by functions – female, male and children



2.3.Lessons learned

During the project implementation, there were challenges encountered, but we mitigated these challenges; DCFENETWORK success stories and lessons learned. Prior to WPHF funding, DCFENETWORK was grappling with huge institutional gaps including equipment, qualified staffs, and good working environment. As a results of funding from WPHF, DCFENETWORK upgraded her work environment, trained her staff (managerial and financial), and procured office equipment for the day-to-day operation of the organization.

Afore the awareness on SGBV, Community dwellers had limited understanding about SGBV and Disability-based violence and how to report cases following the SGBV referral pathway; and community dwellers were not taking ownership of any SGBV initiatives at the community level to eradicate the increased violence mete against women and girls especially against those with special needs. Therefore, in other to mitigate the problem, we firstly developed a **Community Follow-Up Plan**; during the follow-up with the communities, we established **SGBV Community Forum**. This forum is established so as to sensitize and increase the knowledge of community dwellers on the negative effects of SGBV (including increasing their knowledge on about the rights of women; various laws that protect them).

Community grew interest in protecting their community, and also during our follow-up visit to the SGBV Forum in Banjor Community, the community dwellers of Banjor community recommended that we setup a SGBV Team that will regularly monitor the community.

The mitigation strategic worked, and is still in progress. Banjor community which has 24-sub communities has been one of the most violent community in Brewerville City in terms of violence against women and girls. But since the establishment of the COMMUNITY SGBV FORUM and the SGBV Team, over the past three weeks there have been a decrease in violence against women. *however, there are major challenge which is support to these established community structures.*

With the support from our donors, visually impaired (blind) staff from the DCFENETWORK now uses braille to take note while conducting awareness and making follow-up with community on SGBV. Community leaders and community dwellers from the four communities highlighted that this is the first program they have encountered disabled people themselves on the forefront conducting awareness or making follow-up on SEXUAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. And the community chairman of the Babyma Junction also said “*that this awareness was helpful, since the awareness was conducted, at least, for now these drugs boy and the motorcyclist has stopped harassing our girl’s children.*”

2.4. *Priority recommendation:*

From past experiences, responding to and preventing SGBV has always been critical to handle because of several reasons. Lack of professional practitioners, resources, and awareness about SGBV actors or potential SGBV actors have been part of the problem. Drawing from awareness and training experiences, the bellow recommendations could serve to address some of the issues. “What role can each of these actors play to prevent or minimize GBV or Discrimination against PWD”

- ❖ Government—MOGCSP—DCFENETWORK should liaise with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to set standards, develop SGBV guidelines, disseminate and monitor their operationalization. Liaise with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to institutionalize and monitor gender mainstreaming in the counties and the Liberia government to ensure county development plans, programs, budgets and services that benefit women and men, girls and boys, and PWD.
- ❖ Government—MOGCSP should promote sign language interpreting, braille reading, etc. at the WACPS/police, court and hospital to fairly investigate SGBV cases involving women and girls with disabilities
- ❖ Government—*MOH*—DCFENETWORK through Ministry of Health *to provide sanitary products for young women with disabilities; to increase the promotion of sexual Reproductive Health Rights for women and girls, especially those with disabilities.*
- ❖ INGO—DCFENETWORK should promote legal services (including lawyer) for SGBV survivor at the household and community level
- ❖ Market/Businesses—DCFENETWORK should coordinate with the Liberia Marketing Association to undertake corporate social responsibility initiatives and interventions to prevent SGBV and safeguard PWD in marketplaces, and ensure that essential products supplies, and services are accessible to both men and women including PWD equally.
- ❖ Alliance—DCFENETWORK should develop broad alliances to address the democratic deficit of the very low share of women and PWD at the legislature. Participate in Sectoral County and Regional working groups to promote GBV and PWD. Promote affirmative action and non-discrimination in all sectors.
- ❖ Political Parties – DCFENETWORK should collaborate with MOGCSP to mainstream gender, institute affirmative action measures in party structures, processes and mechanisms to prevent SGBV but promote gender equality.
- ❖ Media – DCFENETWORK should routinely liaise with all media institutions in Liberia eliminate all gender stereotypes and negative portrayal of women in the media and promote wide and consistent coverage on themes of SGBV and disability. Publicize, inform, and educate citizens about SGBV and disability including exposing cases of SGBV through investigative journalism.
- ❖ Civil Society Organizations– DCFENETWORK should collaborate with Civil Society Organizations to push the government of Liberia to design and implement programs that address key SGBV interventions strategies and hold government accountable.

ANNEXES

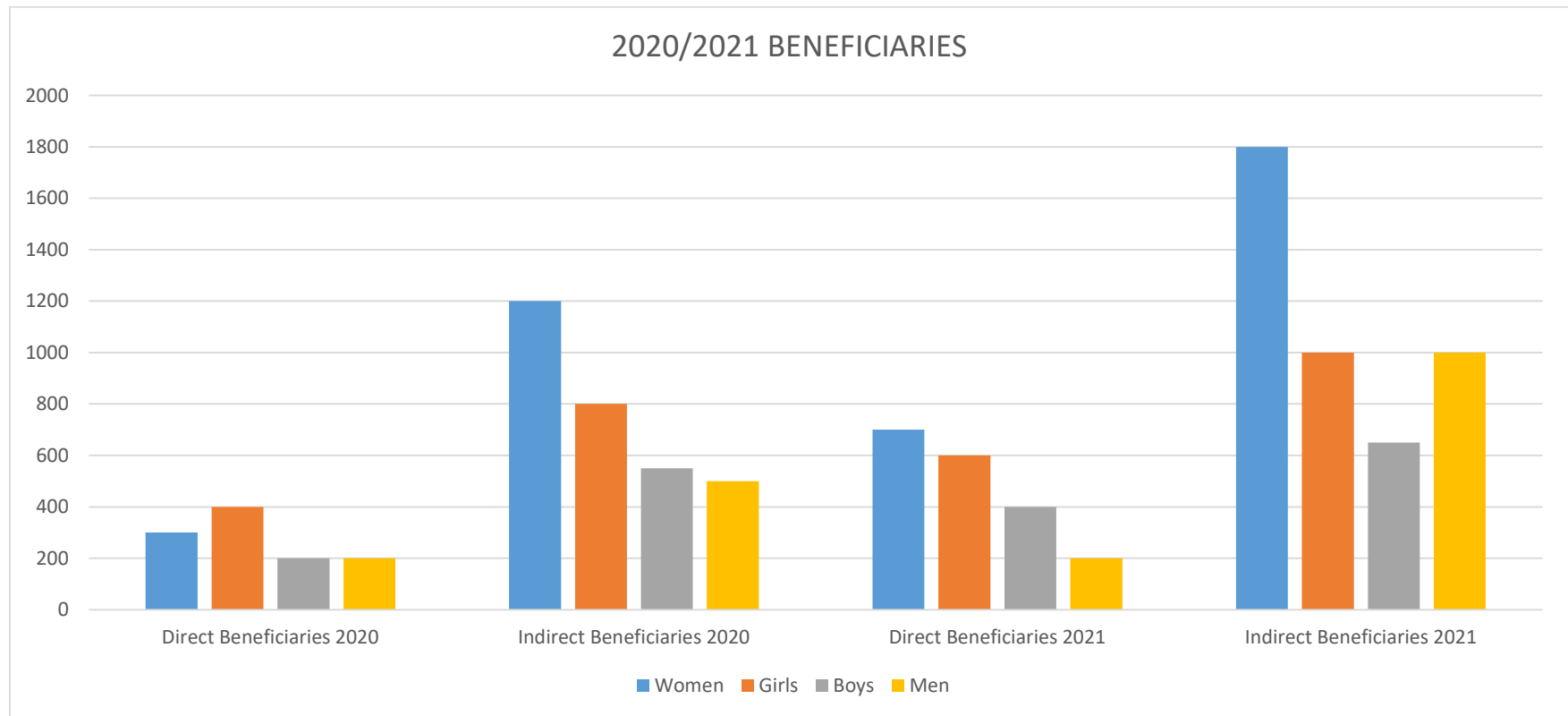
Annex 1_: beneficiaries and reached 2020/2021

Target Groups	Age Groups by Sex	Direct Beneficiaries ¹		Indirect Beneficiaries ²	
		Total for Year	Cumulative	Total for Year	Cumulative
<input type="checkbox"/> IDPs <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> People living with disabilities (PWD) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survivors/victims of SGBV <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):	Girls (0-17)	1000	1000	2800	2800
	Women (18+)	1000	1000	3000	3000
	Boys (0-17)	600	600	1200	1200
	Men (18+)	400	400	1500	1500
	Total	3000	3000	8500	8500

¹ Direct beneficiaries refer to the individuals, groups, or organizations, which benefit directly from the intervention, or who are the direct recipients of programming or services and are explicitly stated in the output and outcome statements of the results framework. Direct beneficiaries and the target groups are the same.

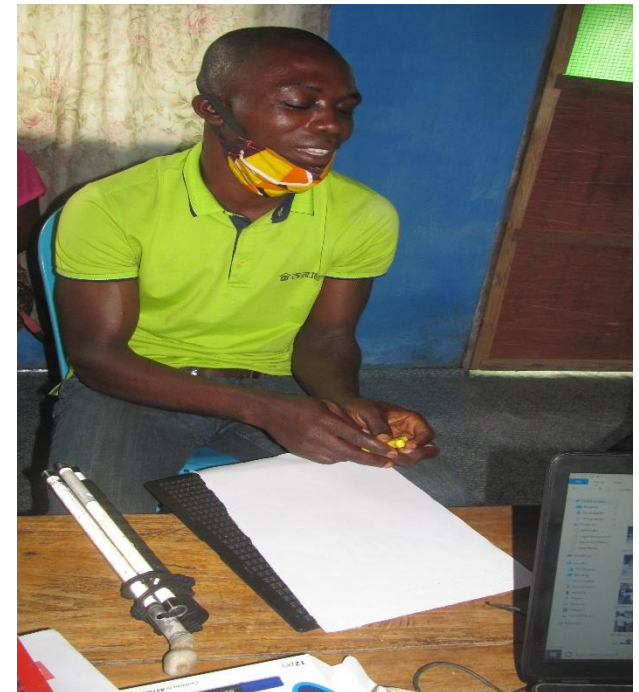
² Indirect beneficiaries refer to other individuals, groups or organizations who are not the direct target of interventions as outlined in the results framework, but could be other members of the community, or family members who benefit positively from interventions of direct beneficiary participation. Often the calculation of indirect beneficiaries is done by estimating a 'spillover' effect through the average family size.

Annex 2_: Data Analysis



Annex 3_: Photos Gallery









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