

**CAFOD: "Livelihoods and Leadership: Tackling Gender Inequality and Sexual Violence in Conflict and Ebola Affected Liberia" (MYG030.15)**

**Summary of End of Year 2 Report**

**Project status**

This project is seeking to combat negative gender stereotypes and inequalities in targeted communities in Liberia through awareness raising on women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It also aims to increase women's empowerment in the target communities by providing women with access to skills training, grant initiatives, employment and training on their involvement and participation in community decision making structures.

Community response to the project has been very positive, with high levels of participation from the women in the communities. Additionally, community leaders including town chiefs and women leaders have requested the replication of the training programmes in other communities.

The project has already delivered material benefits to some of its participants, including those women trained in hairdressing, who are now making a good income from this skill.

**Activities in Year 2**

'Training of training' of literacy educators took place in September 2016. This consisted of a one-week intensive training course for twelve literacy facilitators from 3 communities in. The literacy facilitators were selected based on recommendation by their communities, and at the end of the training each county literacy team developed a learning plan for their area.

125 women and girls received literacy training and health education during Year 2, in three communities which had been identified as particularly in need of a literacy programme. Reasons for having missed-out on formal education included early marriage and teenage pregnancy as well as traditional beliefs and practices that frown upon sending girls to school. The health education sessions included Ebola and stigma, FGM, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

75 women and girls who survived the Ebola crisis and 135 women and girls subjected to Gender Based Violence participated in the vocational skills and livelihoods training programme. The vocational skills taught were chosen based on the interests of the beneficiaries and local market needs. 75 people were trained in tailoring, 38 trained in pastry, 44 in soap making and 53 in hairdressing.

Additionally, three community theatre forums were established across fifteen communities. Songs and dramas that highlighted issues of sexual gender based violence including rape, physical, emotional and economic violence were performed. An estimated 16,000 people were reached.

Two survivors of sexual gender based violence were provided support to cover costs for treatment, medication and transportation to follow up their cases with county gender offices, police and the courts.

## **Budget Summary**

The project's activities have been run to schedule with the exception of the commencement of planned 'women's experience sharing forums' which will now take place in the first month of Year 3. As a result of this, a small underspend of £2,696 will be utilised in Year 3.