

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

MISSION REPORT SUMMARY

Date: 14/05/2014



Name: Orla Kelly and Louise Aaen		Tel No.	Travel Authorization #:
Approved Mission Itinerary: Travel to Makeni and Tonkolili for workshop facilitation and monitoring	List of Annexes (if any to this document): CEDAW Action Plan (draft)		
(From) Inclusive Travel Dates (To) 12 – 14 May 2014	Key counterpart(s) in each location: Magistrate’s Court Makeni, FSU Makeni, Restless Development		
Purpose/Objective of Mission:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilitation of UNCT/MSWGCA organized workshop on the CEDAW Concluding Observations on Sierra Leone • Visiting implementing partners in the surrounding area 			
Brief Summary of Mission Findings:			
<p>Magistrate Stevens expressed progress made in relation to reduction of the backlog of cases. He mentioned that cases of SGBV were dealt with in confidentiality and that the identities of victims and witnesses were protected where appropriate. Upon observation of the court room however, the mission team noted that it was extremely open onto the street with multiple windows so it was unclear how witnesses/victims could be protected from view. The Magistrate noted challenges in contacting headquarters in Freetown due to electricity outages and lack of resources for bill payment. <u>He also indicated the lack of electronic equipment and support staff as a challenge.</u> He mentioned that court staff had to travel to Freetown to transport documents as opposed to sending soft copies. The mission team also observed that the court building was very run-down and the files were in danger of being damaged due to flooding and damp <u>and were not secured.</u> (Files have not yet been transferred onto an electronic system) <u>(There is only an electronic system in Freetown, rest is done by hand).</u></p> <p>The Head of the FSU mentioned that cases of SGBV had been rising in the area, <u>and the Office was at the time of the visit seemingly quite busy.</u> <u>FSU</u> She also mentioned difficulties in visiting field offices due to the unavailability of vehicles.</p> <p>Restless Development spoke about their work with schools through Volunteer Peer Educators, on providing civic education, raising awareness of gender equality and teenage pregnancy.</p> <p>The workshop on the CEDAW Concluding Observations was attended by civil society groups, paramount chiefs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, the First Lady and the Soweis (female secret society). Participation was strong and key areas of action on CEDAW were identified. (More details in the annex below)</p>			
Expected Results:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information gathered from partners in the field to inform the work of the A2J programme • Awareness raised on CEDAW Concluding Observations • Action plan for implementation of the COs formulated and disseminated by the Ministry and UNWOMEN 			
Follow up actions:			Distribution: (Copies to)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive minutes to be disseminated by UNWOMEN • Action Plan to be finalized and disseminated • Participants to help monitor the implementation of the COs 			

ANNEX – Draft Action Plan

Priority Concluding Observations	Short, medium or long term	Related right/s	Current Status	Next steps	Implementers (duty-bearers)		Resources required
					Government	Other	
Constitutional review – expunging of discriminatory clauses	Short-term	Right to Equality	Ongoing – already a priority as the CRP is ongoing	Expunge all discriminatory clauses in the Constitution; continue to encourage participation of women in the review process in order to ensure a gender sensitive Constitution; place particular emphasis on women’s right to property and land ownership; entire Constitution is gender-responsive	- MSWGCA - Local Gov’t - CRC - Parliament - Human Rights Commission	- Dev. Partners - CSOs - Donors	
Healthcare – free healthcare should be a law	Short-term for law but implementation longer term	Right to Health	Currently a policy and not a law	- Insert into the Constitution as a right; expand free healthcare beyond just pregnant and lactating women; add aged women for free healthcare; Abortion should be legislated for and we need to pass an Abortion Bill	- MoHS - MSWGCA - MOFED - Local councils - Parliament	- Dev. Partners - CSOs	

Prevention of violence against women/ reduction of violence against women	Short-term	Security of person; human dignity; sexual and reproductive rights; freedom of movement; freedom of expression; right to life		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that women are aware of the referral pathway through sensitization; provide heightened support to FSUs – follow up trainings, resources; review requirement of medical evidence in SGBV cases; provision of safe homes at district levels and ensure victims are protected; popularization of laws and policies; increased number of social workers; sensitization of men; more paralegals and magistrates; forensic lab; adequate penalties for perpetrators; simplified version of the SOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Security and justice sector - MSWGCA - Legislators - MoHS - Ministry of Justice - Traditional leaders - Local gov't - Office of the ombudsperson - Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dev. Partners - CSOs 	Financial and personnel
Reduction of traditional practices – particularly FGC	Short-term (elimination in the long term)	Right to security of person; right to life; rights of child; right to health; right to equality;	Signed MOUs with secret societies; also under Child Rights Act that under 18 FGC is prohibited (this was contested)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enforce ban on under 18 FGC and enforce full consent for 18 and over; sensitization on risks of FGC; enforcement of safe procedure – after 18 and by consent; provide skills training centers for Soweis to prevent early initiation; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSWGCA - Traditional Leaders - MOHS - MOEST - Paramount chief council - Ministry of Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society 	

		sexual and reproductive health		adopt a clear and distinct policy and law on the ban of under 18 and penalties for breaking the law; law should cover both genders – female and male circumcision.	- FSU - Sowe council		
Education for women and girls to be a right not a privilege	??	Right to Education; Right to Equality	Not a right; few policies; access to primary and junior secondary for girls but low access to senior secondary and tertiary; money not getting to schools on time from the gov't so parents forced to pay fees and other charges; (according to MSWGCA the figures in schools are inflated??).	- Full implementation of the Education Act; review of the the code of conduct for teachers to include penalties for breaking the code; skills training for youth – tech/vocational; prioritize adult literacy especially for rural women – establish adult literacy centers; improve conditions of service for teachers; provide resources for schools; the establishment of a teachers' Commission; special measures for pregnant teenagers to continue education; ensure gender sensitive curriculum; sexual and reproductive education; abandoning the 'shift	- MoEd. - MOFED - MSWGCA - Local Gov't - Local councils - SLTU	- Parents - Teachers	

				system'; boarding schools for girls at district levels (this is very much long term); change/improve the structure of the ministry of education; passing of by-laws to ensure the above.			
Capacity building for the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs	Short-medium-long term		No transparency when it comes to the work of partners – no information sharing; mapping of stakeholders last week via MSWGCA and Irish Aid	Information sharing with all stakeholders working on gender in order to coordinate and avoid duplication of efforts; more funding for the Ministry (??)	- MOFED - MSWGCA - Parliament	- Dev. Partners - INGOs - CSOs	
Access to justice for women (extra emphasis on rural women)	Short-long term	Equality before the law	- Limited magistrates courts; limited FSUs and police forces; prolonged and dropped cases; limited legal representation;	- Increase magistrates at district level; ensure paralegals trained at Chiefdom level; training and support to FSU; retention of FSU staff; implementation of Legal Aid Act 2012; appointing women as court chairpersons; special incentives for people working for the justice system to go to the	- Legislature - Executive - Judiciary - Security sector - Council of paramount chiefs - SLP	- Media - CSOs - DPs	

				provinces; ensure proper functioning of local courts (ongoing now)			
Female leadership and political participation		Right to participation in public life of nation; right to association; Right to free expression; Right to vote and be voted for; right to equality	Females do not have access to paramount chieftaincy in the North and some parts of the East; discriminatory clauses in the Constitution; low effort of political parties to promote women candidates; no policy (30% quota); low percentage of women in power; SLPP has a gender policy, APC has not yet adopted (clarify)	Training paramount chiefs on gender, human rights and governance; review the Chieftaincy Act to allow female Paramount Chiefs nationwide; 30% quota for female representation at all levels; sensitize women about the importance of political participation; elimination of cultural barriers; WEGE Bill; development/endorsement/implementation of the Gender Equality policy amongst all political parties; Capacity building of women; sensitization of male leaders/authorities	- PPRC - NEC - Political Parties - Council of paramount chiefs - MSWGCA - Parliamentarians - Female caucus - APPWA	- DPs - INGOs - CSOs	
Legal reform to uphold legal rights of women		Right to Equality; equal right to citizenship	Four gender justice laws; ward section under the local government act	- Expunge all discriminatory provisions in the Constitution; mainstream equality in the Constitution; enact gender equality and women's	- Legislature		

				empowerment bill; codify customary law to ensure it is in line with formal law upholding the rights of women as equal with men; Abortion law should be adopted (ongoing); citizen law must be reformed to ensure non-discrimination			