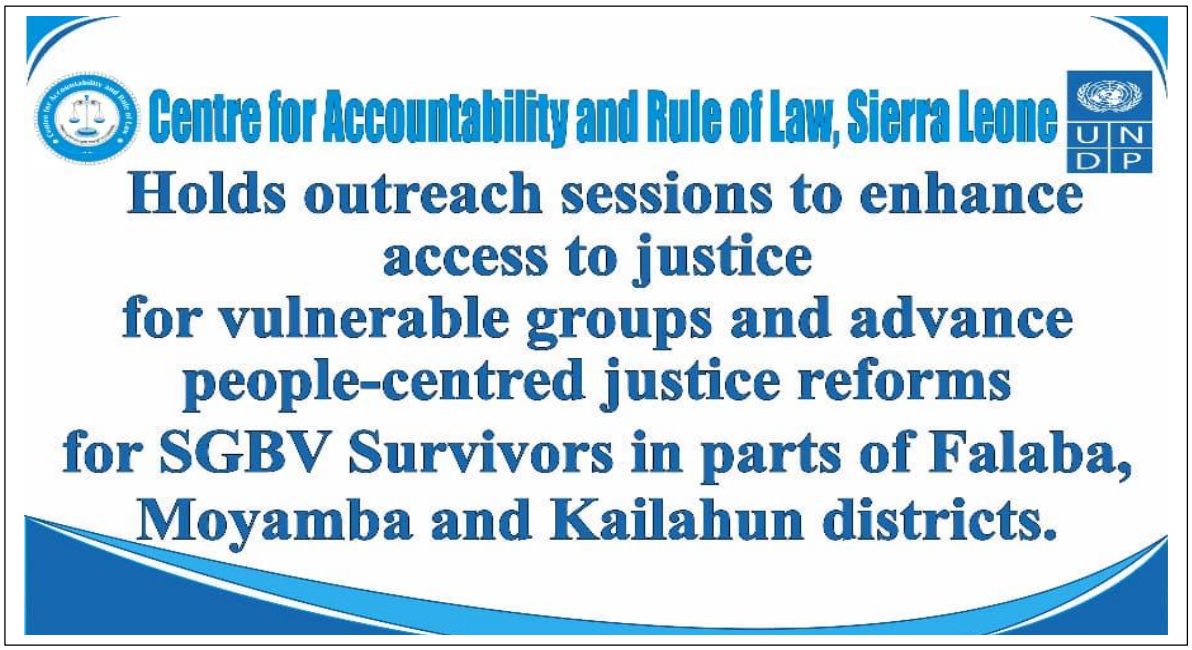
FINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

SIERRA LEONE



Project Title	Enhancing Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups and Advancing People-Centred Justice Reforms	
Project Number	**001002874**	
Responsible Party	Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law – Sierra Leone (CARL-SL) 19 Pulteney Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone	
Activity Period	Start Date: 01/04/2026	End Date: 30/9/2026
Approved Activity Budget	**$ 98,744.55**	
Reporting Period	From: 01/04/2026	To: 30/9/2026
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I. PROJECT SUMMARY

The Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law – Sierra Leone (CARL-SL) implemented the project **"Enhancing Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups and Advancing People-Centred Justice Reforms"** under Project Number **001002874** across **Moyamba, Kailahun and Falaba Districts**. The intervention was designed to contribute to the broader outcome of ensuring that **inclusive, people-centred systems providing quality justice and security services, while upholding and protecting human rights, are trusted and accessible, particularly in contexts affected by crisis, conflict or fragility**.

The project was initially implemented during the first phase from **April to June, 2026** and was subsequently extended from **July to September, 2026**. Although the extension constituted a separate implementation period, the activities remained substantially aligned with the original intervention. This final report therefore consolidates the achievements of both phases and presents the results for the **April–September, 2026 implementation period**.

The intervention addressed several interconnected barriers to access justice. These included financial and practical barriers faced by survivors and witnesses, limited access to legal assistance, inadequate awareness of legal rights and obligations, weak community-level referral mechanisms, and limited understanding of legislation relating to SGBV, women's inheritance rights and protection from child marriage.

The project adopted a multi-level approach that combined **direct support to vulnerable individuals, legal aid, capacity development, community outreach, radio programming and documentation of beneficiary experiences**. This approach enabled the project to address immediate justice needs while also strengthening awareness and community-level capacity to prevent abuses, violations, identify cases and connect vulnerable people to relevant services.

Over the full implementation period, the project provided justice-related support to **300 people** under Activity 1. This represents the cumulative achievement reported in the two Results Frameworks, with **145 people reached during the first phase and 155 people during the extension phase**. The intervention sought to facilitate beneficiaries' participation in and access to justice and related support services across the three target districts.

Under Activity 2, the project provided legal aid and access-to-justice support to **40 women** facing inheritance-related discrimination. **20 women were reached during the first phase and a further 20 women during the extension phase**, resulting in a cumulative total of 40 women supported.

The capacity-building component was implemented through **24 knowledge and learning-focused sessions** over the two phases. These sessions reached a cumulative **1,320 participants**, comprising **619 males and 701 females**. The first phase reached **450 participants, comprising 200 males and 250 females**, while the extension phase reached **870 participants, comprising 419 males and 451 females**. The sessions focused on SGBV prevention and response, the Sexual Offences Act, women's inheritance rights, the Devolution of Estates Act, related legislation and referral pathways.

Community-level awareness activities were also implemented extensively. Across the two phases, the project reached **3,300 community members** through community outreach activities. Of these, **1,561 were males and 1,739 were females**. The first phase reached **2,400 people, comprising 1,161 males and 1,239 females**, while the extension phase reached **900 people, comprising 400 males and 500 females**.

The project additionally used radio as a complementary mass-awareness mechanism. A total of **25 syndicated radio discussion programmes** were conducted during the two implementation phases. This comprised **15 programmes during the first phase and 10 programmes during the extension phase**. The programmes provided platforms for public discussion and awareness on SGBV, women's inheritance rights, the Devolution of Estates Act, the Sexual Offences Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

The project also documented beneficiary experiences through **6 video testimonials**. Three testimonials were produced during the first phase and a further 3 during the extension phase. These products provide qualitative documentation of beneficiary experiences and complement the quantitative results achieved through the project.

Overall, the combined implementation reached beneficiaries and stakeholders at individual, community and wider public-awareness levels. The project therefore addressed access to justice not only through direct assistance but also through legal awareness, capacity development, community mobilization, referral strengthening and public communication.

The cumulative achievements are summarized below:

Activity	**Cumulative Achievement, March–September 2026**
Activity 1 – Support to victims/survivors and witnesses	300 people
Activity 2 – Legal aid to women facing inheritance-related discrimination	40 women
Activity 3 – Capacity-building and learning sessions	24 sessions; 1,320 participants (619 males, 701 females)
Activity 4 – Community outreach	24 sessions: 3,300 people (1,561 males, 1,739 females)

Activity 5 – Syndicated radio programmes	25 programmes
Activity 6 – Beneficiary video testimonials	6 Video testimonials

II. PROJECT RESULTS

The project achieved results through six interconnected activity areas. Rather than treating the first and extension phases as separate interventions, the final assessment considers them as successive implementation periods contributing to the same project objectives.

2.1 Activity 1: Support to Victims/Survivors and Witnesses

Activity 1 focused on providing support to victims/survivors and witnesses to facilitate their participation in and commitment to accessing justice and pursuing justice processes across the three target districts.

During the first implementation phase, **145 people** were reached through the activity. During the extension phase, a further **155 people** were supported. The cumulative achievement for the entire implementation period was therefore **300 people**.

The support was intended to address practical and other barriers that can prevent vulnerable individuals from participating effectively in justice processes. Such barriers may include difficulties accessing relevant services, participating in case processes and maintaining engagement with referral and justice mechanisms.

The cumulative result of 300 people demonstrates that the project maintained direct support to vulnerable beneficiaries throughout both phases. The continuity of this support was particularly important because access to justice often requires sustained engagement rather than a single point of intervention.

The activity also complemented the project's other interventions. Individuals reached through community outreach and awareness activities could potentially be linked to relevant services, while the strengthening of referral mechanisms under Activity 3 created an enabling environment for connecting vulnerable people with appropriate justice and protection services.

Cumulative achievement: 300 people supported, comprising **145 people during the first phase and 155 during the extension phase**.

The two Results Frameworks supplied for this report do not provide a cumulative sex, age or disability disaggregation for the 300 beneficiaries. Consequently, the final consolidated report does not assign additional demographic figures to this activity that are not supported by the source frameworks.

2.2 Activity 2: Legal Aid for Women Facing Inheritance-Related Discrimination

Activity 2 sought to improve women's access to justice by providing legal aid to women facing inheritance-related discrimination and challenges concerning inheritance and matrimonial property rights.

During the first phase, **20 women** were provided with access to justice and legal assistance. During the extension phase, another **20 women** were reached. The cumulative achievement for March–September 2026 was therefore **40 women**.

The intervention was particularly relevant in circumstances where women may experience difficulty asserting inheritance rights or addressing discrimination within customary, traditional or other family arrangements. Legal assistance provides an important bridge between awareness of rights and the practical ability to seek remedies or engage appropriate justice mechanisms.

The activity also reinforced the project's broader legal empowerment approach. Community awareness and capacity-building activities created opportunities for women and community stakeholders to learn about relevant rights, while direct legal assistance provided a pathway for women facing specific justice concerns.

The cumulative result of **40 women supported** therefore represents both direct service delivery and an important contribution to strengthening women's ability to understand, claim and pursue their legal rights.

The two Results Frameworks provided do not contain a cumulative sex, age or PWD breakdown for the 80 women. Since the activity itself specifically targets women, the consolidated result is reported as **40 women**, without introducing unsupported age or disability figures.

Cumulative achievement: 40 women provided with access to justice/legal aid, comprising **40 women in the first phase and 40 women during the extension phase**.

2.3 Activity 3: Capacity Building and Strengthening of Referral Mechanisms

Activity 3 focused on strengthening the knowledge and capacity of relevant stakeholders on SGBV, the Sexual Offences Act, women's inheritance rights, the Devolution of Estates Act, related legislation and GBV referral pathways.

Across the two implementation phases, the project conducted **24 knowledge and learning-focused sessions**. The first phase accounted for **12 sessions**, while the extension phase added a further **12 sessions**.
These sessions reached a cumulative **1,320 participants**. The sex-disaggregated data shows that participation comprised:
1. **619 males**
2. **701 females**

The cumulative figures are derived directly from the two implementation phases:
First phase: 450 participants
1. 200 males
2. 250 females

Extension phase: 870 participants
1. 419 males
2. 451 females

Cumulative: 1,320 participants
1. **619 males**
2. **701 females**

The participation of **701 females compared with 619 males** demonstrates substantial engagement of women in the capacity-building component while also maintaining participation of men. This was important because SGBV prevention and women's rights require engagement not only with women but also with men, traditional authorities, religious leaders, youth and other community actors.
The training sessions were intended not simply to provide information but to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to recognise rights violations, understand applicable legal provisions and identify appropriate referral pathways. The intervention therefore contributed to creating a more informed community and stakeholder environment around justice and protection issues.
The activity also included the establishment or strengthening of **three local referral structures**, contributing to improved linkages between community-level actors and formal justice, protection and service-delivery systems.
The Results Frameworks supplied for the two phases do not provide cumulative numerical age-group or PWD disaggregation for participants. Accordingly, the final report retains the verified cumulative sex disaggregation of **619 males and 701 females** without adding unsupported age or disability figures.
Cumulative achievement: 24 sessions; 1,320 participants; 619 males and 701 females; three local referral structures established/strengthened.

2.4 Activity 4: Community Outreach on SGBV Prevention and Women's Rights
Activity 4 was designed to increase community knowledge and awareness on SGBV prevention, women's rights and relevant legislation, including the Sexual Offences Act, women's inheritance rights, the Devolution of Estates Act and the prohibition of child marriage.
Across the two phases, the project reached a cumulative **3,300 community members**.
The first phase, 15 sessions reached: **2,400 people**, comprising:
1. **1,161 males**
2. **1,239 females**

The extension phase,9 sessions reached: **900 people**, comprising:
1. **400 males**
2. **500 females**

The cumulative result was therefore:
1. **3,300 people reached**
2. **1,561 males**
3. **1,739 females**

The cumulative figures demonstrate substantial community participation, with women representing the larger share of participants.
The outreach activities provided an opportunity to translate complex legal provisions into accessible community-level information. Discussions addressed SGBV prevention and response, women's inheritance rights, applicable legislation, available services and referral pathways.
The activities also provided a platform for community members to raise concerns and discuss barriers that can prevent vulnerable individuals from seeking justice. By combining awareness with information on referral mechanisms, the activity supported the project's broader objective of improving the accessibility and use of justice and protection services.

The Results Frameworks supplied for the two phases do not provide cumulative numerical disaggregation by age group or PWD status for the 3,300 participants. Therefore, the final report presents the verified sex disaggregation of **1,561 males and 1,739 females** and does not introduce unsupported demographic figures.
Cumulative achievement: 3,300 community members reached, comprising 1,561 males and 1,739 females.

2.5 Activity 5: Syndicated Radio Discussion Programmes
Activity 5 used radio as a mass communication mechanism to expand awareness beyond individuals participating directly in project activities.
Across the two phases, CARL conducted **25 syndicated radio discussion programmes**. This comprised:
1. **15 programmes during the first phase**
2. **10 programmes during the extension phase**

The cumulative achievement was therefore **61 programmes**.
The programmes provided an accessible platform for discussing issues relating to SGBV, women's inheritance rights, the Devolution of Estates Act, the Sexual Offences Act and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.
The radio component was particularly complementary to the face-to-face activities because it allowed legal and protection messages to reach audiences beyond those physically attending community outreach and training sessions.
Radio discussions also created opportunities for broader public engagement with issues that can be sensitive or difficult to address in individual settings. The use of local radio platforms helped extend the project's awareness and legal empowerment efforts beyond direct participants.
Cumulative achievement: 61 syndicated radio discussion programmes, comprising **33 in the first phase and 28 during the extension phase**.

2.6 Activity 6: Documentation of Beneficiary Experiences and Impact Stories
Activity 6 focused on documenting beneficiary experiences and impact stories through video testimonials.
The project documented **three video testimonials during the first phase** and **three additional testimonials during the extension phase**, resulting in a cumulative total of **six beneficiary video testimonials**.
The testimonials provide qualitative evidence that complements the project's quantitative results. Whereas attendance and service-delivery figures demonstrate the scale of implementation, beneficiary stories can provide insight into how individuals experienced the intervention and how access to information, legal assistance or justice-related support affected their circumstances.
The documentation was intended to support learning, accountability and communication and visibility. The use of beneficiary-centred approaches and appropriate consent procedures was important in ensuring that vulnerable individuals were not exposed to unnecessary protection or confidentiality risks.
Cumulative achievement: 6 beneficiary video testimonials, comprising **3 from the first phase and 3 from the extension phase**.

III. KEY CHALLENGES
Implementation across Moyamba, Kailahun and Falaba was undertaken in a context characterized by geographical, social, institutional and logistical challenges. The project nevertheless maintained implementation across the two phases and achieved the cumulative results reported above.

3.1 Geographical and Accessibility Constraints
The geographical spread of the three implementation districts presented challenges for reaching remote communities and maintaining regular engagement with beneficiaries and stakeholders.
Distance between communities and justice, health and other service points can create practical barriers for vulnerable individuals seeking assistance. These challenges are particularly relevant for survivors and witnesses who may need to travel repeatedly during the justice process.
The project's combination of direct support, community-level engagement and referral mechanisms helped reduce some of these barriers.

3.2 Social and Cultural Barriers
Social and cultural perceptions surrounding SGBV and women's inheritance rights continued to present challenges.
Issues relating to inheritance and matrimonial property may involve family relationships and customary practices, while SGBV can be associated with stigma and fear of disclosure. These factors can affect whether individuals seek assistance or participate in justice processes.

The engagement of community leaders, women leaders, youth, traditional authorities and religious actors was therefore important in creating spaces for discussion and improving understanding of legal rights.

3.3 Limited Awareness of Legal Rights

Limited knowledge of legislation and available services can prevent vulnerable people from recognizing violations or identifying where assistance can be obtained.

The project's training, outreach and radio activities were therefore important in translating legal provisions into more accessible information.

3.4 Referral and Coordination Challenges

SGBV and other justice-related cases often require collaboration among multiple actors, including community structures, police, health facilities, legal service providers and justice institutions.

Effective referral therefore depends on communication and coordination between actors. The project's establishment and strengthening of **three local referral structures** contributed to addressing this challenge.

3.5 Participation and Scheduling

The project worked with diverse categories of participants and stakeholders across three districts. Coordinating the availability of community members, leaders and institutional stakeholders required flexibility in scheduling and continuous communication.

3.6 Data Collection and Disaggregation

The two phases used results frameworks with somewhat different approaches to data disaggregation. Sex-disaggregated figures were clearly available for Activities 3 and 4, while cumulative age and disability figures were not provided in the two frameworks supplied for the final consolidation.

For the final report, figures have therefore been consolidated only where they can be directly supported by the two Results Frameworks.

IV. PROJECT RISKS AND ISSUES

Several contextual and operational risks were relevant during implementation.

No.	Risk/Issue	Potential Effect	Mitigation/Response
1	Cultural resistance to women's inheritance rights	May discourage women from pursuing claims	Continued engagement with traditional and religious leaders and community dialogue
2	Stigma surrounding SGBV	May discourage reporting and continued participation	Survivor-centred engagement, confidentiality, referral and follow-up
3	Distance from justice and service providers	May delay access to services	Support to access services and strengthened community referral mechanisms
4	Delays in justice processes	May affect case progression	Continued case follow-up and coordination with justice actors
5	Limited knowledge of referral pathways	May result in delayed or inappropriate referrals	Capacity building and dissemination of referral information
6	Accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities	May restrict participation	Inclusive planning and attention to accessibility requirements
7	Confidentiality and safeguarding concerns	Could expose vulnerable beneficiaries to additional risks	Confidential handling of information, informed consent and safeguarding procedures
8	Logistical and coordination constraints	Could affect implementation schedules	Advance planning and stakeholder coordination
9	Language and literacy barriers	Could affect understanding of legal information	Simplified messages and locally appropriate communication approaches

V. LESSONS LEARNED

The two implementation phases generated lessons that are relevant to future access-to-justice programming.

5.1 Community Structures Are Essential for Sustaining Legal Awareness

The implementation demonstrated the importance of community-level actors in extending legal awareness beyond individual project events. Traditional leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, youth representatives and community-based organisations can reinforce information on SGBV prevention and women's rights within their respective communities.

5.2 Direct Services and Awareness Must Be Connected

Awareness alone does not necessarily result in access to justice. Individuals who become aware of their rights also require pathways through which they can obtain assistance.

The combination of community outreach, legal aid, survivor support and referral mechanisms therefore provided a stronger intervention model than relying on awareness activities alone.

5.3 Repeated Engagement Strengthens Understanding

The implementation across two successive phases demonstrated the importance of continued engagement. Legal and protection messages often require repeated discussion before they become widely understood and accepted within communities.

The use of training, outreach and radio programming created multiple opportunities for communities to encounter and discuss the same core issues.

5.4 Gender-Inclusive Engagement Is Important

The cumulative participation figures for Activities 3 and 4 demonstrate meaningful engagement of both women and men. The project reached **619 males and 701 females through capacity-building activities** and **1,561 males and 1,739 females through community outreach**.

This indicates the value of involving both women and men in discussions about SGBV prevention, women's rights and access to justice.

5.5 Referral Mechanisms Are Important for Sustaining Results

The establishment and strengthening of **three local referral structures** demonstrated the importance of linking community-level awareness with available formal services.

5.6 Radio Can Extend the Reach of Legal Awareness

The **61 syndicated radio programmes** provided an important complementary mechanism for reaching audiences beyond direct project participants.

5.7 Disaggregated Data Strengthens Accountability

The availability of sex-disaggregated data for Activities 3 and 4 allowed the project to demonstrate participation by women and men. Future programming would benefit from consistently capturing sex, age and disability data across all activities using harmonized monitoring tools.

VI. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The integrated implementation of the **Enhancing Access to Justice for Vulnerable Groups and Advancing People-Centred Justice Reforms** project from March to September 2026 produced results across individual, community and broader public-awareness levels.

Across the full implementation period, the project supported **300 people** under Activity 1 and provided legal aid/access-to-justice support to **80 women** under Activity 2.

The project also conducted **24 knowledge and learning-focused sessions**, reaching **1,320 participants**, comprising **619 males and 701 females**. Community outreach activities reached a further **3,300 people**, comprising **1,561 males and 1,739 females**.

The project expanded public awareness through **61 syndicated radio programmes** and documented **six beneficiary video testimonials**.

These results demonstrate the value of combining direct services with legal empowerment, community engagement, stakeholder capacity building and mass communication. The intervention therefore addressed both immediate access-to-justice needs and broader factors influencing knowledge, referral and community engagement.

The two-phase implementation also demonstrates the importance of continuity. The extension phase built upon the structures and approaches established during the first phase and enabled the project to expand its cumulative reach.

Way Forward

Future programming should maintain and further strengthen community-based referral mechanisms, particularly the **three local referral structures** established or strengthened through the project.

Continued legal awareness should focus on SGBV prevention, women's inheritance rights, relevant legislation and available referral pathways, particularly in communities where geographical or social barriers continue to affect access to justice.

Future interventions should also maintain engagement with traditional and religious leaders, women-led organisations, youth and community structures, as these actors remain important for sustaining legal awareness and supporting referrals.

There is also value in strengthening case follow-up and documentation so that future interventions can capture not only the number of beneficiaries supported but also the progression and outcomes of cases.

VII. FINANCIAL STATUS

Donor	Budget USD	Expenditure during the Reporting Period	Cumulative Expenditure	Budget Balance (USD)	Percentage of Delivery
UNDP	98,744.55	98,744.55	98,744.55	Nil	100%
Total					98,744.55

VIII. ANNEX – RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Agreed Outputs / Activities and Indicators	Data Source (RP)	Baseline	Cumulative Result: March–September 2026	Target / Result for Entire Period	Achievement / Status
Activity 1: Provide support to victims/survivors and witnesses to facilitate their participation in and commitment to accessing justice and prosecuting offenders across the three districts. Indicator 1.1: Number of people provided with access to justice/support services.	Case Management Records; GBVIMS/Child Protection IMS; CBO Service Delivery Registers	75 (2025)	**300 people** supported: 145 during first phase + 155 during extension phase	**300 people cumulatively supported**	**Achieved.** The two phases cumulatively reached 300 people. The supplied frameworks do not provide cumulative sex, age or PWD disaggregation for this indicator.
Activity 2: Provide legal aid to women facing inheritance-related discrimination to advance inheritance rights and access to matrimonial property. Indicator 2.1: Number of women provided with access to justice.	Legal Aid Provider Records; Paralegal/Community Justice Structures; Court/Legal System Documentation	20 (2025)	**40 women** supported: 20 during first phase + 20 during extension phase	**80 women**	**Achieved.** A cumulative 40 women received legal assistance/access to justice. The supplied frameworks do not provide cumulative age or PWD disaggregation.
Activity 3: Conduct capacity-building trainings on SGBV, Sexual Offences Act 2019, women's inheritance rights, Devolution of Estates Act and related legislation/referral pathways and establish local referral structures. Indicators 3.1a/3.1b: Number of knowledge and learning mechanisms and number of people provided with legal information/advice through training.	Training Attendance Sheets; Participant Registers; Pre/Post Tests; Training Reports	3 sessions (2025)	**24 sessions; 1,320 participants – 619 males and 701 females.** First phase: 12 sessions/450 participants (200 M, 250 F). Extension: 12 sessions/870 participants (419 M, 451 F). **3 referral structures** established/strengthened.	**24 sessions; 1,320 participants; 3 referral structures**	**Achieved.** Cumulative sex-disaggregated participation is 619 males and 701 females. The supplied frameworks do not provide cumulative numerical age/PWD data.
Activity 4: Conduct community outreach on SGBV prevention and women's rights across the three districts. Indicator 4.1: Number of people reached through SGBV prevention/awareness campaigns and legal information activities.	Community Outreach Attendance Sheets; Participant Registers; Outreach Reports; Sensitisation Material Logs	900 (2025)	**24 sessions: 3,300 people – 1,561 males and 1,739 females.** First phase: 2,400 (1,161 M, 1,239 F).	**3,300 people cumulatively reached**	**Achieved.** Cumulative sex disaggregation is 1,561 males and 1,739 females. The supplied frameworks do not provide cumulative numerical age/PWD data.

			Extension: 900 (400 M, 500 F).		
Activity 5: Organise syndicated radio discussion programmes on the Devolution of Estates Act, SGBV, Sexual Offences Act 2019 and prohibition of Child Marriage Act. Indicator 5.1: Number of syndicated radio discussion programmes.	Radio Programme Logs; Broadcast Schedules; MoUs/Contracts; Audio Recordings; Transmission Reports	10 (2026)	**25 programmes:** 15 first phase + 10 extension phase	**25 programmes**	**Achieved.** The project conducted 25 syndicated radio programmes during the combined implementation period.
Activity 6: Document beneficiary experiences and impact stories through video testimonials. Indicator 6.1: Number of beneficiary video testimonials.	Raw Video Files; Beneficiary Consent Forms; Interview/Story Collection Forms	0 (2026)	**6 video testimonials:** 3 first phase + 3 extension phase	**6 testimonials**	**Achieved.** Six beneficiary experiences and impact stories were documented during the combined implementation period.

IX. CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PHOTOS

1. Moyamba District









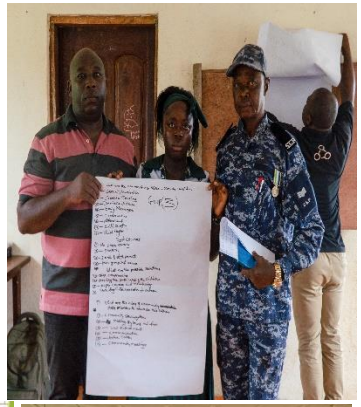







2. Kailahun District











3. Falaba District















Some radio discussion photos

