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ANNUAL REPORT, 2024
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Approved by the Governing Council of STEWARDWOMEN during the Annual General Meeting to be held on 17th May 2025 in Nimule- Central Equatoria State, South Sudan

1.0 Introduction

This report presents 2024 annual achievements, challenges, lesson learns and recommendations from the various projects implemented by STEWARDWOMEN during the period of January – December 2024 with key Intervention areas covering justice, peace and security, and documentation, MEAL and Research.

The following Eights (8) projects were implemented during the year of 2024: scaling-up provision and coordination of Legal Aid services for survivors of GBV & CRSV through the existing legal aid Clinics funded by FCDO; strengthening GBV prevention, risk mitigation and responses services to women ,girls and survivors in Raja and Wau funded by UNICEF; empowering survivors through advocacy and interim reparative measures funded by GSF; provision of legal aid services to GBV survivors in Juba and Bentiu funded by USAID, Pilot of Stigma Toolkit (STK) Chapter 2: Access to Justice funded by Synergy for Justice ; Provision of legal aid to vulnerable groups and returnees in Raja County, Western Bahr funded by UNDP and enhancing public knowledge on the GBV and Juvenile Justice issues and the work of the GBV and Juvenile Courts in Juba also funded by UNDP and Truth and Justice for Survivors funded by Legal Action Worldwide. These projects were in Juba, Nimule, Wau, Raja, Magwi, Bor, Magwi and Rubkona-Bentiu, South Sudan.

1. JUSTICE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Outcomes	Planned Activities for 2024	Report 2024
1.1 . Women, girls and GBV survivors have increased access to lifesaving, age-appropriate services including health, psychosocial support (PSS) and protection.	1.1.1 Recruitment of social workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 (24 females and 3 males) social workforce including GBV manager, GBV officers, case workers, community care researcher office, community care research assistant, community paralegal and legal aid attorney were recruited and deployed in Wau and Raja for project activities implimentation
	1.1.2 Establishment of women and girls friendly spaces in Wau and Raja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 WGFs established (02 in Raja and 01 in Wau) to provide GBV response services to women and girls
	1.1.3 Provision of case management and referral services to survivors of GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4407 (2644 women; 1763 girls) received case management and referral services at the WGFs in Wau and Raja
	1.1.4 Provision of staff care to GBV frontline service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activity was not implemented. It was pushed to year 2 of the project.
1.2 Strategies to shift harmful norms and foster community-led actions against GBV are implemented.	1.2.1 Rollout the Communities Care(CC) Programme through community discussion leaders (CDL) 15 Days Trainings for 10 ppl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 (7 F; 3M) Community Discussion Leaders (CDL) trained for 15 days on their roles and community care programme to foster community led actions against GBV.
	1.2.2 Facilitate 78 Community Dialogue sessions on harmful cultural practices against women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 community dialogues sessions facilitated reaching out to 5480 community members (1292 F; 1644G; 1096 M ; 548B) in Wau where the community care programme has been implemented. • 14 community dialogues sessions will be facilitated in the 2 year of the project)2025.
	1.2.3 Implementation of Community Action Plans with the 8 groups for action plan implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 community awareness sessions conducted reaching out to 3200 (1920 F; 1280 m) in Wau

	1.2.4 Training for enumerators for baseline and endline surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 (5 females and 1 male) enumerators trained for 4 days on data collection including research methodology, data collection tools, understanding sampling techniques, and ensuring data quality. • It also covers ethical considerations, data analysis, and how to effectively use the collected data
	1.2.5 Research-Baseline and endline surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 days baseline survey carried out to benchmark the ground for the project implementation in Wau
1.3 GBV risk mitigation measures improve women and girls' safety and access to humanitarian assistance.	1.3.1 Rollout of GBV risk mitigation programmes through training of non-GBV actors in the health, nutrition, WASH and education sectors on GBV risk mitigation, how to handle GBV disclosures and make safe and confidential referrals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 126 (44F; 82M) staff of non GBV actors trained health, nutrition, WASH and education sectors on GBV risk mitigation, how to handle GBV disclosures and make safe and confidential referrals
	1.3.2 GBV Referral Pathway Development Workshops for 3 days with 30 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 GBV referral pathways development workshops held with GBV actors in Wau and Raja. • 03 workshops were held in Raja and 03 workshops in Wau respectively. • 94 participants (40 F; M 54) representing diffract actors attended the workshops.
	1.3.3 Updating referral pathway with 15ppl.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 workshops held on updating with GBV actors in Wau and Raja • 96 participants (36 F;60M) representing diffract actors attended the workshops
	1.3.4 Distribute dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1004 dignity kits distributed to vulnerable women and girls including returnees in Raja and Wau

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 1004 beneficiaries, 563 were women and 441 were girls
1.4 Strengthened capacities of existing service providers for improved service support and provision.	1.4.1 Conduct refresher training for 6 community paralegals on justice and human rights issues in Nimule, Juba, Rubkona. During the 1st phase of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 newly recruited community paralegals trained on their roles and GBV legal framework in Magwi and Rubkona
	1.4.2 Conduct refresher training for 42 customary/traditional chiefs and women leaders on SGBV legal frameworks in Nimule, Juba, Rubkona.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 (12 M; 9 F) traditional chiefs and women leaders trained for 3 days on SGBV legal framework in Magwi .
1.5 Community members have increased knowledge on access to justice through legal awareness so as to claim their rights peacefully.	1.5.1 Conduct community dialogues on various topics on justice, legal aid, SGBV, CRSV and human rights reaching out to 1125 people of which 60% will be women;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 community dialogues conducted on justice, legal aid, SGBV, CRSV and human rights issues in Juba, Rubkona, Nimule and Magwi • 1197 people (754F; 443M) were reached through the dialogued sessions in all the project locations.
	1.5.2 Conduct neighbourhood assembly awareness raising sessions through home to home, prison & police visits reaching 1360 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 neighbourhood assembly awareness sessions conducted through home to home, prison and police visis in Juba, Rubkona and Nimule • 1248 people (812 F; 456M) were reached through the neighbourhood assemblies awareness sessions in all the project locations.
	1.5.3 Conduct live radio talk shows on justice, GBV and human rights in Nimule, Juba and Rubkona reaching out to 270,000 people.;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 radio talks shows were conducted on justice, SGBV and CRSV and human rights issues in Juba, Magwi, Nimule and Rubkona-Bentiu. • An estimated 330,000 people (198000 M; 132000 F) were reached through radio talk shows

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, radio talk shows contributed positively in increasing awareness among the population on SGBV, CRSV, stigma against survivors, justice and human rights issues in all the project locations.
1.6 Improving referral pathways among 135 actors to provide legal & psychosocial support to 855 survivors of SGBV & CRSV.	1.6.1 Mediation of 225 cases by the family / traditional courts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 568 cases of GBV (all females) were reported and successfully mediated and resolved by the family courts in Juba, Rubkona, Magwi and Nimule. • Generally, mediation of cases by the family courts continue to create positive understanding among family members as the cases are successfully resolved by the courts.
	1.6.2 Litigate 60 SGBV & CRSV cases through the static & mobile court in Nimule and Rubkona.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 134 (all females) criminal cases investigated and decided through mobile court deployment in Nimule, Magwi, Pibor and Rubkona-Bentiu • Of the 134 cases, 80 cases were SGBV and rape while 54 were criminal cases related to murder, theft, land disputes, aggregated robbery
	1.6.3 Support the updating of referral pathways in Nimule, Juba and Rubkona reaching 75 partners .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 workshops conducted on updating GBV referral pathways involving actors providing prevention and response services to GBV survivors I Juba, Nimule and Rubkona • 274 participants (82F; 192M) attended the referral updates workshops in all the project locations.
1.7 Provision of legal aid to vulnerable groups and returnees	1.7.1 Conduct half day project inception meeting with 20 key stakeholders in Raja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 key stakeholders briefed about the project during a half day inception meeting. • Stakeholders welcome and appreciated the project citing establishment of JCC will

<p>in Raja County, Western Bahr El Ghazal.</p>		<p>bring access to justice to the survivors of SGBV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners pledged to collaborated and support the implementation of the project.
	<p>1.7.2 Train 2 community paralegals on justice and human rights issues in Raja county</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 community paralegals trained as community resource persons to enhance provision and access to justice for the vulnerable in the community. • Training covered the roles under the project and on GBV legal frameworks. Overall, the training has equipped the participants with knowledge and skills necessary in provision of legal aid services to survivors in the community.
	<p>1.7.3 Train 7 traditional leaders and women leaders on GBV legal frameworks in Raja County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 (4m;3F) traditional leaders and women leaders trained as community resource persons to ADR as mechanisms for dispute resolution in the community. • The training has enhanced their capacities in resolving GBV cases within their jurisdiction.
	<p>1.7. 4 Establish 1 justice and confidence center in Raja county to deliver legal services to 500 individuals including women, girls, survivors of sexual gender based violence (SGBV), the elderly, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and 0people with HIV/AIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 JCC established in Raja to provide legal counselling and PSS to survivors. • Overall, the JCC provided survivors with opportunity to access free legal counselling and PSS services which has increased case reporting in Raja.
	<p>1.7. 5 Provide legal representation through mobile courts to 50 vulnerable people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66 (24M; 42F) survivors were supported through legal representation during mobile court sessions. • Other support to the survivors include transportation to mobile court venue, accommodation and meals/refreshment during mobile court sessions.
	<p>1.7 .6 provide PSS and counselling services at JCC to 100 people and referral services to 60 people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 236 (31M; 205 F) people supported through counselling and referral services at

		<p>JCC. The presence of JCC provided the community with access to free legal counselling and referral services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 236 cases supported, 38 cases were referral for services including medical services. Survivors appreciated the free legal counselling at the JCC.
	1.7.7 Mediation of 150 cases by the family/customary courts;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 205 (47M;152 F) cases successfully mediated and resolved by the family courts. • The key outcome of this is that community are using ADR mechanisms in resolving disputes for a peaceful coexistence.
	1.7.8 Conduct neighbourhood assembly legal awareness raising sessions through home to home visits reaching out to 100,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85,600 (29,960 M; 55640 F) people reached through neighborhood awareness raising sessions on their right and SGBV and access to justice. • The awareness raising provided the community with platform to share issues and concerns related to rights violation and gaining knowledge on human rights and access to justice in Raja.
	1.7.9 Conduct monthly live radio talk shows on justice, GBV and human rights in Raja reaching out to 250,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 185,000 (99,900 M; 85,100 F) people reached through radio talk shows on justice and human rights issues. • Key outcome of this is that community were empowered on justice and human rights issues and have now started demanding for their rights and reporting cases to court for justice.
	1.7.10 Conduct monthly rule of law forum with key justice actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 142 (90 M; 52F) 142 stakeholders engaged through rule of law forum meeting to discuss pertinent issues related administration of justice. • Stakeholders and the community at large appreciated the role of justice actors in ensuring access to justice for the vulnerable in Raja.

	1.7.11 Develop and print IEC materials, quarterly newsletters and a police brief on justice, legal aid and human rights in Raja county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04 (2 newsletters and 2 policy brief) developed on justice, legal aid and human rights and disseminated to public in Raja. • Additionally, STEWARDWOMEN printed banners for JCC and awareness raising in the community.
1.8 Enhancing empowerment of survivors thorough advocacy and interim reparative measures (IRM) project	1.8.1 Recruitment of project staff under GSF funded project in Bor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 (9 F; 2 M) new recruited staff including project manager, finance and administration officer, psychosocial support officer and case workers have been successfully recruited started working on the IRM project. • 6 existing STW staff including the Director, Program Coordinator, Human Resource and Administration Officer, office cleaner and security guards are contributing their time working on the IRM project. • Overall, 17 staff (12F;05M) are working on implementing the IRM project in Bor.
	1.8.2 Safeguarding online training for project team	28 (20 females and 8 males) project team including staff and steering committee trained on safeguarding Of the 28, 17 were staff and 11 were members of the project steering committee
	1.8.3 Project inception meeting with stakeholders at the county level conducted in Bor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 participants (34 F; 13 M) attended half day project inception meeting in Bor during which stakeholders were informed about the new project activities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders provided feedback and pledged to support the project implementation
	1.8.4 Project team kick off training with the recruited project staff in Bor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted 03 days' team kick off training with the recruited project staff in Bor. 15 staff (10 F; 5M) were trained on the IRM methodology.
	1.8.5 Training for the project steering committee in Bor..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted 2 days training for the project steering committee in Bor 11 members (8 F; 3M) members of the steering committee attended the training.
	1.8.6 Training on data protection and data mapping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted 2 days online training on data protection and data mapping. 14(10F 4M) staff attended the training
	1.8.7 Conduct in-house training for the case workers on identification protocol and survivor's identification process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-day in-house training conducted for the case workers on identification protocol and survivor's identification process. The training was facilitated by the Psychosocial Support Officer (PSSO) and the project manager 8 case workers (6F, 2M) attended the training
	1.8.8 Community sensitization meetings about the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 06 community sensitization meeting conducted 294 (156F; 138M) participants including payam authorities, traditional chiefs, women leaders, church leaders, youth leaders and survivors attended the meetings.
1.9 Enhancing public knowledge on the GBV and Juvenile Justice issues and the work of the GBV and Juvenile Courts in Juba.	1.9.1 Conduct weekly community dialogues on the role of the GBV & Juvenile courts reaching out to 750 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleven (11) community dialogues were successfully conducted on different topics including "what happens when a rape case happens until the case goes to

		<p>court”, the roles of GBV and juvenile court, the pivotal role of Form 8 in accessing justice but no longer a condition for a survivor to seek medical attention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 687 people (543F; 144 M) were reached through the community dialogues on the various topics in Juba
	1.9.2 Conduct bi-weekly radio talk show on the role of the GBV court;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five (5) radio talk shows were held at EYE radio in Juba to create public awareness on the existence and the role of the GBV court in the dispensation of justice for survivors. • The talk shows have improved public awareness on the GBV and juvenile issues and the courts thereby improving reporting of cases and victims and juveniles access to justice. • An estimated 63000 people(36000M;27000F) were reached through the talk shows.
	1.9.3 Develop and run-Radio Jingles on EYE Radio.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio jingles developed and played for one month on Eye Radio to educated the public on the steps to seek justice. • An estimated 500000 people (300000M; 200000F) were reached through the radio jingle messages.
	1.9. 4 Develop and run-Radio drama on EYE Radio.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio drama developed and played for one month on EYE radio to educate the public on GBV especially on what Form 8 is and why people including victims of GBV are usually given the form and who gives them. • An estimated 500000 people (300000M; 200000F) were reached through the radio drama messages.

<p>1.10 Support the Prevention Of Gender Based Violence</p>	<p>1.10.1 Conduct 4 monthly radio talk shows to raise public awareness on GBV and its impact on women and girls, issues on Stigma on survivors, disseminate information, and access to services, as well as call for united action to end all forms of violence against women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four (4) Radio Talk show were held on different topics to raise awareness and increase the knowledge of general public on GBV related matters and its impact on women and girls, disseminating information in regards to access to services. • An estimated 30000 people (10000M; 20000F) were reached through the radio dram talk shows
	<p>1.10.2 Conduct a three-day's workshop involving GBV survivors, activists, and other diverse groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) days' workshop conducted involving survivors of GBV community leaders, Civil society organizations, members of South Sudan Bar Association, police, media house and other diverse group was held to explore different approaches to prevent sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and supporting survivors to access justice. • 85 participants attended the workshop instead of the planned target of 80 participants.
	<p>1.10.3 Conduct 4 lobby meetings with key stakeholders including judges and police at the GBV Court in collaboration with UNDP rule of law department to address gaps such as low capacities of actors handling GBV cases, lack of judiciary independence, lack of gender sensitiveness, and harassment of survivors etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) lobby meeting were held with three different stakeholders including the Ministry of Gender Child and social welfare, The Ministry of Justice to discuss the challenges raised by the survivors while pursuing justice which include inadequacies of the existing legal frameworks that defines and criminalizes all forms of SGBV, provide for the protection and support of survivors. • One lobbying meeting was pushed to the 2025

	1.10.4 Legal Support to GBV Survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 GBV cases supported through legal representation and legal counselling services • Of the 17 cases, 14 were rape cases while the other three (3) cases are for child custody at the Juvenile court.
	1.10.5 World Children's day Commemoration bringing together 250 participants including pupils and teachers at Juna One Primary School to recognize children's rights and the unique challenges girls face while seeking empowerment and fulfilment of their human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Children day was celebrated on the 20th November 2024 • at Juba One Girls Primary School • 190 children (pupils) and teachers attended the event • Children were engaged at the event through the activities of dramas, poems songs and debates.
	1.10.6 Conducting legal Aid awareness camp in Nyakuron Cultural Center during 16 days of activism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Aid camps was throughout the 16 days of activism to offer free legal counseling, receive cases to be litigated as well as supporting survivors with trauma healing through the social workers and the legal Aid Officers During the 16 days of Activism. • 70 cases, of which fifteen (19) are rape cases reported during the legal aid camps.
	1.10.7 Conduct 3 radio talk shows to raise public awareness on GBV and its impact on women and girls and disseminate information on the deployment of the legal aid camp and other available access tp services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) Radio Talk show were held on different topics to raise awareness and increase the knowledge of general public on GBV related matters and its impact on women and girls, disseminating information in regards early and forced marriages, access to justice and awareness on the legal Aid Camp • An estimated 50000 people were reached through the radio talk shows on the various topics. (Each radio talk show is estimated to reach10000 people).
	1.10.8 Conduct a one day workshop to commemorate the international human rights day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-day workshop conducted to commemorate international human rights days in Juba

	with 80 key stakeholders to wrap the activism period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93 (53F, 40M) participants comprising of police, lawyers, CSOs, GBV survivors, women and youth, community leaders, students from the University attended the workshop
	1.10.9 Provide Legal Aid Services to 20 survivors of GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 survivors of GBV provided with legal aid services in Juba. • Services received by the survivors includes free legal representation and legal counselling by the legal aid officer
1.11. Enhanced CRSV survivors access to justice through stigma tool kit	1.11.1 Conduct three (3) days survivor workshops in Juba, Bor and Bentiu for survivors to share their experiences based on the workshop facilitator's questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) days survivor workshops held in Bentiu, Juba nad Bor • 45 CRSV survivors participated in the workshops and shared their experiences based on the workshop facilitator's questions
	1.11.2 Conduct three (3) days advocacy workshops in Juba with representatives of the survivors, victims' advocates, staff of SW, journalists from media houses and donor representatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) days advocacy workshops held in Juba from 27th – 29th February 2024. • The advocacy workshops were led by the advocacy experts and participants were the representatives of the survivors, victims' advocates, staff of SW, journalists from media houses and donor representatives. • 25 participants were engaged in discussing survivors advocacy priority areas and developing an advocacy plan
1.12 Support Survivors to choose and lead their own justice processes.	1.12.1 Preparation of two casefiles to hold the perpetrators of crimes accountable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One case of serious human rights violation and rapes identified • Development of mission plan for case investigation and documentation was done with technical support of LAW • Investigation and documentation of the case is on-going

2. DOCUMENTATION, MEAL AND RESEARCH

Outcome	Activities	Indicators
2.1 Planning, monitoring, evaluation of the programme	2.1.1 Conduct bi-annual field monitoring visits in Nimule, Juba and Rubkona reaching out to 270 beneficiaries. .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 bi-annual field monitoring visits conducted by the monitoring and evaluation officer in all the project locations to ascertain the progress of the project implementation. • 76 (44F; 32M) key project stakeholders including survivors, government authorities, GBV partners, traditional chiefs, women leaders, youth and church leaders were interviewed through key informant interview and focus group discussions <p>The key findings during the monitoring visits are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is on track to achieve its goals, with all planned activities being implemented as scheduled. • Survivors and key stakeholders are highly engaged in the project • The project has demonstrated positive impacts on the lives of beneficiaries.
	2.1.2 Conduct quarterly field monitoring visits in Raja county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03 quarterly monitoring visit conducted by the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to identify implementation challenges and addressed. • Key findings indicated that project has brought changes in the lives of the community especially vulnerable women and girls

	2.1.3 conduct regular visitation to the police and prison and detention centers to identify 200 survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 165 (101 M; 64 F) detainees were supported to access justice through regular visitation at the police, prison and detention centers in Raja.
	2.1.4 Conduct regular visitation to the GBV and Juvenile court in Juba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 monitoring visits were made to the GBV and the Juvenile Court by the Legal Aid officer to monitor the trial processes and human rights developments at the court and other gaps and lobby for improvements in the court.
	2.1.5 Conduct stakeholders end of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-day project evaluation workshop was conducted with key stakeholders review the impact of the project. • 25 participants (12 M; 13F) were engaged to discuss the key findings from court monitoring, share lessons learnt from the project for future improvements and as well as build on recommendations necessary for improving on the GBV court.

3. CHALLENGES

- The current political tensions in the country has interrupted the on-going end of project evaluation. The interviews process by the consultant team were suspended while we monitor the political situation.

- Institutional weakness within the prosecution and the investigation department still affects survivors from accessing justice. This was witnessed through limited will of investigators to appear before the court despite of being served with the court summons by the judges.
- Decline in the number of NGOs providing GBV prevention and response services has been reported in all the project locations.
- High expectations of the community and some of the leaders in both project locations has continuously affected implementations and delay in approvals of some activities.
- Some of the partners who indicate to be having particular services do not actually have it in reality making referral services very hard on ground. For example, those partners who indicate to be providing livelihood services do not have active projects when it comes to reality yet in the referral pathway its reading active.
- Lack of legal Aid services has remained a big challenge in Wau. There is only one stop center which is overwhelmed and at times stands for the perpetrator and survivors have no defender in courts of law.
- Deeply entrenched cultural practices continue to override human rights in the community. Cultural beliefs and misconceptions made it hard to convince the participants on various issues constituting CRSV and GBV
- Inadequate information to the community about a formal court since most of the cases previously were being handled by customary courts system
- The customary authority lack knowledge on referral path ways of GBV cases and other criminal cases. Hence many cases are not being reported to the formal courts.
- The detention facilities in Magwi police and prison are very limited to accommodate inmates.
- There is a challenge where family members of some survivors withdraw cases from the police authority and the PPA for financial benefit at the expense of the survivors.
- Some of the defendants refused to appear before the court session for trial. More especially murder cases, however, the court continued passing judgement due to enough evident and the suspects did testify being guilty.
- The time frame for the high court session was short as such some of the witnesses were not able to appear in the court because they were very difficult to reach.
- Lack of awareness on health service providers on how to write medical report in regards to matters of rape.
- What criteria were used in determining that the state had completed thorough investigations for the four cases?
- Despite daily efforts to ensure the older cases were addressed by reviewing the list with the prosecutors and investigators, several inmates remain in prison on remand without their cases being tried.
- Challenges in locating complainants making it hard for the cases to proceed.
- Lack of awareness on stigmatisation of CRSV among the community and leaders is hindering combating stigma at community and institutional levels.
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4. LESSONS LEARNED

- There is evidence to show that stigma is an impediment to access to justice for survivors of GBV and CRSV and as testified to by most survivors, the weak justice institutions and cultural norms are and continue to be the major hindrance for survivors to access justice. This has contributed to the current silence by survivors of CRSV in seeking help from service providers
- Active engagement with beneficiaries is crucial for ensuring that projects are relevant and meet their needs.
- Building strong relationships with the community, government authorities and implementing partners is essential for successful project implementation.
- The role of media is great when it comes to promoting women rights and fighting against GBV that are alarmingly common in the communities
- Deployment of mobile courts in hard-to-reach places and in matters where there is backlog of cases especially GBV cases is a good intervention building the confidence of survivors in the justice institutions and improves access to justice for vulnerable survivors and contributes to reduction of backlog of cases,
- Involving local community and government leaders in broadcasting plans and general awareness raising on justice, legal aid and human rights issues when they are reaching out to the communities during the government programmes produces greater impact.
- A lot of rape cases are failing because of lack of conclusive medical report and instances lack of a medical report to prove that rape occurred, leaving the court to depend on the victims' testimony alone, which gives the defence a loophole in such cases leading to a miscarriage of justice.
- Citizens demonstrated significant interest in the formal justice system by travelling during rainy seasons from the counties to Bentiu to submit cases and continuing to crowd the location of the mobile court until its last day.
- Many community members flocked the court room, those with cases which they wanted the judge to hear, however this was not possible due to the limited time.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is need to strengthen legal institutions, including the police, judiciary, and prosecution services will be through providing specialized training for law enforcement officers and judges on Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Including Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) investigation, prosecution and victim support as well as lobby for the establishment for specialized courts or tribunals like the GBV Court at every state.
- Institutional strengthening of the prosecution department within the legal administration to improve on the skills of investigation and timely submission of the investigated files before the courts of laws.
- Implement extensive outreach programs to inform and motivate community members to participate, utilizing various communication channels, including social media, flyers, and personal invitations.
- Develop a sustainable plan for ongoing dialogues and assemblies, with a clear schedule and goals, to maintain community interest and commitment.

- Establish mechanisms for community members to provide feedback and suggest topics or improvements for future dialogues and talk shows.
- Incorporate various formats in radio talk shows, such as panel discussions, call-in segments, and expert interviews, to keep the content engaging and diverse.
- NGOs to begin integrating GBV prevention and response services into other sector projects for sustainability.
- Deliberate efforts be made to mobilise more men to attend planned activities in the communities.
- There's need to focus education program on the SGBV laws and their rights as refugees and IDPS for the refugees and returnees who that will be arriving this dry season before they get integrated into the society. This is in attempt to make them savvy of their rights and the legal system of South Sudan in regards to human rights and GBV.
- Further inclusion of vocation training to the returnees would be of a greater significance since most of them live in destitute because they have no hope given that they returned from Sudan with zero skills.
- STEWARDWOMEN to strengthen engagement with traditional chiefs including elders and women leaders to champion promotion of human rights and protecting the rights of women and girls in the communities.
- STEWARD WOMEN should continue to train police and prison departments in case management and investigation procedures.
- The mobile court should be held four times a year(quarterly) to prevent instances where offenders are held in detention for longer periods before their cases are heard.
- The police investigators should be trained on how to record complaints and confessions, further training should be given to police on the collection of evidence as throughout the mobile court there was little evidence collected.
- The police investigators and public attorneys should be trained on preference of charges and criminal procedure in general.
- Ensure that cases are listed in the cause list based on priority with those in prolonged detention to be highlighted on top of the list.
- Review of customary judgment periodically by the high court judge to improve and check on the work on the family courts.

6. CONCLUSION

The political trend in the county remains volatile and economically the country is faced with economic hardship making life difficult for the population to participate in the project activities implementation. This posed high risk situation of humanitarian work and the staff. The suspension and termination of two projects funded by USAID has had a negative impact on the project beneficiaries, the community, project staff and the organisation operational costs. Despite the funding challenges encountered, the organisation managed to maintained all its staff and was able to operate with the little resources. The year ahead presents challenges generally for the humanitarian sector and STEWARDWOMEN is no exception to this, thus calling for rethinking of our intervention in the coming years in a deliberate strategic programming to produce greater impact with the scare resources at hand.