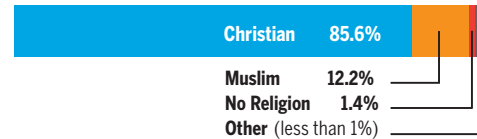


Complicity. Conflation. Compassion. Can Faith Leaders Prevent VAW/G?

Extreme violence and disintegration of family structure over two wars led to higher rates and normalization of VAW/G, exacerbated by the intertwining of faith and culture through appropriated holy texts. Our baseline study showed that religious leaders were not trusted by GBV survivors for support and guidance.

FAITH COMMUNITY IN LIBERIA (Based on a population of 4.7 million)



Methodology

Engage Christian/Muslim faith leaders at all levels through participation in a learning process of self-identification, reflection, analysis and action; deconstructing concepts of gender and power; using revised interpretations of sacred texts; and shifting internalized attitudes and behaviors around VAW/G. Faith leaders engage congregations and communities through sermons, counseling, interfaith radio discussions, campaigns, participation in government working groups and improving service referrals.

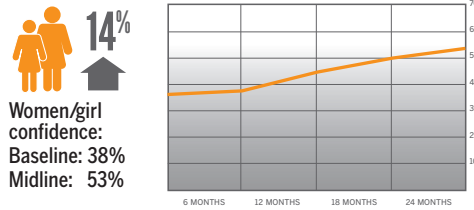
Experiential Learning

Do/See ⇨ Reflect/React ⇨ Think/Learn ⇨ Plan/Act

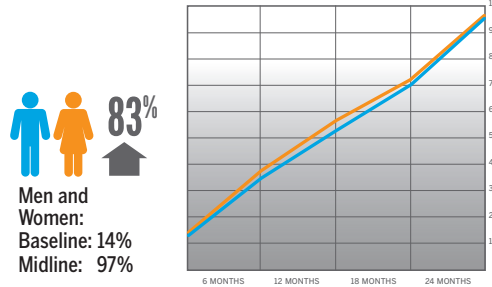


Changing Perceptions

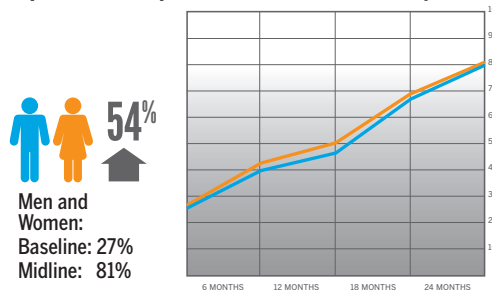
% of Faith leaders informed and confident to speak out against VAW/G increased by 14%



% of Communities responding to messages and changing their attitudes/behaviors increased by 83%



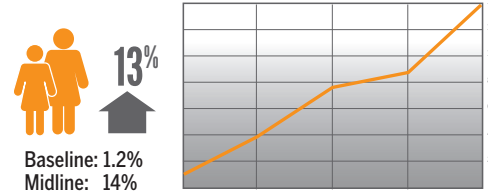
% of Communities that recognize and trust faith leaders to prevent or respond to violence increased by 54%



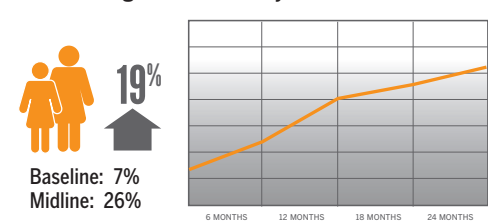
Leading Awareness

Faith Leaders Including Youth

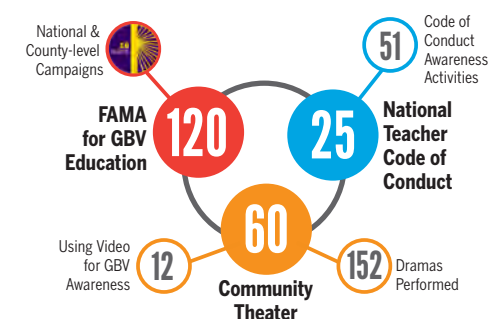
% of GBV survivors reporting cases to faith leaders and seeking support/guidance increased by 13%



% of Faith leaders actively providing support for women and girls increased by 19%



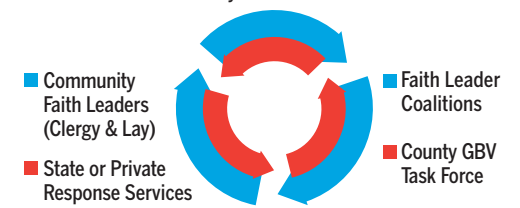
Youth Activism in 2016 - One-Year Snapshot



Moving Forward

Increasing accountability between civil society and public sector: How faith and government are working together

- Inter-Religious Council of Liberia
- GBV Task Force Ministry of Gender & Social Welfare



Replication and Sustainability

- United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) supports expansion on faith leader training in **4 counties**
- National Teacher Code of Conduct campaigns and GBV School Committees in **30 schools** from 2 counties
- 4 faith leader and youth coalitions** established in 2 counties
- Faith leader coalitions establish **2 safe houses** for GBV survivors in 2 counties
- GBV FAMA education integrated into **62 savings groups**



Presented by Episcopal Relief & Development
Kirsten Laursen Muth, Chou Nuon, Vanessa Pizer, Abiy Seifu

This SVRI presentation illustrates the methodology and impact that the Episcopal Church of Liberia Relief and Development has made in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in two counties. The program is focused on developing a grassroots approach to engaging faith leaders and communities to transform attitudes and behaviors around gender-based violence. The program is supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, UN Women/UNTF and Islamic Relief USA.



Presented by Episcopal Relief & Development

Kirsten Laursen Muth, Chou Nuon, Vanessa Pizer, Abiy Seifu

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