

LIBERIA*

Challenging unequal power relations for inclusive participation of women in decision-making

DURATION: 02/2025 – 02/2026

Women leaders, especially young women, in Liberia face significant barriers to political participation and leadership. Despite regional and international commitments, women remain underrepresented at all levels of government. For instance, women made up just **15% of candidates** and **11% of elected legislators** in the 2023 elections. Deep-rooted social norms, forced and early marriage, limited education for girls, and a lack of infrastructure exacerbate gender disparities. Strong patriarchal systems continue to silence women and perpetuate violence and discrimination. Social norms surrounding women's political participation and leadership severely limit women's ability to be outspoken and assume leadership roles. Further, the slow implementation of gender transformative policies further hinder progress. Addressing these structural and cultural barriers is essential for achieving gender equality in Liberia's governance and public life.

This project aims to transform unequal gender power dynamics by promoting women's political participation and leadership. By tackling social norms and enhancing capacity at both county and community levels, the project strives to ensure that women and girls can lead and actively participate in Liberia's governance and public affairs. Key strategies to implement this project are:



Raising awareness of men and boys, among others, about social norms that limit women's rights and engagement, especially in decision-making processes.



Mobilizing stakeholders, including CSOs, men, boys, and communities, to foster inclusive environments.



Mobilizing young women through:

- ▶ leadership training,
- ▶ increased knowledge of international normative and national legal frameworks,
- ▶ building capacity for economic empowerment towards transformational leadership,
- ▶ providing mentorship opportunities for intergenerational support and advocacy.



ORWOCH raising awareness on women's political participation through the "Truth" radio talk-show, in Montserrado County.
Photo: ORWOCH/Marthaline Boimah

*Counties of Gran Kru, Maryland, Montserrado and Sinoe

KEY TARGETS INCLUDE

65

WOMEN

with increased confidence and capacity to participate in decision-making through leadership trainings

6

CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS &
WOMEN GROUPS

trained in feminist mobilization and international legal policy frameworks in order to campaign for increased participation

40

MALE
INFLUENCERS

who challenge negative masculinity through engaging in community dialogues and media campaigns

10

AWARENESS
RAISING INITIATIVES

led by women's groups and organizations addressing social norms and promoting women's participation in decision-making

PARTNERSHIPS



Network of Peace and Security Women in
ECOWAS countries

Feminist Humanitarian Network

KEY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Train and mentor young women leaders, as well as civil society groups to advocate for women's rights and political participation.
- ▶ Mobilize communities and facilitate intergenerational exchanges through townhalls, dialogues, and grassroots engagement to shift social norms around women's leadership..
- ▶ Launch awareness campaigns and broadcast through media public messages promoting gender equality and challenging social norms.
- ▶ Engage men and boys, including male influencers through education, media, and research to challenge negative masculinity and promote women's leadership.



Funded by
the European Union



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