



medica
liberia



ANNUAL 20
REPORT 24



PUBLISHED JANUARY 2025

All Rights Reserved

*medica Liberia
Old Swiss Building,
Old Road, Oldest Congo Town
Monrovia, Liberia*

info@medicaliberia.org

medicaliberia.org

Phone: +231777000000



Table of Contents

4	Message from the country director
6	Who we are?
7	Our context
8	What we do
10	2024 In numbers
11	Strengthening community based organizations and structures to prevent and respond to sgbv
14	Promoting women's economic justice
16	Providing direct psychosocial, reproductive health, and legal support services for sgbv survivors
20	Advancing policy advocacy
23	Enhancing institutional capacity
26	Partners and donors <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Our partners. Our donors
28	Medica liberia in the media
29	2024 In pictures
31	Our team



Message From The Country Director

As we look forward to 2025, we reflect on the amazing year medica Liberia had in 2024.

This report covers our work in 2024 and showcases our efforts in line with our goal of providing psychosocial, legal, and reproductive health and advocacy support for women and girls who experienced sexual gender based-violence.

2024 was a pivotal year for Liberia as a general election was held, ushering in a new president and a new class of legislators. Consequently, the electoral season gave rise to instances of violence and violent rhetoric, thus leading to increased political tension putting a strain on security and social services which are essential in the fight against SGBV.

Additionally, we continue to face developmental challenges, which include,

but are not limited to; economic and infrastructural challenges, social and traditional norms that oppose our work, as well as widespread inequality.

Notwithstanding the challenges, we have continued to thrive, as we have continued to effectively support and advocate for women and girls who suffer from violence. To mention a few, In 2024, we expanded our partnerships by adding new ones and maintaining existing partnerships. This year, we continued and expanded our work strengthening community structures to prevent and respond to SGBV; trained law enforcement and community leadership institutions to help combat SGBV. We have also strengthened our institutional governance, so we can better serve our partners and the public.

Furthermore, we have also continued our work with schools nationwide-wide to aid the fight against school related gender-based violence SRGBV, by establishing



more health clubs, and training mentors in line with our work with youth to help combat SRGBV.

Furthermore, we have continued to expand our village saving loans program, giving more rural women access to economic justice, while contributing to key research to aid our policy advocacy for changes to the legal and traditional system that helps propagate SGBV. In the face of increasing global and local backlash against gender equality, medica Liberia prioritized feminist movement building and regional advocacy for SGBV within the Mano River Union Region as critical interventions. These efforts enabled us to mobilize communities and foster collective action for gender justice, while amplifying our voice in addressing the root causes and systemic nature of SGBV. Through these strategic initiatives, medica Liberia remains at the forefront of advancing women's rights in Liberia and the region, even amidst mounting resistance. Notably, in 2024, we supported 686 survivors of SGBV, a testament to our commitment to serving those in need.

I must note that this would not have been possible without the support of our donors at national and international levels, to whom we are entirely grateful. To every other stakeholder who has helped in the implementation of our work, which includes, our partners, staff, volunteers and many others. It has been our privilege to have worked with you all.

2025 promises to be an even better year and we look forward to working towards an SGBV free Liberia.

With love and solidarity, Yah.

In the face of increasing global and local backlash against gender equality, medica Liberia prioritized feminist movement building and regional advocacy for SGBV within the Mano River Union Region as critical interventions.



Yah Parwon

**medica Liberia
Country Director**



Who We Are.

medica Liberia, formerly medica mondiale Liberia, is a non-governmental women's rights organization working in Liberia. Rooted in feminist principles, our work provides direct support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (S/GBV), and our interventions tackle social norms that generate and proliferate gender inequalities that lead to discrimination and violence against women.

Our Values


In accomplishing its mission as a feminist organization, medica Liberia upholds the principles and values of respect, integrity, confidentiality, and solidarity and women centeredness.

Our Mission

medica Liberia is a feminist organization committed to transforming society and supporting women and girls affected by all forms of violence through direct services, capacity development, advocacy and advancement of women's rights.

Our Vision

medica Liberia envisions a just and violence-free society where women and girls live in dignity.



Our Context

Despite the end of the Liberian civil war in 2003, the country continues to face challenges as a fragile, post-conflict state with weak institutional capacity and limited accumulation of physical and human capital. While the nation has made progress in various areas, Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with a significant portion of the population living below the international poverty line. Rural poverty, in particular, is widespread and fuels ongoing urban migration, further exacerbating social and economic vulnerabilities, including high rates of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). In rural areas, access to essential services is often limited, leaving women and girls particularly marginalized.

Historical inequalities have shaped Liberia's development, perpetuating systemic disparities in access to power, resources, and opportunities. These inequalities are compounded by multiple forms of oppression, including gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, education, and class. One of the most persistent challenges is the structural and systematic marginalization of women, which is evident in the education, health, economic, and political sectors. Despite some gains, Liberian women remain unable to reach their full potential due to these entrenched barriers.

Liberia ranks 177th out of 188 countries on the Gender Inequality Index and 181st out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI). With an HDI value of 0.465

for 2018, Liberia falls within one of the lowest categories for human development globally. The country's one decade of having the first female president did provide some opportunities to challenge the status quo, but the deeply patriarchal culture, which views women and girls' bodies as communal property, continues to influence state investments in policies, laws, and structures aimed at ending violence against women.

Liberia ranks 177th out of 188 countries on the Gender Inequality Index and 181st out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI).

While there has been an increase in the reporting of SGBV, many cases remain under-reported due to fear of stigma, a lack of trust in public institutions, and limited access to support and protection for safe reporting. Although Criminal Court E was established to expedite the trial of sex crime cases, it remains understaffed, underfunded, and centralized in Monrovia, which results in significant case

backlogs. The lack of decentralization and resources further impedes the timely delivery of justice.

Additionally, there are considerable gaps in Liberia's Domestic Violence and other SGBV-related laws, particularly regarding survivor support, prosecution, and witness protection. The implementation of these laws has been weak, and survivors often lack access to the legal and health services they need. This is compounded by a general distrust of the police and the justice system, which lacks the basic logistics and human resources required to carry out its mandates effectively. The Liberian National Police, in particular, suffer from low visibility and limited capacity, undermining their

ability to protect citizens and ensure justice for survivors of SGBV.

While the Liberian government has established a multi-sectoral approach to respond to SGBV and other forms of violence, significant gaps in capacity and implementation remain. medica Liberia's approach is focused on providing technical support to the key institutions that make up this response system, including the police, courts, schools, clinics, and hospitals. Through this support, we aim to strengthen the institutional frameworks and enhance their ability to offer stress and trauma sensitive assistance to survivors of SGBV, ensuring that they receive the care, protection, and justice they deserve.

What We Do

In our work which tackles Sexual and Gender-Based violence, we follow a holistic stress and trauma-sensitive approach that incorporates health, legal, psychosocial and advocacy needs. We also create awareness of women's economic rights and justice issues, improve their access to information, and strengthen their capacity to influence policies that create more secure livelihood opportunities, including protection from violence and sustainable economic empowerment.



We are dedicated to advancing the rights of women and girls, ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights are upheld in every aspect of society.

We provide in-person and online psychosocial, legal, and sexual reproductive health counseling

and support services. We also enhance the skills and knowledge of women, communities, local organizations, as well as state sexual gender-based violence actors such as health workers, police and court officials through targeted training programs. Our capacity building efforts aim to strengthen community resilience and promote sustainable development.

Furthermore, with focus on influencing the implementation and or development of women rights laws and policies, we advocate for systemic change to protect and promote women's rights in Liberia. Through policy engagement and public awareness campaigns, we work to create a safer and more equitable society for women and girls.



Our Program Areas



Strengthening Community Based Organizations and Structures to Prevent and Respond to SGBV



Providing Direct Psychosocial, Reproductive Health, and Legal Support Services for SGBV Survivors



Promoting Women's Economic Justice



Advancing Policy Advocacy



Enhancing Institutional Capacity

Our Current Projects

Concerted action for zero tolerance against SGBV in the Mano River union

Strengthening direct SGBV prevention and respond service for Survivors in rural communities in Sinoe County Empowering Teachers, Students and Parents to Take Action against School Related Gender-Based Violence in South-East Liberia Phases I and II Strengthening Action, Response, and Services for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (STARS-4-SGBV)

Strengthening communities and institutions to promote the psychosocial health of women and girls affected by violence and increase their protection from gender-based violence in Montserrado and Margibi Counties, Liberia, in the context of the Covid-19 crisis

Movement Building - Stronger Together - A Gender Transformative Action Coalition.

At medica Liberia, we employ a holistic approach to service delivery through three core strategies:

Stress and Trauma Approach (STA): A survivor centered approach that focuses on providing immediate response and support to survivors of violence, addressing their emotional and psychological needs.

SASA Together! A Violence against Women prevention approach. Through this strategy,

we engage in preventive measures, raising awareness and encouraging community action to stop violence before it starts.

Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA): This is our sustainability approach, where we empower women economically by helping them form saving and loan groups. These groups not only provide financial support but also foster leadership and business skills among women in the community.



2024 in numbers

Since its establishment, medica Liberia has operated in nearly all the counties of Liberia, with a particular focus on the remote Southeastern counties (River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh), as well as the urban counties of Margibi and Montserrado. We have also collaborated with multiple women-led organizations in Montserrado, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, and Grand Gedeh counties



 Partners worked with **17**

 Donors worked with **11**


Number of boys & girls clubs established

 Number of schools worked with **15**




30

Number of village saving loans given out

 **547**

Community-Based SGBV Protection Networks Actors Trained & Supported

 **558**

 Number of village saving loans groups worked with

 **27**



SGBV Survivors supported

686

SGBV Public Service Actors Trained & Supported

 **309**

Strengthening Community Based Organizations and Structures to Prevent and Respond to SGBV

At medica Liberia, we are steadfast in our commitment to addressing and preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by strengthening the capacities of community-based organizations and structures across Liberia. In 2024, we continued to implement impactful programs that focus on building local support systems, providing trauma-sensitive care, and promoting sustainable change through community empowerment.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

As part of efforts to improve SGBV services in rural Liberia, we launched the “Strengthening Direct SGBV Prevention and Response Services for Survivors in Rural Communities Project” in Sinoe County. This project supports community-based SGBV Protection Networks (PNs) by strengthening their ability to prevent and respond to SGBV. The PNs, which include local women’s groups, community leaders, youth groups and health providers, play a pivotal role in offering direct support to survivors, preventing SGBV, and linking survivors to critical services.

Over the past year, we established and supported community-based SGBV referral mechanisms in Sinoe, Margibi, and Montserrado counties. We also trained and mentored SGBV

Protection Networks to improve survivor support and strengthen connections with public services.

In the year in review, we trained and supported 558 Community-based SGBV protection Network actors including ; Support Groups; Core Committees; Watch Teams; Girls and Boys club; Mentors; Activists community and religious leaders in SGBV prevention and behavior change.

The training focused on gender sensitivity, ethical principles, and community-based prevention strategies. Participants learned how to advocate for survivors, challenge harmful norms, and promote safer environments.

The Stress- and Trauma-Sensitive Approach (STA) was a key part of the training, helping leaders understand how to support survivors without causing further harm. These leaders are now actively engaging their communities to prevent SGBV and provide survivor-centered support.

Strengthening School-Based Structures to Address SRGBV

Beyond community-based interventions, medica Liberia

works to strengthen school-based structures to address School-Related Gender-Based

SRGBV in Liberia's education system.

In 2024, medica Liberia began rolling out these guidelines in Montserrado, Margibi, and Sinoe counties. To improve reporting mechanisms, we installed Reporting Boxes in schools across intervention areas. These boxes provide students, especially girls, with a confidential way to report SEA and other SRGBV without fear of retaliation.

We also set up Anti-SEA committees which includes school administrators, teachers, counselors, PTA representatives, students, and community members. We also conducted a two-day training for newly established Anti-SEA Committees in five intervention schools. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to identify, monitor, and respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and School-Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV). The training included topic covering the definitions and causes of GBV, SGBV, and SRGBV, harmful traditional practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage, legal frameworks, and reporting mechanisms. The workshop significantly improved

Through Boys and Girls Clubs, we trained students to support survivors using the Stress- and Trauma-Sensitive Approach (STA).

Violence (SRGBV). Through collective efforts with development partners, we supported the Ministry of Education in endorsing the Guidelines for the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in Schools. These guidelines provide clear procedures for preventing, reporting, and addressing SEA and



participants' understanding of SRGBV, with knowledge levels rising from 22% to 81% post-training. Attendees also learned to distinguish myths from facts and gained tools to report and address SEA and SRGBV cases following Liberia's PSEA Guidelines and legal frameworks. This initiative, supported by Montica, is part of a broader effort to ensure safe, violence-free educational environments for both boys and girls by empowering school communities to take proactive measures against SEA and gender-based violence

WORDS FROM OUR TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

"I always thought that gender and sex meant the same thing, Today, I discovered that gender goes beyond male and female to the work and duties ascribed to man because he is a man and to the woman because she is a woman. This is an eye opener "- A male participant

"It was this workshop that made me realized that I experienced Sexual gender-based violence when I was in grade school. Now that I am a teacher and a member of the Anti- SEA Committee, I will protect other female students from being abused by teachers." – A female participant

"Gender roles can change and women and do great and mighty things than even us the men"- a male participant

"We will implement the SEA Guidelines to the letter because it really needed for our schools here in Sinoe County"- Female participant

"When I was in the tenth grade, a teacher asked me to offer my body in exchange for free grades, I can never forget that experience till this day"-female participant

Through Boys and Girls Clubs, we trained students to support survivors using the Stress- and Trauma-Sensitive Approach (STA). Members learned how to provide empathetic

support and respond to survivors without causing further distress.

To address SGBV, low literacy rates, and teenage pregnancies, medica Liberia held a Career Day event in Montserrado and Margibi counties. More than 95 girls attended, gaining exposure to careers in medicine, engineering, and agriculture. By broadening career opportunities, we are challenging traditional gender roles and promoting greater self-confidence and independence for girls.

Alongside this, medica Liberia trained over SRHR mentors and education actors across our project areas to support the boys and girls in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and GBV prevention . The training covered reproductive health, gender equality, and strategies to address violence. These mentors play an essential role in guiding young people and promoting respectful relationships within their communities.

Building on the significant success of the SRGBV interventions , medica Liberia launched Phase II of the project, "Empowering Teachers, Students, and Parents to Take Action Against SRGBV in Southeast Liberia – II," on November 19, 2024. This phase is supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) through the British Embassy in Monrovia. Phase I, funded by MONTICA, helped establish safer learning environments for girls in southeastern Liberia. Phase II will expand efforts by strengthening the capacity of teachers, students, and parents to prevent, identify, and respond to SRGBV.

Through these initiatives, medica Liberia continues to strengthen protection systems in both schools and communities, ensuring that survivors receive the support they need and that prevention mechanisms are in place. By working with community leaders, community members, school structures, and young people, we are reinforcing accountability, promoting safer environments, and challenging harmful norms that perpetuate SGBV. These efforts are

essential in creating a society where gender-based violence is actively prevented and survivors are protected.

Stories of Impact: A Path to Justice and Independence

"I thought I had no hope, but Medica Liberia showed me that justice exists. Today, I am not just surviving; I am thriving." – Survivor

For nearly two years, Kemah (not real name), a young mother in Po-River Community, Greenville, Sinoe County, struggled to care for herself and her minor child after being abandoned by the father who refused to provide any form of financial support. *"I suffered alone, but I did not give up. I raised my child with the little I had, hoping one day he would take responsibility. When he didn't, I knew I had to act."* – she says.

Despite her hardships, she remained resilient and eventually sought help from Medica Liberia in February 2024. Medica Liberia identified her case as persistent non-support, a violation of Liberian law. With support from the organization and a women's group from New Kru Town, the survivor took legal action.

With the aid of Medica, Kemah got a favorable ruling, with the court ordering the perpetrator to provide child support, including a monthly financial contribution, healthcare, and future education expenses.

With the financial support she received, Kemah has now secured a safe place to live with her child and has also started a small business further help. A follow-up in February 2025 confirmed that she and her child were doing well, and she continued to receive support as ordered by the court. *"Going to court was not easy, but I knew I had to fight for my child's rights. Winning the case changed everything. Today, I no longer feel helpless. I have a business, my child is cared for, and I have the confidence to build a better future."* – she says

Promoting Women's Economic Justice

In 2024, medica Liberia continued its focus on promoting women's economic empowerment as a critical strategy for improving financial independence, enhancing decision-making power, and ultimately enabling women to challenge and reject Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

RESULTS ACHIEVED

“Economic empowerment is important for survivors as it provides them with the resources necessary to make them independent and stable. Empowering survivors in the context of acquiring skills is where TVET institution comes about. Economic empowerment is important because dependency traps survivors in abusive relationships. By promoting economic empowerment, survivors will become self-sufficient, break the cycle of violence and they will be able to make informed decisions about their bodies” -Mr. Musa Kamara, Liberia College of Healthcare Professionals

We acknowledge that Economic empowerment is central to the fight against SGBV, as it directly impacts women's ability to make decisions, thus medica Liberia's approach to economic justice involves both immediate relief and long-term

structural change, ensuring that women are not only empowered individually but are also part of broader shifts towards gender equality.

A key part of medica Liberia's approach of ensuring women's economic justice is the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model. Throughout 2024, this community-based financial model continued to gain traction across Liberian communities, offering women a practical and sustainable means to improve their financial status while fostering solidarity, trust, and collective action.

In 2024, medica Liberia took another significant step in promoting women's economic justice by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with five new Village Savings and Loan Associations. Through this partnership, we committed to providing financial support to each group, helping to empower women to launch and sustain small-scale businesses. These businesses not only provide women with a means of economic independence but also contribute to the broader community by creating jobs, promoting local economies, and

building financial resilience.

The financial support provided under the MOU aims to help these groups strengthen their businesses and increase their capacity to respond to community needs. Additionally, this initiative supports medica Liberia's broader mission to ensure that women's economic rights are recognized and respected, contributing to long-term changes in local economic structures.



It is noteworthy to mention that we recognize the experiences and needs of women at the community level play a crucial role in not only aiding women empowerment, but also highlights gaps in existing policies and the necessity for more targeted support. Furthermore, we also work towards ensuring that these efforts by communities and individual help to shape and influence policy efforts aimed at economic empowerment, thus ensuring that economic empowerment initiatives are grounded in the realities faced by women, leading to more effective and equitable policies. highlight gaps in existing policies and the necessity for more targeted support highlight gaps in existing policies and the necessity for more targeted support

In line with this, we held a Stakeholder's dialogue in April 2024 under the theme, "Empowering SGBV Survivors: Bridging the Gap between Rehabilitation and Economic Independence through TVET Institutions". The dialogue which brought together a cross

section of participants and panelists was based on a baseline assessment which identified that most of the SGBV survivors and other women and girls affected by violence are unemployed and are in the need for sustainable economic empowerment.

The Stakeholders included TVET institutions, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, Booker Washington Institute (BWI), Survivors of SGBV as well as the protection network members from mL intervention communities, and the dialogue discussed funding opportunities for SGBV survivors; the importance of addressing the holistic needs of survivors, including psychological healing and Economic empowerment; the role of TVET institutions in Rehabilitation and the importance of collaboration between SGBV support organizations, government agencies, and TVET Institutions

Looking ahead, medica Liberia remains committed to expanding its work on women's economic justice. We will continue to scale up the VSLA model, provide financial support to women-led initiatives, and advocate for policies that ensure equal access to economic resources and opportunities for women across Liberia. Our goal is to ensure that women's economic empowerment becomes a fundamental pillar of the fight against SGBV, helping to create a society where women are not only safe but also economically and socially independent.

We believe that by strengthening women's financial autonomy and supporting their economic aspirations, we are fostering an environment where women can lead their own lives free from SGBV.

Stories of impact

In Liberia, women face significant challenges towards economic empowerment and building their businesses. These challenges include access to credit and banking services, limited financial literacy and business training. One of

said women is Ophelia Roberts.

In 2017, medica Liberia established a Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) in Ophelia's home of Gaye town. Thanks to medica, Ophelia received seed funding and extensive training in business and leadership skills, VSLA principles, and record-keeping.

"When I joined the group, my family and me were living in a mat house. I was motivated from testimonies of how other women lives have been transformed from the VSLA. Medica Liberia provided our group with 1,000, 00 USD to start business" she says.

The VSLA initiative which started in 2015 is a sustainability approach by medica Liberia, where women are empowered economically by helping them form saving and loan groups.

As a result of the training and seed funding provided, Ophelia now runs a business and has been able to take care of her immediate needs as well as investing in self-development. Speaking on the strides made, she says *"Today, I am happy to informed you that my mat house has been changed to a concrete. I was also able to purchase a parcel of land that will be developed in the future. As a result of the VSLA, I am also attending a nursing school as value added and my school fee is been paid from the VSLA. I am surely grateful for these achievements".*

Providing Direct Psychosocial, Reproductive Health, and Legal Support Services for SGBV Survivors

In 2024, medica Liberia remained deeply committed to providing critical, survivor-centered services for women and girls affected by Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Our focus continued to be on offering direct psychosocial, reproductive health, and legal support, ensuring that survivors receive the comprehensive care and protection they need. We are proud of the strides made this year in strengthening our support systems and expanding our reach to communities that are most in need.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

In 2024, we provided support to 686 survivors of SGBV, addressing cases of physical assault, rape, sexual assault, persistent non-support, and psychological/emotional abuse, among others. Our response includes trauma-sensitive care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and reproductive health services, ensuring that survivors receive the support they need to heal and rebuild their lives.

Through the Stress- and Trauma-Sensitive Approach (STA), our services address the emotional, psychological, and physical consequences of violence, creating safe, supportive spaces for recovery.

Additionally, we trained and supported 309 public service actors across Montserrado, Margibi, and Sinoe Counties, strengthening response systems in law enforcement, security, judiciary, healthcare, and education. These trainings covered gender awareness, stress- and trauma-sensitive approaches (STA), and evidence collection for SGBV cases.

The trainings also strengthened law enforcement and public security agents' ability to respond effectively and empathetically to survivors of gender-based violence. Integrating gender-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches into their work ensures a more professional, survivor-centered response to SGBV across Liberia.

More specifically, in June 2024, upon request by the Inspector general of police, medica Liberia conducted a comprehensive training session for 27 security personnel. This training, focused on gender awareness, stress and trauma-sensitive approaches (STA), and evidence collection for SGBV cases, was designed



to enhance the ability of law enforcement and other public security agents to respond effectively and empathetically to survivors of gender-based violence.

It is also noteworthy to mention that, while Medica Liberia provides crucial training and coordination support to public service actors, we are also working collaboratively to institutionalize the trauma-sensitive approach across all public SGBV services to ensure long-term sustainability. A key first step in this initiative is integrating the survivor-centered Stress and Trauma-Sensitive Approach into the Liberia National Police Training Academy Curriculum, ensuring that this critical methodology becomes a foundational component of law enforcement training and practice.

Consequently, in partnership with UNDP and the Spotlight Initiative, medica Liberia reviewed and revised the Liberia National Police Training Manual, expanding its SGBV-related content to include STA, trafficking in persons, and child protection.

To support this effort, we facilitated curriculum harmonization workshops for the Liberia National Police (LNP), ensuring the training manual for new recruits aligns with best practices in SGBV response. Training law enforcement officials on gender-sensitive and

survivor-centered policing strengthens the justice system's ability to address the needs of SGBV survivors.

Our goal is to expand capacity-building programs, equipping law enforcement with the skills and knowledge required to combat SGBV at the core of the justice system and ensure a more effective and sustainable response.

“The Stress Trauma Sensitive Approach has transformed how we support survivors—moving beyond standard procedures to create a space where they feel heard, reassured, and empowered to share their stories. This method has not only strengthened our investigations but also improved our own mental well-being as officers.” -Nyumah Sylvester Gborie. Chief investigator women and children. LNP.

The Stress Trauma Sensitive Approach has transformed how we support survivors—moving beyond standard procedures to create a space where they feel heard, reassured, and empowered to share their stories. This method has not only strengthened our investigations but also improved our own mental well-being as officers.

Nyumah Sylvester Gborie.

Chief investigator women and children. LNP.

medica Liberia also remains committed to expanding and improving these services, working alongside communities, local authorities, and international partners to ensure that all survivors of SGBV receive the support and justice they deserve. We continue to strive towards a future where gender-based violence is no longer tolerated, and where survivors are given the tools and resources to heal, thrive, and lead.

Looking forward, medica Liberia has officially launched the "Strengthening Action, Response, and Services for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (STARS-4-SGBV)" project in southeastern Liberia, with support from the Embassy of Ireland in Liberia. The STARS-4-SGBV initiative is a key component of our efforts to enhance prevention and response

mechanisms for SGBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in one of Liberia's most vulnerable regions.

Also, important to note is that this project marks our return to work in the south eastern counties of Liberia. Building on past successes, the project includes capacity-building for duty bearers and the expansion of community-based structures to combat SGBV. The project which will follow medica Liberia's recognized approach to addressing power dynamics and preventing violence, also stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing sexual and gender-based violence and creating a safer, more equitable society for women and girls



Advancing Policy Advocacy

In 2024, medica Liberia continued its commitment to advocating for policies that promote gender justice, accountability, and the protection of women's rights. Our efforts were focused on amplifying the voices of survivors, ensuring legislative accountability, and promoting sustainable change that addresses the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Liberia. Through strategic dialogues, partnerships, and research, we worked towards ensuring that women's experiences and needs are integrated into Liberia's broader policy and legislative frameworks.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

"Firstly, to move from talk to action, the government must increase the national budget for GBV services by at least 5% to ensure that every county has at least one fully functional safe home and adequate resources for one-stop centers and legal support systems. This is because, as it stands, with less than 1% of the national budget allocated to SGBV services over the past five years, key infrastructure in several counties is non-functional highly dependent on donor funding, underscoring the urgent need for government-funded response". – excerpts from Yah Parwon's keynote address at the launch of 16 days of activism in Liberia 2024

A key highlight of our advocacy work in 2024 was the organization of Community Dialogues centered on the potential establishment of a War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia. These dialogues brought together survivors of Liberia's civil conflict, activists, and legal experts to discuss the long-term impacts of the war on women and the potential for true justice through the establishment of such a court. The dialogues created a safe space for survivors to voice their perspectives on the legacy of the conflict and its ongoing effects on women, particularly in relation to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The conversations focused on Liberia's path to justice, accountability, and healing, with a strong emphasis on ensuring that women's voices and experiences are central to this journey. Participants discussed the need for women to be at the forefront of the justice process, advocating for increased female participation in both grassroots activism and formal leadership roles within judicial mechanisms. This was not only about ensuring women's representation in Monrovia but also reaching out to women in rural counties who have been historically marginalized in national dialogues. In addition to war crimes, the

We don't want them to establish the court before involving women. We want to be part of the process from the very beginning to ensure that our concerns, and those of our communities, are integrated.

Participant from the dialogue

economic impact of the conflict was also a significant point of discussion. Women shared insights into how the war and its aftermath have affected their physical, emotional, and economic well-being. There was broad consensus on the necessity of prosecuting economic crimes alongside war crimes, recognizing the lasting harm inflicted on women and the broader societal costs of unaddressed injustices. These dialogues represented a critical step toward healing and justice for women in Liberia, as they laid the groundwork for greater advocacy on issues such as SGBV and the overall legacy of the civil war.

"We don't want them to establish the court before involving women. We want to be part of the process from the very beginning to ensure that our concerns, and those of our communities, are integrated." – Participant from the dialogue

In response, medica Liberia actively amplified these community concerns through national platforms, including a women's town hall meeting with the President of Liberia, the national keynote address delivered by medica Liberia's Director at the launch of the 16 Days

of Activism at MGCSP, and many other forums. These efforts ensure that women's voices and priorities remain central in national discussions on justice and accountability.

Additionally, in July 2024, Medica Liberia played a key role in collaborating with the government to shape Liberia's Fourth Post-Conflict National Development Plan, known as the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), as well as the 15 County Development Agendas (CDAs). Our involvement came through active participation in sectoral consultations, which brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including government representatives from all three branches, development partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), and Liberians in the diaspora.

Throughout these consultations, medica Liberia worked diligently to ensure that the crucial recommendations from our report were integrated into the sectoral plans. Key recommendations that we advocated for included: Allocating a larger share of national resources to address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV); Expanding access to SGBV services by decentralizing them to counties; Advocating for sustainable financial solutions to ensure the long-term availability of SGBV services; and Establishing transparent and accountable mechanisms to effectively manage and use funds allocated for SGBV initiatives

Furthermore, we worked closely with the government to ensure that the specific needs of women were reflected in the County Development Agenda (CDA), reinforcing medica Liberia's ongoing commitment to prioritizing SGBV issues in both the National Development Plan (NDP) and the County Development Agenda (CDA).

medica Liberia also took significant strides in enhancing legislative accountability through the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2024. This agreement, formed in partnership with Aiding

Disadvantaged Women and Girls (ADWANGA), Rising Youth Mentorship Initiative (RYMI), and the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD), is focused on promoting gender-responsive governance within Liberia's legislature. The MOU establishes a framework to ensure that lawmakers prioritize and address critical gender-related issues, including the prevention of and response to SGBV.

As part of this MOU, we agreed to evaluate legislators' performance based on gender-specific indicators, ensuring that gender equality and the protection of women's rights are integrated into the legislative agenda. This groundbreaking initiative aims to foster a culture of accountability, ensuring that lawmakers are not only aware of gender issues but are also held responsible for taking concrete action to address them. By promoting this form of accountability, we hope to contribute to a more responsive and inclusive legislative process in Liberia, where gender equity is prioritized in policymaking.

In 2024, medica Liberia, in partnership with ADWANGA, Rising Youth Mentorship Initiative, and other key partners, also validated a crucial research study that exposed significant gaps in government funding for SGBV prevention and support services. This comprehensive Budget Analysis on SGBV highlighted the inadequacies in the allocation of resources to combat SGBV in Liberia, underscoring the need for increased investment in services that protect women and girls.

The research findings were validated through a multi-stakeholder meeting, where key advocates, including government officials, civil society representatives, and survivors, discussed the urgent need for more targeted and sustained funding for SGBV programs. The insights from this analysis are now being used to drive advocacy efforts aimed at securing greater government investment in the protection and support of women and girls who are at risk of or have experienced SGBV. Through this work, we are not only advocating for a more just

allocation of resources but also contributing to the larger conversation on gender justice and the importance of fully funding services that address the needs of survivors.

Also, medica Liberia, in collaboration with ADWANGA, RYMI, and other local partners, successfully completed the fourth and final phase of our SGBV-Trauma Sensitive Approach (STA) training. The program, which spanned three years, provided critical skills to service providers, including those from the Liberia National Police and Ministry of Health. Participants were certificated for their successful completion of all four phases of training, empowering them with the knowledge and tools necessary to provide trauma-informed care and support to SGBV survivors. This training is part of our regional Concerted Action for Zero Tolerance Against SGBV in the Mano River Region project, which is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through medica mondiale e.V.

Additionally, In collaboration with key women's organizations such as WONGOSOL, LFF, RAYWOM, and S4S, we launched the "Stronger Together - A Gender Transformative Action Coalition" project in 2024. This initiative is part of our broader strategy to strengthen the national women's movement, influencing both structural and social changes to advance gender equality in Liberia. By fostering a united and diverse coalition, the project ensures that the voices of women and girls are heard in political decision-making processes, particularly in the areas of legal reforms and policy development. Through this coalition, we aim to transform societal attitudes and practices around gender and ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of national governance.

As we look ahead, medica Liberia remains committed to advancing gender justice through policy advocacy. We continue to push for reforms that integrate the needs and rights of women, particularly survivors of SGBV, into Liberia's legislative and justice systems. Our

efforts in 2024 have laid a strong foundation for ensuring that Liberia's legal and policy frameworks are responsive to the realities faced by women and girls, and that survivors of gender-based violence receive the justice and support they deserve.

Enhancing Institutional Capacity

In 2024, medica Liberia continued to prioritize the strengthening of its institutional capacity, ensuring that our staff, service providers, and community partners are equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to effectively respond to the complex challenges of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

RESULTS ACHIEVED

A key milestone in our institutional capacity-building efforts in 2024 was the hosting of a five-day Stress Trauma Sensitive Approach (STA) Trainer of Trainers Refresher Training. This training was part of our ongoing commitment under the BMZ Regional Project, titled Concerted Action for Zero Tolerance Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the Mano River Region. The refresher course reinforced essential principles of the STA, focusing on building the capacity of service providers to offer trauma-sensitive care to survivors.

Another significant capacity-building initiative in 2024 was our collaboration with experts from Rising Voices Uganda for a week of partnership focused on the #SASA! Together program.

The collaboration involved a series of discussions about the SASA approach. Rising Voices experts led several staff development sessions, aimed at enhancing our ability to

facilitate deeper community conversations around the causes of violence and how to address them. Through this collaboration, medica Liberia gained crucial insights into effective community engagement strategies and learned from the experiences of an organization that has seen success in changing harmful norms and behaviors related to violence against women.

This partnership also marked a significant step toward fostering a culture of knowledge-sharing and mutual learning between organizations working toward similar goals. The insights gained from Rising Voices Uganda will not only enhance our current programming but also contribute to building stronger, more resilient communities across Liberia in the fight against SGBV.

In July 2024, Elizabeth Greene and Florida Clarke, Master Trainers at medica Liberia, traveled to Vienna alongside Marilena Junghans, a specialist from medica Mondiale, to deliver a two-day training on Stress and Trauma-Sensitive Approaches (STA). This training was requested by WIDE+, a development policy network made up of 25 member organizations that fights for women's rights, as part of a larger struggle for social justice, sustainable livelihoods and human rights.



In line with WIDE+ aim of promoting inclusive and intersectional feminist movement building in Europe, in solidarity with feminists in the global South, the training allowed participants to share and exchange experiences, questions, and reflections on the importance of stress – trauma-sensitive approach principles and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in crisis.

During the session, Greene and her team shared their expertise and knowledge, helping to build the capacity of local partners. Additionally, they are expanding their impact by training staff from partner organizations in Sierra Leone to become STA trainers, further spreading this important approach to trauma-informed care across the region. This initiative highlights medica Liberia's commitment to promoting comprehensive, trauma-sensitive training.

Furthermore, as part of our ongoing commitment to professional development and quality service delivery, we established a Trainer Pool consisting of staff members who have successfully completed a series of STA (Stress

and Trauma Awareness) training programs. The creation of this pool has proven invaluable in meeting Medica Liberia's internal training needs, ensuring that our staff can continue to provide high-quality support and counseling services to survivors of SGBV.

Additionally, the pool has enabled us to respond to external training requests, delivering professional training programs to public and civil society stakeholders working on SGBV issues in Liberia and beyond. This has also enhanced Medica Liberia's visibility as an expert training unit in the region.

At the regional level, Medica Liberia is collaborating with several organizations in Sierra Leone to help build the capacities of various local partner organizations. In line with this, Medica Liberia (mL), in collaboration with Medica Mondiale e.V. and supported by Comic Relief, is conducted capacity-building training in Sierra Leone to strengthen the ability of local partner organizations to provide effective support services to survivors of sexualized and gender-based violence (S/GBV). The training focuses on the feminist and survivor-centered

Stress- and Trauma-Sensitive Approach (STA), which was developed through Medica Mondiale's international experience in conflict zones such as Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Liberia.

The training equipped partners—including Women Against Violence and Exploitation in Society (WAVES), Choices and Voices Foundation (CVF), and Girl to Girl Empowerment Movement (G2G)—with the tools needed to provide trauma-sensitive services to survivors and to train public stakeholders and service providers in their respective environments. This capacity-building is crucial, as many organizations in Sierra Leone already provide some form of psychosocial support but have identified the need for professional development to improve the quality of services offered.

The STA approach ensures that survivors of S/GBV receive competent, empowering support in safe environments, regardless of the limited resources available. It promotes trauma recovery, violence prevention, and social change, contributing to the broader effort of addressing violence against women in the Mano River Region. The approach also includes self-care and staff-care strategies to ensure the well-being of those providing support. The training aims to benefit not only the direct survivors who receive services but

also the broader network of service providers and stakeholders in Sierra Leone.

The members of the Trainer Pool were selected based on their training experience, with representatives from each department to ensure a comprehensive, trauma-sensitive approach to service provision.

As we continue to evolve, we will prioritize ongoing professional development, capacity-building partnerships, and knowledge exchange to ensure that medica Liberia remains at the forefront of best practices in SGBV prevention and response. Our commitment to strengthening institutional capacity is essential not only for improving the quality of our services but also for creating lasting social change in Liberia and the broader Mano River Region.



Partners and Donors

Our partners



Our donors



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

MONTICA



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



British Embassy
Monrovia

FONDATION
PRO VICTIMIS
GENÈVE

Brot
für die Welt



medica Liberia in the media

medica Liberia Leads SGBV And Trauma Training In Sinoe County- GNN Liberia

medica Liberia conducted an intensive two-day training on November 28, 2024, focusing on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and trauma in Sinoe County.

medica Liberia Launches Gender Project Phase Two- Women Voices Liberia

medica Liberia has established Anti-Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) committees and formed boys' and girls' clubs in participating schools. These initiatives empower students to take part in the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse' while providing peer-led support systems.

medica Liberia Country Director Calls for Collective Efforts in Fight Against SGBV- Frontpage Africa

Speaking at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Atty. Parwon emphasized the importance of working with civil society organizations (CSOs) to create an inclusive and cooperative environment, which she believes is essential for making progress in combating SGBV.

medica Liberia Empowers Women- Women Voices Liberia

medica Liberia has increased empowerment for five new Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA) group by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide each group with US\$1,000, totaling US\$5,000 in financial support.

medica Liberia and Liberia National Police Collaborated to Deliver Stress-Trauma Sensitive Training for LNP Officers – Frontpage Africa

In a significant step towards enhancing the

mental health and well-being of Liberia's law enforcement officers, the Liberia National Police (LNP) collaborated with medica Liberia to deliver a two-day Stress-Trauma Sensitive Approach (STA) training.

Over 100 Women Convene in Ganta to Brainstorm On Women's Rights- Daily Observer

Over 100 women from across Liberia gathered in Ganta last week in a consultative conference to brainstorm on issues about the rights of women and come up with a policy. The Consultative conference was organized by KVINNA till KVINNA Foundation, a Swedish-based international organization in collaboration with UN Women, Action Aid, Forum CIV, medica Liberia, the office of the UNHCR and Care, among others.

Liberia, Sierra Lone declare Zero Tolerance for SGBV- The New Dawn Newspaper

Civil Society Organizations from the Mano River Region, specifically Liberia and Sierra Leone, reaffirm their commitment to combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Organizations involved in the joint effort include Rising Youth Mentorship Initiative (RYMI), medica Liberia (mL), Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized Women and Girls (ADWANGA), Women Against Violence and Exploitation in Society (WAVES), Girl2Girl Empowerment Movement (G2G) and Choices and Voices Foundation for Women and Girls (CVF).

2024 In pictures





Our Team

Senior Management



Atty. Yah V Parwon
Country Director



Mietta Ricks-Lamini
*Human Resource
Manager*



**Doris Adjwoa
Odom-Fromah**
Head of Finance



Mbalu Jusu
Head of Programs



55

Staff

23

Men

34

Women

4

Snr. Mgmt

(All Female)

2

Interns



#END VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS!!!
"Strengthening Direct SGBV
Prevention and Response
Services for Survivors in
Rural Communities in Sinoe County

Creating a safer environment
for women and girls



FONDATION
PRO VICTIMIS
GENÈVE

Contact Us

Address: Old Swiss Building, Old
Road, Oldest Congo Town



Email:

info@medicaliberia.org



Website:

medicaliberia.org



Phone:

+231777000000



medica Liberia



@medicaliberia