



COVER PAGE

FINAL PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

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| Name of the Project | Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage |
| Locations of the evaluation conducted (country & region) | South Sudan, Eastern Africa |
| Period of the project covered by the evaluation (month/year- month/year) | December 2019 –November 2022 |
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| Name of the Organization that commissioned the evaluation | STEWARDWOMEN |



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Disclaimer,

This Evaluation Report has been developed by a team of independent evaluators. The analysis presented in this report reflects the views of the author and may not necessarily represent those of STEWARDWOMEN, its partners or the UN Trust Fund.

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations,

1. CBOs: Community-Based Organizations
2. CCORPS: Coalition of CSOs for Ratification of Maputo Protocol in South Sudan
3. CRSV: Conflict Related Sexual Violence
4. CSOs: Civil Society Organizations
5. DMR: Documentation, Monitoring and Research
6. EVAW: Ending Violence against Women
7. FBOs: Faith-Based organizations
8. FGD: Focused Group Discussion
9. GBV: Gender-based violence
10. IDP: Internally Displaced People
11. IEC: Information, Education and Communication
12. INGOs: International Non-Governmental Organizations
13. NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations
14. NNGOs: National Non-Governmental Organizations
15. RPA: Revitalized Peace Agreement
16. RTGoNU: Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
17. SGBV: Sexual and Gender-based violence
18. SOPs: Standard Operating Procedures
19. SPSS: Special Package for Social Scientists
20. UN Trust Fund: United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
21. UNEG: United Nations Evaluation Group

1. Executive Summary:

1.1 Introduction,

The Republic of South Sudan became the world's youngest nation and Africa's 55th country on July 9, 2011. However, the outbreak of civil war in December 2013 and July 2016 undermined the development gains it had since achieved and made the humanitarian situation worse. Now, more than a decade after independence, South Sudan remains impacted by fragility, economic stagnation, and instability. Poverty is ubiquitous and is exacerbated by conflict, displacement, and external shocks.

The signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018 and the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) in February 2020 have contributed to recovery and peace-building. At the same time, a resumption of oil production in oil fields, previously shutdown due to conflict, has raised the prospects of an economic recovery.

The many years of conflict point to non-functioning of established governance structures and the rule of law leading to lawlessness. Most of the indigenous population of South Sudan are pastoralist communities that are highly mobile in search of pasture and water for their animals. Their mobile lifestyle is marked by communal raiding of animals, women, and even children in some communities to establish supremacy in the grazing area.

The practice of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is deeply entrenched in the community and manifests itself in rape, early marriage, forced marriage arranged by parents after payment of bride wealth without the knowledge and choice of the girls, and violence against women and children. Many victims accept whatever happens as a normal practice of society and choose to suffer silently for their own safety and security since they are powerless. Perpetrators consider the practice as a cultural heritage to be respected by all and passed to generations to come¹.

The provision of social services like peace and security, education, health care, psychosocial services, legal services, etc. to the population is the responsibility of government. The Government of South Sudan through the line ministries has produced many good policies for childcare and protection and women emancipation. The challenges to effective implementation of these policies are based on peace, security, and effective central government that is able to extend services to its population through decentralization of power to the lower Local governments, and the villages where the majority of the population live.

The project "Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage" was designed by STEWARDWOMEN with the goal of empowering survivors of rape and early/child marriage in Jondoru and Rubkona IDP camps in South Sudan through enhancing their resilience using a rights-based approach; and creating an enabling and supportive environment for the prevention of rape and early/child marriage. The objectives of the project are to provide services, raise awareness and provide information to survivors of rape and early/child marriage from a rights based perspective focusing on access to justice, support care services, establishing women and girls' friendly spaces and to enhance the institutional response capacity of STEWARDWOMEN to the COVID-19 and future crises.

¹ <https://www.acted.org/en/gender-based-violence-in-south-sudan-from-society-induced-stigma-to-community-based-solutions>

The final project evaluation assessed the performance of the project towards the planned project objectives and targets, and the factors that limited the achievement of project objectives i.e. project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts and potential sustainability indicators; documented the best practices and lessons learnt and provided recommendations for any future interventions. The specific objectives of the final evaluation are, to evaluate the entire project through 1st December 2019 and 30th November 2022, against the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, knowledge generation and impact criteria, as well as the cross-cutting gender equality and human rights, and to identify key lessons and promising or emerging good practices in the field of ending violence against women and girls. The primary beneficiaries- survivors of rape and early/child marriage (whose lives were changed for the better as a result of the project) were targeted. The secondary beneficiaries targeted were the line Ministry of gender, child and social welfare development (Central Equatoria and Unity State); the police and prisons; IDP community leaders, and CSOs that have worked with STEWARDWOMEN in the referral pathways in the communities of Jondoru and Rubkona IDP camps during the project.

The evaluators adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection as a strategy to remedy the potential limitations related to the application of exclusive quantitative or qualitative methods. The data collection methods utilized were,

1. The lead consultant held an orientation workshop with the national evaluators on the evaluation methods and tools, followed by field testing and review of the draft evaluation tools.
2. Conducting of field interviews (personal interviews and focus group discussions) by national consultants.
3. Desk review of project documents (theory of change, work plan, budget etc., planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix, activity plans); and project reports (narrative and financial) by the lead consultant.
4. The evaluators also visited some of the project sites (of medical care services, litigation and business enterprises) in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu, to observe the conditions of beneficiaries.
5. The quantitative data was analyzed through the SPSS data analysis software, and the qualitative data (collected through FGDs and interviews) was analyzed through content analysis.

The main factors that limited the finding of the final project evaluation were the absence from office of some key stakeholders (government officials and CSO staff) that were fully involved in the project. It was very important for the evaluators to know their thoughts on the project. However, they were not available for the interviews. Those that were interviewed (their replacements) lacked adequate knowledge on the project, thereby potentially impacting the outcome of the evaluation. The Rubkona IDP community was also in floods during the field interviews, which limited accessibility to some key beneficiaries and stakeholders identified for interviews, which negatively impacted the finding of the evaluation.

1.2 Summary of key findings,

The key findings of the study are the following:-

Effectiveness: The cross-sectoral design of the project consisting of psychosocial support, safety and security services, medical care, and legal and livelihood assistance was effective in achieving the desired project goal. The evaluators found that fifty-eight (58) survivors were provided with legal assistance, from the initially planned fifty (50) number of beneficiaries, which shows an increase by eight (8) in the number of beneficiaries of legal assistance by the project. Sixty-Eight (68) survivors were provided with medical care, from the initial target number of fifty (50) beneficiaries, which shows an increase by

Eighteen (18) in the number of beneficiaries of medical assistance by the project. Four Hundred Forty-Three (443) survivors were provided with livelihood assistance, from the initial target number of three hundred beneficiaries (300), which shows an increase by one hundred forty-three (143) in the number of beneficiaries of livelihood assistance. Nine (9) meetings were held with service providers on the referral pathway; ninety-four (94) survivors' service providers were mapped; two (2) functional survivor support centers were established; one hundred eighty-six (186) members of survivor support groups were trained; twenty-six (26) dialogues were held with survivors on their rights, justice issues and available services by survivor support groups; eleven (11) policy dialogues involving survivors were held on rape and early/child marriage; four hundred eighty-six (486) survivors participated in the policy dialogues; sixteen (16) capacity building events were conducted for secondary beneficiaries; five hundred sixty-four (564) secondary beneficiaries attended the capacity building events; two (2) health and safety policies were developed; one (1) unit of project vehicle was procured; one (1) workshop was conducted for the project staff and partners on mainstreaming the COVID-19 pandemic in programming EAW project; one (1) workshop was conducted for project staff and partners on stress management related to the COVID-19 pandemic response; and one thousand (1000) copies of IEC materials on the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed to the target communities.

Overall, the project achieved the planned target outputs (mentioned above). The psychosocial support helped to restore survivors from the state of depression and hopelessness and eventually healing; survivors had the opportunity to seek medical care and litigation services; and finally be integrated in the community through restoring their lives by joining groups who helped them identify their talents and skills for income generating activities. Survivors engaged in income generation activities through which they were able to support themselves and their close families. Through legal assistance, survivors were able to know the law and their rights; hence they were able to make informed decision with the help of the legal team.

Relevance: The project filled the gap in the provision of justice services to survivors through the mobile courts, where high court judges were facilitated to travel from Juba to handle court cases at the project location. The project supported the whole legal process of investigation, prosecution, case hearing and judgment. Survivors of rape and early/child marriage with no financial capacity to hire the services of private legal advocates to prosecute their cases were represented in the courts of law by the project. The project provided legal aid to fifty-eight (58) survivors, which is critical in support of their human rights, peace, security and justice in the country. The project also physically protected survivors by providing some teenage girls (including school girls) with safe (temporary) shelters (with relatives, friends and community leaders) from rouge parents, who wanted to force their teenage daughters to marry over-aged men that have accumulated cattle from various expeditions of raids. The project provided livelihood assistance to sixty-eight (68) survivors, which consisted of training on business and entrepreneurship skills, managing savings and loan groups, setting-up income generating groups, distribution of business start-up capitals (in-kind), and business advisory services among others. Through the proceeds from the businesses, survivors were enabled to provide for their basic needs and that of their families. The savings and loan schemes further enabled some survivors to accumulate savings that helped them to establish and sustain more businesses. The project also developed business by-laws that helped to maintain unity among the group members and led to success. The project established community-based Project accountability groups, which helped to address complaints related to the project, which kept the project on track. The project's referral pathway created linkage between service providers, which helped survivors to access other services that were not provided by the project, as well as created opportunities for beneficiaries of other projects. The live radio talk-show broadcast increased

access to information to individual survivors and the services under the project. The communities also gained knowledge on the dangers of rape and early/child marriage, gender justice and the COVID-19 pandemic preventive measures. The dialogues (inclusive of survivors) resulted into regular night patrols by the police to monitor the movement of gangs that rape women, establishment of a police post in Jondoru, scrapping of a tax on small businesses and a policy brief titled “**Peace and Security: The Key to Justice and Protection of Survivors**”, which helped to bridge the policy gap on survivor’s protection. The project stakeholders are actively involved in sensitizing their communities on the dangers of harmful customs (child/early and forced marriages), and providing referral information as a result of the knowledge gained from the training workshops. Besides, the traditional chiefs have now understood their roles and desist from handling rape cases (criminal), which is the mandate of the police and the high court.

Efficiency: The project proposal, work plan and budgets were observed; they were all well planned and have been applied in project implementation. The overall cost of the project is visibly established by the benefits the communities have received. There was a contribution of **USD 142,690** from the STEWARDWOMEN. The budget of **715,000 USD** was planned which was fully expended. The project costs have been justified by the benefits due to the fact that, 1) all major activities in the work plan were delivered timely, except for some high court cases pending judgments. 2) The financial expenses were in line with the planned activities. 3) The monitoring data was collected as planned, stored and used to inform STEWARDWOMEN in project implementation and future plans. The Project cost show value for money as the expenditures appear justified per the planned and budgeted activities that have been implemented with clear benefits to the survivors and the community.

Sustainability: Overall, the project focused on knowledge transfer to beneficiaries through the training workshops on gender justice, entrepreneurship skills, awareness campaigns and community dialogues among others. The Project stakeholders are already sensitizing their communities on human rights and gender justice as a result of the knowledge and skills gained through the project. Survivors were legally empowered to demand for accountability, they were prepared to overcome the challenges of life through psychosocial support; their lives are restored through medical care and by joining groups who helped them identify their talents and skills for income generating activities. Survivors engaged in business enterprises through which they supported themselves and their families. The project provided business capital as a soft business loan and revolving fund that has resulted into accumulated savings, with potential impact to scale and sustainability of livelihoods thereof, and reintegration of beneficiaries in the community.

Impact: The project is enhancing the rule of law and justice by facilitating the courts to deliver justice to survivors who are victims of political violence so that peace can be realized in the country, which is directly linked to the Transitional Justice Mechanism of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. The project is achieving the sustainable development goals of United Nations of: 1) **No Poverty- access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation** through provision of medical care to survivors, and legal assistance; the project provided medical care assistance to rape survivors. The communities were sensitized on gender justice and the GBV legal frameworks. The project further trained the staff of STEWARDWOMEN and other CSOs on integrated COVID-19 and EAW programming and raised awareness on the COVID-19 pandemic, and distributed personal protection equipment (PPE) to target communities. 2) **Zero Hunger- providing food and humanitarian relief, establishing sustainable food production** through livelihood assistance to survivors; the project provided 443 survivors with livelihood assistance consisting of training on business management skills,

and savings and loan associations, distribution of in-kind business start-up capitals and on-business site mentoring support among others. The project also helped some survivors to accumulate savings of nearly SSP 1,445,000, equivalent to \$2330. 3) **Good Health and Wellbeing- Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy**; the project provided psychosocial support and trauma-healing services to survivors as the first-step towards medical recovery and rehabilitation of survivors. The project improved access to health services and nutrition through provision of medical care and livelihood assistance to survivors. 4) **Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty**; the project distributed IEC materials and conducted media campaigns that helped target communities to gain knowledge and skills on human rights, gender justice, and entrepreneurship etc, which they ably apply to resolve the daily challenges of life including dispute, safety, food security and family livelihoods.

Knowledge generation: Through the knowledge gained on human rights and gender justice, men have taken the leading role in reporting cases of rape to the courts for redress. The project's mobile court approach is unique. The mobile court sessions are preceded by legal aid camps (of three weeks) focusing on raising awareness on the up-coming high court mobile sessions, legal counseling and advice, and preparation of case witnesses among others. It is for this reason that fifty-eight (58) cases were successfully prosecuted through the high court mobile sessions. In other words, this approach to the mobile court helped to increase visibility of the project's accountability mechanism and impact. The innovation of the community-based neighborhood assembly advocacy strategy (for creating awareness on EVAW) helped to scale-up the impact of the project in communities where movements were largely restricted due to insecurity. It helped to bring the project closer to the vulnerable groups of people namely, people with disabilities, the elderly, lactating mothers etc. The awareness campaigns were also held in community facilities that were free or cheaper. The project successfully collaborated with the traditional leaders by setting-up the "Family Courts", as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. This way, the project transformed traditional leaders from protagonists of customs and traditions (that undermine women and girls) to advocates of ending violence against women and girls. The project ensured that counseling of survivors was a prerequisite to accessing other services. This approach as first step for trauma-healing helped in the recovery of survivors from the traumatic experiences of rape. The medical assistance provided by the project helped survivors to recover from the wounds of rape-bodily injuries, vaginal tear, fistula, STIs etc. The project's livelihood assistance helped survivors to sustainably provide for their own needs and that of their families and build resilience. The mobile courts ensured perpetrators are held accountable and survivors are fully compensated. The service referral pathway ensured improved access to safety and security by survivors during emergencies among others. In all these is a complete recovery package for survivors.

Gender Equality and Human Rights: The project primarily addressed the problem of sexual violence, which violates the human rights of women and girls. The project transformed the socio-cultural norms of the community that are enslaving women and girls by developing survivor-centred policies. Through the survivor support groups and the community-based accountability groups, the project was able to rebuild the family and community structures and support systems that produced peace, justice, and human rights for survivors. The dialogues empowered survivors to defend their rights and demand for justice through the community paralegals who are able to support them, even in courts of laws. The project is creating a condition for accountability systems against perpetrators, and reparation to survivors through the mobile court system, where the legal fraternity was engaged and facilitated by STEWARDWOMEN to seek justice for survivors, and take the cases to their logical conclusion of litigation without interference from others. Through the stakeholders' training on gender justice, human rights

and management of survivors, the project empowered human rights duty bearers (stakeholders) to ably respond to the needs of right holders (rape victims).

1.3 Project implementation challenges,

Analyses of the project progress annual reports (2020, 2021 and 2022) show that STEWARDWOMEN faced the following challenges during project implementation:

1. The rains experienced during certain months of the year caused flooding within Rubkona, and when participants were called for activities during such periods, very few attended, which affected the number of target beneficiaries.
2. Many women of the savings and loan groups preferred to send their weekly savings to the group's savings account through their colleagues, instead of attending the weekly group savings meetings in person. This group of women (absentees) is not well informed about the activities of the savings and loan group, which created setbacks in taking crucial decision by the savings and loan groups.
3. Cases of rape and early marriages are still common in Rubkona and Jondoru, but the survivors are sometimes not willing to take the cases to the courts of law for fear of their own safety.
4. Survivors of early/child marriages want STEWARDWOMEN to pay for cases of divorce to be heard at the family courts. However, this is not possible because the family courts have no mandate on divorce. Matters related to divorce is the mandate of a special tribunal of the customary court.
5. **Ignorance of the law:** Many police officers are still ignorant about the GBV laws of South Sudan that makes it hard for survivors to access justice.
6. The law enforcement officers hide case files, and rape cases remain within police investigations for long time, which is against the principle of access to justice for all.
7. **Slow court proceedings:** There is too much delay of court proceedings, more especially on criminal cases that take long time to get a response. Delays require frequent visits to court registry of cases to expedite the procedures. It is also encouraging complainants to boycott court litigations in preference of out of court settlements.
8. **Court punishments:** Courts are so lenient when it comes to the punishments of criminals that have committed rape. For instance in one of the rape cases, the perpetrator was sentenced to two years only of imprisonment. The convicts are hardly given the fourteen (14) years of imprisonment as the full scale of punishment for rape in the country.
9. Overall, the traditional method of out of court case settlement is preferred by complainants of rape and early/child marriage so that they get payments from the parents of the perpetrators. The parents and family members of survivors are more concerned about getting wealth out of rape rather than punishing the perpetrators.

1.4 Recommendations,

Based on the above finding, the evaluators recommend the following:

| Evaluation Criteria | Recommendations | Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom) | Suggested timeline (if relevant) |
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| Overall | The cross-sectoral approach of the Project comprising psychosocial support for trauma-healing as first-step towards rehabilitation of survivors, and building of resilience through safety and security services, legal services, medical care services, livelihood services, and referral pathways to address rape and early/child marriage are commendable. | CSOs working on ending violence against women and girls. | Any future intervention on ending violence against women and girls. |
| Effectiveness | There is need to mainstream environmental awareness into charcoal selling enterprise to mitigate the risk of environmental degradation caused by charcoal burning. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | At the beginning of any future project. |
| | Market feasibility assessment should be conducted as a prerequisite to the establishment of any income generation enterprise in the future. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | At the beginning of any future project. |
| | Programming legal aid to survivors of sexual violence should be inclusive of measures that will ensure survivors are fully compensated – i.e. rape victims should be supported by the Project till they are fully compensated by perpetrators (the “Beyond Court hearing” Legal aid). | The government of South Sudan. | As soon as possible. |
| | A substantial amount of efforts should be put into empowering men as community-based advocates (for tracking, documentation & reporting) towards EAW programming. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | As soon as possible. |
| | There is need to undertake formal due diligence assessment of all vendors in the future as a prerequisite to sub-contracting down-stream partners, instead of relying on background check information through a third party. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | Before downstream partner sub-contracting. |
| | There is need to consider developing a meaningful, feasible and cost effective strategy to motivate the survivor support groups considering the crucial role they play as frontline workers to survivors. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | As soon as possible. |
| Relevance | The Transitional Justice Mechanism of the R-ARCSS namely, the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Hybrid | RTGoNU and the Troika countries (peace | As soon as possible. |

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| | <p>Court have not been established in the country, close to the end of the term of the RTGoNU. It is feared that the gains of the project towards the interim reparation measures to CRSV survivors might be lost, in the event that the peace process failed and the country backslide into civil war. As such, there is need to step-up efforts towards establishing the Transitional Justice Mechanisms of the R-ARCSS so that perpetrators of sexual violence are brought to book.</p> | <p>guarantors)</p> | |
| | <p>There is need for more donor support to the country focusing on interim reparation measures to CRSV survivors, considering the huge demand for support services by survivors that have surpassed the project resources.</p> | <p>UN Trust Fund and the donor community.</p> | <p>As soon as possible.</p> |
| Efficiency | <p>The project cost of USD 715,000 from the UN Trust Fund and USD 142,690 as in-kind contribution from the STEWARDWOMEN show value for money, as the expenditures appear justified by the benefits of the project to target communities, which is commendable of the STEWARDWOMEN, and is recommended for additional financial support.</p> | <p>UN Trust Fund and the donor community.</p> | <p>As soon as possible.</p> |
| Sustainability | <p>There is need to incorporate informal service providers into the referral service map, and as frontline volunteer workers, and build their capabilities to help them continue to support survivors after end of project.</p> | <p>STEWARDWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects.</p> | <p>At the beginning of any future project.</p> |
| Impact | <p>The project has contributed to the required interim reparation measures to victims of the political violence so that peace can be realized in the country, which is directly linked to the Transitional Justice Mechanism of the R-ARCSS, and is therefore recommended for further funding.</p> | <p>UN Trust Fund and the donor community.</p> | <p>As soon as possible.</p> |
| Knowledge Generation | <p>There is need to scale-up the “neighbourhood assembly” community-based advocacy strategy to mobilize communities against sexual violence.</p> | <p>STEWARDWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects.</p> | <p>As soon as possible</p> |
| | <p>The collaboration with traditional authority in dispensing primary justice to survivors through the “family courts” during the project as alternative dispute resolution</p> | <p>CSOs working on EAW projects.</p> | |

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| | mechanism in rural areas with no functional official courts is recommendable. | | |
| | The project's holistic approach to providing services to survivors through the thematic paradigm of psychosocial services, safety and security services, legal services, medical services, income generating services, and creating synergy with other partners in the referral pathways is recommendable. | CSOs working on EAW projects. | |
| Gender Equality and Human Rights | The project's accountability structures of the survivor support groups and the community-based accountability groups have made huge contribution towards gender equality and human rights, and are recommendable for rebuilding the family and community structures and support systems for survivors. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | |

2. Background and Context,

2.1. Socio-economic and political problem,

South Sudan is among the fragile states that are falling short of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The country has some of the lowest socio-economic development indicators in the world. Access to basic education for school age children is below thirty (30) percent. Access to safe drinking water is at less than twenty-two (22) percent. Some ninety-three (93) percent of the population has no access to proper sanitation. Access to proper healthcare is at a low rate of twelve (12) percent, and nearly seventy (70) percent of the population is dependent on relief food and humanitarian services². After achieving political independence in July 2011, South Sudan immediately dissolved into renewed civil war in December, 2013. Since then, the country has continued to suffer from the crisis of a weak, neo-patrimonial guerrilla government, with fragmented military-political systems that stretch across its extensive borderlands. The country is home to an entrenched political economy of conflict, premised on check-point taxation in which, humanitarian aid is not exempted³. The impact of climate change in South Sudan is experienced through irregular rain patterns that create food insecurity for farmers; drought that deprives the large pastoralist population of water and pasture for their animals; inter-communal conflict and cattle raiding during the search for water and pasture; and even sometimes cross-border conflicts. Meanwhile, when the rains come, flooding consumes most of the arable land that lies under water, and crops are destroyed in most parts of the year, thus leading to perpetual food insecurity and hunger for the general population⁴.

The United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres cautioned the world leaders *that the war in Ukraine is threatening to unleash “unprecedented wave” of global hunger and destitution*⁵. And South Sudan is not an exception. People’s humanitarian needs continue to rise, driven by cumulative and compounding effects of years of conflict, sub-national violence, food insecurity, and climate crisis and public health challenges. An estimated 9.4 million people in South Sudan, including 2.2 million women, 4.9 million children and 337,000 refugees, are projected to be in dire need of humanitarian assistance and protection services in 2023, reflecting a seventy-six (76) percent of the country’s population and some five (5) percent increase from 2022. The increase in needs is largely driven by the rising food insecurity, the high cost of living due to the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rising food and energy prices, and the higher demand for humanitarian assistance from United Nations agencies to the displaced populations in Ukraine and all over the world⁶.

At the time of designing the project, South Sudan ranked the fifth (5th) country globally in the rate of early/child marriage. About fifty-two (52) percent of South Sudanese girls were married before the age of 18 years- nine (9) percent before they turned fifteen (15) years⁷. Rape was used as a weapon of war, worsened by impunity, social stigma, and fear of divorce etc. Girls’ vulnerability to early marriage was exacerbated by the (continued) economic crisis and the decline in security, which adversely weakened

² <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/east-africa/south-sudan/south-sudan-economic-outlook>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/checkpoint-economy-political-economy-checkpoints-south-sudan-ten-years-after>

⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/press/2022/3/623068d66/unhcr-concerned-at-climate-change-impacts-in-south-sudan.html>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2022/06/war-in-ukraine-threatens-to-unleash-unprecedented-wave-of-global-hunger-and-destitution-warns-un-chief/>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-response-plan-2023-december-2022>

⁷ South Sudan fights child marriage where girls are sold for cows-AP News; accessible through, <https://apnews.com/article/pope-francis-education-ukraine-nations-marriage-d941a3da2ea40ad5f1c6ff33613c1f26>

survivors' protection pathways, and created gaps in service delivery. Survivors lived in deplorable conditions; they mainly relied on the traditional coping mechanisms to tackle risks and vulnerabilities to sexual violence. Survivors lacked knowledge on the support services and suffered from genital mutilation- cervix tear, fistula, sexually transmitted infections etc. Some survivors were widows or divorcees and struggling to provide food and basic necessities for their young families yet lacked livelihood opportunities. Access to the existing referral services by survivors was limited due to ignorance. The survivors were shrouded under the societal and cultural veil that inhibited them from fighting for their rights. The COVID-19 pandemic further limited survivors' access to the essential services. By May 2020, merely a month after the first case of the COVID-19 pandemic was reported in the country, sexual violence towards women and girls increased significantly. Thereof, and based on the above setting, STEWARDWOMEN implemented the Project "Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage in South Sudan, through December 2019 and November 2022 in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu IDP camps. The Project addressed the horrendous act of two types of rape on women and girls in South Sudan, i.e. rape as sexual intercourse without the consent of a woman or against her will, and rape as early/child marriage, as provided in the Penal Code Act 2008, CAP 247.

2.2 Brief information about STEWARDWOMEN,

The project was implemented by STEWARDWOMEN, funded by the UN Trust Fund. STEWARDWOMEN is women-led human rights Organization registered with the Government of South Sudan (Reg. no. 037) as a National Non-Governmental Organization, with the vision of a "South Sudanese society, "free from the violations of the human rights and dignity of women and children". The mission of STEWARDWOMEN is to develop, shape and empower South Sudanese women to advocate for policies that foster equal economic opportunity, and secure human rights for women and children". STEWARDWOMEN was founded in 2009 to address the problems of violence against women, community insecurity and conflicts, trafficking and poor governance. STEWARDWOMEN is a member of the Solidarity for African Women's Rights [SOAWR] regional coalition led by the Equality Now (based in Nairobi-Kenya) that advocates for ratification and domestication of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa [Maputo protocol]; the founder and lead agency of a national coalition of CSOs that advocates for ratification and domestication of the Maputo protocol in South Sudan, and the menstrual health working group, and the Chair of the Rule of Law Technical Reference Group of the National GBV sub-cluster in South Sudan. STEWARDWOMEN also holds an **Observer Status** with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Banjul, the Gambia that mandates the Organization to submit period reports on the status of human rights violations in South Sudan. STEWARDWOMEN has five field location offices in the country, and a national coordination office in Juba, the Capital City of South Sudan. For more information about the STEWARDWOMEN, please visit www.stewardwomen.org.

2. 3 Description of the project,

| | |
|--|--|
| Organization | STEARAWOMEN |
| Project title | “Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage” |
| Project duration | December 2019 –November 2022 |
| Budget and expenditure | USD 715,000; Expenditure: USD 715,000 |
| Geographical areas | Jondoru in Juba and Rubkona in Bentiu, South Sudan |
| Specific forms of violence addressed by the project | Rape and Early/Child Marriage |
| Main objectives of the project | The main objectives of this project are to provide services, raise awareness and provide information to survivors of rape and early/child marriage from a rights based perspective focusing on access to justice, support care services, establish women and girls’ friendly spaces, as well as to enhance the institutional response capacity of STEARAWOMEN to the COVID-19 pandemic and future crises. |
| Key assumptions of the project | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The parties to the Conflict in South Sudan will remain committed to the revitalized agreement so that there is relative security in the country to allow full implementation of the project.2. CSOs will continue to operate in the country, in spite of the rapidly shrinking operational space for CSOs, so that the project can be implemented.3. The required cooperation from key project stakeholders (especially the local governments) in the project locations will be realized.4. Import restrictions imposed by the international community due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ensued economic crisis in South Sudan will not totally disrupt the inflow of goods and services in the country so that the required project resources will continue to be available.5. The private health facilities based in Juba will be competent enough to provide the required health assistance to survivors of rape and early/child marriage.6. The High Court Judges will cooperate with STEARAWOMEN in organizing the mobile court sessions in the project locations.7. The traditional leaders and elders in the project locations are willing to collaborate with STEARAWOMEN in establishing the family courts.8. Other service providers to survivors of rape and early/child marriage will be available in the project locations, and allow to collaborate and synergize with STEARAWOMEN during the project, so as to enable |

the development and functioning of the service referral pathway.

Description of targeted primary and secondary beneficiaries

Primary beneficiaries: 1500 women and girls were targeted as primary beneficiaries, but 19,667 women and girls were reached during the project. These are the survivors of rape and early/child marriage, women and girls with disability, women in the lowest income group and other displaced women and girls in the rural settings of Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu IDP camps.

Secondary beneficiaries: 800 secondary beneficiaries were targeted, but 9,052 were reached during the project. These are staff of CSOs, CBOs and FBOs, government officials, health professionals, the media, legal officers, men and boys, private sector employers, social workers, uniformed personnel and women, youth and traditional leaders in the target IDP communities of Jondoru and Rubkona.

Description of indirect beneficiaries

Indirect beneficiaries: 17,047 community members were targeted as indirect beneficiaries, but 112,000 were reached during the project. These were men and women, the youth and children in the target IDP camps.

Key implementing partners and stakeholders

The state line Ministry of gender, child and social welfare development of Central Equatoria and Unity States, the police and prison services, high court judges, private legal advocates, the IDP and host community leaders of Jondoru and Rubkona, Morobo Health Clinic, Juba Adventist Hospital, Juba Teaching Hospital, and CSOs in the referral pathways.

2.4 Strategy and Theory of Change/Results Chain,

The Goal of the project is to empower survivors of rape and early/child marriage through enhancing their resilience using a rights-based approach, and creating an enabling, supportive environment for the prevention of rape and early/child marriage, the COVID-19 pandemic and future crises, and the successful re-integration of survivors into the community by November 2020. The Specific objectives are to provide services, raise awareness and provide information to survivors from a rights-based perspective focusing on access to justice, support care services, establish women and girls' friendly spaces and enhance institutional response capacity of STEWARDWOMEN to the COVID-19 pandemic and future crises.

The project outcomes are:

Outcome 1: Support services and referral information for sustainable recovery of survivors improved. The key outputs here are access to legal and medical assistance, livelihood opportunities, and referral pathway for survivors strengthened.

Outcome 2: Capabilities of survivors to know and claim their rights increased. The key output here is knowledge of survivors on human and legal rights and justice improved.

Outcome 3: Development and enforcement of survivor centered policies on rape and early/child marriage improved. The key output here is participation of survivors in policy action on survivor protection mechanisms strengthened.

Outcome 4: Capabilities of general members of target IDP and host communities and leaders, local government officials, uniformed men and CSOs to manage survivors increased. The key outputs here are Knowledge and skills of target groups to manage survivors strengthened.

Outcome 5: Institutional response of STEWARDWOMEN to COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, while maintaining existing interventions to EVAWG strengthened. The key outputs here are STEWARDWOMEN has in place mechanisms to improve institutional resilience to crises including COVID-19, which ensures organization stability and response to EVAWG; and improved knowledge, skills and capacities to maintain or adapt EVAWG interventions while responding to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and future crises.

3. Purpose of the evaluation,

The purpose of the final project evaluation was to assess the performance of the project towards the planned project objectives. The evaluation was also undertaken to assess whether the project objectives and targets were achieved; the factors (if any) that limited the achievement of project objectives. The evaluators specifically assessed the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts and the potential indicators for project sustainability; documented the best project practices and lessons learnt and provided recommendations for any future interventions. The evaluation was also undertaken to give practical recommendations emerging from the project with specific reference to the following:

- Generate information on the level of achievement of the intervention objective (outcomes and wherever possible any evidence of emerging impact), information which will be useful for stakeholders.
- Inform and guide the design of future projects of STEWARDWOMEN
- Check the internal coherence of the agreement and the design of the intervention
- Identify possible deviations in implementation
- Progress and benefits of the project
- The degree of participation of stakeholders and beneficiary population
- Added value of different activities
- Sustainability strategies
- Difficulties faced and lessons learnt in project implementation period
- Identify future activities that may be re-directed, abolished or fastened
- Areas to take in to account for future project proposals
- Unintended outcomes/results of the project

4. Evaluation Objectives and scope;

4.1 Scope of evaluation,

The margin of the final project evaluation entails the whole project period from 1st December 2019 to 30th November 2022; while the geographical scope covers the two project target areas with site visits to Jondoru in Juba, and Rubkona in Bentiu where the project was implemented. Jondoru is an Internally Displaced People's Camp in an urban setting on the outskirts of Juba city, while Rubkona is in a rural setting of Bentiu, the capital of Unity State. The difference in the context of the two project sites is that they provided different challenges during project implementation. The unexpected flooding in most parts of Rubkona-Bentiu during rain-season, draught, and the conflicts over grazing land often times results into inter-communal violence, which also impacted the process of the evaluation.

Of the Two Hundred Fifty (250) initially planned numbers of respondents, One Hundred Eighty-Five (185) respondents were interviewed during the final project evaluation, which is less by sixty-five (65) of the planned total sample size for the evaluation. This is because during the evaluation, the project target community of Rubkona-Bentiu was displaced by floods, which made it hard to reach to some of the beneficiaries for interviews. Some project beneficiaries had also relocated to other IDP camps and the refugee resettlement camps in the neighboring countries. Of the One Hundred Eighty-Five (185) respondents reached, One Hundred Twenty-Five (125) are primary beneficiaries (survivors of rape and early/child marriage who are the main project beneficiaries), Fifty-five (55) are secondary beneficiaries (IDP and host community leaders), and five (5) are representatives of key stakeholders (government officials and GBV partners). The purpose of collecting data from the two project sites was to compare the performance of the project in the two locations.

4.2 Objectives of the evaluation,

The specific objectives of the final evaluation are:

1. **To evaluate the entire project through first December 2019 and Thirtieth November 2022, against the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, knowledge generation and impact criteria, as well as the cross-cutting gender equality and human rights.**
2. **To identify key lessons and promising or emerging good practices in the field of ending violence against women and girls, for learning purposes.**

The objectives of the final project evaluation are built on five key parameters of the project- relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability, hence the evaluators:

- a. Assessed the relevance of the project design (its activities and objectives) in provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu.
- b. Assessed the extent to which the project resources were used for the intended purpose- i.e. project delivery and outputs/results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness (efficiency).
- c. Assessed the major achievements of the project to date in relation to the planned objectives and results based on the project's theory of change (effectiveness).
- d. Assessed the extent to which the project contributed to a long-term positive effect in the target communities (impact).
- e. Considered whether the positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the end of UN Trust Fund support (project sustainability).

5. Evaluation questions and criteria;

| Evaluation Criteria | Mandatory Evaluation Question |
|---|---|
| Effectiveness, <i>A measure of the extent to which a project attains its objectives / results (as set out in the project document and results framework) in accordance with the theory of change.</i> | To what extent were the intended project goal, outcomes and outputs (project results) achieved and how? |
| Relevance, <i>The extent to which the project is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group and the context.</i> | To what extent do the achieved results (project goal, outcomes and outputs) continue to be relevant to the needs of women and girls? |
| Efficiency, <i>Measures the outputs - qualitative and quantitative - in relation to the inputs. It is an economic term which refers to whether the project was delivered cost effectively.</i> | To what extent was the project efficiently and cost-effectively implemented? |
| Sustainability, <i>Sustainability is concerned with measuring whether the benefits of a project are likely to continue after the project/funding ends.</i> | To what extent will the achieved results, especially any positive changes in the lives of women and girls (project goal level), be sustained after this project ends? |
| Impact, <i>Assesses the changes that can be attributed to a particular project relating specifically to higher-level impact (both intended and unintended).</i> | To what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality and/or women's empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)? |
| Knowledge generation, <i>Assesses whether there are any promising practices that can be shared with other practitioners.</i> | To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EAW/G that should be documented and shared with other practitioners? |
| Gender Equality and Human Rights, | Cross-cutting criteria: the evaluation should consider the extent to which human rights based and gender responsive approaches have been incorporated through-out the project and to what extent. |

6. Evaluation Team,

The final project evaluation team consisted of four individual consultants including an international consultant as the lead, and three national consultants. The Lead Consultant reviewed the key project documents and other secondary data sources; trained the national consultants on the evaluation methods, data collection, analysis, testing of data collection tools and review thereof, drafted the evaluation inception report, supervised field data collection, and conducted interviews with key stakeholders in Juba. The Leader of the National Consultants was responsible for field data synthesis, presentation of the first evaluation draft report during the joint stakeholders' validation workshops, and thereof report preparation. Two national consultants conducted orientation workshops on the evaluation tools for the field based project staff, and administered the field interviews. The project field based teams were responsible for interpretation of the evaluation tools in the local languages, setting-

up interview protocols, including data validation workshops, field logistics and safety and security protocols. The DMR manager (of STEWARDWOMEN) was responsible for the overall coordination of the final project evaluation and review of the draft evaluation report.

7. Methodology,

The Evaluators adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The primary data was collected from the field by the National Consultants supported by the field based project staff. Close-ended questionnaires were designed for the primary beneficiaries, and they were administered through individual Interviews. Personal interviews (with open-ended questions) on Project success stories were also conducted with selected primary beneficiaries. For secondary beneficiaries (project staff, community leaders etc.), open-ended questions were administered through Focused Group Discussions. While for local government representatives, local security agents and GBV partners, individual interviews (with open-ended questions) were conducted.

Document Review (Secondary Data): The Evaluators reviewed the project proposal documents (theory of change, work plan, budget etc.; planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix; activity plans); project reports (narrative and financial); and other documents deemed critically important for the evaluation.

Onsite visual observation: In conjunction with other methods, the Evaluators visited the beneficiaries to observe beneficiary conditions; ask questions; and visited project site of Jondoru in Juba and Rubkona in Bentiu. The Lead Consultant held an orientation workshop for the national consultants on the methods of the project evaluation and data collection tools.

7.1 Description of the evaluation design,

The Pre-Test and Post-Test evaluation design was adopted during the study. The evaluators assessed the reports of the various stages of the project namely, base-line survey and project inception (pre-test) and end-line survey (post-test), project monitoring events (quarterly field monitoring visits and project accountability groups), project work plans and annual progress reports (2020 & 2021), the project Mid-term review report and the field interviews during the final evaluation, and thereof the conclusions. More so, the project documents (theory of change, and project cooperative agreement) were also assessed. The report of the project Mid-term review provided an opportunity to measure the track record of the project towards the achievement of the expected outcomes for survivors. The design is also relatively less costly and appropriate within the two-month time-limit of the evaluation.

7.2 Data sources,

The data sources used in this final project evaluation are:

- a. Desk review of project documents: The consultant reviewed project documents (project's theory of change, work plan, budget etc.
- b. Planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix: activity and expenditure plans.
- c. Project progress reports: mid-term review report, base-line and end-line survey reports, risk assessment reports, quarterly M&E reports, and bi-annual (six monthly) and annual project reports (narrative and financial).
- d. Google search; online reports (including research reports) on violence against women and girls in the country, and the socio-economic and political developments in the country.
- e. Field interviews with project beneficiaries and key stakeholders.

7.3 Data collection methods and analysis,

The evaluators adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Primary data was collected from the field by the national consultants and supported by field based staff as follows:

- 1) Development of data collection tools: this phase entailed the definition and development of study protocols and instruments for primary data collection. Various types of interview processes and participatory data collection tools were designed and used to elicit peoples' perceptions on various elements of the project. The most appropriate tools agreed with the team of consultants and the DMR manager of STEWARDWOMEN were based on the major activities undertaken in the project thematic areas of: Psychosocial support to survivors; legal assistance to survivors; safety services (informal and formal) in the project location; medical services provided in the project location; Livelihood assistance provided to survivors in the project location; and referral information to survivors in the project location.
- 2) Training of National consultants: The lead consultant trained the National consultants and selected staff on administering the developed data collection tools to ensure accurate and quality data is gathered from the field. The training workshop covered fundamental elements of conducting an evaluation in communities with high prevalence of violence on women and girls.
- 3) Data collection: The project output, outcome, impact, success stories were tracked through a structured questionnaire to get feedback from the project beneficiaries. The consultants in collaboration with the project staff at STEWARDWOMEN collected quantitative and qualitative data from the field using the developed tools as follows:
 - a. Close-ended questionnaires were designed for the direct beneficiaries, which were administered through Interview and also secondary beneficiaries, project staff, stakeholders, local leaders of the survivors; and open-ended questions were administered through FGDs.
 - b. Document Review (Secondary Data): The evaluators reviewed the project proposal documents (theory of change, work plan, budget etc.; planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix; activity plans); project reports (narrative and financial); and other documents deemed critically important for the evaluation;
 - c. Onsite visual observation: In conjunction with other methods, the evaluators visited the beneficiaries to observe beneficiary conditions; ask questions; and visited project site of Jondoru in Juba and Rubkona in Bentiu. There was an orientation workshop for the team of evaluators led by the lead consultant.

The following were the basic steps the consultants followed in undertaking the final project evaluation:

- 1) Consultative meetings with the project staff: there was consultation involving the consultants and STEWARDWOMEN project team to clarify any issues and build consensus on specific terms of reference with regard to the objectives, roles, responsibilities, expected outputs and timeframe.
- 2) Literature Review: The secondary literature reviewed included published and unpublished project documents and project reports from the office of STEWARDWOMEN.
- 3) Data analysis and reporting: the field information was combined with information obtained during the desk review and planning meetings, and further analyzed to draw conclusions and recommendations as called for by the objectives of the final project evaluation. The process involved four levels of data analysis and reporting:
 - a. Preparation of preliminary field interview (draft) report outlining main findings and recommendations, and debriefed the project staff and compiled their feedback, and incorporated it in the draft final project evaluation report.

- b. Prepared a draft evaluation report and presented the main findings to partners and key stakeholders for validation and incorporated feedback to produce the second draft report and shared it with the DMR manager.
- c. Review of the second draft report by the DMR manager and feedback incorporated and shared with the UN Trust Fund.
- d. Reviewed the draft final evaluation report with guidance from the UN Trust Fund.

7.4 Sampling methods,

The final project evaluation was conducted in the two project sites- Rubkona-Bentiu and Jondoru-Juba IDP camps. One hundred eight-five (185) respondents were purposefully, but randomly selected for the final project evaluation as follows;

- a. One hundred twenty-five (125) respondents from among the primary beneficiaries (survivors of rape and early/child marriage) were personally interviewed using close-ended (survey type of) questionnaires. The respondents were selected from the four (4) clusters of the project namely, PSS, medical assistance, and legal and livelihood assistance. Of this, 12.8% of the respondents were girls of 10-19 years, 19.2% were young women of 20-24 years, and 68% were women of 25-59 years. More so, 37.6% of the respondents attended primary education, 15.2% completed secondary education, and 47.2% did not attend any formal education⁸. Therefore, majority of the respondents (from among the primary beneficiaries) did not attend any formal education.
- b. The evaluators conducted FGDs with fifty-five (55) respondents selected from the secondary beneficiaries namely, IDP and host community leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders and elders, the police, men, women and the youth, staff of GBV partners (WFH, HDC and Hope for Restoration) and the project staff.
- c. The evaluators also conducted personal interviews with five (5) representatives of key project stakeholders (three in Juba and two in Rubkona). These are the Director General, National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare Development; Director, State Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, Central Equatorial State; State Minister of Gender, Child and Religious Affairs, Unity State; Morobo Health Clinic, and Juba Adventist Hospital. The two project sites were both covered during the evaluation due to differences in context to better inform the outcome of the evaluation.

7.5 Limitations to the evaluation methodology,

At the time of the interviews, some government officials and staff of GBV partners that were involved in the project were transferred and/or absent in their duty locations. The new staffs covering for them lacked adequate knowledge on the project and were not willing to participate in the interviews. This led to loss of valuable data that would have been obtained through the field interviews. The Rubkona-Bentiu IDP community was also in floods during the field interviews, which limited accessibility to interviewees, with potential impact on the outcome of the evaluation. Nevertheless, a few personal interviews were held through cell phones, which was also disruptive because of the poor quality of the mobile phone network.

⁸ Please note that the statistics are based on analysis of the SPSS data software

8.0 Evaluation ethics;

8.1 Ethical protocol,

The final project evaluation was conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for evaluation namely, integrity, accountability, respect and beneficence as follows:

1. **Integrity:** the evaluators emphasized the need for honesty and truth telling by respondents during the interviews.
2. **Accountability:** the evaluators asked respondents (beneficiaries) to share their experiences of transparency about the project, sexual exploitation, and examples of fraud or misuse of project resources.
3. **Respect:** the evaluators selected respondents in disregard of their ethnic groups. It was also ensured that all key project stakeholders were represented through the evaluation process by engaging them during the testing and review of the evaluation tools, setting-up interview protocols (based on stakeholders' recommendations), during the field interviews, and the joint stakeholders' validation workshop on the draft report.
4. **Beneficence:** the evaluators sought consent of respondents before all interviews, and all interview venues were arranged based on the recommendation of respondents to ensure they were safe. The interview questions were also designed to ensure it caused no psychological harm to respondents.

The evaluators were equally committed to confidentiality, informed consent, citation and integrity of data, including the five recommendations of APA's Science Directorate, as follows:

1. Discussed intellectual property frankly with respondents.
2. Were conscious of multiple roles being played by the key stakeholders before, during, and after research.
3. The Evaluators followed the rule of informed consent, including strictly adhered to agreements-interview location- time etc. This was done by the Evaluators through asking for the verbal consent of participants to all interviews, and thereof the interview location, at the beginning of any interviews. Besides, parents and guardians of under-age girls were involved in the interviews with teenage girls.
4. Respected confidentiality and privacy of the interviewer, interviewee, data collected and the organization (STEARAWOMEN).
5. Tap into ethics resources. The various data collected offered wealth of information which was handled with outmost care.

The evaluators further maintained high ethical principles that promoted values such as trust, good behaviour, fairness, and kindness. They were also committed to the Terms of Reference of the final project evaluation signed with STEWARDWOMEN to critically follow:

1. The guiding principles
2. Duties of the consultant
3. The agreed methodology
4. Deliver as expected
5. Strictly observe the law governing the contract
6. Adherence to intellectual property rules
7. Steer clear and ensure no funds earned are channeled to finance terrorism
8. Ensure safety and security of the contractor and project staff of the STEWARDWOMEN.

In this protocol we agreed to document the processes of conducting the entire final project evaluation clearly following the objective(s), design, methodology, statistical considerations and organization and ensure the safety of the trial subjects and integrity of the data collected. The Consultants agreed to uphold the correct rules of conduct necessary when carrying out the evaluation. They have a moral responsibility with the STEWARDWOMEN to detect, mitigate, and protect research participants (Consultants, Interviewers, Interviewees, Staff, community, and Government) from harm. This meant that they ought to abide by moral principles and rules of conduct of “Do no harm to all”. Direct interviewing must thus demonstrate:

- a. That the desired outcome cannot be achieved without gathering information in this way
- b. That the information is needed and is not otherwise available
- c. That information cannot be obtained in a less invasive manner (e.g. by using other methods, or by involving a different person, in a different time, or a different context with lower risk).
- d. That the welfare of respondents should be properly protected.
- e. The data collection processes should be conducted in such a way so as to maximize benefit to survivors, participants and the community.

8.2 Safety and security,

- The Consultant together with STEWARDWOMEN ensured that safety and security considerations applied not just to participants, but extended to all those involved in the data collection activity, including the consultants, the interviewees, etc. This was achieved through informing government and security agencies about the evaluation. It was ensured that those involved in the study followed the laws and regulations in place.
- All members of the information collection team were made to understand, and be sensitive to the political, socio-cultural, security and economic factors that could affect the safety and security of those involved in the data collection process. They were advised to take particular account of the nature of the emergency, any human rights and humanitarian concerns, as well as the prevailing formal and informal legal environment.
- The identity of those who provided information about sexual violence was protected. Under no circumstances names or other identifying information about survivors or participants was used, for instance, in documents, tapes or conversation.
- Data collected was shared only with the utmost consideration for the safety of those who were potentially at risk by disseminating such information. This included individuals providing data, the person collecting it, community members, service providers, and staff of STEWARDWOMEN.
- All individual interviews and group discussions were held in a safe place, accepted by participants, somewhere that does not draw unnecessary attention and does not raise suspicion, and where participants were not overheard.
- All individual interviews and group discussions were compliant to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines.
- Special attention was however paid to the following key policy issues and existing guidelines offered by the Government of South Sudan and the GBV sub-cluster:
 - a. Institutional research protocols and policies
 - b. Protocols and practices for providing direct services to survivors
 - c. Locally established procedures for obtaining consent, documenting sexual violence incidents, and referral services
 - d. Standards and policies for human rights investigations
 - e. Organizational policies for staff recruitment, hiring, training and supervision
 - f. Internationally agreed standards for research involving human subjects

8.3 Confidentiality,

- The Consultants briefed all those involved in the evaluation to ensure the participants keep confidentiality of individual respondents and preserved data collected. This is because every person has a right to privacy, and this right imposes an obligation on the Consultant to keep the information confidential. The agreement for those who participated in the evaluation had a clause on confidentiality of persons and information gathered keeping, with the high ethical standards, through which they were taken.
- Any personal information disclosed by individuals was considered confidential. This means that there is an implicit understanding that the disclosed information will not be shared with others, unless the person concerned gives explicit and informed consent to do so.
- When using focus groups or other group discussions, the Consultant engaged homogenous groups that easily related together to protect their privacy; they were informed about the need for confidentiality.
- The consultants instructed participants of FGDS not to share personal experiences on sensitive issues, but rather to present the experience of unnamed others or impressions of trends in the community. Confidentiality related to both nature of the discussion (i.e. what was discussed) as well as to what was said and who was present.
- In the context of sexual violence, a breach of confidentiality does not only represent a breach of ethics, but can also lead to harm for the survivor and for the community.
- SOPs that clearly described the arrangements for maintaining confidentiality were established as part of the planning phase for field data collection.
- The Lead Consultant explained that while collecting information involving children as respondents, the following principles must be observed: 1) the welfare of a child or young person will always be paramount; 2) The welfare of families will be promoted; 3) The rights, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their families will be respected and listened to; 4) People in positions of responsibility within the organization will work in accordance with the interests of children and young people; 5) People in positions of responsibility within the organization will ensure that the same opportunities are available to everyone and that all differences between individuals are treated with respect. More so, the lead consultant emphasized that child safety requires immediate action to ensure safety of the child, recognition of child abuse or neglect- physical, emotional, sexual abuse and neglect among others.

9.0 Findings and Analysis per Evaluation Question;

| | |
|---|--|
| Evaluation criteria and question | Effectiveness Assessment of the extent to which the intended project goal, outcomes and outputs were achieved and how they were achieved. |
|---|--|

Project Outcome 1:

Support services and referral information for sustainable recovery of survivors improved.

Output 1.1;

Access to legal and medical assistance and livelihood opportunities for survivors of rape and early/child Marriage strengthened.

1.1.1 Fifty-Eight (58) survivors were provided with legal assistance during the project,

The court records in the office of STEWARDWOMEN show that fifty-eight (58) cases of rape and early/child marriage were successfully litigated (represented) under the project, through collaboration with two private legal advocates based in Juba, in the static courts, instead of the initially targeted number of fifty (50) cases of rape and early/child marriage, thus showing an increase in the number of beneficiaries of legal assistance by eight (8), and the extent to which the project increased access to legal assistance to survivors of rape and early/child marriage. By successfully prosecuting fifty-eight (58) cases of rape and early/child marriage, the project also secured accountability and reparation for survivors of sexual violence. By successfully engaging private legal advocates for legal representation of survivors in the courts of law, the project also improved collaboration between legal service providers that goes a long way in improving accountability for sexual violence and victim reparation thereof.

Nevertheless, some beneficiaries of the legal assistance are not happy with the justice system in the country. They complained of not having been fully compensated (two years on) by perpetrators, in spite of their cases having been successfully disposed by the High court. The evaluators have also noted that the litigation (legal representation) support to survivors of the project is limited to court hearing and ruling thereof. Therefore, it is recommended that the state (government of South Sudan) should ensure all survivors whose cases are successfully concluded by the courts of law are fully compensated by perpetrators.

1.1.2 Sixty-Eight (68) survivors provided with medical care during the project,

The available records in the office of STEWARDWOMEN indicate that Sixty-Eight (68) survivors of rape and early/child marriage received medical care assistance, instead of the initially targeted number of fifty (50) survivors of rape and early/child marriage, thus showing an increase in the number of beneficiaries of the medical care by eighteen (18), and the extent to which the project increased access to medical care assistance, necessary for the full recovery of survivors from the traumatic experiences of the health complications arising from sexual violence.

Notably, the project provided the medical care to survivors in collaboration with two private health clinics based in Juba. The fistula camp was also supported by a team of international experts (fistula surgeons) contracted by the private health facility. The Clinical officer involved in the fistula camp informed the evaluation team that whenever survivors reported to their health clinic, they would provide them the required health care, including joint progress follow-up with the project staff until the survivors are fully recovered. The project beneficiaries in Jondoru and Gumbo also appreciated the work of the private health facility that provided medical care for survivors. This way, the project improved

collaboration between health service providers, and connected survivors with health care experts, the benefits of which goes a long way in supporting the full recovery of survivors.

In the Juba Adventist Hospital where some fistula survivors received medical care during the fistula camp, the staffs interviewed informed the Evaluators that fistula surgery undergoes through at least two different phases. It was for this reason that some of the survivors that benefited from the fistula camp had to undergo a second phase of surgery after developing side effects during the first phase of the surgery. This contributed to the high cost of the fistula surgery that the Project staff was initially not aware of it. The hospital staff (interviewees) further advised STEWARDWOMEN to continually monitor the fistula survivors in collaboration with the health facility till they have fully recovered. This is because the Government Hospitals lack fistula treatment services. The public health programs in the country are majorly supported by NGOs. And those survivors will find it hard to access fistula medical care services after end of the Project. Therefore, it is recommended that STEWARDWOMEN should continue to support fistula surgery by appealing to their donors for continued support.

However, the Evaluators were informed by the project staff that prior to the holding of the fistula camp at Juba Adventist Hospital, the Morobo Specialized Health Clinic that was sub-contracted by the project to provide the required medical care referred some of the fistula cases to other private health facilities in Juba without the knowledge of STEWARDWOMEN. Moreover, those private health facilities relied on short-term hired fistula specialists who were sometimes absent from duty, which caused some delays in access to medical care by the fistula survivors. However, this was later on resolved through a meeting between STEWARDWOMEN and the management of the Morobo Specialized Health Clinic. Nevertheless, the Evaluators observe that the above manner in which the referral of fistula survivors was handled demonstrates some gaps in the coordination of the medical care assistance to survivors. The referral of fistula cases by the sub-contracted down-stream partner to a third party health facility further demonstrates lack of capacity by the down-stream partner (Morobo Specialized Health Clinic) to provide the required medical care for survivors. The Evaluators also failed to find any evidence of formal due-diligence assessment conducted by STEWARDWOMEN to finalize the selection process of the Morobo Specialized Health Clinic, in spite of the availability of Organizational policy on sub-contracting down-stream partners. The STEWARDWOMEN relied on information from a third party during the background check of Morobo Specialized health facility, which poses a serious potential risk. As such, STEWARDWOMEN is advised to consider undertaking formal due-diligence assessment as a pre-condition to finalizing sub-contracting arrangement with any down-stream partners in the future.

1.1.3 Four Hundred Forty-Three (443) survivors provided with livelihood assistance during the project,

The Evaluators found that the livelihood assistance provided to survivors through the project consisted of training on business management and entrepreneurship skills, management of savings and loan groups, enterprise selection and management, marketing skills, distribution of in-kind business start-up capital, payment of rental fees for business premises, formation of income generation groups and savings and loan associations, and training of group leaders on leadership skills, development of by-laws for business groups, technical back-stopping (onsite technical support) to the business groups and business advisory information. The available record in the office of STEWARDWOMEN shows that four hundred forty-three (443) survivors of rape and early/child marriage received the livelihood assistance, instead of the initially estimated number of three hundred (300) survivors, thus showing an increase in the number of beneficiaries of the livelihood assistance by One Hundred Forty-Three (143), and the extent to which the project increased access to livelihood assistance to survivors, which is crucial for full recovery of the survivors.

Output 1.2;

Referral pathways for survivors strengthened,

1.2.1 Nine (9) meetings were held with service providers on the referral pathway,

Analysis of the project progress reports (2020, 2021 & 2022) indicate that Nine (9) meetings and/or workshops were conducted with the key project stake-holders on the service referral pathway during the project. Consequently, two service referral pathways were developed under the project, one for Jondoru-Juba and the other for Rubkona-Bentiu IDP camps, based on the recommendation of the national GBV sub-cluster, and in consideration of the unique security contexts of the two project locations. The developed referral service map forms part of the Simplified Handbook⁹ on survivor care and support distributed to the survivor support groups during the project. The Simplified Handbook provides step-by-step guidance to the survivor support groups to help them provide the required care and support services to survivors, considering the low level of the educational background of the members of the survivor support groups. The reports further suggest there is increased level of community awareness on the service referral pathways, mainly because of dissemination of the referral service map through the radio and other project activities, which led to increased number of survivors seeking for support services through the referral pathway and the survivor support groups. This way, the project contributed to strengthening the service referral pathway and access to critical care and support required for recovery of survivors.

1.2.2 Ninety-Four (94) survivors' service providers mapped during the project,

Analysis of the project annual progress reports (2020, 2021 and 2022) further shows that a total of Ninety-Four (94) service providers to survivors were mapped in the two project locations. As mentioned earlier under section 1.2.1 above, the service providers have reported increased number of survivors seeking for support services through the referral pathway because of the increased level of community awareness on the service referral pathways, thus demonstrating the contribution of the project towards strengthening of the service referral pathway to survivors.

However, further analysis of the data of the service referral map shows that the service referral map consists of exclusively INGOs, NNGOs and UN agencies involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance, in addition to the police. Where else, the community-based informal care providers (family members, friends, community leaders etc), including the survivor support groups that are the first points of contact for survivors are excluded from the referral service map. According to the project staff, the project primarily documented the formal service providers, based on the GBV sub-cluster criteria for service providers. Nevertheless, considering the crucial role of the informal service providers under the project in bridging the service gap, especially as first points of contacts to survivors, it is suggested that informal service providers are included in the service referral pathway in the future. More so, efforts should be made to develop capabilities of the community-based service providers as front-line care givers to survivors. This way, the community will be empowered to continue to provide quality care and support services to survivors after end of the project.

⁹<https://stewardwomen.org/Simplified%20Handbook%20on%20Survivor%20Care%20&%20Support%20for%20SSGs.pdf>

Project Outcome 2:

Capabilities of survivors to know and claim their rights increased

Output 2.1;

Knowledge of survivors of rape and early/child marriage on human and legal rights and justice improved.

2.1.1 Two (2) functional survivor support centers established,

The project staff informed the Evaluators that two survivor support centers were established under the project, one in Jondoru-Juba and the other in Rubkona-Bentiu. The survivor support center in Jondoru was established in a facility constructed by STEWARDWOMEN on a community land through another source of funding. It consists of a meeting hall, a consultation room, and sanitary facilities. The need for land for the survivor support centre was first deliberated during the joint stakeholders' project inception workshop, followed by several meetings involving the local government authority and community leaders on the land for the survivor support centre, and signing of Memorandum of Understanding for the use of the land. In Rubkona-Bentiu, the survivor support centre is established in a two-room house owned by the Ministry of Health of Unity State. The structure was face-lifted by STEWARDWOMEN to make it user friendly.

During the onsite field visits, the Evaluators observed that a wide range of activities took place at the survivors support centers namely, meetings by the savings and loan groups, dancing and singing by beneficiaries and stake-holders' consultations among others, thus demonstrating the functioning of the survivor support centers. During the focus group discussion with beneficiaries at the survivor support centers, the Evaluators learned that the survivors acquired knowledge on human rights and gender justice, through the dialogues and mediation meetings held for survivors at the survivor support centers, thus demonstrating the contribution of the survivor support centers to increased knowledge on human rights and gender justice.

2.1.2 One Hundred Eighty-Six (186) members of survivor support groups were trained,

The survivor support groups are a group of mainly women volunteers (with previous experiences of violence) based in the project location that were mobilized by STEWARDWOMEN to support in the mobilization of survivors, documentation and reporting, and referral information. Analysis of the project annual progress reports (2021 & 2022) shows that One Hundred Eighty-Six (186) members of two survivor support groups (one in Jondoru and the other in Rubkona) were formed and trained on a wide range of topics namely, the basic GBV guiding principles, the GBV legal frame works, basic PSS principles, documentation and mobilization skills among others, aimed at increasing their capabilities as front-line volunteer support workers. The survivor support groups have elected leaders consisting of a chairperson and deputy, secretary (a case worker), treasurer, publicity officer and advisor. The group leaders were also trained on leadership and advocacy skills. One Hundred (100) copies of Survivor Care Handbooks were also distributed to the survivor support groups¹⁰. The survivor support groups also held dialogues with survivors on their human rights and protection needs, based on the knowledge and skills gained by the survivor support groups during the capacity building events and through the Handbook. The project annual progress report (2022) further indicates that 45% of the survivors in the Jondoru-Juba IDP camp alone gained knowledge on their human rights and gender justice from the survivors' dialogues conducted by the survivor support group. This way, the survivor support groups contributed to improved knowledge of survivors on human rights and gender justice.

¹⁰ The Handbook contains step by step guidelines for provision of support service to survivors.

Nevertheless, the Evaluators found that some members of the survivor support groups were in active and not interested in volunteering anymore because of lack of allowances. The project only pays facilitation fees to the support groups during dialogues, which is inadequate, according to the survivor support groups. Generally, the survivor support groups were dissatisfied with the facilitation fees. Apparently, there was a lot of optimism for allowances during their mobilization, which evaded with time due to unfulfilled pledges from the project staff that negatively impacted the project. It is suggested that STEWARDWOMEN considers developing a meaningful, feasible and cost effective strategy to motivate the survivor support groups in the future.

2.1.3 Twenty-Six (26) dialogues were held with survivors on their rights, justice issues and available services by survivor support groups,

Analysis of the project annual progress reports (2020-2022) show that Twenty-Six (26) dialogues were conducted for survivors by the survivor support groups in the two project location, through which the survivors gained knowledge on their human and legal rights, gender justice, the court processes, protection from violence, harmful customary practices affecting women and girls etc. The dialogues also created a platform for survivors to amplify their voices on a wide range of protection related issues namely, fear of reporting rape and early/child marriage cases due to lack of trust with the police and the courts, lack of support from local authorities in accountability for sexual violence especially when their male family members are involved, and impunity thereof, the bias of the family courts on issues related to marriage during the mediation, high level of corruption in the police and judiciary etc. Consequently, the survivors in Rubkona held a dialogue with the local government authority to resolve the high taxes levied on their businesses. Since then, the local tax authority has scrapped taxes on small businesses. In Jondoru, 25 cases of rape and early/child marriages were registered by the project legal aid attorney in the last quarter of the first year (Dec. 2019-Oct. 2020) of the project alone, from about a total of 15 cases reported in the first two quarters, which shows a significant increase in the number of reported cases for legal redress. Further analysis of the report indicates that the dialogue participants (survivors) also recommended for the inclusion of more men as advocates of women human rights. They (survivors) noted that, men are better placed to engage fellow men on issues related to the customary justice system. Through the above, the increased level of awareness on human rights, gender justice and protection is evident among the survivors, thus showing the contribution of the project to increased knowledge of survivors on human rights and gender justice.

Project Outcome 3:

Development and enforcement of survivor centered policies on rape and early/child marriage improved.

Output 3.1;

Participation of survivors of rape and early/child marriage in policy action on survivor protection mechanisms strengthened.

3.1.1 Eleven (11) policy dialogues involving survivors were held on rape and early/child marriage,

The purpose of the policy dialogues, inclusive of survivors of rape and early/child marriage is to ensure survivor-centered policies are developed and enforced, with the aim to improve the protection of survivors. Analysis of the Project annual reports (2021 & 2022) indicates that a total of Eleven (11) policy dialogues- eight (8) in the first year and six (6) in the second year involving survivors were conducted in the two project locations, thus demonstrating the contribution of the project towards increased participation of survivors in policy issues affecting survivors. In Jondoru, the policy dialogues resulted

into a policy brief titled “Peace and security: key to justice and protection needs of survivors (<https://stewardwomen.org/Publication.html>). The policy dialogues also led to the formation of an advocacy group on rape and early/child marriage by the male youths referred to as “Male Champions”. In Rubkona, the policy dialogues resulted into increased night patrol by the police to track down groups of gaps raping women and girls during night hours. This way, the project contributed to the development and enforcement of survivor centered actions and policies.

3.1.2 Four Hundred Eighty-Six (486) survivors participated in the policy dialogues,

As explained in section 3.1.1 above, the purpose of involving survivors of rape and early/child marriage in the policy dialogues is to ensure that survivor-centered policies are developed and enforced. Further analysis of the project annual progress reports (2021 & 2022) indicates that a total of *Four Hundred Eighty-Six (486)* survivors were involved in the policy dialogues in the two Project locations. This way, the project contributed to increased participation of survivors in the development of survivor-centered policies.

Project Outcome 4:

Capabilities of general members of target IDP and host communities and leaders, local government officials, uniformed men and CSOs to manage survivors increased.

Output 4.1;

Knowledge and skills of general members of target IDP and host communities and leaders, local government officials, uniformed men and CSOs to manage survivors of rape and early/child marriage strengthened.

4.1.1 Sixteen (16) capacity building events were conducted for secondary beneficiaries,

The analysis of the project annual progress report (2022) shows that Sixteen (16) training workshops were conducted for local government and community leaders on managing rape and early/child marriage. Through the knowledge gained from the trainings, the stake-holders have been sensitizing their communities on the dangers of harmful practices (including rape and early/child marriage), the service referral pathways and information thereof. The traditional chiefs are also increasingly referring criminal cases to the competent courts and the police, thus demonstrating the contribution of the Project to increased capabilities of stakeholders in managing rape and early/child marriage.

4.1.2 Five Hundred Sixty-Four (564) secondary beneficiaries attended the capacity building events,

From the analysis of the project annual progress reports (2021 & 2022), a total of *Five Hundred Sixty-Four (564)* stakeholders benefited from the training workshops on managing rape and early/child marriage. As observed under section 4.1.1 above, the knowledge gained from the trainings helped the stakeholders to be actively involved in the service referral pathway and sensitizing communities on the protection needs of survivors. This way, the project built the capabilities of stakeholders in managing rape and early/child marriage.

Project Outcome 5:

Institutional response of STEWARDWOMEN to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, while maintaining existing interventions to EVAWG strengthened.

Output 5.1:

STEWARDWOMEN has put in place mechanisms to improve institutional resilience to crises including the COVID-19 pandemic, which ensures the stability of projects and sustainability of the Organization in the longer term.

5.1.1 Two (2) health and safety policies were developed during the project,

The Evaluators were informed that the project supported the review of two draft policies- staff medical insurance and risk mitigation and security policies, in collaboration with a local policy expert. The Staff of STEWARDWOMEN was also sensitized on the two policies to keep abreast with the policies. The project staffs were also provided with medical insurance and risk allowances. The project staff informed the Evaluators that the medical and risk allowances helped to bridge the gap in the cost of living arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic crisis in the country.

Further analysis of the project reports indicates that imports of goods to South Sudan was limited due to the travel restrictions imposed by the international community to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total dependence of the country on imports further worsened the already dire economic situation. Inflation was skyrocketing due to scarcity of commodities; the cost of services, including medical care, more than doubled during the Project. As such, through the development of the medical insurance and risk mitigation policies and thereof the staff allowances, the Project helped to sustain staff motivation and commitments. This way, the project contributed to the institutional response of STEWARDWOMEN to the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while sustaining response to ending violence against women and girls in the country.

5.1.2 One (1) unit of project vehicle procured,

The project staff informed the Evaluators that a Project vehicle- Toyota Land Cruiser, Hardtop was directly procured by the UN Trust Fund in consultation with STEWARDWOMEN. The procurement involved submission of technical specifications of the vehicle by STEWARDWOMEN to the procurement unit of the UN Trust Fund, soliciting of vendors for vehicle supply by the UN Trust Fund, review of price quotations and consent by STEWARDWOMEN for the procurement of the vehicle, and verification of the technical specification by STEWARDWOMEN, and thereof vehicle delivery. The project vehicle has resolved the major logistical challenges for the project in Rubkona-Bentiu that has continued to experience heavy flooding in the last two years. It's also ideal for use during the dry season because of the heavy dust. The project vehicle has also supported the emergency program of the local GBV partners in Rubkona-Bentiu especially Health Link, during the distribution of mosquito nets for flood victims. This way, the project improved the logistical challenges of institutional response by STEWARDWOMEN and partners on ending violence against women and girls, while adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and floods in the project locations.

Output 5.2,

STEARAWOMEN has improved knowledge, skills and capacities to maintain or adapt EVAW/G interventions and reach the survivors of rape and early/child marriage while responding to the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic or other crises

5.2.1 One (1) workshop was conducted for the project staff and partners on streamlining COVID-19,

The Evaluators found that the project conducted one workshop for the project staff and partners to mainstream the COVID-19 pandemic into ending violence against women programs, which benefited Fifteen (15) staff of STEARAWOMEN and partners. According to the Project staff, messages on the COVID-19 is integrated into all project activities by ensuring that at least fifteen (15) minutes during any Project activity is reserved for awareness creation on the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also strict adherence to the COVID-19 pandemic SOPs during project activities namely, social distancing, wearing of face masks, use of sanitizers and hand-washing with soap. It was also observed that the survivor support centers in the project location have functional hand-washing containers, soap and sanitizers. Some respondents also wore face masks during the interviews. This way, the project contributed to increased capacity of STEARAWOMEN to respond to ending violence against women and girls, while adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.2.2 One (1) workshop was conducted for project staff and partners on stress management related to COVID-19 response,

The project also conducted one workshop in Juba on stress management on the COVID-19 pandemic that was attended by fifteen (15) project and partners staff. The significance of the training was expressed by one of the partner's staff (HCI) as follows:

“...The COVID-19 pandemic has personally stressed me; I have never received any funding for the whole year (2021). The training on stress management has come timely because the COVID-19 pandemic is here to stay; I have to live with it”

The above statement by a partner staff undoubtedly underscores the significance of the training workshop on stress management related to the COVID-19 pandemic towards programming ending violence against women and girls, thus demonstrating the contribution of the project to resilience building of front line CSOs during the COVID-19 pandemic, while responding to ending violence against women and girls.

5.2.3 One Thousand (1000) copies of IEC materials on COVID-19 were distributed during the project,

Analysis of the Project progress report (2020) shows that the Project distributed One Thousand copies of IEC materials on the COVID-19 pandemic namely, banners, stickers and posters. During the onsite field visit, the Evaluators noted that some copies of the IEC materials were displayed at the survivor support centers. Some respondents also attested to having received copies of the IEC materials. The IEC materials were also translated into the local Arabic language. About 35,000 people in the Project location is estimated to have been sensitized on the COVID-19 pandemic and ending violence against women and girls through the IEC materials. This way, the IEC materials contributed to increased level of community awareness on the COVID-19 pandemic and ending violence against women and girls.

| | |
|---|---|
| Evaluation criteria and Question | Relevance |
| | Assessment of the extent to which the achieved results (project goal, outcomes and outputs) continue to be relevant to the needs of women and girls. |

STEARAWOMEN is making a difference in supporting survivors of rape and early/child marriage in different ways. For example, in Rubkona field office a child mother with three children reported to STEARAWOMEN. The husband died in 2011 leaving her with one child. She conceived twice with another man but the man denied responsibility and went to Khartoum. She was counseled by the caseworkers and supported to join the income generating groups. In Jondoru, another child mother came to the survivor support centre. The husband was not providing for the family and as a result she had to go back to her father's home. She was depending on food ration cards. The husband had two other wives. STEARAWOMEN provided her with weekly counseling for a period of one month and also supported her with start-up kits for livelihood. She is now one of the strong members of the saving groups.

Legal assistance to survivors: The legal assistance to survivors of sexual violence is relevant because most of the magistrates' courts in the rural areas are not functional due to insecurity. The Court Magistrates are not willing to work in the rural areas because of security threats. In Bentiu (The State Capital City of Unity State), where the Rubkona project location is found, there is no resident Judge and Public Prosecutor. The High Court Judges of the mobile court hearings under the project were appointed by the President of the High Court Judges, from among the High Court Judges based in Juba on request from STEARAWOMEN, temporarily. Besides, the survivors of rape and early/child marriage have no financial capacity to hire the services of private legal advocates to prosecute their cases. As such, the provision of legal aid for survivors of sexual violence is critical in support of the human rights of women, peace, and justice in the country. STEARAWOMEN was able to support the whole legal process of investigation, prosecution, case hearing and judgment in support of the survivors by creating the mobile court system. The mobile courts are where the judges are facilitated to move and handle court cases at the location of the crime.

Safety services [informal and formal] in the project location: Safety services starts with the physical protection of the survivor from the recurrence of rape or forced marriage for teenage girls. During the project, there were instances of young girls being threatened with violence by their parents and brothers so as to get married to usually over-aged men who have accumulated cattle from various expeditions of raids from neighboring tribes. In such cases, the survivors were relocated to safer shelters normally with a relative, friend, or a community leader.

The medical assistance provided in the project location was relevant because some survivors suffered from different health conditions after rape and early/child marriage. The various medical conditions needed urgent attention, including surgery for some survivors which were not easily accessible to the survivors. STEARAWOMEN collaborated with private health facilities like Morobo Clinic and treated survivors for sexual injuries, transmitted infections, and diseases; support with pre exposure prophylaxis; urinary tract infections and injuries; prolapse of the uterus as a result of gang rape in some cases. Cases of obstetric fistula were referred to Juba Referral Teaching Hospital.

Livelihood assistance,

Livelihood assistance provided to survivors is pertinent because survivors needed to engage in income generation for improved livelihood and healing for full recovery. Analysis of the quantitative data demonstrates that 50.4% of the survivors interviewed were provided with livelihood assistance under the project; and 49.6% were not provided with livelihood assistance (Table 1). The 49.6% represents survivors that did not meet the selection criteria for livelihood assistance. More so, 34% of the survivors interviewed benefited through the training on entrepreneurship/business skills, 33% of the survivors benefited through the distribution of business start-up kits, and 33% through the savings and loan groups/associations (Table 2).

Table 1: Access to livelihood assistance,

| Responses | | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| | Yes | 63 | 50.4% |
| | No | 62 | 49.6% |
| | Total | 125 | 100% |

Table 2: Types of livelihood assistance,

| Economic services | | Responses | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | | N | Percent |
| | Entrepreneurship/business training | 59 | 34% |
| | Start-up kits | 58 | 33% |
| | Savings and loan groups/associations | 58 | 33% |
| | Total | 175 | 100% |

Table 3: Major livelihood activities in which the survivors were engaged,

| Major economic activities of the groups | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|-----------|---------------|
| | Grocery shop | 4 | 6.3% |
| | Poultry | 2 | 3.1% |
| | Restaurant business | 3 | 4.7% |
| | Hair dressing | 3 | 4.7% |
| | Vegetable growing and selling | 2 | 3.1% |
| | Selling charcoal | 3 | 4.7% |
| | Tailoring | 1 | 1.5% |
| | Tea/coffee selling | 32 | 50.7% |
| | Embroidery (bed-sheets designing & selling) | 13 | 21.2% |
| | Total | 63 | 100.0% |

From Table 3 above, 6.3% of the survivors interviewed were engaged in grocery shop business, 3.1% were engaged in poultry farming, 4.7% were engaged in managing restaurants, 4.7% were engaged in hair-dressing, 3.1% were engaged in vegetable growing and selling, 4.7% were engaged in charcoal selling, 1.5% were engaged in tailoring, 50.7% were engaged in tea/coffee selling, and 21.2% were engaged in embroidery (bed-sheets designing and selling).

Table 4: Survivors that are members of the savings and loan groups,

| Respondents that belong to saving groups | | Frequency | Percent |
|--|--------------|------------|-------------|
| | Yes | 61 | 48.8% |
| | No | 64 | 51.2% |
| | Total | 125 | 100% |

Analysis of Table 4 above shows that 48.8% of the survivors interviewed were members of the savings and loan groups of the project, and 51.2% of the survivors do not belong to any savings and loan group.

Table 5: Cumulative savings by savings and loan groups,

| Amount saved by the group members | | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | 10,000SSP-25,000SSP | 2 | 3.2% |
| | 25,001SSP-40,000SSP | 5 | 8.1% |
| | 40,001SSP-55,000SSP | 4 | 6.5% |
| | 55,001SSP>= | 50 | 81.9% |
| | Total | 61 | 100% |

From Table 5 above, 3.2% of the survivors interviewed estimated the amount of group savings between SSP¹¹ 10,000 (USD4) and SSP 25,000 (USD12), 8.1% estimated it between SSP 25,001 (USD42) and SSP 40,000 (USD100), 6.5% estimated it between SSP 40,001(USD 100) and SSP 55,000 (USD105), and 81.9% estimated it from SSP 50,000 (USD105) above. Accordingly, the annual Project progress report (2020) puts the accumulated amount of savings as SSP 1,445,000 (USD 2,330) for Jondoru United Women Village Saving & Loan Group, and SSP 212, 000 (USD342) for Mal Women Village Savings and Loan Group in Rubkona-Bentiu.

Table 6: Business groups with by-laws (rules and regulations),

| Groups that have by-laws | | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| | No | 32 | 52.4% |
| | Yes | 29 | 47.5% |
| | Total | 61 | 100% |

From Table 6 above, 52.4% of the survivors interviewed said the business groups formed under the project do not have any by-laws, and 47.5% said the groups have by-laws.

Table 7: Procedures for developing group by-laws,

| Procedures for development of by-laws | | N | Percent |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|---------------|
| | Developed by the group members through workshops | 28 | 87.5% |
| | Reviewed by STEWARD WOMEN | 3 | 9.4% |
| | Adopted by group members | 1 | 3.1% |
| | Total | 32 | 100.0% |

Of the 32 survivors interviewed on the procedure for developing the group by-laws, 87.5% said the by-laws were developed through workshops, 9.4% said the group by-laws groups were reviewed by the

¹¹ SSP- South Sudanese Pounds

project staff of STEWARDWOMEN, and 3.1% said the group by-laws were simply adopted from other similar savings groups in the project location (Table 7 above).

Table 8: The benefit of by-laws to the groups,

| Benefit of by-laws | | Responses | |
|--------------------|--|-----------|---------------|
| | | N | Percent |
| | Effective management of the group | 12 | 42.9% |
| | Creates unity for the group | 13 | 46.4% |
| | Promote discipline in the group | 2 | 7.1% |
| | Guide the procedures of the loan repayment | 1 | 3.6% |
| Total | | 28 | 100.0% |

From Table 8 above, 42.9% of the survivors interviewed said the by-law helped in the effective management of the business groups, 46.4% said it creates unity among the group members, 7.1% said it promotes discipline, and 3.6% said it guides the procedures of loan repayment.

Table 9: Level of satisfaction from the livelihood activities,

| Level of satisfaction | | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | Very good | 53 | 84.1% |
| | Good | 10 | 15.8% |
| | Poor | 0 | 0 |
| | Very poor | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 63 | 100% |

From Table 9 above, 84.1% of the survivors interviewed rated the level of satisfaction of the livelihood assistance as very good, and 15.8% rated it as good.

The Evaluators were also informed that some beneficiaries have established individual businesses, besides the group businesses of the Project. For instance, Nyaguine Gai (not real name) of Rubkona-Bentiu received Six (6) pieces of clothes for making bed sheets in 2020 through the Project. After embroiding and selling the bed-sheets, she deposited part of the money in the savings and loan group account. She informed the Evaluators that it was mandatory under the project for beneficiaries of livelihood assistance to join the savings and loan group. By the end of 2021, Nyaguine Gai had accumulated savings of SSP 31,000 (equivalent to USD 90) with the savings and loan group. She established a tea/coffee shop with the money and makes local pan cakes. She jointly manages the business with her sister.

Nyayiena Both (not real name), the Chairperson of Mal Women Village Savings group joined the saving and loan group in 2021 after selling embroidered bed sheets for about 5 months. She received three sets of bed-sheet materials through the Project, worth SSP 15,000 (equivalent to USD 40). She sold the bed sheets at SSP 30,000 (equivalent to USD 80). She deposited SSP 14,000 to the savings and loan group account. Thereafter, she invested the money into tea selling business. She informed the Evaluators that the tea selling business has changed her life. The group members support each other through advice; they comfort each other and sing together.

Winy Louis Loku (not real name) was trained by the project on how to save money and start business. She informed the Evaluators that after the training, she was asked by the Case workers to identify any

income generating activity of her choice. Her choice was selling of tomatoes and assorted food items. She deposits SSP 1200 weekly in the group account of Jondoru United Women Savings Group. The first group savings was distributed to members on July 01, 2022. At the time, she had an accumulated savings of SSP 100,000 (equivalent to \$250). She constructed two small rental rooms with the money. The group has eleven members- no one has dropped out.

Another beneficiary called Tekos Beida Lamunu (not real name) was working at a stone quarry site, when she first met the project staff during one of their home visits. In the course of the ensued discussions, she was asked by the Project staff to join the women's group supported by the Project and identify an income generation activity of her choice to supplement the proceeds from the stone quarry site. She chose the business of selling assorted food items. This is because she was already running a similar business that was at the point of collapse because she spent some of the money on food items for the family. Subsequently the project staff procured and delivered assorted food items- maize flour, beans, cooking oil, sugar, eggs, salt and soap to support her business. Thereafter, the business picked-up very well. She is able to save some money from the proceeds and send the children to a better school.

Notably from the above, the proceeds from the businesses (individually and in small groups) helped survivors to provide for their basic needs and that of their families, thus showing the relevance of the livelihood assistance to survivors. The project also supported different types of enterprises, based on survivors' preferences and self capacity vulnerability assessment that created business ownership among beneficiaries, thus demonstrating the relevance of the participatory approach of the project towards the livelihood assistance to survivors. Through the savings and loan scheme, some of the beneficiaries accumulated savings that helped them to establish more businesses and borrow loans from financial institutions, thus showing the relevance of the project's savings and loan scheme to sustained livelihood capacity development of survivors. More still, the business by-laws developed helped to regulate the behavior of group members and maintained discipline and unity that helped the groups to achieve the objectives of their businesses. By involving the group members in the development of business by-laws, the Project created ownership of the by-laws and adherence thereof.

Overall, from the above experiences of the project beneficiaries, it is observed that the livelihood component of the Project changed the lives of the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are able to provide for the basic needs of their children. The momentum of the culture of "savings" is already gathering pace in the community. If these efforts are sustained, it will lead to increased collateral security for beneficiaries, which will enhance the livelihood capacities of the individual survivors, their families and the community. Through the support to the scholastic needs of children from the proceeds of enterprises of beneficiaries, the Project is indirectly contributing to the education of the community and the human capital.

However, the Evaluators learned that the project did not conduct market feasibility assessment prior to distributing the in-kind business start-up capital to the business groups. The project relied on the report of a rapid market feasibility assessment conducted during a previous project, which negatively impacted some enterprises of the project. For example, the poultry project established in Jondoru by the survivors failed to reap the expected monetary benefit because it was established based on the success of a similar poultry project under a previous project. Most of the fowls were stunted and died in their third month due to lack of timely veterinary advisory services, according to the project staff. The project did not provide for veterinary advisory services as risk mitigation measure. The project also allowed charcoal selling as a business, without conducting environmental impact assessment. There was no

evidence of the project integrating environmental awareness in the project activities. Considering the huge problem of environmental degradation in the country, charcoal burning and selling poses a huge threat to the environment. It is recommended that environmental education should be mainstreamed in programming livelihood assistance to the community in the future.

Referral pathway,

The Referral pathways is dissemination of information to survivors on the available services and thereof the service providers in the project location. It involves updating the service map through regular meetings of organizations with similar objectives working in the Project location, and sensitizing the target communities on the service map. The partnership and networking of service providers opens the ways for survivors to access other services they need for their survival.

Table 10: Access to referral services,

| Respondents that received referral services | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|--------------|------------|-------------|
| | Yes | 60 | 48% |
| | No | 65 | 52% |
| | Total | 125 | 100% |

From Table 10 above, 48% of the survivors interviewed accessed the services under the project through referral information from other service providers in the project location. The service providers that referred the survivors to STEWARDWOMEN lacked the services preferred by the survivors. And 52% of the survivors interviewed directly accessed the preferred services through STEWARDWOMEN, implying that STEWARDWOMEN was their first and last point of service contact.

Table 11: Service providers to survivors,

| Partner | Health | PSS | Safety & Security | Legal aid |
|--|--------|-----|-------------------|-----------|
| Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) | ✓ | | | |
| Hope Restoration (One Stop Center) | ✓ | | | |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM) | ✓ | | | |
| State Ministry of Gender, Child & Social Welfare (SMoGCSW) | | ✓ | | |
| International Rescue Committee (IRC) | | ✓ | | |
| Danish Refugee Council (DRC) | | ✓ | | |
| Women Vision (WV) | | ✓ | | |
| Greater Upper Nile Organization (GUNO) | | ✓ | | |
| Non Violent Peace force (NP) | | | ✓ | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) | | | ✓ | |
| South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) | | | ✓ | |
| United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) | | | ✓ | |
| United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS Human Rights Division) | | | | ✓ |
| Cordaid | ✓ | | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Steward Women (STW) | | | | ✓ |
| Bentiu Police Headquarters | | | ✓ | |
| Rubkona County Police Headquarters | | | ✓ | |

From Table 11 above, 17 key service providers, mainly humanitarian agencies consisting of UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations and two government agencies provided support to survivors in the project location. The services included PSS for trauma healing, security and safety, health care, livelihood and legal assistance. Through the focus group discussions, the Evaluators also learned that some survivors received relief food and non-food items like dignity kits, cooking utensils, hand washing basins, sanitizers and soap from some humanitarian agencies.

It is observed that a significant number of survivors benefited through the referral pathway. For instance, 38 cases (33 for legal assistance and 5 for medical care) were referred to STEWARDWOMEN by other service providers during the project. Where else, STEWARDWOMEN referred 15 cases- domestic violence (10), child custody (3) and divorce (2) to other service providers, thus demonstrating the relevance of the referral pathway to the project. The humanitarian and government agencies involved in the referral pathway in the project location are from different sectors namely, health, water and sanitation, security and safety, and justice and the rule of law among others, which is a complete protection package to survivors.

Table 12: Access to information through live radio talk show broadcast,

| Attendance of live radio talk-show broadcast | | No. | Percent |
|--|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Yes | 21 | 35% |
| | No | 39 | 65% |
| | Total | 60 | 100% |

From Table 12 above, 35% of the survivors interviewed accessed information about the project through the live radio talk-show broadcast, and 65% of the survivors did not access any information about the project through the live radio talk-show broadcast.

Table 13: Topics covered during the live radio talk-show broadcast,

| Topics covered | | Responses | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | N | Percent |
| | Referral pathways | 3 | 13.0% |
| | Fistula campaign | 2 | 8.7% |
| | Awareness on rape and early marriage | 6 | 26.1% |
| | Gender justice | 10 | 43.5% |
| | COVID-19 pandemic | 2 | 8.7% |
| | Total | 23 | 100.0% |

From Table 13 above, 13.0% of the survivors interviewed were sensitized through the radio on referral pathway, 8.7% were sensitized on fistula, 26.1% were sensitized on rape and early/child marriage, 43.5% were sensitized on gender justice, and 8.7% were sensitized on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 14: Perception of survivors on the importance of the radio talk-show,

| Importance of topics covered | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Relevant | 16 | 76.1% |
| Not relevant | 5 | 23.8% |
| Total | 21 | 100% |

From Table 14 above, 76.1% of the survivors interviewed said the topics covered are relevant to rape and early/child marriage, and 23.8% said the topics were not relevant to rape and early/child marriage.

Table 15: Category of listeners that made phone-in calls during the live radio-talk show,

| Category of listeners | Responses | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| | N | Percent |
| Men | 18 | 45.0% |
| Women | 21 | 52.5% |
| Girls | 1 | 2.5% |
| Total | 40 | 100.0% |

Table 15 above shows that 45% of the survivors interviewed said the phone-callers during the live radio talk-show broadcast were mainly men, 52.5% said the phone-callers were mainly women, and 2.5% said the phone-callers were mainly girls.

Notably, the relevance of the live radio talk-show broadcast lies in the fact that it provided increased access to information about the project to survivors, their families and the community. Besides, through the radio awareness, survivors were able to access fistula services; they were also sensitized on the dangers of rape and early/child marriage, gender justice and the COVID-19 pandemic preventive measures. Through the phone-in calls, the live radio-talk show broadcast created platform for the target communities to engage with each other on the problems of rape and early/child marriage, which is directly linked to the project. Overall, the information accessed on the project through the radio led to increased level of community awareness on rape and early/child marriage, thus demonstrating the relevance of the live radio-talk show broadcast to the project.

Policy dialogues,

Through the policy dialogues (inclusive of survivors), the communities engaged the local authorities on the protection needs of survivors namely, the need for regular night patrols by the police to monitor the movement of gangs that rape women, establishing police post in Jondoru, and repair of damaged water sources (to minimize the risk of women and girls being way-laid and raped by gangs) etc¹². More so, the communities gained knowledge and skills on the protection of survivors, which resulted into a policy brief titled “**Peace and Security: The Key to Justice and Protection of Survivors**”¹³, and formation of groups of Male youth champions to campaign for ending violence against women and girls. Overall, the relevance of the community dialogues to the needs of project beneficiaries is based on its contribution towards improving the safety and protection of survivors as mentioned above. Besides, the recommended safety and protection measures will go a long way towards community security.

¹² Annual Project Progress Report, pg. 7

¹³ <https://stewardwomen.org/Publication.html> or bit.ly/STEWARWOMEN-PolicyBrief-SOAWR

Trainings,

Through the trainings, the capabilities of the local government and community leaders to manage survivors of rape and early/child marriage was increased. Consequently, the Project stakeholders are now actively involved in sensitizing their communities on the dangers of harmful customs (child/early and forced marriages), and providing referral information. Some traditional chiefs are now aware about the rights of women and girls and have refrained from handling rape cases in the customary courts. They (traditional chiefs) now refer rape cases to the police, medical facilities and competent courts. As observed above, the relevance of the trainings lies in the contribution it made towards increasing community capacity to resolve disputes, which goes a long way in creating peace and security in the Project location.

Community-based accountability groups,

The project formed community-based project accountability groups for project monitoring and resolving disputes. During the Project, the Director of STEWARDWOMEN held focus group discussions with the accountability groups to resolve the issue of recruitment of the local Case workers and security guards for the survivor support centre, and granting of permission for use of the project vehicle by the community for emergencies. The project's cross-sectoral approach and establishment of the survivor support centers were equally appreciated by the community during the focus group meetings. The Rubkona Local Government appreciated the legal empowerment activities of the project. The local authority recommended for the extension of the project beyond Rubkona, code named "Beyond Bentiu Response", thus demonstrating the relevance of the project to the target community and surrounding areas. Through the engagement (focus group meetings) of the community-based accountability groups, the project built the capacity of the community to continually demand for better services from service providers, thus demonstrating the relevance of the community-based accountability groups in the target locations.

Capacity development of CSOs on humanitarian accountability,

Table 16: Humanitarian accountability

| Humanitarian accountability in the project | | Responses | |
|---|--|------------------|----------------|
| | | N | Percent |
| | Sharing of project reports | 10 | 5.2% |
| | Sharing project challenges and solutions to problems | 17 | 8.8% |
| | Transparency of the project staff | 55 | 28.4% |
| | Correct use of humanitarian assistance. | 42 | 21.6% |
| | Professional project staff and work | 48 | 24.7% |
| | Meeting of key stakeholders with the project Director | 16 | 8.2% |
| | Establishing accountability groups in the project area | 6 | 3.1% |
| Total | | 194 | 100.0% |

From Table 16 above, the training on the humanitarian accountability helped to enhance the response capacities of CSOs working on ending violence against women and girls. Notably, the concept entails,

- a. Working in collaboration with the community.
- b. Sharing project reports with stakeholders.
- c. Community involvement in resolving project complaints.
- d. Availability of community-based human resources with the commensurate skills.
- e. Establishing cordial relationship with the community,
- f. Sharing phone contacts for ease of communication,

- g. Establishing sexual abuse prevention and monitoring mechanism,
- h. Correct use of humanitarian assistance,
- i. Monitoring corruption
- j. Regular meetings with key project stakeholders and minutes are available,
- k. Regular reporting to the Project director for upward reporting.

Overall, the relevance of the project is in empowering the community to address the tribulations of rape and forced marriage through participatory community approaches; examples of the participatory approaches are the groups to which the survivors belong and share their business skills by participating in income generating activities; involving survivors in developing by-laws and policies, the community-based project accountability groups, and synergy with other actors (including the key Project stakeholders) for sustainability of the results. The synergy of the activities with other organizations is mainly done through the service referral pathways. Survivors are referred to other organizations with similar objectives in the area for their other needs that cannot be provided by the Project.

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| Evaluation Criteria | Efficiency |
| Evaluation Question | Assessment of the extent to which the project was efficiently and cost-effectively implemented. |

The project staff shared with the Evaluators copies of the work-plans (activity matrix) and budgets etc, and the progress reports thereof. The project proposal, work plan and budgets were observed; they were well planned and have been applied in project implementation. There are annual, quarterly and monthly plans and project budgets and reports. Project activity funds were released to the project field locations based on the monthly budget projections, approved by the senior management committee of the Organization. All budget instalments to the field offices are categorized as activity advance, according to the Finance manager, which was thereof confirmed during the focus group discussion with the Project field staff. The Evaluators were also shown records of cash transfers to the filed location by the Finance manager. Notably, there was to be Zero balance from the project field locations before another release (instalment payment), which helped to minimize losses, according to the Finance manager. The Evaluators were also informed that all project deadlines, both internal and external (donor) were complied with. Complying with the Project Cooperative Agreement and donor requirement thereof is very crucial, as it helps to build trust between the project donor and grantee that goes a long way in opening more funding windows.

The Evaluators also learned that the project work-plans and budgets were reviewed annually by the project implementation team with technical support from the project focal point at the UN Trust Fund. Accordingly, the Evaluators observe that through the annual reviews of the work plan and budget, the project's financial resources were spent on the priority needs of survivors; there was value for money.

Further analysis of the financial report indicates that the total project budget of **USD 715,000** was fully expended. The project financial statements also show that STEWARDWOMEN made a contribution of **USD 142,690** to the project. The overall cost of the project is visibly established by the benefits the communities have received as already discussed in the preceding pages of this report. The project costs have been justified by the benefits due to the fact that the project outputs were delivered; the project also reached more than the planned outputs (see output 3.1.2 above and other indicators); the financial expenses are in line with the planned activities and; the monitoring data is being collected as planned,

stored and used to inform STEWARDWOMEN in project implementation and future plans. The project actions are up-to-date and have been implemented meritoriously as planned. The Project cost show value for money as the expenditures appear justified per the planned and budgeted activities that have been implemented with clear benefits to the survivors and the community.

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| Evaluation Criteria | Sustainability |
| Evaluation Question | Assessment of the extent to which the achieved results, especially any positive changes in the lives of women and girls (project goal level), will be sustained after end the project. |

Through the project, three hundred twenty-four (324) survivors accessed PSS; sixty-eight (68) survivors benefited from the medical care assistance (obstetric fistula, broken bones and vaginal and cervix tear and STIs); four hundred forty-three (443) survivors benefited from the livelihood assistance- they were enabled to provide for their basic individual needs and families; and fifty-eight (58) survivors benefited from litigation. In the third year of the project alone, the accumulated savings of the savings and loan groups was SSP 1,445,000 (equivalent to USD 2330). Some beneficiaries of the livelihood assistance also established individual businesses, from the proceeds of the group businesses and the saving and loan scheme. Notably, the amount of money accumulated through the savings and loan scheme implies that through the project, the collateral securities of women have increased, with huge potential financial benefits to the individual women and the groups, which goes beyond the life span of the project. The PSS for trauma-healing has been crucial as first-step to the successful reintegration of rape survivors, in addition to the livelihood assistance, with a long term overall benefit on the rehabilitation of individual survivors.

The project beneficiaries have gained knowledge on human rights and gender justice that has enabled them to claim and defend their human rights through the statutory courts. As mentioned earlier, fifty-eight (58) rape cases were successfully litigated. Some perpetrators have already been jailed for various years, while others are in courts of law awaiting trial for their horrendous actions. Notably, majority of the rape cases for court hearing were reported to STEWARDWOMEN by the fathers of survivors. The Jondoru IDP community was already engaging the local government on the need to establish a police post in the area. Survivors are able to take critical decision in their lives on their rights and come out to stand up and report cases of rape and early/child marriage in the community and get justice in the courts of law. In general, leaders of various categories including community, women, youth and paralegals and volunteers are actively involved in the detection, prevention, and designing strategies to ending rape and early/child marriage. These actions are likely to continue even in the absence of the donor and STEWARDWOMEN.

Through the service referral pathways, capacity building of local partners on integrated COVID-19 pandemic and ending violence against women and girls programming and the cluster coordination meetings, the Project built lasting and strategic partnership with key service providers, including government institutions, in implementation of specific activities for survivors, thereby strengthening the institutional response capacity of the local service providers, with the potential to scale after end of the project. More so, the safety and protection of survivors is enhanced, that go beyond the project life span.

The Evaluators also learned that the beneficiaries were well informed about the COVID-19 pandemic, the symptoms and signs and the preventive measures as a result of awareness during the project. Some beneficiaries were already applying the knowledge gained by asking their children to wash their hands with soap before eating and after visiting latrine. Some beneficiaries also wore face masks during the interviews, thus showing the level of community preparedness for any potential public health threat in the future.

Overall, the project focused on knowledge transfer to beneficiaries through the training workshops on gender justice, entrepreneurship skills, awareness campaigns and community dialogues etc. The project staff also ensured that the activity participants made individual and collective commitments to share the knowledge and skills gained through the trainings with the rest of the community. The commitments have been used by the project staff as the basis for progress follow-up purposes on policy action on rape and early/child marriage. Besides, some community members already refer to themselves as paralegals, because they are voluntarily providing basic legal information to survivors, as a result of the knowledge gained on human rights and gender justice during the training. This way, the achievements of the project will continue to be useful.

The design of the project is to restore survivors to the fullness of life; here survivors were legally empowered to demand for accountability, they were prepared to overcome the challenges of life through psychosocial support; their lives restored through medical care and by joining groups who help them identify their talents and skills for income generating activities. Survivors engage in business enterprises through which they support themselves and their families. The project provided business capital as a soft business loan and revolving fund that has resulted into accumulated savings, with potential impact to scale and sustainability of livelihoods thereof, and reintegration of survivors in the community.

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| Evaluation Criteria. | Impact |
| Evaluation Question. | Assessment of the extent to which the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality and/or women’s empowerment (both intended and unintended impact). |

The project is enhancing the rule of law and justice by facilitating the courts to deliver justice to survivors of rape and early/child marriage through the mobile courts and mediation meetings; which ensures that perpetrators are punished, and reparations are fully paid to survivors at the end, who are also victims of the political violence; so that peace can be realized in the community. This is inline with the Revitalised Peace Agreement of South Sudan, which provides for the establishment of a Transitional Justice mechanism consisting of a Hybrid Court, a Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH), and a reparation process.

The project is contributing to the achievement of the global goals for sustainable development of United Nations Global Goals outlined and agreed upon in 2015 by world leaders. The aim of these goals are to create a better and fairer world by 2030 especially ending poverty, urgently addressing climate change and ending inequality. In this project STEWARDWOMEN contributed to the following sustainable goals:

1. No Poverty: Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation

As mentioned earlier, the project provided medical assistance to sixty-eight (68) survivors of rape and early/child marriage for various ailment namely, obstetric fistula, STIs, vaginal and uterus tear, broken

bones etc. More so five-hundred sixty-four (564) members of target communities were trained on managing rape and early/marriage cases, gender justice, and the GBV legal frameworks. The project also trained fifteen (15) project and partner staff on mainstreaming the COVID-19 pandemic into EVAW programming, and distributed one thousand (1000) copies of IEC material on the prevention of COVID-19 pandemic through which, about 35,000 members of the target communities were sensitized on the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Zero Hunger: Providing food and humanitarian relief, establishing sustainable food production

The livelihood assistance provided to survivors is pertinent because survivors needed to engage in income generation for improved livelihood and healing for full recovery. Analysis of the quantitative data demonstrates that 50.4% of survivors accessed livelihood assistance, and 49.6% did not. Of which, 24.6% were supported through community sensitization on the livelihood assistance component of the project, 25.4% through entrepreneurial and business training, 25% through business start-up kits, and 25% through the savings and loan groups. The available record in the office of STEWARDWOMEN indicates that four hundred forty-three (443) survivors were provided with livelihood assistance, from the three hundred (300) initially target number, showing an increase by one hundred forty-three (143) beneficiaries (survivors).

Through the project, four hundred forty-three (443) survivors of rape and early/child marriage accessed livelihood assistance consisting of training on business management skills, and savings and loan associations, distribution of in-kind business start-up capitals, and onsite business mentoring support among others. The assistance enabled the project beneficiaries (individually and in groups) to establish small income generation projects consisting of food stalls, bakeries, restaurants, beauty shops for hair-dressing and body tattooing. The records of savings show that the Project's saving and loan groups had accumulated savings of SSP 1,445,000, equivalent to \$2330.6, during the 2021-2022 project year¹⁴. During the interviews, the Evaluators learned that the beneficiaries of the livelihood activities use the proceeds from their businesses for buying food items like grains, fish, vegetables and sugar among others. The earnings from the small businesses have helped to supplement food distributions by relief agencies. This way, the project has contributed to sustainable food production in the communities.

3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy

Through the psychosocial support for trauma-healing and medical care as the first-step towards rehabilitation of survivors of rape and early/child marriage, and the livelihood assistance, the project improved access to health services and nutrition, thereby contributing to good health and wellbeing of the community.

4. Quality Education: Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty.

Through the live radio talk-show broadcast, 1500 women, men and the youth were sensitized on laws, prevention and response to rape and early/child marriage; additional 35,000 estimated number of women and men, boys and girls were reached through distribution of IEC materials on the COVID-19 pandemic and awareness-raising on the service referral pathway; 167 through policy dialogues, 388 through community dialogues, 216 through training for local government and community leaders among others during the 2021 and 2022 project year. Through these activities, the project beneficiaries

¹⁴ See Annual Project Progress Report, 2022 pg. 5

have gained knowledge and skills on human rights, gender justice, and entrepreneurship, which they ably apply to resolve the daily challenges of life including disputes, safety, food security and family livelihoods. The project participants included women, men, boys and girls, and people with disabilities among others. This way, the Project contributed to quality and inclusive (informal) education, upward social mobility of beneficiaries and towards ending poverty in the community.

5. Gender Equality: Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, and fairer representation of women.

The project is transforming socio-cultural norms that are negative and enslaving women and girls; as it emphasises empowering women and girls to recover and be able to take care of themselves and their families. Men that were once protagonist of gender inequality, in support of their customs and traditions (that undermined women and girls) are gradually becoming advocates of the human rights of women and girls by demanding accountability for rape and early/child marriage, as observed in the preceding sections of this report. The project was able to rebuild the family and community structures and support systems by updating the referral service map, capacity building of front-line service workers (Case workers and paralegals) and mediation of cases by family courts, which contributed to peaceful means of dispute resolution and security. This was an unintended impact of the project, which contributed to justice and security. More so, survivors are able to defend their rights and demand justice through the community paralegals who are able to support them, even in courts of laws.

The project is creating a condition for accountability systems against perpetrators and reparation to survivors. This has been done through the mobile court system where the legal fraternity was engaged and facilitated by STEWARDWOMEN to seek justice for survivors and take the cases to their logical conclusion of litigation without interference from others. The design of the project is effective in offering holistic services and facilities that work with formal and traditional legal systems to the full recovery of the survivor. Assessment, monitoring and documentation of Gender-Based Violence cases in the society and region at large guided STEWARDWOMEN and Legislators of South Sudan in developing legal systems like the Anti-GBV Bill (2019) and Ratification of The Maputo Protocol that supports ending violence against women and girls.

The referral pathways created partnerships with at least fifty-seven (57) local service providers to support the communities to seek alternative services from other organizations operating in the project area. About fifteen thousand (15,000) women, men and boys and girls are estimated to have been sensitized on the referral service map through live radio talk-show broadcast in the third year of the project alone. This intervention by STEWARDWOMEN has raised a lot of hope for survivors and the communities whose expectations may not be fulfilled when the project ends, because the demands for the services are much higher than what STEWARDWOMEN can afford. Therefore, this intervention is recommended to be scaled-up, and for continued investment.

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| Evaluation Criteria. | Knowledge Generation |
| Evaluation Question. | Assessment of the extent to which the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EAW/G that should be documented and shared with other practitioners. |

The project has generated knowledge of inventing the holistic approach to offering services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage through the thematic paradigm of psychosocial services, safety and security services, legal services, medical services, income generating services, and by creating synergy with other partners in the referral pathways. The level of knowledge generation can be realized in the following:

1. The communities are empowered to take action against perpetrators of rape and early/child marriage and bring them to justice in the courts of law. As observed earlier, majority of the rape and early/child marriage cases handled by STEWARDWOMEN were reported by the fathers of the victims, which shows the extent to which the project has empowered men to claim and defend the rights of victims, based on the knowledge gained through the project advocacy events. It further signifies the crucial role of men (“men to men” engagement approach) in ending violence against women and girls in the country.
2. The project’s mobile court as accountability mechanism for criminal justice on rape and early/child marriage is unique. The mobile court sessions in the project location are preceded by legal aid camps (of three weeks) focusing on raising awareness on the up-coming high court mobile sessions, legal counseling and advice, and preparation of case witnesses among others. This approach to the mobile court helped to increase visibility of the project accountability mechanism and impact. It’s for this reason that fifty-eight (58) cases of rape and early/child marriage were successfully prosecuted through the project, based on individual victims’ choice of the due process of the law.
3. The Community-based advocacy strategy of the “Neighborhood Assembly” through which, the community was educated on the human and legal rights of women and gender justice helped to scale-up the project impact, in unpredictable security context. The neighborhood awareness assemblies involved nearby households, as opposed to the conventional approach of awareness campaigns held in towns or village centers. Messages on rape and early/child marriage was taken closer to the people and made easily accessible. People with disabilities, including the elderly, lactating mothers, children and men with busy schedules were able to attend the awareness sessions, thereby increasing the impact of the project. Besides, the awareness campaigns were held under trees or at least in community facilities which were free or cheaper, thus minimizing project cost.
4. The project established “Family Courts”, in collaboration with the Council of Traditional Authority and Leaders (COTAL) as alternative mechanism to dispute resolution. The mandate of the “Family Court” was to mediate community and/or family disputes related to early/child marriage, through which men (COTAL) engaged fellow men (men to men engagement) on early/child marriage, which is a very sensitive issue in many parts of South Sudan. The training of the COTAL on mediation skills, the GBV legal frameworks and the GBV sub-cluster operational procedures helped to enhance the capabilities of traditional leaders on dispute resolution,

thereby transforming them from protagonists of customs and traditions (that undermine women and girls) to advocates of ending violence against women and girls.

5. The full recovery of survivors and their reintegration into the society through the psychosocial support services for trauma-healing, as first-step towards rehabilitation and resilience-building and skills enhancement for renewed livelihood is a complete package.
6. The project’s approach to improving the safety and security of women and girls through supporting the service referral pathway, building the capacity of informal and formal service providers to effectively manage survivors, advocating for establishment of police posts and safe accommodation through relatives and friends have rescued some girls from being sold for some price to older men for a wife by their parents. This way, some girls were able to continue with their education (under the guardianship of relatives and family friends) and have matured in schools and married at a ripe age thereafter.
7. Some of the survivors have become protagonists of gender-based violence and seeking to end the violence through voluntarily campaigning in the community.
8. Survivors train girls and young women on the dangers of gender-based violence, hence young people can begin to understand the dangers of rape and early/child marriage at an early stage of life.
9. The comprehensive approach in addressing the vices of rape and forced marriage is an innovation that is worth cascading for adaptation and expansion to the rest of the country.

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| Evaluation Criteria. | Gender Equality and Human Rights |
| Evaluation Question. | Assessment of the extent to which human rights based and gender responsive approaches have been incorporated through-out the project. |

The project provided critical and essential cross-sectoral protection related assistance comprising psychosocial support for trauma-healing, medical care, legal and livelihood assistance and referral information on GBV related services to survivors of rape and early/forced marriage, thus promoting access to critical life saving assistance to survivors, which is a human right. The project primarily addressed the problem of sexual violence (rape and early/child marriage), which violates the human rights of women and girls in South Sudan. Through the project, rape survivors were represented in the courts of law and paid reparations (transitional justice), which helped to address legal impunity and improved accountability for crimes against women and girls, thus upholding the rights of victims to dignified lives. The project increased access to justice for victims (through representation of victims in the courts of law and mediation of cases) in the context of armed violence in South Sudan, which directly links to their right to a just and fair hearing. The project provided legal education and information to survivors through which, survivors were legally empowered to defend and claim their rights and the rights of other vulnerable groups of people in the community.

The project conducted community dialogues on rape and early/child marriage, policy dialogues on the protection of survivors, live radio broadcast to raise awareness on the dangers of rape and early/child

marriages etc. This way, the project helped to create awareness on human rights of women and girls and gender justice in the target locations. The project activity participants through the project launch (inception) and end of project (end-line survey) involved both women and men in significant numbers, and was therefore gender responsive. The project trained front-line workers namely, case workers, paralegals and other local level GBV service providers aimed at promoting post-rehabilitation care. This way, the project empowered human rights duty bearers to ably identify and respond to the needs of right holders (rape victims). Through the policy engagements of stake-holders (dialogues and live radio broadcasts), the project sought to hold decision makers accountable to the right holders (rape victims). Besides, the survivor-centered approach of the project (involvement of survivors) encouraged participation of rape victims in finding durable solutions to the problems of survivors. This way, the project helped to promote the right of survivors to participate in decision making.

The project provided economic incentives to survivors that helped the survivors to engage in gainful employment, thus contributing to their socio-economic development, which is a human right. The project strengthened the protection mechanisms to victims through mapping service providers, updating the service referral pathways and creating awareness on the referral pathways, and provision of “hot-line” mobile phone services for reporting incident of rape and early/child marriage. The Jondoru-Juba community was also engaging the local government on the need to establish a police post, which are directly linked to the right of safety for victims. The project staff included both women (although women outnumber men) and men, and majority of the field based staff were recruited from the target communities. The project beneficiaries were from different ethnic groups and nationalities in the target locations, which was non-discriminatory.

In conclusion, the right for women and girls to choose their marriage partners has been running through the project against ultra-orthodox cultural stereotypes, leading to a breakthrough using the government policies and the Constitution of the country. The project focused on the rights of children; the girl child is highlighted in the project implementation and was given equal opportunities in life; particularly their continuous education in the face of early/child marriage. The legal and livelihood assistance and medical rehabilitation has improved access to essential services to survivors, empowered survivors and stake-holders to demand for accountability and reparations among others, which are directly linked to the human rights of survivors.

10. Conclusions,

| Evaluation Criteria | Conclusions |
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| Overall | On the overall, the project empowered the community to address the tribulations of rape and early/child marriage through participatory community approaches- the groups to which the survivors belong and share their business skills by participating in income generating activities; and synergy with other actors for sustainability of the results. The synergy of the activities with other organizations is done through the referral pathways. Here clients are referred to some organizations with similar objectives operating in the area for their other needs that are not covered under the project. The psychosocial support for trauma-healing, coupled with the livelihood and medical care assistance enhanced the full recovery process of survivors and their integration in the community. |
| Effectiveness | Generally, the cross-sectoral design of the project consisting of psychosocial support, safety and security services, medical care, and legal and livelihood |

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| | <p>assistance was a complete recovery package for survivors. The psychosocial support helped to restore survivors from the state of depression and hopelessness to understanding and recovery and eventually healing; survivors have opportunity to seek medical care and litigation; and finally be integrated in the community through restoring their lives by joining groups who help them identify their talents and skills for income generating activities. Survivors engage in business through which they are able to support themselves and their close families. Through legal assistance, survivors are able to know the law and their rights; hence they are able to make informed decision with the help of the legal team in relation to the perpetrators.</p> |
| <p>Relevance</p> | <p>The overall relevance of the project lies in empowering communities to address the tribulations of rape and early/child marriage through community participatory approaches; examples of the participatory approaches are the groups to which the survivors belong and share their business skills by participating in income generating activities; involving survivors in developing by-laws and policies, the community-based project accountability groups, and synergy with stakeholders for sustainability of the results, and the referral pathway through which survivors were able to access the services of the project. The dialogues resulted into a policy brief titled “Peace and Security: The Key to Justice and Protection of Survivors”, which bridged the policy gap on survivor’s protection, and tax holiday for the business of survivors. The live radio talk-show broadcast increased the level of community awareness on the services of the project. The medical care was instrumental in the recovery of survivors from the wounds of rape and early/child marriage. The security and safety measure was instrumental in protecting survivors from forced marriages of unruly parents and family members, and ensured continuity of education for girls in school. The CSOs campaigns to ratify the Maputo Protocol, and the Anti-GBV Bill (2019) contributed to improved legislation on EVAW. The legal empowerment ensured perpetrators are held to account for their crimes.</p> |
| <p>Efficiency</p> | <p>The project proposal, work plan and budgets were observed; they were all well planned and have been applied in project implementation. The overall cost of the project is visibly established by the benefits the communities have received. There was a contribution of USD 142, 690 from the STEWARDWOMEN. The budget of 715,000 USD was planned which was fully expended. The project costs have been justified by the benefits due to the fact that 1) all major activities in the work plan have been delivered; except for some high court cases pending judgement. 2) The financial expenses are in line with the planned activities. 3) The monitoring data is being collected as planned, stored and used to inform STEWARDWOMEN in implementation and future plans of project programming. The project actions are up-to-date and have been implemented meritoriously as planned. The project cost show value for money as the expenditures appear justified per the planned and budgeted activities that have been implemented with clear benefits to the survivors and the community. Most of the planned activities for the period have been delivered efficiently.</p> |

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| Sustainability | <p>Overall, the project focused on knowledge transfer to beneficiaries through the training workshops on gender justice, entrepreneurship skills, awareness campaigns and community dialogues etc. The project stakeholders are already sensitizing their communities on human rights and gender justice as a result of the knowledge gained through the project. Survivors were legally empowered to demand accountability, they were prepared to overcome the challenges of life through psychosocial support; their lives restored through medical care and by joining groups who help them identify their talents and skills for income generating activities. Survivors engage in business enterprises through which they support themselves and their families. The project provided business capital as a soft business loan and revolving fund that has resulted into accumulated savings, with potential impact to scale and sustainability of livelihoods thereof, and reintegration of beneficiaries in the community.</p> |
| Impact | <p>The project is enhancing the rule of law and justice by facilitating the courts to deliver justice to survivors who are victims of political violence so that peace can be realized in the country, which is directly linked to the Transitional Justice Mechanism of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. The project is achieving the sustainable development goals of United Nations of: 1) No Poverty- access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation through provision of medical care to survivors, and legal assistance; 2) Zero Hunger- providing food and humanitarian relief, establishing sustainable food production through livelihood assistance to survivors; 3) Good Health and Wellbeing- Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy through psychosocial support for trauma-healing and medical care for rehabilitation of survivors, and livelihood assistance; 4) Gender Equality- education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, and fairer representation of women through transforming socio-cultural norms that are negative and enslaving women and girls.</p> |
| Knowledge Generation | <p>The project has generated knowledge of inventing the holistic approach to offering services to survivors through the thematic paradigm of psychosocial services, safety and security services, legal services, medical services, income generating services, and by creating synergy with other partners in the referral pathways. The psychosocial support as first-step for trauma-healing helped in the recovery of survivors from the traumatic experiences of rape. The medical assistance helped survivors to recover from the wounds of rape- bodily injuries, vaginal tear, fistula, STIs etc. The livelihood assistance helped survivors to sustainably provide for their own needs and that of their families and build resilience. The mobile courts ensured perpetrators are held accountable and survivors are fully compensated. The referral path way ensured improved access to safety and security by survivors during emergencies among others.</p> |
| Gender Equality and Human Rights | <p>The project primarily addresses the problem of sexual violence, which violates the human rights of women and girls. The project transformed the socio-cultural norms of the community that are enslaving women and girls by developing survivor-centred policies. Through the survivor support</p> |

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| | <p>groups and the community-based accountability groups, the project was able to rebuild the family and community structures and support systems that produced peace, justice, and human rights for survivors. The dialogues empowered survivors to defend their rights and demand for justice through the community paralegals who are able to support them, even in courts of laws. The project is creating a condition for accountability systems against perpetrators and reparation to survivors through the mobile court system where the legal fraternity was engaged and facilitated by STEWARDWOMEN to seek justice for survivors and take the cases to their logical conclusion of litigation without interference from others. Through the stakeholders' training on gender justice and management of survivors, the project empowered human rights duty bearers (stakeholders) to ably respond to the needs of right holders (rape victims).</p> |
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11. Project Implementation Challenges,

Analyses of the project progress annual reports (2020, 2021 and 2022) show that STEWARDWOMEN faced the following challenges during project implementation:

1. The rains experienced during certain months of the year caused flooding within Rubkona, and when participants were called for activities during such periods, very few attended, which affected the number of target beneficiaries.
2. Many women of the savings and loan groups preferred to send their weekly savings to the group's savings account through their colleagues, instead of attending the weekly group savings meetings in person. This group of women (absentees) is not well informed about the activities of the savings and loan group, which created setbacks in taking crucial decision by the savings and loan groups.
3. Cases of rape and early marriages are still common in Rubkona and Jondoru, but the survivors are sometimes not willing to take the cases to the courts of law for fear of their own safety.
4. Survivors of early/child marriages want STEWARDWOMEN to pay for cases of divorce to be heard at the family courts. However, this is not possible because the family courts have no mandate on divorce. Matters related to divorce is the mandate of a special tribunal of the customary court.
5. **Ignorance of the law:** Many police officers are still ignorant about the GBV laws of South Sudan that makes it hard for survivors to access justice.
6. The law enforcement officers hide case files, and rape cases remain within police investigations for long time, which is against the principle of access to justice for all.
7. **Slow court proceedings:** There is too much delay of court proceedings, more especially on criminal cases that take long time to get a response. Delays require frequent visits to court registry of cases to expedite the procedures. It is also encouraging complainants to boycott court litigations in preference of out of court settlements.
8. **Court punishments:** Courts are so lenient when it comes to the punishments of criminals that have committed rape. For instance in one of the rape cases, the perpetrator was sentenced to two years only of imprisonment. The convicts are hardly given the fourteen (14) years of imprisonment as the full scale of punishment for rape in the country.
9. Overall, the traditional method of out of court case settlement is preferred by complainants of rape and early/child marriage so that they get payments from the parents of the perpetrators.

The parents and family members of survivors are more concerned about getting wealth out of rape rather than punishing the perpetrators.

12. Recommendations:

Based on the above findings, the evaluators recommend the following key action points for adoption by stakeholders of the project:

| Evaluation Criteria | Recommendations | Relevant Stakeholders (Recommendation made to whom) | Suggested timeline (if relevant) |
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| Overall | The cross-sectoral approach of the project comprising psychosocial support for trauma-healing as first-step towards rehabilitation of survivors, and building of resilience through safety and security services, legal services, medical care services, livelihood services, and referral pathways to address rape and early/child marriage are commendable. | CSOs working on ending violence against women and girls. | Any future intervention on ending violence against women and girls. |
| Effectiveness | There is need to mainstream environmental awareness into charcoal selling enterprise to mitigate the risk of environmental degradation caused by charcoal burning. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | At the beginning of any future project. |
| | Market feasibility assessment should be conducted as a prerequisite to the establishment of any income generation enterprise in the future. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | At the beginning of any future project. |
| | Programming legal aid to survivors of sexual violence should be inclusive of measures that will ensure survivors are fully compensated – i.e. rape victims should be supported by the project till they are fully compensated by perpetrators (the “Beyond Court hearing” Legal aid). | The government of South Sudan. | As soon as possible. |
| | A substantial amount of efforts should be put into empowering men as community-based advocates (for tracking, documentation & reporting) towards EAW programming. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | As soon as possible. |
| | There is need to undertake formal due diligence assessment of all vendors in the future as a prerequisite to sub-contracting down-stream partners, instead of relying on background check information through a third party. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | Before downstream partner sub-contracting. |
| | There is need to consider developing a meaningful, feasible and cost effective strategy to motivate the survivor support groups considering the crucial role they play | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | As soon as possible. |

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| | as frontline workers to survivors. | | |
| Relevance | The Transitional Justice Mechanism of the R-ARCSS namely, the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Hybrid Court have not been established in the country, close to the end of the term of the RTGoNU. It is feared that the gains of the project towards the interim reparation measures to CRSV survivors might be lost, in the event that the peace process failed and the country backslide into civil war. As such, there is need to step-up efforts towards establishing the Transitional Justice Mechanisms of the R-ARCSS so that perpetrators of sexual violence are brought to book. | RTGoNU and the Troika countries (peace guarantors) | As soon as possible. |
| | There is need for more donor support to the country focusing on interim reparation measures to CRSV survivors, considering the huge demand for support services by survivors that have surpassed the project resources. | UN Trust Fund and the donor community. | As soon as possible. |
| Efficiency | The project cost of USD 715,000 from the UN Trust Fund and USD 142,690 as in-kind contribution from the STEWARDWOMEN show value for money, as the expenditures appear justified by the benefits of the project to target communities, which is commendable of the STEWARDWOMEN, and is recommended for additional financial support. | UN Trust Fund and the donor community. | As soon as possible. |
| Sustainability | There is need to incorporate informal service providers into the referral service map, and as frontline volunteer workers, and build their capabilities to help them continue to support survivors after end of project. | STEWARDWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | At the beginning of any future project. |
| Impact | The project has contributed to the required interim reparation measures to victims of the political violence so that peace can be realized in the country, which is directly linked to the Transitional Justice Mechanism of the R-ARCSS, and is therefore recommended for further funding. | UN Trust Fund and the donor community. | As soon as possible. |
| Knowledge Generation | There is need to scale-up the “neighbourhood assembly” community-based advocacy strategy to mobilize communities against sexual violence. | STEWARDWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | As soon as possible |

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| | The collaboration with traditional authority in dispensing primary justice to survivors through the “family courts” during the project as alternative dispute resolution mechanism in rural areas with no functional official courts is recommendable. | CSOs working on EAW projects. | |
| | The project’s holistic approach to providing services to survivors through the thematic paradigm of psychosocial services, safety and security services, legal services, medical services, income generating services, and creating synergy with other partners in the referral pathways is recommendable. | CSOs working on EAW projects. | |
| Gender Equality and Human Rights | The project’s accountability structures of the survivor support groups and the community-based accountability groups have made huge contribution towards gender equality and human rights, and are recommendable for rebuilding the family and community structures and support systems for survivors. | STEWAROWOMEN and CSOs working on EAW projects. | |

13. Annexes:
13.1 Final version of the Terms of Reference

Cover Page

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Title of Consulting Services:

Final Project Evaluation: The Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage Project in South Sudan

**Project Funded by the UN Trust Fund,
End Violence against Women and Girls Program
Dec. 2019 – Nov. 2022**

16th September 2022
STEARAWOMEN, Juba-South Sudan

Section 1. Letter of Invitation

Subject: Request for Application (RFA)

Reference Title: Final Project Evaluation: The Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage Project in South Sudan.

16th September, 2022

Dear Sirs and Madams,

The STEWARDWOMEN South Sudan, now invites applications from qualified persons or research firms to provide the Consulting services “Final Evaluation of the Strengthening provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage project in South Sudan”. The Consultant services will ascertain and/or investigate the achievements of the project; effectiveness of the approach (es) taken or used, lessons learnt, good practices and recommendations to improve similar practices in the future. More details of the services are provided in the Terms of Reference hereof.

The call for applications includes the following documents:

- Section 1 - Letter of Invitation (LOI)
- Section 2 - Summary Sheet of the Instruction to Consultants
- Section 3 - Instruction to Consultants (ITC)
- Section 4- Terms of Reference (ToR)

Sincerely,

Josephine C. Drama
Director/STEWARDWOMEN, South Sudan

Section 2. Summary Sheet of the Instructions to Consultants

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| Name of the assignment: | Final Project Evaluation: Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage Project in South Sudan. |
| Location: | Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu, South Sudan |
| Language required: | English |
| Type of Consultants: | Regional Consultant from East Africa (Lead Consultant) plus a Team of Three (South Sudanese) National Consultants. |
| Period of evaluation: | Through 2nd Week, Oct. 2022 and Jan 2023 |
| Nature of assignment: | The Consultants will be required to travel to the project sites in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu in South Sudan. |
| Method of selection: | Quality and cost based selection. |
| Type of contract: | Vendor’s contract |
| Submission deadline: | 30th September, 2022. |
| Address: | STEWARDWOMEN, Plot No. 60 Bilpham Road, Juba South Sudan |
| Submission Address: | stewardwomen.jobs@gmail.com or info@stewardwomen.org |
| Service start date: | 2nd Week Oct. 2022. |

Section 3. Instructions to Consultants

A. General Provisions

Introduction: Consultants are invited to submit applications, and technical and financial proposals for consulting services required for the assignment (hereinafter called the “Proposal”). The Proposal will be the basis for negotiating and ultimately signing the Contract with the selected Consultant.

B. Preparation of Proposals

General

Considerations: In preparing the Proposal, the Consultant is expected to examine the Terms of Reference (hereinafter called the “TOR”) in detail. Material deficiencies in providing the information required in the TOR may result in rejection of the Proposal.

Cost of preparation: The Consultant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its proposal, and STEWARDWOMEN shall not be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the outcome of the selection process.

Taxes: The evaluation of the Consultant’s financial proposal shall include taxes and duties in South Sudan.

C. Submission, Opening and Evaluation

Submission, Sealing, and Evaluation of proposals:

The Consultant shall submit a signed and complete proposal comprising the documents in accordance with Clause A (General Instructions to the Proposal). The submission can be done by mail or by hand. The Proposal must be sent to the address provided and received no later than the deadline indicated herein. Any Proposal received after the deadline may be declared late and rejected.

Confidentiality: From the time the Proposals are opened to the time the Contract is awarded, the Consultant should not contact STEWARDWOMEN on any matter related to its Technical and/or Financial Proposal. Information relating to the evaluation of Proposals and award recommendations shall not be disclosed to the Consultants who submitted the proposals or to any other party not officially concerned with the process, until the publication of the Contract award information.

D. Negotiations and Award

Negotiations: The negotiations will be held shortly after notification to successful/unsuccessful consultant(s) with the successful Consultant’s representative(s). The negotiations include discussions of the proposed study design, STEWARDWOMEN’s inputs, the Conditions of the Contract, and finalizing the “Description of Services” part of the Contract. These discussions shall not substantially alter the original scope of services under the terms of the contract, in order that the quality of the final

product, its price, or the relevance of the initial evaluation may not be affected.

The financial negotiations will reflect the agreed technical modifications in the cost of the services.

Conclusion of Negotiations:

The negotiations are concluded with a review of the finalized draft Contract, which then shall be initialed by STEWARDWOMEN and the Consultant's authorized representative.

If the negotiations fail, STEWARDWOMEN shall terminate the negotiations informing the Consultant of the reasons for doing so and will invite the next-ranked Consultant to negotiate a Contract.

Award of Contract:

After completing the negotiations, STEWARDWOMEN shall award the Contract to the selected Consultant and promptly notify the other shortlisted Consultants.

The Consultant is expected to commence the assignment on the date specified herein.

Section 4: Terms of Reference (ToR)

Title of Consulting Services:

Final Project Evaluation: The Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage Project in South Sudan.

Project Funded by the UN TRUST FUND, EVAWG

Dec. 2019- Nov. 2022

1. Background and Context:

1.1 Background:

At the time of designing the required intervention, South Sudan ranked the 5th country globally in early/child marriage. About 52% of South Sudanese girls (at the time) were married before the age of 18 years- 9% before they turned 15 years. Rape was used as a weapon of war, worsened by impunity, social stigma, fear of divorce etc¹⁵. Girls' vulnerability to early marriage was exacerbated by the (continued) economic crisis¹⁶ and the decline in security, which adversely weakened survivors' protection pathways, and created gaps in service delivery¹⁷. Survivors lived in deplorable state; they mainly relied on the traditional coping strategies to tackle risks and vulnerabilities to sexual violence. Survivors lacked knowledge on the support services and complained of genital mutilation- cervix tear, fistula, sexually transmitted infections etc. Some survivors were widows or divorcees and struggling to provide food for their families and lacked livelihood opportunities¹⁸. Access to the existing referral services by survivors was limited due to ignorance. The survivors were shrouded under the societal and cultural veil that inhibited them from accessing their rights. The COVID-19 pandemic further limited survivors' access to the essential services. By May 2020, merely a month after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the country, sexual violence towards women and girls increased significantly, thus the project

¹⁵ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/07/1014501>, accessed 15th January, 2018.

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_marriage_in_South_Sudan, accessed 15th January 2019.

¹⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/02/world/africa/south-sudan-women-girls-raped-whipped.html>, accessed 15th January, 2019.

¹⁸ See Report of IDP needs assessment by STEWARDWOMEN, 2018

“Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage in South Sudan.

1.2 Description of the project;

1.2.1 Organization;

The Final Project Evaluation for “Strengthening Provision and Coordination of Services to Survivors of Rape and Early/Child Marriage” project is commissioned by STEWARDWOMEN in South Sudan. STEWARDWOMEN is a local women-led organization founded in 2009 to address the problems of sexual and gender-based violence; lack of access to justice by women; lack of participation of women in leadership and decision-making and poverty among others. It is registered as a not-for-profit non-governmental organization with the Government of South Sudan. The vision of STEWARDWOMEN is a South Sudanese society “free from the violations of the human rights of women and children”. The mission is “to develop, shape and empower South Sudanese women to advocate for policies that foster equal economic opportunity and secure human rights for women and children”.

STEWARDWOMEN is a member of the Solidarity for African Women’s Rights [SOAWR] coalition that advocates for the ratification and/or domestication of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa [Maputo protocol]; the founder and lead agency of a national coalition of civil society organizations [CSOs] that advocates for the ratification and/or domestication of the Maputo protocol in South Sudan, the menstrual health working group and the chair of the Rule of Law Technical Reference Group of the national GBV sub-cluster in South Sudan. STEWARDWOMEN has field location offices in Nimule, Rubkona-Bentiu, Bor, Jondoru-Juba and HQ in Juba, the Capital City of South Sudan.

1.2.2 Project description;

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| Project title: | Strengthening provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage” in South Sudan |
| Project duration/period: | 1st December 2019 through 30th November 2022 (Three years) |
| Project budget: | USD\$ 715,000 |
| Geographical areas: | Juba and Rubona-Bentiu, South Sudan |
| Specific forms of violence addressed by the project: | Rape and early/child marriage |
| Main objectives of the project: | <p><u>Goal of the project:</u> To empower survivors through enhancing their resilience using a rights-based approach, and creating an enabling, supportive environment for the prevention of rape and early/child marriage, the COVID-19 pandemic and future crises, and the successful re-integration of survivors into the community.</p> <p><u>Specific objectives:</u> To provide services, raise awareness and provide information to survivors from a rights based perspective focusing on access to justice, support care services, establish women and girls’ friendly spaces and enhance institutional response capacity of STEWARDWOMEN to the COVID-19 and future crises.</p> |
| Key assumptions of the | 1. South Sudan ranked the 5th globally in rape, including |

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| <p>project:</p> | <p>early/child marriage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Rape and early/child] marriage in South Sudan was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic- it's more devastating in Rubkona and Juba IDP camps. 3. The protection needs of survivors far outweigh the available resources in Juba and Rubkona. 4. Inadequate provision of safety for IDPs and host communities exposes women and girls to rape and early/child marriage. 5. The referral mechanism for survivor protection is very weak- they live in deplorable state & rely on traditional coping strategies to tackle risks & vulnerabilities. 6. Some rape survivors have developed health complications from bodily injuries- genital mutilation- cervix tear, fistula, STI and STD infection etc. due to untimely response. 7. Most survivors are either widowed or separated from their husbands and take care of large numbers of children- they lack access to livelihood opportunities. | |
| <p>Primary and secondary beneficiaries:</p> | <p><u>Primary beneficiaries:</u> Survivors of rape and early/child marriage</p> <p><u>Secondary beneficiaries:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members of the community, b) Community leaders, c) Local government officials, d) Security agents and e) GBV partners. | |
| <p>Key results:</p> | <p>Outcome 1: Support services and referral information for sustainable recovery of survivors improved.</p> | <p>Output 1.1: access to legal & medical assistance, livelihood opportunities & referral pathway for survivors strengthened.</p> |
| | <p>Outcome 2: Capabilities of survivors to know and claim their rights increased.</p> | <p>Output 2.1: Knowledge of survivors on human and legal rights and justice improved.</p> |
| | <p>Outcome 3: Development and enforcement of survivor centered policies on rape and early/child marriage improved.</p> | <p>Output 3.1: Participation of survivors in policy action and survivor protection mechanisms strengthened.</p> |
| | <p>Outcome 4: Capabilities of men and women, government authority, community leaders & CSOs to manage survivors increased.</p> | <p>Output 4.1: Knowledge and skills of target groups to manage survivors strengthened.</p> |
| | <p>Outcome 5: Institutional response of STEWARDWOMEN to COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, while maintaining existing interventions to end violence against women and</p> | <p>Output 5.1 STEWARDWOMEN has in place mechanisms to improve institutional resilience to crises including COVID-19.</p> |

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| | girls strengthened. | Output 5.2: improved capacities to maintain or adapt end violence against women & girls interventions, while responding to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and future crises. |
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2. Purpose of the evaluation;

The purpose of the final project evaluation is to assess the performance of the project towards the planned project objectives- whether the project objectives and targets were achieved- the factors (if any) that limited the achievement of project objectives. In particular, the group of Consultants will be required to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts and potential project sustainability indicators; document the best practices and lessons learnt and provide practical recommendations for any future intervention.

3. Objectives and scope of the evaluation

3.1 Scope of the evaluation;

The final project evaluation will cover the entire project period i.e. 1st December 2019 through 30th November 2022, and the two project target areas (including site visits)- Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu. This is mainly due to the differences in the settings of the two project sites, with unique challenges during project implementation. The data and/or information obtained will also be used to compare the achievements of the project in the two locations.

3.2 Objectives of the evaluation;

The specific objectives of the final evaluation are:

- a) To evaluate the entire project through 1st December 2019 and 30th November 2022, against the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, sustainability, knowledge generation and impact criteria, as well as the cross-cutting gender equality and human rights criteria (defined below).
- b) To identify key lessons and promising or emerging good practices in the field of ending violence against women and girls, for learning purposes.

The final project evaluation is built on five key parameters of the project- relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability as described below:

- a) Assess the relevance of the project design (its activities and objectives) in provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu.
- b) Assess the extent to which the project resources were used for the intended purpose- i.e project delivery and outputs/results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness (efficiency).
- c) Assess the major achievements of the project to date in relation to the planned objectives and results based on the project’s theory of change (effectiveness).
- d) Assess the extent to which the project contributed to a long-term positive effect in the target communities (impact).
- e) Assess whether the positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the end of UNTF support (project sustainability).

4. Evaluation questions and criteria

4.1 Relevance of project design;

Assess the extent to which whether the project's design (activities) was relevant and might continue to be so to the needs of the target group. The key evaluation questions here are:

- a) To what extent were the intended project goal, outcomes and outputs (project results) achieved and how?
- b) To what extent do the achieved results (project goal, outcomes and outputs) continue to be relevant to the needs of women and girls?

4.2. Efficiency of planning and implementation;

Assess the extent to which whether the available resources were used economically in delivering the project outputs/results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness (efficiency). The key evaluation question is: To what extent was the project efficiently and cost-effectively implemented? The main guiding questions are:

- a) Is the overall project action plan used and up to date?
- b) To what extent have the project costs been justified by the benefits (cost and value for money)?
- c) What percentage of activities in the work plan has been delivered?
- d) Is financial expenditure/use in line with the plan?
- e) Is monitoring data being collected as planned, stored and used to inform future plans?

Other important project management questions:

- a) How adequate were the project risks mitigation measures? (Whether flexibilities or adjustments were demonstrated in response to changes in circumstances)?
- a) What are the working relationships with partners, stakeholders and donors?
- b) Are deadlines always met in reporting to donors?
- c) To what extent is learning processes demonstrated e.g., coordination and exchange with related projects?
- d) Were internal and external communications good?
- e) Have partners- local government authority, community leaders, GBV partners and target beneficiaries contributed to the project?

4.3 Effectiveness;

Assess the major achievements of the project to date in relation to the planned objectives and results/outputs, based on the theory of change. The key evaluation question is:

- a) To what extent were the intended project goal, outcomes and outputs (project results) achieved and how?

4.4 Impact of the project;

Assess the extent to which the benefits received by the target beneficiaries had a wider overall effect in the target location. The key evaluation question is:

- a) To what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality and/or women's empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)?

The guiding questions to be considered by the Consultant in this section are:

- a) To what extent is the project contributing to a long-term positive effect on the entire society of South Sudan?
- b) How is STEWARDWOMEN making a difference?

4.5 Potential for sustainability and replication,

Assess whether the positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the project (sustainability). The key evaluation question in this section is:

- a) To what extent will the achieved results, especially any positive changes in the lives of women and girls (project goal level), be sustained after this project ends?

The guiding questions to be considered by the Consultant are:

- a) To what extent have the key project stakeholders accepted and owned the project objectives and achievements?
- b) Will the project contribute to lasting benefits? Which organizations or stakeholders could/will ensure continuity of project activities in the project area?
- c) Is there evidence of organizations/partners/communities that have copied, up scaled or replicated project activities beyond the immediate project area? Is such replication likely?
- d) What practical recommendations can be made for the sustainability and replication of the project?

4.6 Knowledge generation,

The key evaluation question in this section is:

- a) To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of end violence against women and girls that should be documented and shared with other practitioners?

4.7 Gender equality and human rights,

Cross-cutting criteria: the final evaluation should consider the extent to which human rights based and gender responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project. The key question in this section is:

- a) To what extent has the project incorporated human rights based and gender responsive approaches through-out the project (cross-cutting criteria)?

5. Evaluation Design and Methodology;

5.1 Proposed evaluation design,

The Consultants will develop a detailed research methodology, in consultation with the project management team at STEWARDWOMEN. The following methodologies are suggested, but should not be limited to: a) Desk review on EAW/G: the consultant will review project documents and other relevant secondary data sources; b) quantitative data to be collected through a representative survey (this can be useful to reach a larger sample and in situation where in person/field visits are not possible); and c) qualitative approaches, such as focus group discussions and key informant interviews, participatory exercises and approaches will be used. There will be inception meeting (for evaluation team), focusing project introduction, roles, clarifying the TOR- project introduction and context analysis, methods (including the draft evaluation tools), deliverables, timeline, project site context, risks and mitigation (safety and security of participants), ethical issues, logistics etc.; and thereof preparation of the inception report. The draft evaluation design and tools (proposed by the Consultants) will be reviewed and adopted. There will be safety and security audit by the field based project team, in preparation for the field interviews. The Lead Consultant will ensure any necessary training of the national Consultants on the evaluation methods and data collection and analysis, including testing of the tools and review thereof and supervise the field interviews. The field based project managers will support the Consultants in the selection of respondents, including setting interview protocols. There will be validation workshops at the two project sites. The Lead Consultant will continually debrief the project

team i.e. midway (through field data collection), end of field data collection, draft report and final report. The inception and final evaluation reports will be accepted after review and approval by the UNTF. There will be exit meeting to wrap-up the evaluation study.

5.2 Data sources;

The following data sources are proposed, but should not be limited to:

- a) Desk review on EVAW/G: The consultant will review project documents and other relevant secondary data sources (project's theory of change, work plan, budget etc.; planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix; activity plans); mid-term review report, end-line survey report, project reports (narrative and financial).
- b) Quantitative data to be collected through a representative survey.
- c) Qualitative approaches, such as focus group discussions and key informant interviews, participatory exercises and approaches will be used.

5.3 Proposed data collection method and analysis;

5.3.1 Data collection method,

The following data collection methods are proposed, but not limited to:

- a) Document Review (Secondary Data): review of the project documents (theory of change, work plan, budget etc.; planning, monitoring and evaluation matrix; activity plans); mid-term review report, end-line survey report, project reports (narrative and financial); and any other documents deemed critically important for the evaluation.
- b) Interviews: loosely structured interviews with key informants (groups or individual) (project staff, stakeholders, local leaders, survivors, project beneficiaries etc.

5.3.2 Data analysis,

There will be Content analysis of the relevant project documents (see 5.3.1 above). Data from the field interviews will be cleaned (discussed) and synthesized, followed by drafting of report. The Consultant will debrief the project team on the draft report. If necessary, the Consultant will undertake follow-up field visits to fill the required information gap. There will be validation workshop for further input from the study (representatives) participants. Where necessary, the Consultant is advised to use excel sheet and tables or percentages to compute the required data/information. Generally, the Consultant is advised to present the report using the Content themes of the TOR and the required reporting template.

5.4 Proposed sampling methods;

The total sample size is proposed to be a minimum of 250, which will be drawn from among the primary and secondary beneficiaries, from the two project sites of Rubkona-Bentiu and Jondoru-Juba i.e. at least 150 (10% of 1500) primary beneficiaries and at least 100 (6% of 1,706) secondary beneficiaries, 50% respondents each from the two project sites. All categories (representatives) of primary beneficiaries (PSS, medical care, livelihood assistance, and legal assistance) and secondary beneficiaries (men, women and youth, community leaders, local government authority and GBV partners) are required to participate in the study, including representatives from members of the community based project accountability groups in the two project locations. The Consultants are required to select the study respondents randomly from the project beneficiary list. Overall, 60% of the total respondents shall be women, in accordance with the gender policy of STEWARDWOMEN.

5.5 Field visits,

The Consultants will also be required to undertake field visit to the two project sites- Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu to interface with beneficiaries and the key project stakeholders. During the field visit, the Consultant will hold interviews (individual and group) with the view to gauge the benefits of the project, assess risk mitigation measures, project impact (collaborative efforts on scale) etc.

5.6 Level of stakeholders' engagement,

During the investigation (evaluation), the Consultants will engage the key project stakeholders namely, community leaders, local government authority, local GBV partners and members of the community based project monitoring and accountability groups on the level of stakeholders' involvement in the project (project design, monitoring, reviews, risk mitigation, project beneficiary selection etc) project ownership, sustainability, relevance of the project to community needs, use of project resources, and the way forward among others. There will be a reference group (consisting of key project staff, UNTF portfolio manager, local GBV partners, representatives of project beneficiaries etc.) meeting to review and fact check the report.

6. Ethical and Safety Standards,

The purpose of, the rationale for, and the intended end use of the data that will be collected, as well as the methodology and target audience, should be clearly defined and justified in the proposal to conduct the final project evaluation. The Consultant should demonstrate that the information to be gathered is not already available and/or does not exist in another form. The Consultant should explain the protection measures for survivors during the interviews. Personal interviews with survivors should only be used to obtain information after all other options have been considered. Direct interviewing must thus demonstrate:

- a) That the desired outcome cannot be achieved without gathering information in this way
- b) That the information is needed and is not otherwise available
- c) That information cannot be obtained in a less invasive manner (e.g. by using other methods, or by involving a different person, in a different time, or a different context with lower risk).
- d) That the welfare of respondents should be properly protected.
- e) The data collection processes should be conducted in such a way so as to maximize benefit to survivors, participants and the community.

6.1 Safety and Security,

- a) In preparing the proposal, the Consultant should ensure that safety and security considerations apply not just to participants, but extend to all those involved in the data collection activity, including the consultants, the members of the interviewers, the interviewees, etc. .
- b) All members of the information collection team should understand, and be sensitive to the political, sociocultural, security and economic factors that may affect the safety and security of those involved in the data collection process. They should take particular account of the nature of the emergency, any human rights and humanitarian concerns, as well as the prevailing formal and informal legal environment.
- c) The identity of those who will provide information about sexual violence must be protected. Under no circumstances should names or other identifying information about survivors or participants be used, for instance, in documents, tapes or conversation.
- d) If data are to be shared, this should only be done with the utmost consideration for the safety of those who could be put at risk by the dissemination of such information. This includes the individual providing the data, the person collecting it, community members, service providers, and staff of STEWARDWOMEN.

- e) All individual interviews and group discussions should be held in a safe place, somewhere that does not draw unnecessary attention and does not raise suspicion, and where participants cannot be overheard.
- f) All individual interviews and group discussions should be compliant to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines.
- g) Special attention should however be paid to the following key policy issues and existing guidelines offered by the Government of South Sudan.
 - 1) Institutional research protocols and policies
 - 2) Protocols and practices for providing direct services to survivors
 - 3) Locally established procedures for obtaining consent, documenting sexual violence incidents, and referral services
 - 4) Standards and policies for human rights investigations
 - 5) Organizational policies for staff recruitment, hiring, training and supervision
 - 6) Internationally agreed standards for research involving human subjects

6.2 Confidentiality,

- a) In the proposal, the Consultant should explain how the confidentiality of individuals and data collected will be preserved. This is because every person has a right to privacy, and this right imposes an obligation on the Consultant to keep the information confidential.
- b) Any personal information that will be disclosed by individuals should be considered to be confidential. This means that there is an implicit understanding that the disclosed information will not be shared with others, unless the person concerned gives explicit and informed consent to do so.
- c) When using focus groups or other group discussions, the Consultant should explain safe guards that will be adopted to protect their privacy.
- d) Consultant shall be required to instruct participants of Focus group discussions not to share personal experiences on sensitive issues, but rather to present the experience of unnamed others or impressions of trends in the community. Confidentiality should relate to both nature of the discussion (i.e. what was discussed) as well as to what was said and who was present.
- e) In the context of sexual violence, a breach of confidentiality does not only represent a breach of ethics, but can also lead to harm for the survivor and for the community.
- f) Standard operating procedures (SOPs) which clearly describe the arrangements for maintaining confidentiality should be developed as part of the planning phase for field data collection.
- g) The Consultant shall explain the steps that will be taken in collecting information that involves children as respondents. Every effort must be made to prevent or minimize harmful consequences.

7. Consultants' Key deliverables and timeframe;

| Deliverable | Timeframe | Deadline |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Evaluation Inception Report. | This report should be submitted by the Lead Consultant within 3 weeks after the inception meeting using the required template that will be provided by STEWARDWOMEN. | 25th Nov. 2022 |
| Draft evaluation report | This report should be submitted by the Lead Consultant by 15th Dec. 2022, through the required template. | 20th Dec. 2022 |
| Final evaluation report | This report should be submitted by the Lead Consultant by 25th Jan. 2023, through the required template. | 30th Jan. 2023 |

8. Composition of evaluation team;

8.1 Roles and responsibilities,

The Evaluation Team of Consultants will consist of persons with extensive knowledge and experience on sexual violence against women and girls, including conflict related sexual violence. The Lead consultant should be well qualified on women, peace and security issues. She or he should hold the relevant graduate degree in any of the disciplines in social sciences- preferably human rights; women, peace and security; sociology, international relations and diplomacy etc.; and excellent working knowledge in project evaluation. A Regional Consultant (from East Africa) is preferred for the assignment. She or he will be supported by three national Consultants that are familiar with the socio-economic and political context of project sites, including the local languages spoken. The Lead Consultant will identify the national Consultants from the local pool of individual researchers and/or research firms.

The Lead Consultant should possess strong analytical skills and be able to mentor colleagues and coordinate the entire evaluation process with support from the project manager. She or he will train the national Consultants on the evaluation method, tools for data collection and analysis, sampling and procedures, ethical and safety considerations, risk mitigation, report synthesis among others. Other duties are oversight during field data collection, validation workshops and preparation of inception, draft evaluation and final reports. The national Consultants will be responsible for setting interview protocols, and conducting field interviews and meetings and data synthesis.

8.2 Required competencies;

8.2.1 Lead Consultant,

- a) A minimum experience of 5 years in conducting external evaluations, with mixed-methods evaluation skills and having flexibility in using non-traditional and innovative evaluation methods.
- b) Expertise in gender and human-rights based approaches to evaluation and issues of violence against women and girls.
- c) Experience with program design and theory of change, gender-responsive evaluation, participatory approaches and stakeholder engagement.
- d) Specific evaluation experiences in the areas of ending violence against women and girls
- e) Experience in collecting and analysing quantitative and qualitative data as well as data visualization.
- f) In-depth knowledge of gender equality and women's empowerment.
- g) A strong commitment to delivering timely and high-quality results, i.e. credible evaluation and its report that can be used.
- h) A strong team leadership and management track record, as well as interpersonal and communication skills to help ensure that the evaluation is understood and used.
- i) Good communication skills and ability to communicate with various stakeholders and to express concisely and clearly ideas and concepts.
- j) Regional/Country experience and knowledge: in-depth knowledge of South Sudan is required.
- k) Language proficiency: fluency in English is mandatory.
- l) Samples of previous work: the Lead Consultant is required to submit two samples of previous similar work, together with the application.

8.2.2 Other (National) Consultants,

- a) Advanced University degree in any of the social sciences, human rights, gender studies etc.
- b) A minimum of 3 years of professional evaluation experience, preferably in the context of ending violence against women and girls.

- c) Demonstrated knowledge of strong research skills.
- d) Sound knowledge and experience of the South Sudanese context and the developments thereof.
- e) A demonstrated high level of professionalism and ability to work within tight deadlines.
- f) Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- g) Excellent spoken and written English and knowledge of any of the local languages
- h) Good computing skills.

9. Management of the evaluation;

The MEAL department of STEWARDWOMEN (led by the DMR19 Manager) will be responsible for the overall management of the final project evaluation. These include but not limited to coordination with the field based managers and the Lead Consultant (including supervision thereof), provision of logistics, safety and security of the evaluation team etc. The field based project managers will support the Consultants in identifying respondents, setting-up interview protocols and ensure the required logistics are in place among others. The Lead Consultant will be responsible for the overall technical oversight of the evaluation to the Consultants (please refer to 8.1 above for details of responsibilities of Consultants).

10. Time line of the entire evaluation process;

| Stage of Evaluation | Key Task | Responsible | Number of working days required | Timeframe |
|---|---|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Inception stage | Briefings- orientation on the final evaluation. | DMR Manager | 15 working days | Oct. week 2 |
| | Desk review of key documents | Evaluator/s | | Oct. week 2 |
| | Finalizing the evaluation design and methods | Evaluator/s | | Oct. week 3 |
| | Orientation workshop for national Consultants on the evaluation method and tools. | Lead Consultant. | | Oct. week 4 |
| | Submit draft inception report | Evaluator/s | | 4th Nov. 2022 |
| | Review inception report and provide feedback | DMR and UNTF | 5 working days | 11th Nov. 2022 |
| | Incorporating comments and revising the inception report | Evaluator/s | 5 working days | 18th Nov. 2022 |
| | Submitting final version of inception report | Evaluator/s | | |
| | Review final Inception Report and approve | DMR and UNTF | 5 working days | 25th Nov. 2022 |
| Data collection and analysis stage | Desk research | Evaluator/s | About five weeks | 10th Dec. 2022 |
| | Field interviews, questionnaires, etc. | Evaluator/s | | |
| Synthesis and | Analysis and interpretation of | Evaluator/s | 10 days | 20th Dec. |

¹⁹ DMR- Documentation, Monitoring and Research

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|-----------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| reporting stage | findings | | | 2022 |
| | Preparing a first draft report | Evaluator/s | | |
| | Review of the draft report | DMR and UNTF | 20 days | 10th Jan. 2023 |
| | Consolidate comments from all the groups. | DMR Manger | (Considering the public holiday) | |
| | Incorporating comments and preparing second draft. | Evaluation Team | 1 week | 15th Jan. 2023. |
| | Final review and approval of report | DMR and UNTF | 5 working days | 20th Jan. 2023 |
| | Final edits and submission of the final report | Evaluator/s | 5 working days | 30th Jan 2023. |

13.2 Evaluation Matrix,

| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Questions | Indicators | Data Source and data collection methods |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Effectiveness | To what extent were the intended project goal, outcomes and outputs (project results) achieved and how? | <p>Outcome indicators,</p> <p>1) 825 of the survivors expressed they are empowered, their resilience is enhanced and there is supportive environment for the prevention of rape and early/child marriage and the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>2) 825 of the survivors expressed increased knowledge on human rights and gender justice, and took action to claim their rights through the mobile courts, mediation meetings and dialogues.</p> <p>3) 825 of the survivors expressed they were fully involved in policy development on rape and early/child marriage by the local authority.</p> <p>4) 1 policy brief titled “peace & security: key to justice and protection needs of survivors was developed through the dialogues.</p> <p>4) A Tax Holiday was granted for the businesses of beneficiaries by the local tax authority</p> <p>5) 125 local government and community leaders reported having taken action on rape and early/child marriage.</p> <p>6) 12 Project staff & other CSOs staff</p> | The Evaluators conducted focus group discussions with survivors, and content analysis of the project annual progress reports (2020, 2021 & 2022 and the beneficiary data base. |

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| | | <p>reported increased knowledge and skills on humanitarian accountability standards and rape and early/child marriage.</p> <p>7) 26 staff expressed the Project has strengthened the institutional capacity of STW to sustainably respond to the COVID- 19 pandemic, future crises and EAW.</p> <p>Output indicators,</p> <p>1) 1400 of the survivors accessed care and support services i.e. 50 each through legal assistance and medical care, and 300 through livelihood assistance.</p> <p>2) 16 meetings were held with service providers on the referral pathways.</p> <p>3) 145 service providers were involved in the service referral pathways.</p> <p>4) 2 functional survivor support centers were established, 1 each in the two project location.</p> <p>5) 325 members of two survivor support groups, 1 each in the two project location were trained.</p> <p>6) 56 dialogues were conducted for survivors on their rights, gender justice & the available services.</p> <p>7) 825 of survivors were involved in 14 policy dialogues on rape and early/child marriage.</p> <p>8) 8 Stake holder capacity building events conducted with 216 participants.</p> <p>9) 2 safety and risk mitigation policies developed.</p> <p>10) 1 unit of project vehicle procured.</p> <p>11) 2 workshops conducted for project staff and partners on streamlining COVID- 19 into the project.</p> <p>12) 2 workshops conducted for project staff & CSOs on Stress management related to COVID-19 pandemic.</p> | |
|--|--|--|--|

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|--|--|---|--|
| | | 13) 1000 copies of ICE materials on integrated COVID-19 pandemic and EAW distributed. | |
|--|--|---|--|

| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Question | Indicators | Data Source and data collection methods |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Relevance | To what extent do the achieved results (project goal, outcomes and outputs) continue to be relevant to the needs of women and girls? | <p>1) 825 of the survivors expressed they are empowered, their resilience is enhanced and there is supportive environment for the prevention of rape and early/child marriage and the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>2) 825 of the survivors expressed increased knowledge on human rights and justice, and took action to claim their rights.</p> <p>3) 825 of the survivors were involved in 14 policy dialogues on rape and early/child marriage.</p> <p>4) 125 of the stake holders reported having taken action on rape and early/child marriage.</p> <p>5) 12 project staff & staff of CSOs reported increased knowledge & skills on humanitarian accountability standards and rape & early/child marriage.</p> <p>6) 26 staff expressed the Project has strengthened the institutional capacity of STW to sustainably respond to the COVID- 19 pandemic, future crises and EAW</p> | Testimonies of beneficiaries, stake holders and project staff during the focus group meetings and personal interviews, and content analysis of project success stories and progress reports. |

| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Question | Indicators | Data source and data collection methods |
|---------------------|--|---|--|
| Efficiency | To what extent was the project efficiently and cost-effectively implemented? | <p>Indicators,</p> <p>1) 95% (USD 642,524.98 of 715,000) of the grant was disbursed.</p> <p>2) All key project deliverables were accomplished as planned and according to budget.</p> <p>3) Three annual project reviews were conducted during the project.</p> <p>4) All reporting deadlines were complied with.</p> <p>5) There are no reports of any losses</p> | A review of the proposal, work plan, and budget requests, and audit and activity reports against the implemented activities provide coherent information and the testimonies of Project staff interviewed. |

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|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| | | of project resources. | |
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| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Question | Indicators | Data source and data collection methods |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Sustainability | To what extent will the achieved results, especially any positive changes in the lives of women and girls (project goal level), be sustained after this project ends? | <p>1) 35% of staff expressed STW is institutionally strengthened and sustainably responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, and has adapted interventions to EAW.</p> <p>2) 324 survivors were provided with PSS for trauma healing,</p> <p>3) 68 survivors accessed medical care</p> <p>4) 443 survivors gained knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship</p> <p>5) 443 survivors provided with livelihood assistance are ably providing for their needs and their families.</p> <p>6) 58 rape cases were successfully litigated and the victims compensated</p> <p>7) SSP 1,445,000 (equivalent to \$2330) was saved by the savings and loan groups.</p> <p>8) Some survivors have established their own business from the proceeds of the group businesses</p> <p>9) 57 service providers involved in the referral pathway</p> <p>10) Knowledge gained on the prevention of the COVID-19 pandemic is ably applied by beneficiaries to improve house hold hygiene and sanitation.</p> | The Evaluators conducted a review of the progress reports and testimonies of beneficiaries during the focus group interviews. |

| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Question | Indicators | Data Source and Data Collection Methods |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Impact | To what extent has the project contributed to ending violence against women, gender equality and/or women's empowerment (both intended and unintended impact)? | <p>1) 58 cases of rape were successfully litigated and the victims compensated.</p> <p>2) The project provided access to basic human needs- PSS for trauma healing, health care, sustainable food production and sanitation etc</p> <p>3) Men (fathers) have become</p> | The Evaluators conducted a review of the progress reports and testimonies of beneficiaries during the focus group interviews. |

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| | | <p>advocates of EAW and transforming socio-cultural norms that enslave women & girls.</p> <p>4) An alternative dispute resolution mechanism (family court) was in place.</p> <p>5) The Anti-GBV Bill (2019) and CSOs campaign for ratification of Maputo Protocol in support of legislation by the government towards EAW.</p> | |
|--|--|--|--|

| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Question | Indicators | Data Source and Data Collection Methods |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| Knowledge generation | To what extent has the project generated knowledge, promising or emerging practices in the field of EAW/G that should be documented and shared with other practitioners? | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The cross-sectoral & integrated design consisting of PSS, medical care and legal and livelihood assistance to survivors & the COVID-19 pandemic to programming EAW 2) The neighborhood advocacy strategy as alternative to community awareness on EAW. 3) The family courts as alternative dispute resolution mechanism. 4) Men have become advocates of EAW. 5) 2 referral pathways developed. | The Evaluators conducted a review of the progress reports and testimonies of beneficiaries during the focus group interviews. |

| Evaluation Criteria | Evaluation Question | Indicators | Data Source and Data Collection Methods |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Gender Equality and Human Rights | Cross-cutting criteria: the evaluation should consider the extent to which human rights based and gender responsive approaches have been incorporated throughout the project and to what extent. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Women and girls are the primary project target group. 2) Access to critical life saving assistance by survivors. 3) 58 survivors accessed justice through legal representation in the courts of law. 4) Incidences of human rights violations are reported to the local authority for redress. 5) Front line service providers, inclusive of women are in place. | The Evaluators conducted a review of the progress reports and testimonies of beneficiaries during the focus group interviews. |

13.3 Final project results framework,

| Outcome | Output | Output Indicators | Target Number | Number Reached |
|---|---|--|---------------|----------------|
| Outcome 1: Support services and referral information for sustainable recovery of survivors improved | 1.1 Access to legal and medical assistance and livelihood opportunities for survivors of rape and early/child Marriage strengthened. | 1.1.1 Number of survivors provided with legal assistance. | 50 | 58 |
| | | 1.1.2 Number of survivors provided with medical assistance. | 50 | 68 |
| | | 1.1.3 Number of survivors provided with livelihood assistance. | 300 | 443 |
| | 1.2 Referral pathways for survivors strengthened. | 1.2.1 Number of meetings held with service providers on the referral pathway. | 16 | 9 |
| | | 1.2.2 Number of service providers for survivors mapped. | 145 | 94 |
| Outcome 2: Capabilities of survivors to know and claim their rights increased. | 2.1 Knowledge of survivors of rape and early/child marriage on human and legal rights and justice improved. | 2.1.1 Number of functional survivor support centers established. | 2 | 2 |
| | | 2.1.2 Number of members of survivor support groups trained. | 325 | 186 |
| | | 2.1.3 Number of dialogues held with survivors on their rights, justice issues and available services by survivor support groups. | 56 | 26 |
| Outcome 3: Development and enforcement of survivor centered policies on rape and early/child marriage improved. | Output 3.1 Participation of survivors of rape and early/child marriage in policy action on survivor protection mechanisms strengthened. | 3.1.1 Number of policy dialogues held on rape and early/child marriage. | 16 | 11 |
| | | 3.1.2 Number of survivors who participated in the policy dialogues. | 720 | 486 |
| Outcome 4: Capabilities of general members of target IDP and host communities and leaders, local government officials, uniformed men and CSOs to manage survivors increased. | 4.1 Knowledge and skills of general members of target IDP and host communities and leaders, local government officials, uniformed men and CSOs to manage survivors of rape and early/child marriage | 4.1.1 Number of capacity building events conducted for secondary beneficiaries. | 8 | 16 |
| | | 4.1.2 Number of secondary beneficiaries who attended the capacity building events. | 280 | 564 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|------|------|
| | strengthened. | | | |
| Outcome 5: Institutional response of STW to the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, while maintaining existing interventions to EVAWG strengthened. | 5.1 STEWARDWOMEN has put in place mechanisms to improve institutional resilience to crises including COVID-19, which ensures the stability of projects and sustainability of the organization[s] in the longer term. | 5.1.1 Number of health and safety policies developed during the project. | 2 | 2 |
| | | 5.1.2 Number of unit (s) of project vehicle procured. | 1 | 1 |
| | 5.2 STEWARDWOMEN has improved knowledge, skills and capacities to maintain or adapt EVAWG interventions and reach the survivors of rape and early/child marriage while responding to the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic or other crises. | 5.2.1 Number of workshop (s) conducted for the project staff and partners on streamlining COVID-19. | 2 | 1 |
| | | 5.2.2 Number of workshop (s) conducted for project staff and partners on stress management related to COVID-19 response. | 2 | 1 |
| | | 5.2.3 Copies of IEC materials on the COVID-19 pandemic distributed during the project. | 1000 | 1000 |

13.4 Beneficiary Data Sheet,

Total Beneficiaries Reached By The Project

| Type of Primary Beneficiary | Total number |
|--|-----------------|
| Female domestic workers | |
| Female migrant workers | |
| Female political activists/ human rights defenders | |
| Female sex workers | |
| Female refugees/ internally displaced asylum seekers | 839 |
| Indigenous women/ from ethnic groups | |
| Lesbian, bisexual, transgender | |
| Women/ girls with disabilities | 20 |
| Women/ girls living with HIV/AIDS | |
| Women/ girls survivors of violence | 839 |
| Women prisoners | |
| Women and girls in general | 17,130 |
| Other (Specify here:) Lowest Income Group | 839 |
| TOTAL PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES REACHED | 19,667 - |
| Type of Secondary Beneficiary | Total number |
| Members of Civil Society Organizations | 51 |
| Members of Community Based Organizations | 58 |
| Members of Faith Based Organizations | 10 |
| Education Professionals (i.e. teachers, educators) | |
| Government Officials (i.e. decision makers, policy implementers) | 125 |
| Health Professionals (doctors, nurses, medical practitioners)- | 7 |
| Journalists / Media | 25 |
| Legal Officers (i.e. Lawyers, prosecutors, judges) | 25 |
| Men and/ or boys | 8,357 |
| Parliamentarians | |
| Private sector employers | 15 |
| Social/ welfare workers | 35 |
| Uniformed personnel (i.e. Police, military, peace keeping) | 150 |
| Other (Specify here:) Traditional Leaders | 130 |
| Youth leaders | 64 |
| TOTAL SECONDARY BENEFICIARIES | 9,052 |
| Indirect beneficiaries reached | Total numbers |
| Other (total only) | 112,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 140,719 |

13.5 Case stories of beneficiaries,

13.5.1 Experience of Juan Mary (Not real name),

My name is Juan Mary, I am staying in Jondoru since 2011. Before STEWARDWOMEN came to Jondoru, there was no any NGOs supporting survivors of rape in this community. Little did the community know that survivors of rape have rights and can be help and perpetrator prosecuted in the court of law. I was married off at age of 15 years and had difficulty at giving birth. I have a lot of health implication during and after birth. I was helpless and could not afford medical treatment cost. It was during community consultative meeting organized by STEWARDWOMEN in Jondoru that I learned the organization support survivors of rape and early/forced, marriage with medical treatment. After the consultative meeting, I went to the survivor support centre and disclosed my problem to the case worker. I was supported by STEWARDWOMEN to undergo medical surgery/ operation and the process was successful. Now I feel better and don't have any health problem related rape is disturbing me. I thank STEWARDWOMEN for supporting me and other survivors of rape and early marriage in the community of Jondoru.

13.5.2 Story of Agnes Tabu,

My name is Poni Jackine (Not real name), I am staying in Jondoru – Hai Tin. I was raped at the age of 14 years old from the village while staying with my mother. When I got married, I could not conceive (pregnancy) for many years. One day I visited Jondoru Survivor Support Centre managed by STEWARDWOMEN and during my interaction with the case worker that she advised me on the need to go for medical specialist. I told the case worker that I am from a poor family and do not have money for treatment at specialist clinic. I was register to benefit from the medical support services to the survivors. I was referred to Morobo Specialized Hospital and the doctor put me under treatment. I could not image that one day I will have a child. Thank God that the treatment helped me to conceive and now I have 3 children. I thank STEWARDWOMEN for treating me and other survivors who have no money and now my life has changed.

13.5.3 Experience of Viola Maneno,

My name is Veronika Peter (Not real name), a resident of Jondoru block five, one of the survivor who has experience early child marriage. I was married at the age of 15years and gave birth to a baby boy. I think because of that early marriage, I developed some problem with my reproductive system, since that time up to now I have failed to conceive another child. You can image when a woman stays in the husband house for more than 26years without conceiving, I go through a lot of psychological torture from people in the community especially my husband and the relatives of my husband. My husband and the relatives are calling me all sort of abusive names and I went through a lot of insults.

One day, I heard that STEWARDWOMEN is supporting survivor of rape and early marriage who are experiencing problems with their reproductive system and I decided to go to the survivor support centre to find out more. I was warmly welcomed by the case worker and I shared with her my story. She registered my name to benefit from the organization medical treatment support services to survivors. I happened to get treatment from Morobo Specialized Hospital and since I received the treatment, I have experienced a lot of great changes from the past and now as I am well but have not conceived any child. I know that am a changed person and so grateful to STEWARDWOMEN for work they have done in my life. I want to thank United Nations Trust Fund through STEWARDWOMEN for supporting survivors of rape and early and forced marriage as well as ending violence against women and girls in Jondoru.

13.5.4 Story of Nyamoth Anne Gai (not real name),

My name is Nyamoth Anne Gai. I was married by my parents at the age of 17 years. I was not involved in any income generating activity before the Project. I was just idle at home with no source of income. I

received 6 pieces of clothes for making bed sheets from the staff of STEWARDWOMEN in 2020. I embodied the pieces of clothes into bed sheets. I sold the bed sheets and deposited part of the money in the VSLA group account. I joined a savings group because all the women involved in bed sheets business are required by the Project to join the savings group. By the end of 2021, I saved SSP 31,000 (equivalent to USD 90). I used the money for establishing a tea/coffee shop. I also make local pan cakes. I jointly manage the business with sister. The place of my business is in Rubkona market.

13.5.5 Story of Nyayieth Both (Not real name),

My name is Nyayieth Both, and I'm 35 years old. I'm involved in the embroidery and sale of bed sheets. I joined the VSLA group of the Project in 2021. I'm the group chairperson. I was involved in the sale of embroidered bed sheets for about 5 months. I received three sets of bed sheets materials through the Project worth SSP 15,000 (equivalent to USD 40). I sold the embroidered bed sheets at SSP 30,000 (equivalent to USD 80). I saved SSP 14,000 through the group. I invested the money from the sale of the bed sheets and savings into a tea selling business. I manage the tea selling business with me sister. Before joining the business groups of the Project, I was regularly assaulted by the brother of my late husband- he used to force me to do a lot of hard labor. My life has changed since the time I joined the business group. We support each other, comfort each other and sing together in the group.

13.5.6 Story of Winny Louis (Not real name),

My name is Winny Louis Loku. I don't know whether I would have been alive by now, if I had not received any assistance from the Project. I passed through a lot of difficulties especially when I was young and I didn't go to school. I really thank Catherine (caseworker) so much. Secondly, I thank STEWARDWOMEN for coming to Jondoru. We were trained on how to save money and start business. After the training, we were asked to identify the type of business in which we were interested. I told them that I wanted to sell tomatoes and other food items and save the money for other needs. Since then, I'm involved in selling tomatoes and saving the money in the group savings account. I deposit SSP 1200 weekly in the group savings box. We distributed the first savings on July 01, 2022. We were eleven in the savings group from the start till now. God has helped me now because my business has grown. I can do something with the little money I have saved. I have saved SSP 100,000 (equivalent to \$250) and used the money to construct two small houses for rental. STEWARDWOMEN should extend the same support to women in other parts of South Sudan.

13.5.7 Story of Tekos Lual Lual (Not real name),

My name is Tekos Lual Lual. I got a lot of support from STEWARDWOMEN. Before the Project, I could not help my mother and children. My husband has failed to take care of me and the children. I was working at a stone quarry site, the work was so demanding. Its' at the stone quarry site that the staff of STEWARDWOMEN found me. They (staff) ask me about the kind of business I was under taking. I told them that I had a small business of selling food items, but it collapsed because I spent all the money on buying food for my family. The staff of STEWARDWOMEN then procured and delivered for me assorted food items- maize flour, beans, cooking oil, sugar, eggs, salt and soap. It helped to boost the small business that had collapsed. My small business has now picked-up. I'm able to save money from it and send my children to a better school.

Referral Pathways Meeting in Rubkona



Dissemination of referral pathway with Survivors, Rubkona-Bentiu, June 2022



13.6 Data collection instruments and protocols

Introduction to Informed Consent :

Hello, répondent !!

My Name is a consultants working with STEWARDWOMEN to conduct a Final Project Evaluation on 'Strengthening, provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage'. You have been selected to participate in this evaluation because of being a resident of this community. The information you will share with us will remain confidential and will not be disclosed or used beyond the objectives of our coming to meet you. Your participation is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time you wish; however, we will be very grateful when you accept to respond to all our questions without reservation. We are therefore seeking for your informed consent to participate in this exercise.

Do you therefore feel comfortable to participate in this evaluation?

- a) Yes
- b) No

SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Serial No. **Jondoru J001** and **Rubkona R002**
2. Camp
 - a) Jondoru
 - b) Rubkona

3. Sex/ Gender
- a) Male
 - b) Female
4. What is your age?
- a) Below 15 years
 - b) 15- 25 years
 - c) 26-35 years
 - d) 36-45 years
 - e) 46 and above
5. What is your highest level of education?
- a) Primary
 - b) Secondary
 - c) Tertiary
 - d) Not educated

SECTION B: PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

1. Have you benefited from any psychosocial support?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
2. What kind of psychosocial support have you received from STEWARDWOMEN? (Please tick all that applies)
- a) Community mobilization
 - b) Sensitization against rape and early marriage
 - b) Education [Forms of GBV & their consequences]
 - c) Counselling and guidance
 - d) Leisure/Recreation (songs, dance, poems, riddles)
 - e) Healing and coping mechanisms for survivors
3. What was the frequency of the psychosocial support you received?
- a) Once
 - b) Twice
 - c) Thrice
 - d) Many times
4. To what extent is the level of satisfaction of psychosocial support?
- a) Very good
 - b) Good
 - c) Fair
 - d) Poor
7. What is the proportion of survivors that have access to psychosocial support?
- a) High
 - b) Moderate
 - c) Low
 - d) None

SECTION C: LEGAL SERVICES

1. Have you received any legal services offered by STEWARDWOMEN for the last three [3] years?
- a) Yes
 - b) No

2. If yes, name the type of legal services available offered by STEWARDWOMEN for the last three [3] years? (Please tick all that applies)

- a) Legal representation/litigation
- b) Legal advice
- c) Mediation
- d) Legal education/counselling/awareness
- e) Paralegal training
- f) Mobile courts by Pro bono advocates
- g) Legal drafting

3. What is the frequency of legal services being offered?

- a) Once
- b) Twice
- c) Thrice
- d) Many times

4. How will you rate the level of sfaction for legal services being offered by STEWARDWOMEN for the last three [3] years?

- a) Very good
- b) Good
- c) Fair
- d) Poor

5. What is the proportion of survivors that have access to legal services?

- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Low
- d) None

6. What is the proportion of survivors with increased knowledge on human rights and justice and have taken measures to defend their rights.

- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Low
- d) None

7. Who undertakes the needs assessment of victims for legal services?

- a) Police
- b) Community leaders/Women Leaders
- c) Traditional/Customary Chiefs
- d) Community Watch groups
- e) STEWARD WOMEN
- f) Youth Leaders
- g) Others specify

8. What were the steps taken for the development of by-laws for the groups?

- a) What processes are followed?
- b) How are the bylaws being used?
- c) What is the impact on the community?

8.1 What is the role of customary courts?

8.2 What are the powers of customary courts?

SECTION D: SAFETY SERVICES.

- 1. Have you received any safety and security services from STEWARDWOMEN?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 2. What types of safety and security services? (Please circle all that applies)
 - a) Physical protection
 - b) Safe shelter (formal and informal shelters)
 - c) Food
 - d) Protection against Domestic violence
 - e) Others (Specify).....
- 3. What is the frequency of safety and security services?
 - a) Once
 - b) Twice
 - c) Thrice
 - d) Many times
- 4. To what extent is the level of satisfaction of safety and security services?
 - a) Very good
 - b) Good
 - c) Fair
 - d) Poor
- 5. What is the proportion of survivors that have access to the safety and security services?
 - a) High
 - b) Moderate
 - c) Low
 - d) None
- 6. What is the level of risk for survivors under threat from perpetrators?
 - a) High
 - b) Moderate
 - c) Low
 - d) None
- 7. In what ways do communities and local government leaders support survivors?

SECTION E: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

- 1. Has STEWARDWOMEN offered your community any medical assistance?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
- 2. Mention the type of medical assistance? (Please circle all that applies)
 - a) First Aid
 - b) Hospital treatment costs
 - c) The fistula camp costs
 - d) Maintenance costs
 - e) Dignity kits for survivors
 - f) Others (Specify).....
- 3. What is the frequency of medical assistance in the last three years?
 - a) Once
 - b) Twice
 - c) Thrice
 - d) Many times

5. To what extent is the level of satisfaction of medical assistance?

- a) Very good
- b) Good
- c) Fair
- d) Poor

6. What is the proportion of survivors that have had access to the medical services in the last three years?

- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Low
- d) None

7. In extending medical assistance to survivors, what were main diseases being treated?
.....

8. How long did the Fistula Camp last?

- a. How many medical personnel were involved?
- b. What were the results?

9. How did STEWARDWOMEN cope with the outbreak of Covid 19 during project implementation?

- a) Very well
- b) Well
- c) Poorly
- d) Could not manage
- e) Closed and ran away

10.1 Did STEWARDWOMEN get any support from other partners in the control of Covid 19?

- a) Yes
- b) No

10.2 If yes, what support and from who?

SECTION F: LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE.

1. Have you received livelihood assistance from STEWARD WOMEN?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. If yes, name the type of livelihood assistance? (Please circle all that applies)

- a) Community Mobilization and sensitization
- b) Entrepreneurship/business training
- c) Start-up kits
- d) Formation of savings groups
- e) Non Food Items [NFIs]
- f) Other (Specify).....
- g) None

3. What is the frequency of livelihood assistance?

- a) Once
- b) Twice
- c) Thrice
- d) Many times

4. What is the level of satisfaction of livelihood assistance?

- a) Very good
- b) Good
- c) Fair

- d) Poor
5. What is the Proportion of survivors that have access to the livelihood assistance?
- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Low
- d) None
6. Do you belong to any saving group in Jondoru/Rubkona?
- I. Give the name of the (with their meanings) group
- II. What is the number of members in your group?
- a) 0-10 members
- b) 11-20 members
- c) 21-30 members
- d) 31-40 members
- III. About how much money have you saved?
- a) <10,000SSP
- b) 10,000SSP-25,000SSP
- c) 25,001SSP-40,000SSP
- d) 40,001SSP-55,000SSP
- e) 55,001SSP>=
- IV. Are the groups formed in the first two years still surviving?
- a) Yes
- b) No
7. What are the major economic activities of the group members.....
8. How regularly do they meet to save?
- a) Once a week
- b) After two weeks
- c) Once a month
9. How do you intent to sustain your group in the absence of STEWARDWOMEN support?

SECTION G: REFERRAL PATHWAY

1. Have you received any services through referral information it in the last three [3] years?
- a) Yes
- b) No
2. Name the referral service provider? (Please circle all that applies)
- a) Parents
- b) Community leaders
- c) STEWARDWOMEN
- d) Customary chiefs and women leaders
- e) Court (Traditional/customary court)
- f) Youth Leaders
- g) Civil Society Organization
- h) Medical
3. Who referred you?
4. What service were you referred for.....
5. Where?
6. What extent is the level of satisfaction of referral information?
- a) Very good

- b) Good
- c) Fair
- d) Poor
7. What is the Proportion of survivors that have access to referral information?
- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Low
- d) None
8. Which are the developed referral pathways for the survivors? Mention them [give one or more answers]
9. Who are the official service providers in the referral pathway? [Please tick/circle all that applies]
- a) Line ministries
- b) Medical facilities
- c) Police
- d) NGOs
10. What services have they offered? Mention [give one or more answers]
11. Who are the informal service providers in the referral pathway [Please tick/circle all that applies]?
- a) Traditional chiefs
- b) Religious leaders
- c) Women leaders
- d) Youth leaders
- e) Community leaders, Parents
12. Explain the understanding of humanitarian accountability in this project Working with the collaboration of the community [Please tick/circle all that applies]
- a) Sharing of the project reports
- b) Share challenges and solutions to the problems of the project
- c) Transparency of the project staff and their contacts
- d) Not using humanitarian assistance for selfish ends
- e) Professional project staff and work
- f) Meeting of key stakeholders with the Project Director
- g) Establishing accountability groups in the project area
13. Did you listened to radio talk show by STEWARDWOMEN?
- Yes No
1. What topic was being covered
2. How was the topic?
- a) Relevant c) General d) Irrelevant
3. Time of talk show
- a) Morning
- b) Afternoon
- c) Evening

- d) Night
4. What category of listeners called?
- a) Men
- b) Women
- c) Boys
- d) Girls

Questionnaire for Focus Group Discussion

Hello respondent,

My Name is a consultants working with STEWARDWOMEN to conduct a final project evaluation, '**Strengthening, provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage**'. You have been selected to participate in this baseline survey because of being important to this community. The information you will share with us will remain confidential and will not be disclosed or used beyond the objectives of our coming to meet you. Your participation in this baseline survey is voluntary and you are free to leave when you want; however we shall be very grateful when you accept to respond to all our questions without reservation.

Thank you very much.

To be used for Local Authorities/Community/Survivors

Relevance:

1. Is this project implemented by STEWARDWOMEN relevant to the needs of the community? How?
2. What are the main ways of "strengthening provision and co-ordination of services to survivors of rapes and early/child marriage?"
3. How does the project relate to women and children in the community? Explain

Project impact

1. What is the situation of strengthening provision and co-ordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage?
2. How has the project benefited the survivors/victims?
3. How has the project benefited children?
4. How has the project benefited the disabled?
5. Has the project improved the quality of life of the survivors and the community? In what ways mention them.

To be used for STEWARDWOMEN Field Staff

Efficiency (Finance Manager)

1. Was the budgeted for the project activities sufficient?
2. How much money was released for the project implementation?
3. Was the release of this money timely?
4. How much money was actually spent on the project activities?
5. Was there value for money in the procurements and implementation of the activities?

Effectiveness

1. How was the participation of the community and beneficiaries?
2. Were there meetings, joint planning, monitoring and evaluations undertaken?
3. What were the levels of communication between donor, implementer, and beneficiary?

4. What lessons have been learnt from the project implementation?
5. Were there major decisions taken to change some of the project activities?
6. What is the beneficiary coverage?
7. What inputs have been delivered?
8. Where the inputs delivered on time
9. What is the level of adoption of improved practices?
10. How many girls and women affected by rape and child marriage have been reached?
11. What is the methodology or approach to get the commitment and involvement of community?
12. Are the staff qualified and playing a critical role in facilitating the achievements of the objectives of the project? Staff list and area of qualification (Human Resource Manager)

Lessons learnt

1. What were the lessons learnt as a result of implementation of this project in your area? List them:
2. What were the main challenges faced during the implementation of this project? List them,
3. Give practical recommendations for future improvements

Project sustainability, replication, and magnification

Are there mechanisms you have put in place for sustainability of the project when STEWARDWOMEN has phased out? Comment on each of these:

- **Project Monitoring:** Do you, communities and survivors take time to monitor the project activities at the time of implementation?
- **Project Evaluation:** Have your views, the views of the communities, and survivors ever been asked about the implementation of this project?
- **Project Audit:** Have your views, the views of the community and survivors ever been asked by as external auditor?
- **Project Lessons Learnt:** What lessons have you learnt in the implementation of this project. Case studies, Success stories, Learning
- **Recommendations:** What do you say about the future of this project?

To be used for Government/UN Agencies/GBV Partners/ NGOs

1. What do you say about this project of coordination of services to survivors of rape and early child marriage implemented by STEWARDWOMEN in relation to other GBV interventions?
2. What specific value do you see in this project?
3. What synergy do you see in this project in relation to other GBV interventions?
4. Project sustainability, replication, and magnification. Do you see mechanisms for sustainability of the project when STEWARDWOMEN phases out? Comment on each of these:
 - a. **Project Monitoring:** Do you, communities and survivors take time to monitor the project activities at the time of implementation?
 - b. **Project Evaluation:** Have your views, the views of the communities, and survivors ever been asked about the implementation of this project by an outside evaluator?
 - c. **Project Audit:** Have your views, the views of the community and survivors ever been asked by as external auditor?
 - d. **Project Lessons Learnt:** What lessons have you learnt in the implementation of this project.
 - e. **Recommendations:** What do you say about the future of this project when STEWARDWOMEN have phased out?

13.7 List of key stakeholders/partners consulted,

| No. | Designation | Location |
|-----|---|----------|
| 1 | Acting Director, Ministry of Gender, Social, and Child welfare | Juba |
| 2 | Director Gender, Central Equatoria State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare | Juba |
| 3 | Deputy Executive Director, Lologo Boma, Juba. | Juba |
| 4 | Clinical Officer, Morobo Clinic. | Juba |
| 5 | Advisor, STEWARDWOMEN | Juba |
| 6 | Association of Media Women of Southern Sudan, 4th December, 2019. | Juba |
| 7 | Director General for Gender and Child Welfare, Juba, 5th December, 2019 | Juba |

13.8 List of Project Staff Consulted,

| No | Position | Location |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 | Director | Juba Office |
| 02 | Programme Coordinator | Juba Office |
| 03 | Case worker | Juba |
| 04 | Legal Aid Officer | Juba/Bentiu |
| 05 | Caseworker | Jondoru |
| 06 | Project Officer | Juba |
| 07 | Case Worker | Juba |
| 08 | Paralegal | Rubkona-Bentiu |
| 08 | Finance Manager | Juba Office |
| 09 | Field Manager/ Legal Aid Officer | Bentiu |
| 10 | ICT Officer | Juba |
| 11 | Projects Accountant | Juba Office |
| 12 | Human Resource Officer | Juba Office |
| 13 | Monitoring and Evaluation Officer | Jondoru and Rubkona |

13.9 List of documents consulted,

1. [UNHCR: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence](#)
2. [UNFPA: Gender-Based Violence](#)
3. [UNFPA – Cost of ending Gender-Based Violence](#)
4. [Stop the War on Children](#)
5. [Weapon of War: Sexual Violence Against Children in Conflict](#)
6. STEWARDWOMEN, Proposal to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, 2018 call for proposals.
7. STEWARDWOMEN, Baseline Survey Report, “Strengthening Provision and Co-ordination of Services to Survivors of Rapes and Early/Child Marriage in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu”, 2019.
8. STEWARDWOMEN, Mid Term Evaluation Report: “Strengthening Provision and Co-ordination of Services to Survivors of Rapes and Early/Child Marriage in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu”, 2021.
9. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
10. STEWARDWOMEN, Annual Reports, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022.