

Mid Term Evaluation, November 2021

**Strengthening Provision and Co-ordination of
Services to Survivors of Rapes and Early/Child
Marriage in Jondoru-Juba and Rubkona-Bentiu**

**Implemented
by
Stewardwomen**



Project Funded by United Nations Trust Fund

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Introduction

The historical perspective of South Sudan points to a deliberate disparity and distortion of the people and society from the earlier times. South Sudan which was part of main Sudan was ruled under British-Egyptian control between 1899 and 1956 until they gained their independence, with Darfur joining the protectorate in 1916. The North and South were kept separate by their Anglo-Egyptian rulers until 1946. During this period the majority of development was focused in the North; the South and other peripheral regions, including Darfur, were both politically and economically marginalized.

When North and South Sudan were merged in 1946 the majority of political and administrative power was allocated to the North, leaving many in the South marginalized and aggrieved. In the lead up to independence in 1956 the South initiated a rebellion (Anyanya Movement) motivated by fears of further marginalization. This conflict was ended by Addis-Ababa peace agreement made in 1972, yet this fragile peace was soon ruptured by violations of the peace agreement, division of the regions, and the nationwide imposition of *Sharia law* leading to the outbreak of open conflict in 1983. This conflict lasted 22 years and is estimated to have killed two million people and rendered another 4 million homeless. In 2005 the Naivasha Agreement, or Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), was signed by the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress Party (NCP) in Khartoum, bringing an official end to the conflict. However, trouble continued between the two Sudan, with fresh accusations by each side that the other is supporting rebel groups against their respective governments, causing instability along the border. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 was followed by referendum on the secession of the South from the North on 9th January, 2011. Thus South Sudan became a new independent country on 9th July, 2011.

On the 15th December, 2013, a new war broke out between the leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). A faction led by Dr. Riek Machar, a former Vice President took up arms against the government led by President Salva Kiir. This war is estimated to have killed hundreds and displaced over a million as refugees in the neighbouring countries or within South Sudan. The war which initially broke out in Juba was fought in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity State, and spread to all the other states and its impact was in the whole of South Sudan. There is currently a ceasefire and a new government of national unity is being formed between the warring parties under the auspices of IGAD.

Executive Summary

The many years of conflict point to non-functioning of established governance structures leading to lawlessness and traditional lifestyles. Most of the indigenous population of South Sudan are pastoralist communities that are highly mobile in search for pasture and water for their animals. This continuous movement 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 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 come.

The strategies designed by Stewardwomen to address this evil is praiseworthy. Specific focus of psychosocial support, legal assistance, medical care, economic assistance, and referral information dissemination is an ideal intervention strategy that can liberate victims from this tragedy; an eye opener to the population and government of South Sudan to rise up and face the malevolence that is bedeviling society which must be condemned and stopped immediately through all possible means.

The provision of social services like education, health care, legal systems etc. is the responsibility of government. The Government of South Sudan through the line ministries has produced many good policies for child care and protection and women emancipation. The challenges to effective implementation of these policies will be based on peace and effective central government that is able to offer services to its population.

Chapter One

Introduction

Stewardwomen with support from United Nations Trust Fund is implementing a 3 year project entitled “Strengthening provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriages in Jondoru, in Juba and Robkuna in Bentiu. The project was launched in December 2019 and ending in November 2022. The services provided are: legal aid; medical support; psychosocial/case management; and livelihood support to survivors.

Stewardwomen is an indigenous South Sudanese women organization founded in 2009 to address the problems of sexual and gender based violence; deficiency of access to justice by women; low level 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 in 2009. The vision 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) that campaigns for the ratification and/or domestication of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa [Maputo protocol]. Stewardwomen are also the lead agency of a national coalition of 40 Civil Society Organizations that advocates for the ratification of the Maputo Protocol in South Sudan. They are the current chair of the Rule of Law Technical Reference Group of the Gender Based Violence Steering Committee. Stewardwomen field offices are located in Nimule and Magwi County, Eastern Equatorial State; Bentiu, Unity State; Bor, Jonglei State; Rumbek, Lakes State; and a National Coordination Office in Juba.

The 2018-2020 key strategic intervention were in the thematic areas of justice, peace and security; women empowerment and leadership; and sexual and reproductive health. The

2021-2023 strategic interventions focus on access to justice and rule of law; sexual and reproductive health rights; and women leadership and empowerment.

This midterm evaluation seeks to inform Stewardwomen in their intervention to address provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage. This project tries to reach out to survivors of rape and early/child marriage to find out and strengthen provision of critical services needed by the victims for their full recovery.

Title

“Strengthening provision and coordination of services to survivors of rape and early/child marriage”

Goal

The goal of the project is to empower 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, supportive environment for the prevention of rape and early/child marriage, and re-integration of survivors into the community, through December 2019 and November 2022. The major trajectories of the project are; psychosocial support, legal assistance, medical assistance, economic assistance, and referral information dissemination.

Objective

The general objective of the midterm evaluation is to provide the project stakeholders with sufficient information about the project performance during this period of implementation (its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts and sustainability), document lessons learnt and provide practical recommendations for future improvements.

The practical recommendations emerging from this evaluation will:

1. Understand progress of the actions, processes, and methodologies used in the project so far towards achieving project targets and outcomes and draw lessons for improvement of the project performance during the rest of the implementation period for more positive impact.
2. 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.

Specific Objectives of the Midterm Evaluation

These are built on 5 key parameters for the midterm evaluation study; and these are precisely: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability as described below:

- 1) Assess the relevance of the project design (its activities and objectives) in addressing the priority issues in the target communities of Rubkona-Bentiu and Jondoru-Juba.
- 2) Assess to what extent the available resources have been used economically in delivering the project outputs/results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness (efficiency).
- 3) Assess the major achievements of the project to date in relation to its stated objectives and intended results based on the Theory of Change (effectiveness);
- 4) Assess to what extent the project is contributing to a long-term positive effect on the entire society and nature (impact);
- 5) Assess whether the positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the project (sustainability).

The Strategies of the Project

1. Psychosocial support to survivors to foster recovery and reintegration
2. Legal assistance to survivors to realize justice and reparation
3. Safety services to survivors (informal and formal) protection and care
4. Medical assistance to survivors for treatment and healing
5. Economic assistance to survivors for livelihood from the traumatic experience
6. Referral information pathways for survivors

Methodology of the Midterm Evaluation

Methodology

The evaluator used the following key data collection methods for the evaluation:

- Document Review (Secondary Data): The evaluator 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 any other documents deemed critically important for the evaluation;
- Onsite visual observation: In conjunction with other methods, the evaluator visited the beneficiaries to observe beneficiary conditions; ask questions; and visited project site of Jonduru in Juba.
- Interviews: Loosely structured interviews were conducted with key informants (groups or individual) (project staff, stakeholders, local leaders of the victims).

The midterm evaluation was undertaken using qualitative method of data collection and analysis from interview of community leaders, selected beneficiaries, and the project staff. There were discussions, field monthly and quarterly report reviews, and personal observations. Quantitative data was captured and analyzed during the baseline survey to prepare the ground for the launching of the project.

Key Questions for the Midterm Evaluation:

Quality and relevance of project design:

Assess the appropriateness and relevance of the project design and activities towards expected goal, purpose and outputs; and assess what adjustments have been made if any. The following are the key guiding evaluations questions for the evaluator in this section:

- To what extent does the project respond to priority issues (does the project address the needs of the target groups?)
- To what extent are the objectives of the project still valid?
- Has the project team planned the most appropriate strategies?
- Are there any major risks or 'killer assumptions' that were not being taken into account?
- Do stakeholders care about the project and believe it makes sense (stakeholders' participation in the project)?

Efficiency of Planning and Implementation:

Assess to what extent the available resources have been used economically in delivering the project outputs/results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness (efficiency). Key evaluation questions for the evaluator:

- Is the overall project action plan used and up to date?
- Cost and value for money: To what extent have the project costs been justified by the benefits?
- What % of activities in the work plan has been delivered?
- Is financial spend/use in line with plan?

- Is monitoring data being collected as planned, stored and used to inform future plans
- Other important project management questions:
 - How adequate was management of risk in project implementation (whether flexibilities were demonstrated in response to changes in circumstances)?
 - What are the working relationships with partners, stakeholders and donors?
 - Are deadlines always met in reporting to donors?
 - To what extent is learning processes demonstrated e.g. coordination and exchange with related projects?
 - Were internal and external communications good?
- How have been the contributions from government or partner institutions and the target beneficiaries and other authorities?

Effectiveness:

Assess the major achievements of the project to date in relation to its stated objectives and intended results/outputs based on the Theory of Change. The following are the key guiding evaluations questions for the evaluator in this section:

- To what extent has the project contributed in strengthening synergy for security and justice between actors during the transitional Government of National Unity in South Sudan.
- SWOT Analysis:
 - What are the major failures of the project to date, explaining why they have occurred?
 - Describe any unforeseen impacts (whether positive or negative);
 - Identify any exceptional experiences that should be highlighted e.g. case-studies, stories, best practices etc.

Impact:

Assess the extent to which the benefits received by the target beneficiaries had a wider overall effect on larger numbers of people in the sector or region or in the country as a whole. Key guiding questions for the evaluator:

- To what extent is the project contributing to a long-term positive effect on the entire society and region?
- How is STEWARDWOMEN making a difference?

Potential for sustainability, replication and magnification:

Assess whether the positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the project (sustainability). Key guiding questions for the evaluator in this section:

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

Chapter Two: Project Review

Introduction:

The selected locations of Jonduru in Juba and Rubkona in Bentiu showed higher prevalence of rape and early marriage among the community. Many those raped or married early do not have any support and keep quiet to appear as a normal practice in society. The Constitution of South Sudan treats early marriage as rape.

Following the baseline survey, Stewardwomen staff had inception meetings with the community leaders, Payam leaders, government officials, chiefs and their representatives. Women leaders, religious leaders, and the community, majority of whom are women. Subsequent meetings were held with village chiefs, traditional chiefs, and women leaders to establish Survivor Support Center (SSC). When the survivor center was established, Covid 19 pandemic basic information sessions had to be integrated in the project.

Some of the survivors of rape and early marriage were discovered in need of specialized gynecological operations; some survivors who live in squalid conditions in the graveyards experienced fistula due to poor maternal health; ruptured uterus due to late delivery and young age. The project established 7 saving groups in Nyakuron, 4 saving groups in New Site, 1 saving group in Moguri, and 1 saving group in Gudele; while in Jonduru there are 30 group members.

The Goal of the Project:

This project is on the way to achieving its goal of reaching out to the most vulnerable survivors of rape and early/child marriages among the targeted beneficiaries; through the provision of psychosocial support, safety services, medical assistance, legal services including legal counseling, litigation, legal education. Through these actions survivors are able to realize their rights since they get encouraged and come out to stand up and report cases of rape in the community and get justice. The project is also empowering the survivors of rape and early/child marriages economically by providing them with Income Generating Activity (IGA) Start up kits to be able to save and provide for their families without relying on the men/husbands added with referral information in case of need.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to empower the survivors of rape and early/child marriages and help the women in the community in Rubkona, and Jonduru to speak up against rape and get justice through the mobile courts. This purpose is being achieved through the indicated outputs below.

Project Outputs:

- a) The survivors of rape and early/child marriages are informed on the human and legal rights and are able to stand up for their rights against evil.
- b) The community leaders, Chiefs, police and local government have knowledge on how to manage survivors of rape and early/child marriages
- c) The survivors are able to participate in coming up with community policy actions to strengthen their protection.

- d) Cases of rape are being referred to STEWARDWOMEN legal Aid clinic by the community, chiefs, other NGO partners following the referral pathways, and sometimes even police.

This project is useful in addressing the needs of the people evidenced by the enthusiastic responses and willing confessions by survivors of what they went through silently without anybody coming to their aid. Chief Jackson of Jonduru confirmed the good things Stewardwomen is doing in his area, especially teaching them how to protect girls and women from predators. He confirmed that because of the rampant cases of rape and early marriage among the community, he had to send his daughter from Juba to Maridi to protect her and remain in school to study. He proposed skills training and capital for survivors, especially young mothers to engage in income generating activities. Jackson recommended linkages with other organizations and agencies to help the community in areas where Stewardwomen are incapacitated, for example one organization was able to support them with hand washing facility to fight covid 19, but also promote good sanitation and hygiene.

Project Activities Implemented in Jonduru

1. Conducted baseline survey with the support of baseline consultant
2. Held three Community consultative meetings
3. Paid medical bills of 40 survivors
4. Represented 5 survivors in the local courts
5. Provided livelihood assistance to 70 survivors
6. Set up and managing one survivor support center
7. Formed one survivor support group
8. Formed two savings group
9. Conducted 1 review/development on referral pathway
10. Held one orientation seminar, including refresher seminar for survivor support group
11. Produced and distributed 100 copies of simplified hand book on survivors care and support for survivors support group
12. Held 5 dialogues with survivors on human and legal, justice issues
13. Held one policy dialogue on justice and protection needs of survivors
14. Held one training workshop for local government and community leaders on managing rape and early/ child marriage
15. Conducted 2 awareness on radio talk show on referral pathway for survivors of rape and early child marriage
16. Trained project staff and other CSOs on the humanitarian accountability
17. Conducted workshops to organization staff and partners on streamlining COVID-19 response in to the EVAWG project
18. Conducted workshops to organization staff and partners on stress management related to COVID-19
19. Conducted 3 Quarterly project planning and coordination meetings for key project staff by project coordinator in Juba
20. Continual conflict, gender and protection analysis by field team to inform project implementation
21. The project coordinator conducted 3 rapid project risk assessments
22. Developed health and safety policy frame works and conducted orientation seminars on the policy frame works
23. Procured and distributed COVID-19 related equipment for the survivor support centers and other project delivery points managed by partners

Adjustments to the planned activities:

- a) There is inclusion of COVID-19 into the program after the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic
- b) Medical support for survivors in Bentiu has been shifted to Jondoru, Rubkona has more partners supporting medical assistance and the need for medical cases in Jondoru is quite higher

Project Activities implemented in Rubkona:

Majority of the population in this area of project implementation are pastoralists. During rainy season flooding usually takes place and pastoralists have to look for new areas for grazing. In this process intercommunal fighting takes place leading to cattle raiding and revenge killings. The following activities were implemented:

1. Formation of a saving group
2. Training for local government and community leaders on managing rape and early/child marriages using the developed training manual
3. Refresher seminar to the Survivor Support Groups (SSG) on care and support to survivors
4. Policy dialogue on justice and protection needs of survivors
5. Consultative meeting to identify those who need medical, legal and livelihood assistance
6. Distribution of livelihood items to beneficiaries (tea business & bed sheet group)
7. Development of by-laws
8. Policy dialogue on human, legal rights and justice issues in Rubkona
9. Distribution of emergency dignity kits
10. Distribution of in-kind start up kits
11. Develop and review referral pathway for survivors
12. Distribution of the COVID-19 materials to project locations

There has been no major adjustments to the planned activities of the project since the start of implementation to date as the project appropriately addresses the targeted needs of the survivors, apart from the integration of covid 19 pandemic activities. The project is rated as very good by the community leaders as it responds to the priority needs of the community with their active participation in the project as confirmation of approval. The project has been planned appropriately and there is basically no major risk or killer assumptions that has bogged down implementation

Efficiency of Planning and Implementation of the activities:

The available resources are being used economically and appropriately in delivering the project outputs/results, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness (efficiency). The project actions are up-to-date and have been implemented effectively as planned. The Project cost show value for money as the expenditures appear justified per the planned 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. Some of the activities undertaken above, like the bylaws, need the collaboration of the community and cooperation and eventual intervention of government agencies for implementation.

The activities are cost effective and these can be seen from the monitoring data being collected as planned, stored and used to inform future plans. There are other important project management questions in relation to adequate management of risk in project implementation (whether flexibilities were demonstrated in response to changes in circumstances). The

project appears disaster prepared as they were able to manage risks successfully with the emergence of Covid19 pandemic. The working relationships with partners, stakeholders and donors appear to be very good as case referral even from government to Stewardwomen takes place. Deadlines for agreed actions were often met in accountability and reporting to donors.

Learning processes demonstrated coordination and exchange with related projects through excellent internal and external communications. The contributions from government or partner institutions and the target beneficiaries and other authorities were equally very good.

Effectiveness:

The major achievements of the project to date in relation to its stated objectives and intended results/outputs based on the Theory of Change are very good. The project has very much contributed in strengthening synergy for security and justice between actors during the transitional Government of National Unity in South Sudan. Maria Mass who is a Deputy Chief testified that they used to have a lot of problems of rape, forced marriage, and killings with nobody to help them coupled with lack of health center or hospital for treatment and mothers to deliver. This situation is made worse by the long distance to the hospital, poor roads, and lack of transport especially at night. Maria Mass appreciates the intervention of Stewardwomen by stating that:

“Women used to drink a lot, smoking shisha, and etc. Others are involved in eating mairungi, smoking marijuana, and drinking alcohol leading to vices of rape, house breakages, theft, and violence; but after training by Stewardwomen, women are able to report cases of rape, and pregnant women are able to access Morobo Clinic for antenatal treatment; parents are able to protect girls, and children”.

She proposed Stewardwomen to support leisure activities to keep the youth busy.

SWOT Analysis:

The strength of the project lies in its conceptualization and design. It is the first ever project to address the question of rape and early marriage tackling perpetrators headlong to seek justice for survivors. The major weakness detected in the project to date and explaining why they have occurred is in relation to implementing activities later than scheduled timeframe; as such activities are not implemented on time, this was attributed to the late release of activity funds by the Donor for implementation of activities in the field. The great opportunity available for this project is the willingness of donors to support and fund such project at this time of crisis and insecurity in South Sudan. The threats of Covid 19 pandemic, insecurity, coupled with stringent local government policies of running meetings and workshops has not affected the project implementation substantially.

The unforeseen impacts (whether positive or negative):

1. The continuous flooding in Rubkona, leading to further displacement of people in the community and relocation of them outside Rubkona is a major factor affecting project implementation.
2. Many people from outside Rubkona County seeking legal redress for rape cases in the mobile courts but there is no way to facilitate their transportation, feeding and accommodation during the mobile court sessions.

The exceptional experiences identified that should be highlighted for case-studies, stories, best practices:

1. The women in Rubkona have learnt the act of saving money and not spending it all on a daily basis.
2. The introduction of STEWARDWOMEN startup kits enabled them learn to save and carry out businesses that sustain their families.
3. The women community leader sits with the Chiefs in the courts while handling some of the cases in the community and fights for equality and rights of women even in the customary/family courts.

Impact:

The project is contributing to a long-term positive effect on the entire society and region through the intervention of Stewardwomen in providing legal aid to the most vulnerable people in the society/region, especially Unity State.

Stewardwomen is definitely making a difference in the life of the community and the country through:

1. Livelihood assistance to 30 survivors of rape and early/child marriages in Rubkona
2. Women are able to visit the Stewardwomen Survivor Support Centre for psychosocial support and engage with fellow women to encourage and support each other.
3. Stewardwomen offers legal advice, counselling and legal education to the survivors and fellow women in the community including giving awareness on human and legal rights.

Potential for sustainability, replication and magnification:

The positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the project (sustainability) because the key stakeholders have accepted and owned the project objectives and achievements. The project will contribute to lasting benefits since stakeholders, especially local governments have appreciated and accepted to ensure continuity of project activities in the project area. The lasting benefits of the project can be seen in;

1. The women in the community are able to make reports against the perpetrators and get justice in the mobile courts.
2. The community have agreed to take a firm stand against early child marriages and continue to raise awareness on the same issues.

The following are key organisations/stakeholders that have agreed to ensure continuity of project activities in the project area:

- a. State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (SMOGCSW),
- b. Women Group Members
- c. Local Chiefs
- d. Community leaders

There is proof of organisations, partners, and communities that have copied, up scaled or replicated project activities beyond the immediate project area of Rubkona. The organization of Hope Restoration (HRSS) has a One Stop Centre located in Bentiu town, inside the Bentiu Hospital, where they provide medical and legal services to the survivors of all forms of Gender Based Violence including representation in courts. The practical recommendations that can be made for the sustainability and replication of the project are:

1. The need for continuous awareness raising on human and women rights, Sexual Gender Based Violence through the radio stations, community dialogues or neighborhood assemblies

2. The project could also target those in the Internally Displaced People Camp site since there are more cases of rape and early/child marriages taking place.

Major challenges encountered in Project implementations:

- **Medical;** the number of survivors seeking medical support are more than the targeted beneficiary survivors and the inadequacy of resources.
- **Livelihood;** most of the Income Generating Activities beneficiaries for livelihood do not want to be in groups; they prefer working individually.
- **Insecurity;** in other part of project location (Moroyok) there was inter clan fight between Kobura and Yakwara Mundari in February up to April and again Yakwara and Deregen Mundari tribe of central equatorial. Some of the survivors identified for support could not be reached while others fled to unknown places and others sought safety at the Internally Displaced Peoples camp in Juba way station. The project team need to find a solution to forge a way forward.

Unforeseen impact

The survivors in Moroyok were left out from accessing support due to insecurity in the area at the time of implementation. This situation will definitely affect the project negatively.

Women economic empowerment is the positive unforeseen impact that can redress gender inequality, reduce poverty, promote wellbeing, and mitigate violence. The increased women earnings, bargaining power, raised incomes, reduced poverty are critical in promoting gender equality within and beyond the household.

Exceptional experiences identified that should be highlighted:

A story of the community members confirmed to the Consultant the rate of rape cases are reducing due to the intervention of Stewardwomen in the area. The trainings have empowered them to arrest some of the perpetrators in the area. One of the Income Generating Activity beneficiaries Zubeida confessed thus:

“I am able to take care of my family needs like food, soap, school fees, and medication due to the support of livelihood through trainings and start up kits provided by Stewardwomen”.

- a. The project has also created close relationship between Stewardwomen, State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (SMOGCSW), and other partners that refer most of the cases related to rape and early marriages for medical, legal and psychosocial support to Stewardwomen.
- b. With the support of Stewardwomen, a man who was a witch doctor was jailed for 7 years and charged with cohabitation for (rape), defiling a girl of 15 years old when he pretended to be administering treatment for her.

Exceptional experiences that should be highlighted:

The field staff worked collaboratively with supervisors, co-workers, and other service providers to engage the community leaders from time to time where need arises and ensured that service delivery for survivors remained consistent throughout the project. As a result of these actions 4 survivors of rape from the neighbouring villages of New Site, Mia Sabaa and Nyakruon sought for support at the project. Stewardwomen received 3 survivors of rape and early marriage through referral pathway from partners as the current climate of the organization is very positive and engagement has increased the needs for survivors seeking for support.

Impact:

An assessment of the extent to which the benefits received by the targeted beneficiaries had a wider overall effect on larger numbers of people in the sector or region or in the country as a whole revealed the extent the project is contributing to a long-term positive effect on the entire society and region.

1. The project is achieving the principle of equality as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goal N0. 5, and other Sustainable Development Goals including SDG N0.3, SDG N0. 8, 12, and Chapter Five of the Revitalised Peace Agreement of South Sudan respectively
2. The project is transforming socio-cultural norms that are negative and enslaving women and girls; as it emphasises empowering women and girls
3. The project is rebuilding family and community structures and support systems
4. The project is creating a condition for accountability systems against perpetrators
5. The design of the project is effective in offering services and facilities that will work with formal and traditional legal systems
6. Assessment, monitoring and documentation of Gender Based Violence cases in the society and region at large will guide the Country in developing legal systems that protects women and girls.

The Project is contributing to a long-term positive effect on the entire society and region:

Stewardwomen formed 2 active Village Savings Loan Associations in Bentiu; Barakaat Group has about 100,000 South Sudanese Pounds per month, the activities of the group members encouraged none members to form other VSLA groups using their model. On feedback the community is very positive. The VSLA group would be economically empowered and will have decision on matters affecting them.

Stewardwomen conducted trainings for local governments and community leaders, dialogues and awareness raising on Gender Based Violence and referral pathway increased survivors' and community knowledge on managing rape and early marriage, survivors were able to seek for justice and perpetrators held accountable for their actions.

How is Stewardwomen making a difference?

- a. Stewardwomen is providing the four multi-sectorial services of Gender Based Violence through medical, legal, psychosocial, livelihood, and referral services.
- b. Stewardwomen women has become referral centre for other partners dealing in Gender Based Violence
- c. Stewardwomen has become centre for information, education, and communication for survivors, partners, and government agencies who would like to intervene in the area

Potential for sustainability, replication and magnification:

The positive outcomes of the project at purpose level are likely to continue after the project (sustainability) because of the extent the key stakeholders have accepted and owned the project objectives and achievements as it is understood to be very good for the community. The following are the identified long lasting benefits of the project:

1. Women are able to challenge gender stereotypes and roles
2. Survivors are empowered to report cases of rape and early marriage
3. The community take collective action against rape and early marriage
4. Empowered community to identify, detect, address, and prevent act of rape and early

marriage

5. Survivor empowerment for full recovery and reintegration into active community life. There are organisations and stakeholders that will ensure continuity of project activities in the project areas:
 - a. Community leaders,
 - b. Youth and women organisation
 - c. Village Savings Loan Associations
 - d. Income Generating Activities groups

Challenges:

1. The rains experienced during certain months of the year caused flooding within Rubkona and when participants are called for activities during such periods, very few attend and this gives a challenge to reaching the target number.
2. The delays in payment of the salaries of staff on time in the field sometimes affects staff performance.
3. Many women of the VSLA groups send the weekly savings through colleagues and fail to attend the meetings, hence getting vital information during the meetings is difficult.
4. Cases of rape and early marriages are still common in Rubkona but the survivors are sometimes not willing to go the legal way even after taking them through the referral pathway for fear of their own safety.
5. Few cases of rape being reported in Rubkona county while other counties have cases but not able to come to the office for legal aid services.
6. Survivors of early/child marriages want STEWARDWOMEN to pay for their cases to be heard at the family courts for divorce.

Lessons Learnt:

1. Involving project beneficiaries in any engagement in the community creates sense of ownership.
2. The community appreciates the efforts of STEWARDWOMEN in supporting women by providing the livelihood items and offering legal services and especially on human rights

Recommendations:

1. Hold sessions in an open space to avoid congestion in order to follow the covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures.
2. Regular visits to the family courts to get some cases of rape since the Chiefs also tend to hear such cases instead of waiting for the mobile courts to sit.
3. Training Chiefs and the community on the national laws and sensitize them on the rights of women and appreciate cases of early/child marriages and rape as evil in society.
4. The women outside the targeted areas and those with disabilities should attend some of the sessions to inform them and get knowledge on some of the discussions.

Conclusion:

Synthesis of Activity, Output, Outcome/Impact, and Success Story/Case Studies

Activity	Output	Outcome	Impact	Success stories/Case Studies
Legal Assistance to	Empowered survivors opened	Police able to investigate cases	Accountability by perpetrators	Communities empowered to take

survivors	and reported cases of abuse	and lawyers prosecute perpetrators	for their actions	action to prevent rape and early/child marriage
Psychosocial services to survivors	Counseling and guidance of survivors	Recovery from psychological damage caused	survivors train girls and young women on the dangers of GBV	Full recovery of survivors and reintegration into the society
Medical assistance to survivors	Medical examination to survivors	Health condition of survivors established	healing and recovery of survivors	survivors become protagonists of GBV
Economic assistance to survivors	support with income generating activities	Livelihoods restored	Survivors able to take support themselves and their families	Survivors empowered and reintegrated into the community
Referral information to survivors	Survivors are knowledgeable about available options and make informed choices	Survivors supported to full recovery	Women are able to challenge gender stereotypes and roles	Stewardwomen has become a referral centre for other partners dealing in Gender Based Violence

Activity Photographs:



Stewardwomen and survivors sharing of the updated, developed, and reviewed referral pathway in Rubkona, Bentiu.



Caption by Catherine during follow-up for medical treatment at Jondoru



Psychosocial support at the support center by case works Jondoru



Partners during the review and development of the referral pathway for Rubkona