UN Women Liberia
Q3 Newsletter
2026

UN WOMEN
FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

FOREWORD

Message from UN Women Liberia Country Representative

Dr. Abul Hasnat Monjurul Kabir, Country Representative, a.i., UN Women Liberia

It is my pleasure to share this edition of the UN Women Liberia Quarterly Newsletter, highlighting our work and partnerships during the third quarter of 2026.

This quarter has been marked by an important and shared commitment: turning commitments to gender equality into action and results that improve the lives of women and girls across Liberia.

From advancing women's leadership in peace and security and preparing women to participate in the 2029 elections, to strengthening inclusive electoral institutions, our work continues to support women's meaningful participation in decision-making at every level. H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia, officially launched Liberia's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP III), 2026–2031, during a High-Level Side Event held on the margins of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The launch marks a significant milestone in Liberia's ongoing commitment to the Women, Peace and Security agenda and reaffirms the country's leadership in advancing women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

We are equally focused on expanding women's economic opportunities. The launch of the Liberia Care Snapshot has opened an important national conversation on recognizing care as an investment in Liberia's economic and social development. At community level, Village Savings and Loan Associations, digital financial inclusion and livelihood initiatives are helping women gain greater access to finance, markets and technology. The stories of women such as Ma Nowai Kaine and Jacqueline Mulbah demonstrate what becomes possible when women have the tools, knowledge and resources to build their economic independence.

Our commitment to inclusion also extends to young women and girls. Regional dialogues on the National Youth Policy, Second Chance Education initiatives and targeted skills and livelihood opportunities are creating pathways for young women and marginalized groups to participate more fully in Liberia's development.

These achievements are made possible through strong partnerships with the Government of Liberia, civil society and women's organizations, development partners, communities and sister UN agencies. They remind us that sustainable progress requires collective action, sustained investment and accountability.

As we look ahead, UN Women Liberia remains firmly committed to supporting a Liberia where women and girls can lead, participate, prosper and live free from violence, discrimination, and

stigma. We invite you to explore the stories in this edition and join us in celebrating the women, girls, institutions and partners who are helping to build a more equal, peaceful and inclusive Liberia.

Dr. Abul Hasnat Monjurul Kabir
Country Representative, a.i.
UN Women Liberia

Impact Areas

Women's leadership and decision-making

Women's economic empowerment

Ending violence against women and girls

Women, peace and security

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Turning Commitments into Action

Liberia Validates Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

From left to right: Hon. Gbeme Horace-Kollie, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Abul Hasanat Monjurul Kabir, Country Representative of UN Women Liberia; Christine Umutoni, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Liberia; and Dr. Sally Wangamati, Representative of the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security.

The Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, validated the Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS III) for 2026–2031 in partnership with UN Women and the African Union, with support from the Governments of Ireland and Sweden.

Building on Liberia's legacy as the first African country to adopt a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the new framework strengthens women's leadership in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, governance, and security while enhancing protection from gender-based violence, accountability, and access to justice. Developed through nationwide consultations, the Plan also addresses emerging issues such as climate-related security risks, youth engagement, disability inclusion, and technology-facilitated violence. Read the full story

NEC Officials Strengthen Capacity for Inclusive Elections

Seventy-nine officials from the National Elections Commission (NEC) strengthened their capacity to promote gender equality and disability inclusion through the internationally recognized BRIDGE training programme, delivered with support from UN Women and UNDP under the Liberia Electoral Support Project.

George K. Dorbor an Assistant Election Magistrate in Upper Lofa County.

The training equipped election officials with practical skills to implement the NEC's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy, ensuring that electoral processes—from recruitment and voter education to polling and stakeholder engagement—are more accessible and inclusive. As Liberia prepares for the 2029 general elections, the initiative reinforces the Commission's commitment to increasing the participation of women and persons with disabilities and building a more representative and accountable electoral system. Read the full story

UN Women Launches Liberia Care Snapshot

Official launch of the Liberia Care Snapshot by Deputy Minister for Research, Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Curtis V. Dorley and UN Women Liberia Country Representative Abul Hasnat Monjurul Kabir.

UN Women Liberia, with support from the Governments of Norway and Sweden, launched the Liberia Care Snapshot, a landmark assessment highlighting the vital role of paid and unpaid care work in driving economic growth and advancing women's economic empowerment.

The report estimates that women contribute USD 530 million annually through unpaid care work, alongside more than USD 1 billion in market-based economic output, underscoring the economic value of investing in childcare, eldercare, social protection, and family-friendly policies. Bringing together government, private sector, civil society, and development partners, the launch initiated a national dialogue on strengthening Liberia's care economy and using evidence to inform policies that promote inclusive and sustainable development. Read the full story

Regional Dialogues Bring Liberia's National Youth Policy Closer to Young People

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, in partnership with UN Women, UNFPA and OHCHR, completed a series of regional dialogues to increase young people's awareness and understanding of Liberia's National Youth Policy (2025–2029), with support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

Participants during the National Youth Policy Dialogue in Zwedru City Hall, Grand Gedeh County.

Held across four regions, the dialogues engaged youth leaders, young women, persons with disabilities, civil society and local authorities in discussions on implementing the Policy at community level. Accessible materials, including Braille versions, and practical guidance on communications and advocacy equipped participants to promote the Policy and strengthen youth participation, accountability and inclusive leadership across Liberia. Read the full story

Rural Woman Gains Financial Confidence Through Digital Skills

Ma Nowai Kaine (centre) and two other women from Bong County hold phones received through D4WEE

At 61, farmer and grandmother Ma Nowai Kaine is using digital financial services with confidence after participating in UN Women's Digital for Women's Economic Empowerment (D4WEE) Project, implemented with support from the Orange Foundation.

After receiving a mobile phone and training on safe mobile money use, Ma Nowai can now independently save, send and receive money, eliminating her reliance on others and giving her greater control over her finances. Her story highlights how digital and financial literacy is

empowering rural women to participate safely in Liberia's digital economy while strengthening their economic resilience and independence. Read the full story

Women's Leadership in Local Governance Shows Strong Progress

A national dialogue convened government, civil society, traditional leaders, Peace Huts, women's networks and development partners to assess progress and strengthen commitments to women's leadership in local governance and peacebuilding.

Traditional leaders at the National Dialogue on Women's Leadership in Local Governance and Peacebuilding.

Evidence from six counties shows a 44 per cent increase in women holding leadership positions, rising from 66 to 95 women leaders since 2021. Despite this progress, women remain underrepresented in local government and traditional leadership, with harmful social norms, informal appointment practices and limited institutional support continuing to pose barriers.

The dialogue called for stronger collaboration and practical action to expand women's representation, support women already in leadership, and recognize and resource their vital contributions to peacebuilding across Liberia. Read the full story

Second Chance Education Opens New Pathways for Women and Girls

Stakeholders, including representatives of GoL, UN agencies, development partners, CSOs, organizations of persons with disabilities, and technical experts during the validation of the Second Chance Education (SCE) Training Module.

Spotlight Initiative 2.0, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Government of Liberia and UN Women with partners, has validated a new Second Chance Education (SCE) Training Module to expand learning and livelihood opportunities for women and girls.

The integrated module combines literacy, life skills, vocational and entrepreneurship training, leadership, protection and sexual and reproductive health and rights. It is designed particularly to support women and girls facing barriers to education and economic opportunities, including survivors of gender-based violence, adolescent mothers and persons with disabilities. Read the full story

826 Women and Girls Identified for Inclusive Skills and Livelihood Opportunities

Ruth Akoi, a former Zoe from Lofa County, shares her experience during the beneficiary identification process under Spotlight Initiative 2.0.

Under Spotlight Initiative 2.0, supported by the European Union and UN Women and implemented by Youth Crime Watch of Liberia, 826 women and girls across Montserrado, Nimba and Lofa Counties have been identified and validated to participate in upcoming skills training and livelihood interventions.

The community-led process brought together government institutions, local and traditional leaders, women's groups, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, youth representatives and other stakeholders to identify eligible beneficiaries using transparent criteria. Beyond establishing a verified beneficiary database, the consultations strengthened community ownership and created space to address economic exclusion, violence and harmful practices. The initiative will now move toward registration, skills training and livelihood support aimed at strengthening women's economic resilience, independence and participation in their communities. Read the full story

Women Candidates Equipped to Lead Liberia's Future

Facilitators and women political aspirants on day 1 of the three-day Political Leadership and Candidate Preparedness Training.

As Liberia prepares for the 2029 elections, 41 women political aspirants from Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties began building the skills and networks needed to compete and lead effectively. The training is part of a nationwide initiative targeting approximately 240 women aspirants across all 15 counties.

Implemented under the Liberia Electoral Support Project by UNDP, in collaboration with UN Women and Sister Aid Liberia, the Political Leadership and Candidate Preparedness Training equips aspiring candidates with practical skills in campaign planning, fundraising, public speaking, voter outreach, political messaging, budgeting and preventing violence against women in elections and politics.

The initiative responds to barriers identified through recent electoral research, including limited access to financing, mentorship, political networks and campaign guidance, and aims to strengthen the pipeline of women leaders ahead of 2029. Read the full story

Advancing Women's Leadership Through South-South Cooperation

A delegation of 12 Liberian legislators travelled to India from 10–15 August for a South-South Peer Learning Mission focused on advancing women's political leadership and gender-responsive governance. Led by the Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia, with UN Women Liberia, the mission was funded by the IBSA Fund through UNOSSC.

Hon. Ellen A. Attoh-Wreh, Chairperson of the Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia and Head of Delegation and India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar.

The delegation explored India's approaches to gender-responsive budgeting, digital and financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, childcare and coordinated services for survivors of violence. The exchange provided practical lessons for strengthening legislation, budget oversight and services for women and girls in Liberia.

As the project's first formal South-South peer learning exchange, the mission also established new institutional connections and identified opportunities for continued cooperation to strengthen women's leadership and inclusive development in Liberia. Read the full story

Young Women Claim Their Place in Liberia's Armed Forces

The outreach team engaging women directly in the marketplace in Barclayville, Grand Kru County.

With women representing just 7.5 per cent of Liberia's Armed Forces, a nationwide awareness campaign is encouraging more young women to consider careers in the security sector and peacekeeping.

Led by the Ministry of National Defense and the Armed Forces of Liberia, with support from UN Women through the Elsie Initiative Fund, the campaign reached communities across all 15 counties through schools, markets, town halls, radio and community engagements. The initiative aims to challenge gender stereotypes, increase awareness of military career opportunities, and encourage young women to prepare for recruitment.

For young women like Princess M. Jiffan, who dreams of joining the AFL and pursuing a career in mechanics, the campaign is helping turn aspirations into informed possibilities. The next phase will provide mentoring, recruitment information and support for more gender-responsive recruitment processes. Read the full story

Women Gain Access to Finance Through New Savings Groups in Margibi

Participants celebrating the launch of the VSLAs and agricultural cooperatives.

The Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia, UN Women Liberia and CareFound Liberia launched 50 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and agricultural cooperatives, connecting 1,719 women across eight counties with community-based savings, credit and livelihood opportunities.

Supported by the IBSA Fund and implemented under the Promoting Voice, Leadership and Gender-Responsive Governance for Sustainable Development project, the initiative provides women with seed funding, financial management skills and practical leadership experience. The project will also train 3,800 rural and young women in financial management, entrepreneurship and leadership.

By expanding women's access to finance and strengthening their economic independence, the initiative is helping create pathways for women to build stronger livelihoods and take on greater leadership roles in their communities. Read the full story

Digital and Financial Inclusion Helps Woman Farmer Grow Her Business

For Jacqueline Mulbah, a 45-year-old farmer from Bong County, access to digital tools, financial services and credit has transformed her farming business and strengthened her economic independence.

Jacqueline Mulbah on her farm in Bong County.

Through UN Women's Digital Inclusion for Women's Economic Empowerment Project, implemented with the Orange Foundation and in collaboration with the Central Bank of Liberia, Jacqueline accessed a loan to purchase improved seeds and expand her production. Today, she cultivates more than 10 hectares, primarily producing vegetables, while her monthly income has increased from less than USD 150 to more than USD 350.

Using the Buy from Women digital platform, Jacqueline has also expanded her market reach and reduced post-harvest losses. Her experience demonstrates how digital and financial inclusion can help women farmers grow their businesses, support their families and strengthen their voices in their communities. Read the full story

Civil Society Takes a Stronger Role in Liberia's Spotlight Initiative 2.0

UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA convened Liberia's newly constituted Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) for the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative 2.0, bringing together 11 civil society representatives to strengthen their role in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices.

The CS-NRG will provide advice, advocacy, monitoring and accountability, ensuring that the voices and experiences of women's rights organizations, survivors, youth, people with disabilities and other marginalized communities inform programme implementation.

Building on lessons from the first phase of Spotlight, the Group represents an important step toward stronger civil society leadership and more inclusive, community-informed efforts to end violence against women and girls and advance gender equality in Liberia. Read the full story

US$3 Million Initiative to Advance Women's Leadership, Justice and Peacebuilding

From left to right: United Nations Resident Coordinator, Christine Umutoni and Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Gbemie Horace-Kollie jointly endorsing the GPI2.0 and rollout plan.

UN Women, in partnership with OHCHR, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Kvinna till Kvinna, has launched the Gender Promotion Initiative (GPI) 2.0, a three-year, US$3 million programme funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

Implemented nationally and in five priority counties, the initiative will strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making while advancing inclusive peacebuilding, social cohesion, transitional justice and gender-responsive governance.

More than 40 per cent of programme resources will be directed to Women's Rights Organizations through sub-grants, alongside support to government institutions and communities to strengthen justice, accountability and collaboration. Building on Liberia's longstanding leadership in peacebuilding, GPI 2.0 aims to ensure that women are not only beneficiaries of peace and justice, but active leaders shaping Liberia's future. Read the full story

Liberia's Women Helped Build Peace. A New National Plan Puts Their Leadership at the Centre.

Women Peacebuilders holding up the Liberian flag and praying for sustained peace over the nation.

Liberia reaffirmed its commitment to women's leadership in peacebuilding during a high-level Women, Peace and Security (WPS) side event held on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly. Convened by the Government of Liberia, with support from UN Women, the event brought together global leaders and Liberian women peacebuilders to celebrate their contributions and advance the WPS agenda.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai paid tribute to the pivotal role Liberian women played in ending the country's civil conflict and rebuilding the nation, declaring: "Liberian women helped build peace." He also announced the launch of Liberia's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP III 2026–2031), building on the country's pioneering legacy as the first post-conflict country to adopt a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2009. Read the full story

Women's Legislative Caucus Launches Mentorship and Internship Initiative

Some members of the Mentorship and Internship Program excitedly waiting to be presented to the Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia.

The Women's Legislative Caucus of Liberia (WLCL), with support from UN Women and the IBSA Fund administered by UNOSSC, launched a four-month Mentorship and Internship Initiative for 23 young women.

The initiative provides participants with practical exposure to legislative processes, public leadership, policy engagement and community outreach, while connecting them with women legislators who will serve as mentors and supervisors.

The programme aims to strengthen the pipeline of future women leaders and expand young women's participation in governance and public life. Read the full story