

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND LIBERIAN NATIONAL ACTION PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

The rationale for undertaking this survey was to identify the gaps in rural Liberians' perception and knowledge of the national Liberian National Action Plan (LNAP) to include women in post-conflict reconstruction that was an outcome from the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security held in Monrovia in March 2009. The survey results will be used to inform the Ministry of Gender and Development (MoGD) and donor agencies of the gaps that exist in rural communities with an emphasis on (1) getting people's feedback on the Liberian National Action Plan to include women in post-conflict reconstruction, and (2) assessing people's feelings about the state of women's peace and security in rural communities.

A. SURVEY METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The study took three weeks to plan and field, which included conceptualization of the survey method, designing of a survey questionnaire, establishment of respondent categories and sample-size quotas, hiring of experienced local surveyors to carry out twenty five-minute surveys with four SFCG staff as supervisors, collection of completed questionnaires, coding and inputting of data and the running of preliminary results. The supervisors conducted guidance for the local survey staff on how to conduct interviews, and survey questions were pre-tested for content and cultural appropriateness. In two days, the survey team successfully completed 304 interviews in six different Liberian counties.

a.1. Scope. The survey was conducted in six locations: Nimba (Gbarnga), Lofa (Zorzor), Grand Bassa (Buchanan), Bong (Ganta), Cape Mount (Robertsport) and Bomi (Tubmanberg). The six locations were chosen because they were areas where Search for Common Ground (SFCG) previously implemented workshops and town halls and provided a diverse sample of the Liberian population across different counties.

a.2. The survey instrument. Survey questions focused on six thematic areas:

- i. Knowledge about the International Women's Colloquium (IWC) The questions focused on awareness of the IWC that took place in Monrovia and respondents' sources of information.
- ii. Awareness of the Millennium Development Goal Related to Women Respondents were asked whether they were aware of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) related to women and to share their understanding of its meaning in their own words. Respondents were then asked whether they had witnessed any MDG-related development efforts geared towards women in their communities and to describe what they were.
- iii. Importance of Issues Facing Women's Peace and Security and the Sufficiency of Dialogue about Women's Issues Respondents were asked to rate the importance of given issues facing women's development identified in recent workshops and town hall meetings organized by Search for Common Ground, and were questioned on the sufficiency of dialogue about women's issues at local and national levels.
- iv. Awareness of the Ministry of Gender and Development (MoGD) Work Respondents were asked about their awareness of the work carried out by the Ministry of Gender and Development (MoGD), and to explain their understanding of what the work entails in their own words. Respondents were also asked their opinion on MoGD's ability to promote gender equality in their communities, and given the option to provide additional comments.
- v. Knowledge about the Liberian National Action Plan (LNAP) Respondents were asked whether they have heard of the LNAP, to identify their source of information and to name one or more of the LNAP pillars, if able. They were then asked to rate the level of importance of each of the various areas of focus that were determined by the MoGD under the four LNAP pillars for their community.
- vi. Demographics. The questionnaire included six questions on respondent demographics - marital status, gender, age, education level, religion and occupation.

a.3. Sample size and composition.

Respondent Gender and Sample-Size Quotas by Survey Location

| | Nimba (Gbarnga) | Bong (Ganta) | Lofa (Zorzor) | Grand Bassa (Buchanan) | Cape Mount (Robertsport) | Bomi (Tubmanberg) | Unnamed County | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Female | 56 | 47 | 27 | 50 | 19 | 20 | 1 | 204 |
| Male | 19 | 19 | 15 | 16 | 5 | 10 | - | 100 |
| Total | 75 | 66 | 42 | 66 | 24 | 30 | 1 | 304 |

Technical and situational considerations went into setting the over-all sample size of 304 and approximate category sample sizes per the below:

1. The sample size of at least 20 respondents was targeted as a statistically sufficient number for making projections for each county.
2. The survey was shaped without balance across gender. Accordingly, a ratio of roughly 2:1 was sought in determining the number of men and women that were interviewed.
3. The number of total respondents for each county was based in proportion to participating county population size.

The table below shows the demographic makeup of the 304 respondents in terms of gender, age, education attained and religion.

The composition of the obtained respondent sample in terms of gender, age, education and religion

| GENDER | | Female | 72.37% | Male | 27.63% |
|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| AGE | | EDUCATION | | RELIGION | |
| 18-25 | 20.72% | Elementary School | 9.21% | Christian | 73.03% |
| 26-35 | 30.92% | Junior High School | 19.41% | Muslim | 21.71% |
| 36-45 | 24.01% | High School | 44.74% | | |
| 46-55 | 19.74% | College | 4.61% | None | 1.32% |
| 56 and above | 3.29% | No School | 21.38% | | |
| No Response | 1.32% | No Response | 0.66% | No Response | 3.95% |

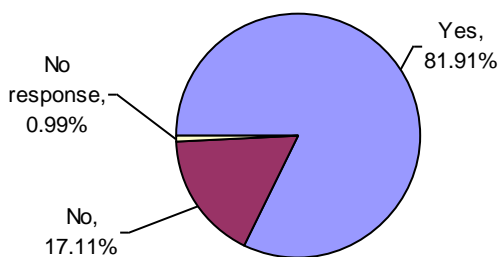
More than two-thirds of respondents were female, around 75% of respondents were between 18-45 years old, respondents were mostly Christian (73%) and roughly 70% had attained at least a junior high school-level education.

RESULTS AND KEY FINDINGS

In this section, results from key questions in the survey will be followed by selected responses to questions based on four demographic variables: age, gender, interview location and education.

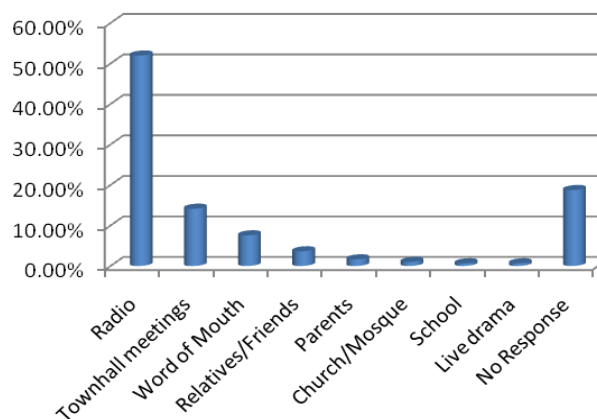
Knowledge about the International Women's Colloquium

Awareness of the International Women's Colloquium



The results in the chart (left) show that penetration of information on the International Women's Colloquium in surveyed areas was fairly successful as most respondents (81.91%) were aware of the International Women's Colloquium before they were interviewed, while 17.11% had no knowledge about the program. 0.99% failed to respond to the question.

Of those who heard of colloquium, the predominant means of awareness was through the radio (51.97%), followed by town hall meetings (14.14%), word of mouth (7.57%) and friends/relatives (3.62%). The least common ways of hearing about it were through school and live drama (0.66%).

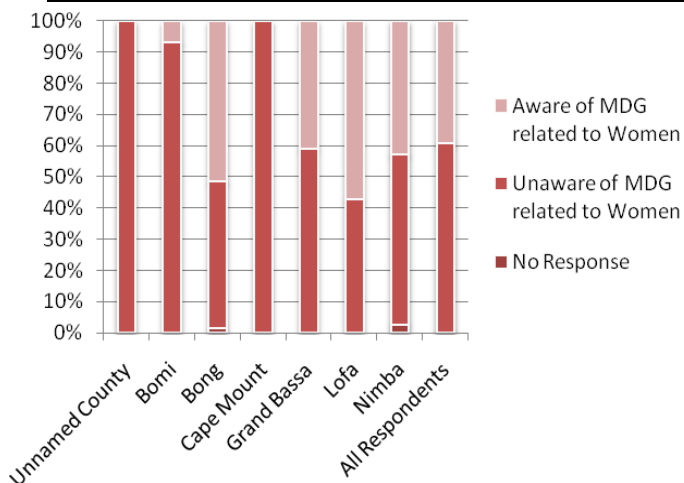


The table below shows the percentage of respondents that accessed information about the International Women's Colloquium through radio as opposed to other means. Gaps in radio penetration appear to be largely prevalent among respondents without schooling, 56 years of age and above, and in Nimba and Grand Bassa counties. Male respondents also report learning about the colloquium through radio over 20 percentage points more than women.

Percentage of Respondents that Accessed Information about the Colloquium through Radio by Demographic

| Gender | | Female | 56.91% | Male | 80.88% |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------|---------|
| Age | | Education | | County | |
| <i>No Age Given</i> | 100.00% | <i>No Education Level Given</i> | 50.00% | <i>No County Given</i> | 100.00% |
| 18-25 | 61.90% | Elementary School | 66.04% | Bomi | 90.00% |
| 26-35 | 60.78% | Junior High School | 65.85% | Bong | 97.50% |
| 36-45 | 71.07% | High School | 69.64% | Cape Mount | 60.00% |
| 46-55 | 76.92% | College | 57.45% | Grand Bassa | 49.06% |
| 56 and above | 40.48% | No School | 22.22% | Lofa | 75.00% |
| | | | | Nimba | 35.38% |

Knowledge and Perceptions of Millennium Development Goals Related to Women



The results in the chart (left) show that the majority (59.87%) of all respondents had no knowledge of Millennium Development Goals related to women and 39.14% responded that they had some knowledge before being interviewed. Counties with little to no respondents expressing awareness of MDGs related to women were Bomi and Cape Mount counties, while the largest amount of respondents expressing awareness of MDGs

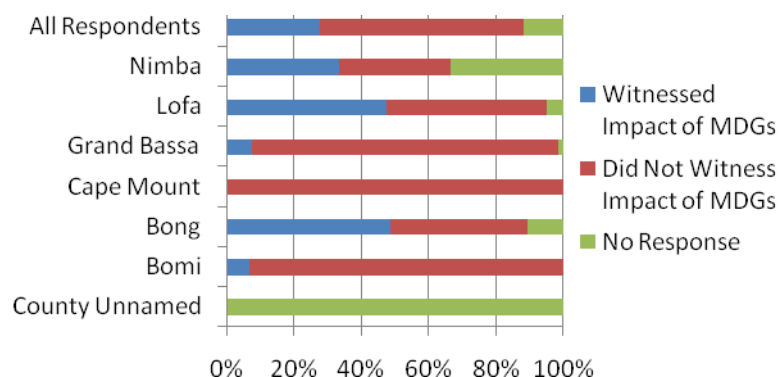
related to women came from Lofa and Bong counties.

| Respondent Understanding of Millennium Development Goals Related to Women | # | % of 119 responses |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|
| To empower women's participation in development | 12 | 10.08% |
| To empower women's/girls' leadership, decision making authority and development | 38 | 31.93% |
| Women's peace and security | 19 | 15.97% |
| Girls' Education | 11 | 9.24% |
| Peace building and Public Awareness | 2 | 1.68% |
| Discourage SGBV | 2 | 1.68% |
| Gender Equality and Women's Rights | 28 | 23.53% |
| To Give Women Loans | 2 | 1.68% |
| To Bring Development to Communities | 20 | 16.81% |
| Promote Women's Work and Caring for Their Families | 3 | 2.52% |
| Children's Education | 4 | 3.36% |
| Fighting Hunger and Poverty/Promoting Health | 4 | 3.36% |
| Promoting Civil Society Development | 2 | 1.68% |
| Other | 6 | 5.04% |
| No Response (out of all respondents) | 185 | 60.86% |

When requested to share in their own words their understanding of what MDGs related to women were about (table above), only 23.53 percent of respondents identified the UN-stated purpose of gender equality seen in Millennium Development Goal #3. Around 70 percent quoted the general types of UN work towards reaching the goal, such as girls' education, empowering women's leadership and participation in development and discouraging sexual and gender based violence, as the actual goal. 32 percent of respondents described general areas of development not particularly focused on women or directly related to MDG #3, while 60 percent of all respondents failed to answer the question.

Evidence of Impact of Development Efforts Related to MDGs in Communities

The results in the chart (right) shows responses regarding whether respondents had seen any effects of MDG-related development work in their communities. The majority of all respondents (60.53%) report witnessing no effects of MDG-related development while 27.63% reported seeing effects. The majority of those reporting seeing effects came from Lofa, Bong and Nimba counties while little to no effects were reported by respondents from Cape Mount, Grand Bassa and Bomi Counties.



When asked to describe in their own words the effects of MDG-related development work witnessed in their communities, top responses from the 82 respondents included the employment of women in leadership roles, increased education for girls, infrastructure development and improved local governance as prevalent areas of impact. Male respondents mostly quoted infrastructure development while female respondents mostly quoted employment of women in leadership and increased education for girls. The table below illustrates the categorized responses.

| Types of MDG-related Development Work Impact Witnessed in Communities | # | % of 82 responses |
|--|----------|--------------------------|
| Employment of Women in Leadership Roles in NGOs/Community Boards/Government | 30 | 36.59% |
| USAID/UN/GoL Infrastructure Development (Clinics, Community Centers, Schools, Hand pumps, etc) | 20 | 24.39% |
| Increased Education for Girls | 15 | 18.29% |
| Improved Local Governance and Service Delivery (such as Health Care) | 6 | 7.32% |
| Increased Women's Participation in Meetings and Development Efforts | 5 | 6.10% |
| Women's Education | 4 | 4.88% |
| Civil Society Assistance to Women | 3 | 3.66% |
| Improved Security Reform | 3 | 3.66% |
| Increased Women's Employment (generally) | 2 | 2.44% |
| Government Prioritizing Women's Decisionmaking | 2 | 2.44% |
| Civil Society Loans to Women | 2 | 2.44% |
| Increased Central Government Presence in Rural Areas | 2 | 2.44% |
| Government Education Programs on Governance Processes | 1 | 1.22% |
| No Response (out of all respondents) | 222 | 73.03% |

Importance of Issues Facing Women's Peace and Security and the Sufficiency of Dialogue about Women's Issues

| Average Respondent Ranking of Importance of Issues Facing Women's Peace and Security in Liberia's Post-conflict Reconstruction | Female | Male | All Respondents |
|---|---------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Lack of unity among women's groups | 1.48 | 1.75 | 1.56 |
| Sexual and Gender-based violence | 1.49 | 1.57 | 1.51 |
| Traditional lack of girls' education | 1.78 | 2.19 | 1.90 |
| Women's lack of access to resources/jobs/skills training | 1.56 | 1.77 | 1.61 |
| Women's lack of power to make decisions in the community | 1.57 | 1.76 | 1.62 |
| Women's lack of support from males in the community or in the home | 1.53 | 1.82 | 1.61 |

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of various issues facing women's peace and security in Liberia's post-conflict reconstruction as identified in Search for Common Ground's recent town hall meetings and workshops focused on sharing information on the International Women's Colloquium with rural women. Based on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being very important and 4 not very important, the margin of difference between the importance of the various issues was not large for all respondents - between 1.51 for sexual and gender-based violence and 1.9 for traditional lack of girls' education. The most important issue for female respondents was lack of unity among women's groups (ranked 1.48), and the most important issue for male respondents was sexual and gender-based violence (ranked 1.57).

Respondents' View of Levels of Dialogue about Women's Issues at the Local and National Level

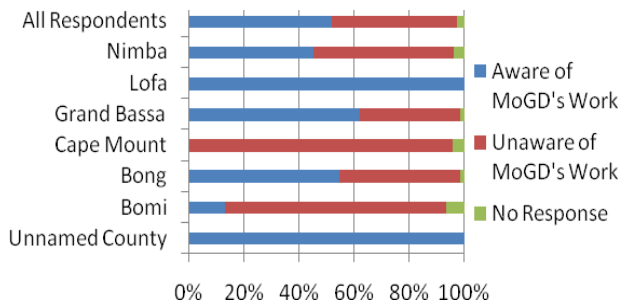
When questioned about whether the levels of dialogue about women's issues were sufficient among local government leaders, at county development meetings, among elected policymakers in Monrovia and among local associations/other groups in the community, over a third of respondents (41.45%) found the levels of dialogue among local associations/other groups as sufficient while around half rated dialogue among local government leaders, at county development meetings and among elected policymakers in Monrovia as insufficient (51.97%, 48.36% and 46.38%, respectively). Respondents reported lack of knowledge on the sufficiency of dialogue at county development meetings (26.32%) more than other surveyed areas. Among women, over a third (39.09%) found dialogue among local associations/other groups as sufficient, but around half reported insufficient dialogue among local government leaders (54.55%), at county development meetings (50.91%) and among elected policymakers in Monrovia (49.09%). Half of male respondents found dialogue among local government leaders (50%) and among local associations/other groups (47.62%) as sufficient, while between a third to half of male respondents found dialogue insufficient among local government leaders (45.24%), at county development meetings (41.67%) and among elected policymakers in Monrovia (39.29%). Among the different counties:

- Bomi, Cape Mount and Lofa county respondents mostly reported insufficient dialogue across the various surveyed areas (between 70-95% rating insufficient across the three counties),
- Bong County reported sufficient dialogue among local government leaders and among local associations, but insufficient dialogue among elected policymakers in Monrovia, and
- Nimba county respondents were closely split between ratings of sufficient and insufficient levels of dialogue among the surveyed areas, and also reported the largest amounts of unawareness of levels of sufficiency out of the various counties (between 23-38% rating unawareness)

Sufficiency of Dialogue about Women’s Issues by County, Gender and among All Respondents



Awareness of the Work of the Ministry of Gender and Development (MoGD)

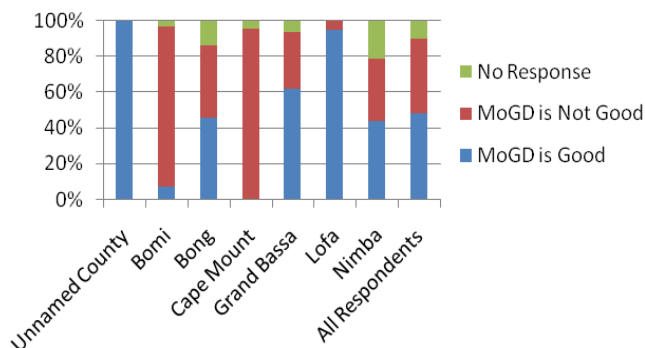


Half of all respondents reported awareness of the work MoGD carries out. As seen in the chart (left), counties where all or the majority of respondents report awareness of MoGD work include Lofa, Grand Bassa and Bong counties. Large gaps in awareness were present in Cape Mount and Bomi counties.

| <i>Respondent Understanding of the MoGD's work</i> | 159 Respondents | | Gender | |
|---|-----------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | # | % | Female | Male |
| Promote Fight Against SGBV | 40 | 21.62% | 85.00% | 15.00% |
| Promote Women's Rights | 36 | 19.46% | 61.11% | 38.89% |
| Encourage Women's Empowerment | 24 | 12.97% | 62.50% | 37.50% |
| Promote Gender Equality | 14 | 7.57% | 85.71% | 14.29% |
| Educate on Gender Issues | 12 | 6.49% | 83.33% | 16.67% |
| Bring Different International and Liberian Groups of Women Together to Dialogue/Educate | 12 | 6.49% | 66.67% | 33.33% |
| Build the Capacity of Women | 11 | 5.95% | 72.73% | 27.27% |
| Work is Negative (Pits Men against Women, ruins family relationships) | 10 | 5.41% | 60.00% | 40.00% |
| Increase Women's Role in Peacebuilding/Development Efforts | 6 | 3.24% | 66.67% | 33.33% |
| Educate on Children's Rights | 5 | 2.70% | 60.00% | 40.00% |
| Educate on Human Rights | 4 | 2.16% | 25.00% | 75.00% |
| Listen to Women's Grievances | 4 | 2.16% | 75.00% | 25.00% |
| Help Women Support Families/Homes | 4 | 2.16% | 75.00% | 25.00% |
| Regulate Policy | 2 | 1.08% | 50.00% | 50.00% |
| Address Women's Property Rights | 1 | 0.54% | 100.00% | 0.00% |
| No Response | 145 | 47.70% | | |

The table above shows that the predominate understanding of the Ministry of Gender and Development's work is that it is around promoting the fight against sexual and gender-based violence (21.62%), promoting women's rights (19.46%), encouraging women's empowerment (12.97%), and promoting gender equality (7.57%). Interestingly, around 5% of respondents viewed the MoGD's work as negative, and more than half of those respondents were women.

Perception of MoGD's Work in the Promotion of Gender Equality in Communities



The graph (left) shows that about half (48.36%) of the respondents perceive MoGD's work in promoting gender equality in their communities as good whereas slightly less than half (41.45%) do not perceive their work as good. Largest amounts of positive feedback for the MoGD came from Lofa and (to a lesser extent) Grand Bassa counties. None of the respondents in Cape Mount rated the MoGD's work in promoting gender equality as good.

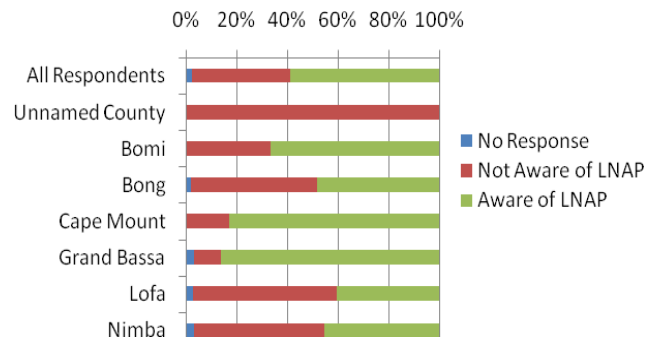
Respondents were also given the option to provide additional comments on their view of the MoGD. The most prevalent responses among the 60% of respondents that chose to provide comments were:

- MoGD helps to recognize the importance of women's role in society and in the home (17.03%)
- MoGD promotes gender equality (13.19%)
- MoGD's work is helping to change negative behavior among men (9.34%)
- MoGD helps women to know their rights (7.14%)

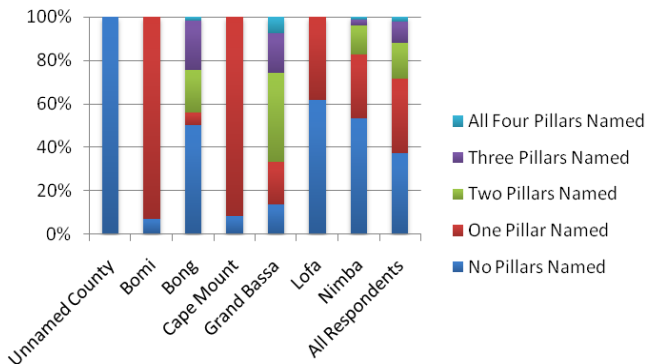
A number of respondents (8.79%) had negative comments about MoGD's work noting that (1) MoGD's work causes problems among families and spoils tradition (4.4%), and (2) MoGD only addresses women and girls (4.4%).

Knowledge of the Liberian National Action Plan (LNAP)

The chart (right) shows survey respondents' feedback on their knowledge of the Liberian National Action Plan (LNAP) that came out of the International Women's Colloquium. 59% of respondents reported awareness of the LNAP while 39% reported that they had no knowledge of the LNAP. LNAP awareness was largest in Grand Bassa, Cape Mount and Bomi Counties with larger gaps in awareness found in Lofa and Nimba counties. When asked the source of information on LNAP the majority of respondents (46.71%) reported the radio as their means of learning about the LNAP.



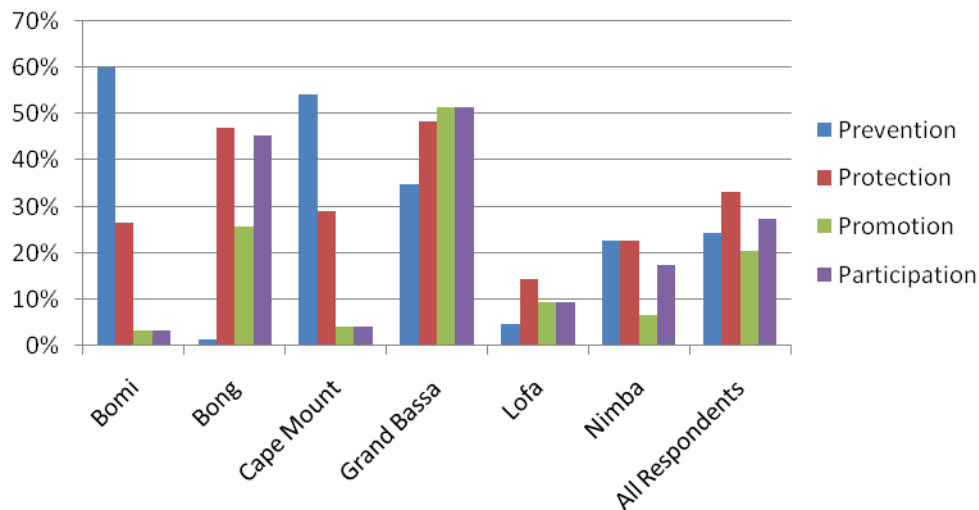
Awareness of LNAP Pillars



When asked to name one or more of the four LNAP pillars, 37% of all respondents were unable to do so, while 34% were able to name at least one (left). Only around 2% of all respondents were able to name all four pillars, 10% able to name three pillars, and 16% were able to name two pillars. Counties with the largest amounts of respondents unable to name at least one pillar were Lofa and Nimba counties whereas in Grand Bassa, Bomi and Cape Mount the majority of respondents were able to name at least one pillar. In Bong county, half of

respondents were unable to name a pillar, but 44% were able to name two or more pillars.

LNAP Pillars Named by Respondents



The chart above shows that the LNAP pillar named by most respondents able to name at least one pillar across counties was the protection pillar followed by the participation pillar. Respondents in Bomi and Cape Mount counties were more aware of the prevention pillar than other pillars, while respondents in Bong county were more aware of the protection and participation LNAP pillars.

Average Ranking of Importance of LNAP Pillar Focus Areas

The table below illustrates respondents' rankings of the level of importance of the various focus areas under the LNAP pillars. Using a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being very important and 4 being not very important, the difference between all respondents' average ranking of focus areas was small: between 1.32 for post conflict trauma counseling for women and girls under the protection pillar, and 1.5 for promoting the involvement of government and civil society (esp. women's groups) in tracking the progress of LNAP to increase accountability under the promotion pillar. Overall, female respondents ranked focus areas under the protection and prevention pillars higher than male respondents, while male respondents ranked focus areas under the promotion pillar higher than female respondents.

| | All Respondents | Female | Male | Bomi | Bong | Cape Mount | Grand Bassa | Lofa | Nimba |
|---|-----------------|--------|------|------|------|------------|-------------|------|-------|
| *Highest ranking by demographic | | | | | | | | | |
| *Lowest ranking by demographic | | | | | | | | | |
| Pillar One - Protection | | | | | | | | | |
| Post conflict trauma counseling for women and girls | 1.32 | 1.31 | 1.36 | 1.30 | 1.02 | 1.00 | 1.49 | 2.00 | 1.50 |
| Protecting rights and guaranteeing safety of women and girls from violence | 1.37 | 1.31 | 1.49 | 1.10 | 1.11 | 1.25 | 1.58 | 1.82 | 1.56 |
| Increased access to health education (especially reproductive health and HIV/AIDS support) | 1.35 | 1.37 | 1.32 | 1.20 | 1.09 | 1.00 | 1.55 | 2.00 | 1.57 |
| Pillar Two - Prevention | | | | | | | | | |
| Preventing violence against women through education of communities of it's bad effects | 1.36 | 1.33 | 1.43 | 1.10 | 1.18 | 1.00 | 1.57 | 2.29 | 1.36 |
| Pillar Three - Participation/Empowerment | | | | | | | | | |
| Promoting women's full participation in post-conflict development efforts | 1.42 | 1.38 | 1.51 | 1.30 | 1.18 | 1.00 | 1.51 | 2.29 | 1.66 |
| Increased access to housing and resources for women | 1.35 | 1.33 | 1.39 | 1.20 | 1.14 | 1.13 | 1.49 | 1.75 | 1.57 |
| Strengthened leadership participation in the community | 1.43 | 1.43 | 1.42 | 1.30 | 1.18 | 1.13 | 1.68 | 2.00 | 1.50 |
| Pillar Four - Promotion | | | | | | | | | |
| Promote including women's groups in the implementation of LNAP and increasing access to resources for the government and women's groups through fundraising | 1.44 | 1.40 | 1.51 | 1.50 | 1.06 | 1.13 | 1.66 | 2.06 | 1.60 |
| Promote the participation of girls in conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery issues through training and education that encourages leadership | 1.37 | 1.36 | 1.39 | 1.40 | 1.11 | 1.13 | 1.44 | 1.88 | 1.62 |
| Build the capacities of government and civil society (esp. women's groups) to implement LNAP and to organize efforts more effectively | 1.50 | 1.55 | 1.38 | 1.60 | 1.09 | 1.00 | 1.67 | 2.06 | 1.88 |
| Promote the involvement of government and civil society (esp. women's groups) in tracking the progress of LNAP to increase accountability | 1.53 | 1.59 | 1.41 | 1.56 | 1.06 | 1.00 | 1.82 | 2.18 | 1.88 |

Conclusion

Overall, though knowledge of the International Women's Colloquium was prevalent among respondents, it was evident that gaps exist in people's knowledge and perceptions around MDG #3, levels of dialogue about women's issues at the national and local level (to varying degrees in different counties), MoGD's work and the LNAP.

For future projects and interventions, the following recommendations are made based on survey results:

- 1) Provide more information on the work of MoGD (especially in Cape Mount) and popularize the contents of the MDG related to women.
- 2) Pay more attention to the target locations of Lofa, Nimba, and Bong for the LNAP to popularize (correct) information and perceptions of the LNAP
- 3) Focus information campaigns on the radio and in townhall meetings as they are the most prevalent sources of information