

Activity Report (Summary version)

Fiscal Year	FY 2019
Code No	19-A-069

Name of Organization	Friends of Women Outreach (FWO)	Applied Amount
		7770(JPY/USD)
Project Title	Enable victims of sexual violence to achieve a peaceful life	Granted Amount
		7770(JPY/USD)
		Country which project was operated
		Sierra Leone

About organization and granted activity

■ **About organization** (Such as Year of establishment, Vision, Name of main activity >
* **With in 500 characters**

Friends of Women Outreach was established in 2015 by young people of various backgrounds including healthcare providers, social workers, teachers, and parents who have seen high rates of teenage pregnancies in Sierra Leone associated with violence and exploitative work among girls, further perpetuating a vicious cycle of disempowerment and poverty for women and girls.

Vision: A Sierra Leonean society in which women and girls could enjoy the highest standard of health and well-being.

Mission: To empower women and girls to increase access to quality healthcare services and information, exercise their SRHR, and access to socio-economic development opportunities in Sierra Leone. Using a rights-based approach, FWO builds sustainable alliances to advocate for and support health friendly policies and services for Sierra Leonean woman.

■ **Done activity by NPF Grant** * **Within 1000 characters**

A 6-day peer research training facilitated by a local consultant was conducted for 22 identified victims of sexual violence (teenage mothers, out of schoolgirls, girls living with HIV/AIDS), the training was completed successfully, and the participants became able to do community participatory research themselves.

They were trained in interview skills and helped to develop the questions for the interviews. After the training, the 17peer researchers and 5supervisors went back to their communities to conduct the interviews with other peers over three weeks, and on average, each researcher was able to reach 32 of her peers on the three research areas: 1) *Why are vulnerable girls living in poor communities so at risk of sexual violence and teenage pregnancy?* 2) *What is the impact of sexual violence, on these girls' lives?* And 3) *what do girls and boys say about sexual violence and availability of appropriate services and information?*

After the interviews, the peer researchers were facilitated to lead a 3-day workshop for key stakeholders (community

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actors) including 5 traditional and 3 religious leaders, 7 schools and 8 parents representatives, 4 local NGOs, 2 police officers, and 1 district leaders. The workshop helped the participants to help the participants to discuss peer researchers, share research findings and problems and agree on what is needed to support vulnerable and the girls at risk of sexual violence. They also discussed the role of each stakeholder to promote positive changes.

Finally, the peer researchers were provided guidelines to serve as 'Young people mentors' in their own communities to break the silence around sexual violence and promote positive change through 8 education and dialogue sessions held in their communities or at 4 Schools. Local churches were still closed regarding COVID-19 prevention measures. During these session more than 1300 young people were involved in discussion about the differences between sex and gender, the rigid gender norms and power imbalances in relationships, and the meaning of sexual and GBV, human rights and how to promote peaceful life.

■ Output or Outcome * Within 1000 characters

-Developed the confidence, leadership, and self-esteem for 22 girls who experienced sexual violence to make informed decisions on their bodies and how to access to sexual and reproductive health services and information. Through their participation in the peer research training, community interviews, and by leading stakeholders' workshop, 22 girls became able to talk about any issues related to their sexual and reproductive health, violence and how to seek redress

-The community members increased their awareness of the situation and experience, lack of rights, justice, and lack of access to services and information for vulnerable girls at risk of sexual violence in the community

Through education and dialogue sessions, 1300 young people were reached and increased knowledge about the differences between sex and gender, the rigid gender norms and power imbalances in relationships, and the meaning of sexual and gender-based violence, human rights and how to promote peaceful life.

-Increased community engagement to fight against sexual violence facing vulnerable girls and frame GBV as human rights issues and a threat to the livelihoods and health of the whole community. Key community actors (30) also increased their engagement to fight against sexual violence in their respective communities through their participation in the sensitizing workshop led by the victims of sexual violence.

* To report writer: Please try to keep your describing within this one page/sheet only. (Total around 2500 characters)