



UN Supports Nationwide Gender Training for Locals

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Tubmanburg

The UN country team is reportedly supporting a series of training workshops in Liberia for local authority officials nationwide on integrating gender issues in their programs and policies, a release said here over the weekend.

The training workshops were launched about 60 kilometers west of the capital, Monrovia in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

Explaining the significance of the workshops, the program manager of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Signe Allimadi-Oloya was quoted as saying, "This activity is important because it enables the participants to ensure that the specific gender needs and concerns of women, men, boys and girls will be included in all areas at the national, county and community levels."

According to Allimadi-Oloya, the county support team, from which participants were said to have been drawn, was established to achieve a coherent and consolidated approach in addressing challenges.

"One key focus is capacity development to empower governmental institutions to take over responsibility for security, reconstruction and development in Liberia", Allimadi-Oloya said.

Liberia's gender and development minister Vabah Gayflor, is said to have expressed optimism that the gender analysis skills of the county support team would be strengthened as a result of knowledge gained from the workshops.

According to Gayflor, they would then be able to develop tools to address sexual exploitation and abuse and gender mainstreaming of relevant programs and policies.

Gayflor is also said to have called on county authorities to attach importance to gender analysis, which "aims at looking at decisions that are taken and how they impact women and men so the desired goal can be accomplished. You are there to help the communities. It is necessary that you understand what needs to be done", she emphasized.

This first in the series of workshops brought together county superintendents, development superintendents, county gender coordinators, government representatives, traditional leaders, and members of civil society and non-governmental organizations.

Other workshops are scheduled for the east of the country in Harper, Maryland, Zwedru, Grand Gedeh and central Liberia in Gbarnga, Bong, county. The rest of the country is expected to be covered.

The objective of the workshops is to create an understanding of the concept of gender, and related issues, such as gender-based violence. It is also expected to build capacity in the processes of gender analysis and mainstreaming, develop minimum standards for a common sexual exploitation and abuse response for all counties, and assist in designing common guidelines for gender mainstreaming at the county level.

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