

PROJECT BRIEF

Strengthening the Health Sector Response to Gender-Based Violence in Sierra Leone in Sierra Leone



REGION

Sierra Leone — National Health System

DURATION

July–December 2020

PARTNER

Government of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Health and Sanitation

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Evidence & BEYOND worked with Sierra Leone’s Ministry of Health and Sanitation to strengthen the national health-sector response to intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

The project adapted global clinical guidance to the Sierra Leonean context and translated it into practical tools that healthcare providers can use to identify violence, communicate safely and respectfully with survivors, provide appropriate clinical care, document findings and support referral. The work produced both national clinical guidelines and a facilitator-led training curriculum for healthcare providers.

To strengthen the capacity of Sierra Leone’s health system to provide safe, timely, survivor-centred and clinically appropriate care to survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

WHAT WE DID

Evidence & BEYOND worked alongside KCCB to:



Adapt international clinical guidance to Sierra Leone's health-system context.



Develop national clinical guidelines for managing survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.



Develop a competency-based training curriculum and facilitator guide for healthcare providers.



Integrate survivor-centred principles, including safety, confidentiality, consent and respectful care.



Strengthen guidance on examination, treatment, documentation, evidence collection and referral.

NATIONAL GUIDELINES & TRAINING CURRICULUM

The project developed two complementary resources to strengthen Sierra Leone's health-sector response to gender-based violence:

1. **National Clinical Guidelines** — providing standards for survivor-centred clinical care, including examination, treatment, documentation, evidence collection and referral.
2. **Training Curriculum for Healthcare Providers** — building the knowledge and skills needed to apply the guidelines, with emphasis on survivor-centred communication, safety, consent, confidentiality and referral.

Together, the resources provide a practical foundation for more consistent, safe and survivor-centred care.

CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY & PRACTICE

The project strengthened Sierra Leone's national health-sector response to gender-based violence by linking **national clinical guidance with practical provider training**, supporting more consistent and survivor-centred care.