

Prosecution of Sexual Violence and Child Abuse cases in the Western Area



2nd Half Year Situation Report July to December 2019

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Half Year SitRep date : January 2020

Activity: Monitor ,collect data and report on the situation of prosecution of Sexual Violence and Child abuse cases in the Western Area

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Introduction -The Girls Advocacy Alliance Project implemented by YACAN, Defense for Children International (DCI) and Plan International agreed to continue to produce and submit Situation Reports (SitRep) of sexual violence and child abuse cases in the Western Area.

To this end, the purpose of this half year SitRep is to provide specialized information to our targeted audience on the situation of monitoring and collecting data on Sexual Violence and Child abuse cases throughout the second half of 2019 and to help YACAN, Plan International and its partners to adequately report on these activities. This report by extension also helps government and CSOs to review their data collection and management relating to sexual violence and child abuse. The information provides an analyzes based on sexual offence cases reported, those kept in view and those cases that are under investigation in the 15 Police Stations in the Western Area. Data on court actions with regards prosecutions have not been available at the time of writing this report.

Data in this report was collected from the Family Support Unit (FSU) of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) and presented in charts to enhance readers understanding and visualization. The illustration provides basic and self explanatory information as a means to add value to the overall information provided in this report. Data on court action is yet to be available, hence prosecution is not covered in this report. We hope to provide the full information in our next edition of 2020

Sierra Leone President, H.E Julius Maada Bio calls on citizens to support the Hands off our Girls campaign at the National Stadium , 13th December 2019 .

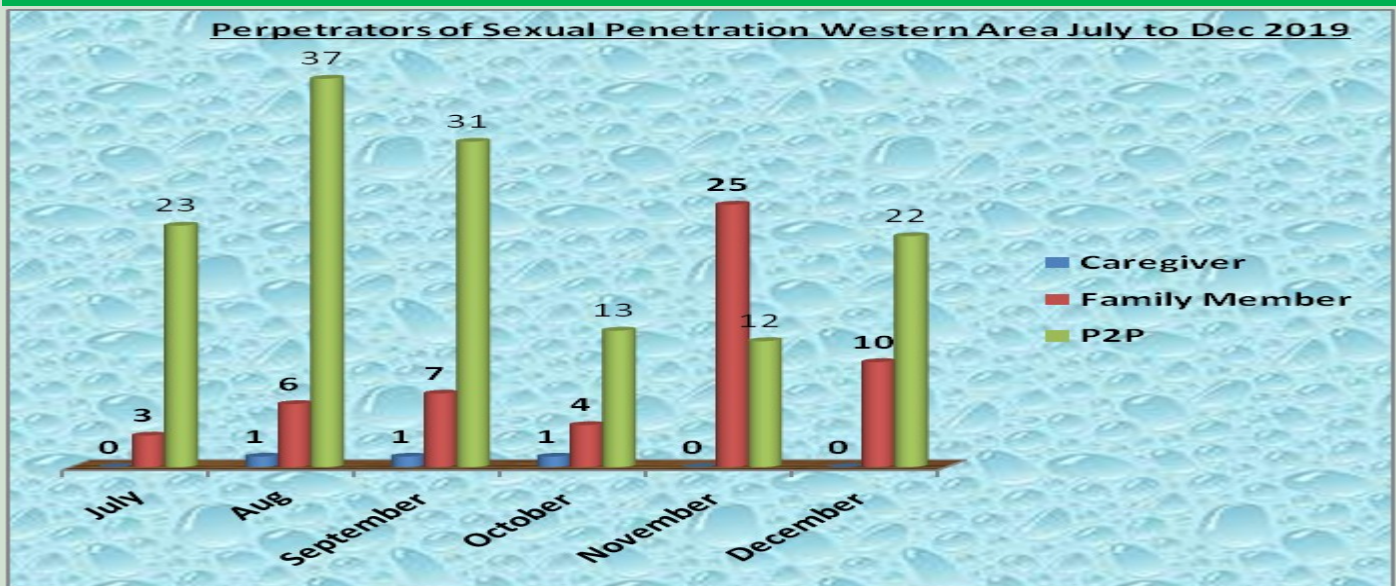
“As a nation, we cannot achieve our goal of sustainable and inclusive human capital development if we exclude women or forever hamper the chances of over half of our population. There is a huge economic, health and social cost when families and the nation deprive girls of access to opportunity.

“The First Lady’s national campaign has been a coordinated pushback at the motives, attitudes, and justifications for discriminating against our girls and women. We will continue to invest in persistent civic education in order to change the old ways of thinking about this clear and present danger to our women and girls. It demonstrates our political commitment at the highest level,” he said.

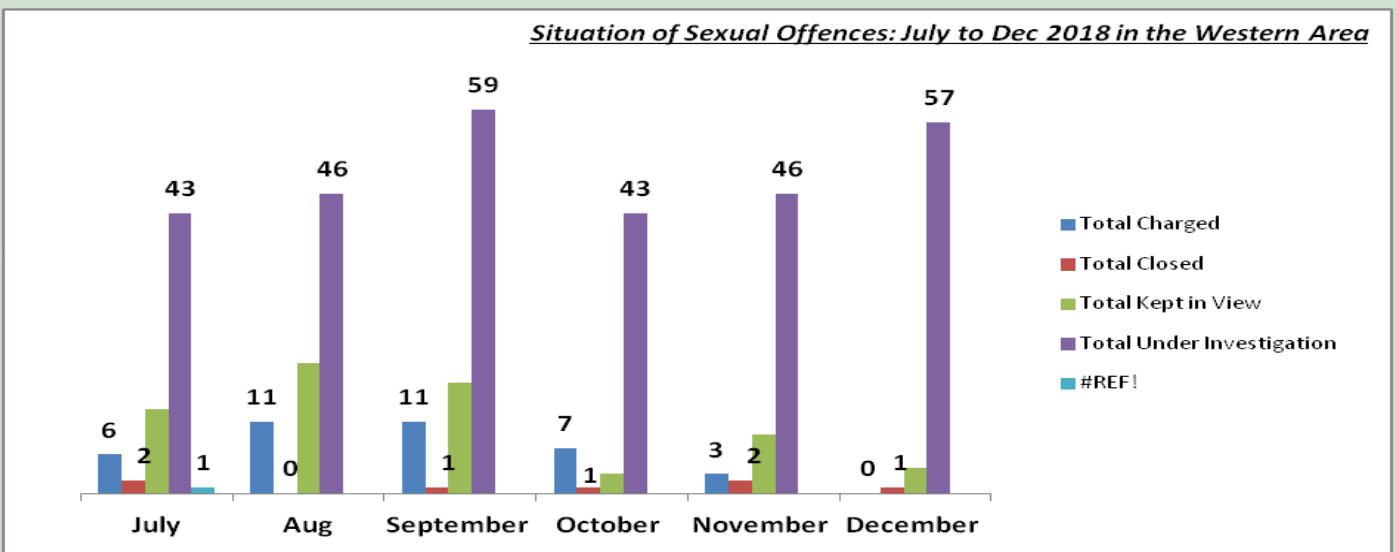
President Bio also noted that his government had worked very hard to address the deficits and silences in law and policy and to enforce existing laws and policies without fear or favour. He mentioned that Parliament recently passed a tougher Sexual Offences Act 2019 and they had implemented institutional and policy changes in the judiciary, Police, and among sector ministries to address rape, sexual and gender-based violence, child rights, and access to safe-spaces.”



SEXUAL VIOLENCE MONITORING AND ACTIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2019



- Total # of 399 Sexual Violence cases in 15 stations/posts reported in quarter 3&4
- 383 Sexual Penetration cases with (37 charged, 6 closed, 63 Kept in view and 277 under investigation).
- 4 Sexual harassment cases reported in the 15 stations with 3 under investigation
- 18 rape cases from 15 Stations monitored with 14 cases under investigation



- Data obtained on 399 cases with 47 charged, 66 kept in view ,281 under investigation and 9 granted bail
- Station with highest # of cases charged is Kissy Div (10/47),
- Station with highest # of cases kept in view is Congo Cross (11/53)
- Station with highest # of cases under investigation is Congo Cross (38/53).

- **Perpetrators are mainly Peers and family members**
- **55 family members were perpetrators in the last 6 months**
- **138 Peer to Peer perpetrators (P2P)**
- **On average, there were 11.5 P2P SV each month**

The Situation

Sexual Violence (SV)

- Charged to court— 37
- Closed—6
- Kept in view—63
- Under investigation—277

Child Abuse

- Cases reported/Identified —493
- Charges to court/ prosecuted -5
- Kept in view/Abandoned —167
- Under investigation—321

SV on School Going Girls

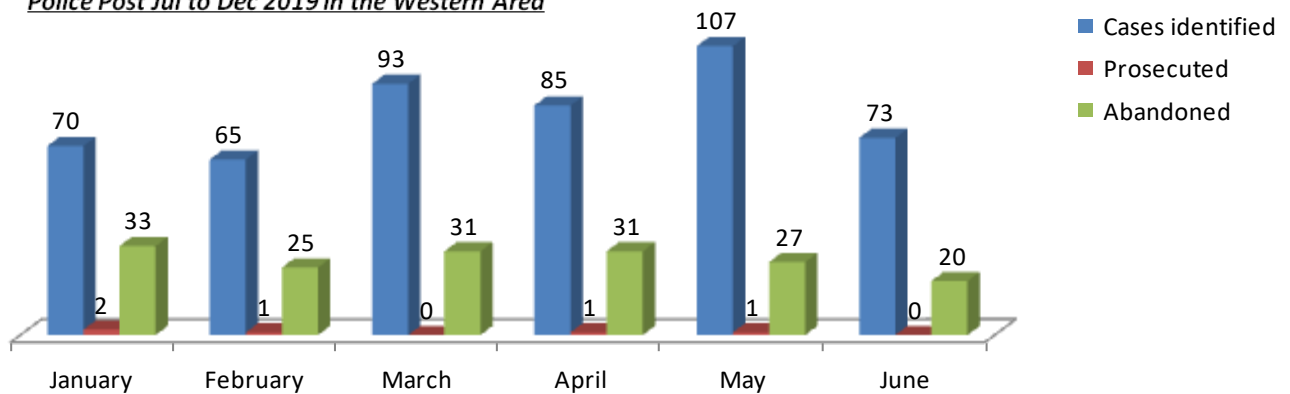
- SP—256
- Rape—18

SV on ages 0-12

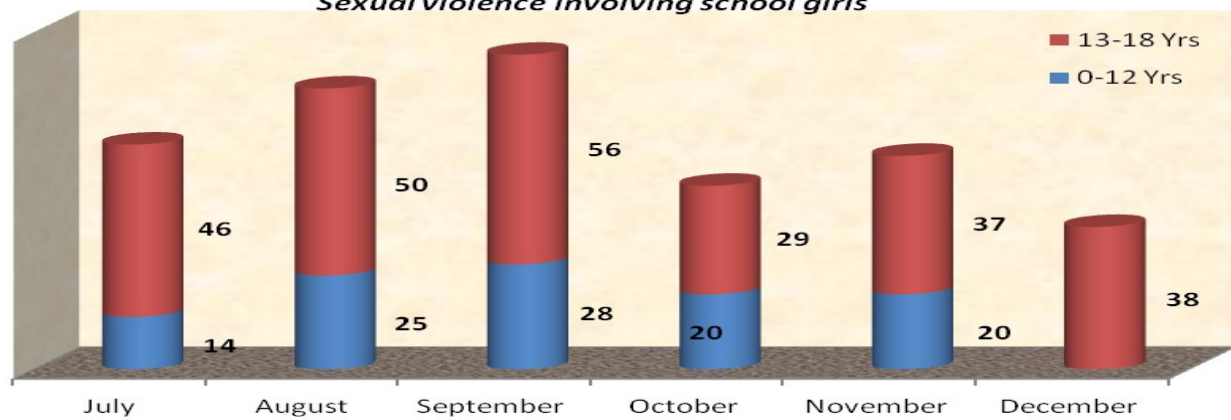
- SP—132

CHILD ABUSE MONITORING AND ACTIONS IN THE FIRST SECOND HALF OF 2019

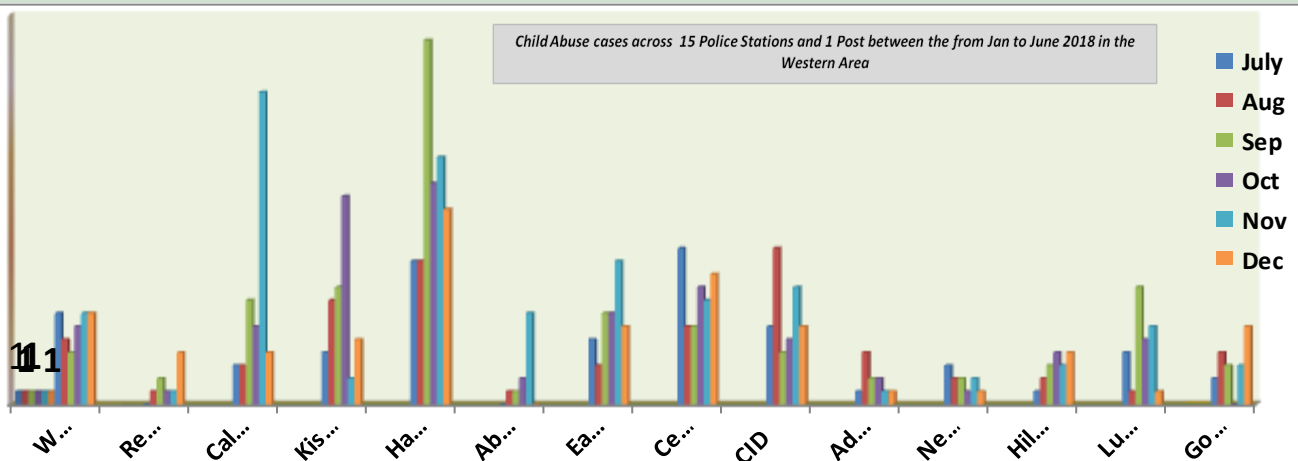
Child Abuse Situation and actions in 15 Police Stations & 1 Police Post Jul to Dec 2019 in the Western Area



Sexual violence involving school girls



Child Abuse cases across 15 Police Stations and 1 Post between the from Jan to June 2018 in the Western Area



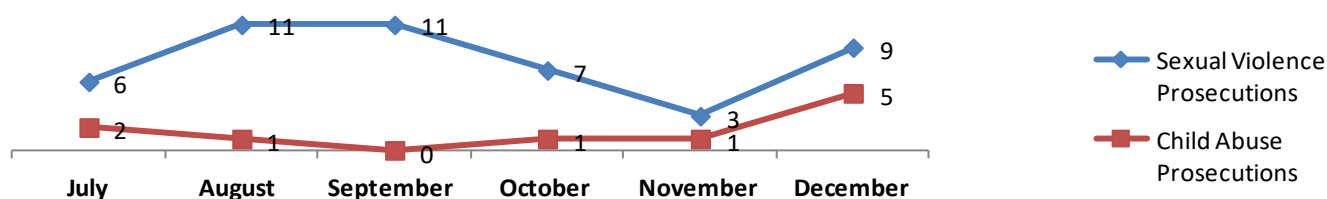
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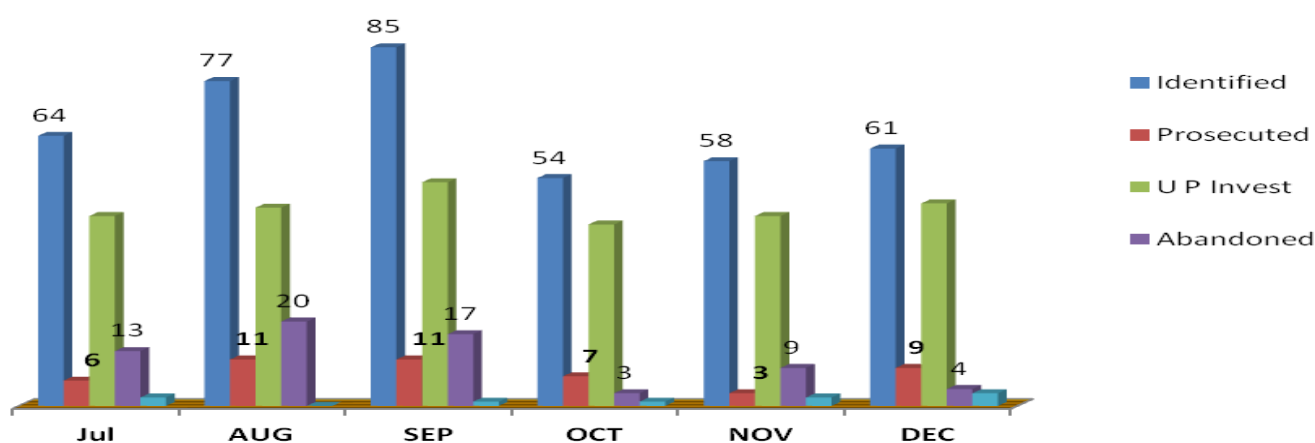
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SEXUAL OFFENCE CASES IN THE DIFFERENT AGE CATEGORIES—July –December 2019

Comparative trend in Sexual offences and child abuses over the period Jul-Dec 2019



Sexual Offence reports in 15 Police Stations Jul to Dec 2019 in the Western Area



Significant Achievements and Challenges

Significant achievements

- Improved access to data and information from police through the centralized system.
- Increased reporting on SGBV cases across Freetown
- Data show drop down of cases between July to December 2019 compared to the first 2 quarters in 2019
- The Parliament of Sierra Leone enacted new gender act to support president declaration on SGBV against girls in 2018
- The First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone launched the Hands off our Girls campaign in all 5 regions of Sierra Leone
- Establishment of special unit in the police with responsible personnel in every station to investigate Sexual penetration complaints
- Increased CSO commitment to keep communities safe through implementing a Black Tuesday to amplify community action
- Rainbow Centre increased availability of medical reports on child abuse cases and publish information
- Increased reporting by Girls of domestic violence and other related cases

Challenges

- More cases are under investigation by the police.
- Difficulty in obtaining data from the court
- Absence of birth certificates of victims
- Limited access to girls who are out of YACAN Project area

Since June 2017

The report is produced by YACAN in partnership with Plan International Sierra Leone supported by the GAA Project

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