

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Photo: UN Women/ Kennedy Okoth

Lessons from the following evaluations:

(all evaluations available at <https://gate.unwomen.org/>)

2016

Country Portfolio Evaluation of Tanzania.



2017

Country Portfolio Evaluation of Malawi.



2014-2015

Mid- Term Evaluation of UNW South Sudan Strategic Note.



2018

Country Portfolio Evaluation of South Sudan.



2015

Country Portfolio Evaluation of Mozambique.



2018

Country Portfolio Evaluation of Rwanda.



2018

Evaluation of Programme “Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Girls in Ethiopia.”



2018

Evaluation of Women’s Active Participation in Preventing and Response to Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Kenya.



2016

Mid Term Evaluation of Joint Programme on Prevention of Gender Based Violence (JPGBV), Zimbabwe.



1. WHY IS ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IMPORTANT?



Photo: UN Women/ Deepika Nath

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is increasingly recognized as a threat to democracy, a barrier to lasting peace, a burden on national economies, an impediment to sustainable development and an appalling human rights violation.

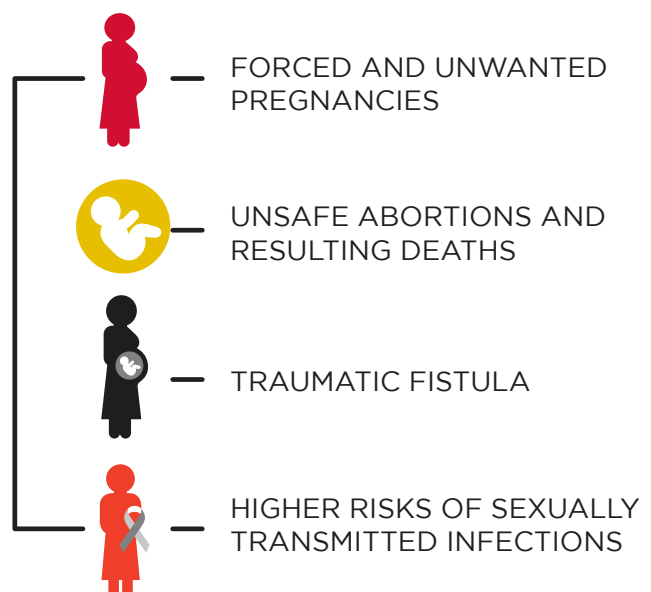
The root causes of VAWG are gender inequality and related social norms that perpetuate unequal power relations between men and women. Gender Based Violence (GBV) reinforces inequities between men and women and compromises the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of survivors of violence, who are mostly women. Victims of GBV suffer significant sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and resulting deaths, traumatic fistula, and higher risks of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

The prevalence of VAWG in the region is still high, and insufficiently addressed as a violation of human rights. Women, in general, are more liable to be at the receiving end of violence. Evaluations reveal that UN Women's programmes on ending VAWG contributed to increased awareness and knowledge not only among women but also the law enforcement, the police, medical staff, including justice sector professionals. The programmes have also enabled them to manage cases of violence better, strengthen coordination, and implement laws more effectively.

Violence against Women is not only a Human Rights violation.



WOMEN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE SUFFER FROM:



2. WHICH APPROACHES HAVE PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS?



Photo: UN Women/ Wangui Mungai

A holistic approach in ending VAWG has proven effective that includes building a strong linkage and referral system among governments, communities, law enforcement agencies, and medical facilities. For example, UN Women has established women/girls friendly centres in several Internally Displaced Persons settlements and Protection of Civilians sites. Such centres provide multi-sectoral VAWG services, including medical referrals, psychosocial services, access to sanitary services and facilities, legal aid, and livelihood assistance. Through UN Women's support, survivors of VAWG have improved access to services. UN Women helped in enhancing the capacity and commitment of law enforcement agencies in addressing VAWG.

By providing strategic technical and financial support to review relevant policies, legislations and mechanisms for addressing VAWG, UN Women has promoted commitment by government partners and different institutions and organizations responsible for upholding social justice in addressing VAWG. UN Women has also facilitated access of VAWG victims to relevant services and brought an increasing number of perpetrators to justice. Through its support to activist organizations, it also played a catalytic role in the uncovering of sextortion as a new dimension of VAWG.

Evaluations have demonstrated that conducting a gender analysis in GBV programmes before the intervention allows for a tailored response hence increasing the chances of achieving sustainable results. Through this approach, a programme aimed at changing behaviour and practice with regards to GBV would significantly enhance its effectiveness by putting in place provisions for grantees to conduct gender analyses before implementation to revisit their design, as presented in the grant proposals.

The programmes demonstrate that positive outcomes can be achieved by mobilizing local stakeholders to lead anti-GBV efforts. A locally-driven response ensures better coordination of these multiple actions and higher efficiency in the use of such resources resulting in lower costs for benefits.

Evaluations have proven that institutional capacity building is critical. I should include a support framework that builds on investments in individual staff and systematically monitors the capacity of, e.g., justice institutions to respond to cases of VAWG while building on investments in individuals.

Non-Governmental Organizations have proven valuable in ending Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) programmes to deepen the engagement with both government and other stakeholders. Civil society plays a crucial role in advocacy work and in addressing social norm change related to EVAWG and GEWE. At the same time, government institutions often constitute the basis for ensuring the sustainability of interventions.

Evaluations have shown that an EVAWG database system has proven essential for understanding the scale of the problem and for effective targeting. UN Women should support Implementing Partners to develop a database system that shares information on GBV. This includes providing strategic guidance, technical expertise and support to advocacy initiatives for Implementing Partners.



UN WOMEN ESTABLISHED WOMEN/GIRLS FRIENDLY
**CENTRES THAT PROVIDE
MULTI-SECTORAL EVAWG
SUPPORT SERVICES**

3. HOW CAN UN WOMEN IMPROVE ITS WORK ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS?

Research, data collection and analysis on VAWG are critical to effective advocacy efforts and resource mobilization, programme development, policy implementation and monitoring of interventions. UN Women should take a leadership role in collaboration with UN agencies to undertake a joint mapping and analysis process to understand issues around VAWG at the country and regional level.

UN Women should develop a capacity building strategy designed to systematically train frontline VAWG workers, with appropriate methods and tools that are harmonized across agencies and sectors in partnership with respective governments. The approach should include opportunities and mechanisms for refresher training and disseminating information, resources and evidence-based tools.

UN Women should provide technical assistance towards the development of standards that reflect context-appropriate and globally recognized approaches to preventing and responding to VAWG including a robust monitoring framework and system for ending violence against women and girls.

It is also important to deepen relationships with legal aid providers and enhance justice sector support to survivors by increasing understanding of laws, rules and procedures of courts among shelter staff, community members and survivors. This could be achieved through developing targeted and standardized learning programmes and associated tools tailored for each audience. Besides, UN Women should make referral pathways and mechanisms between the justice sector and other providers more effective and sustainable through a more systematic coordination of services and improved communication between partners.

Finally, the alignment of VAWG initiatives with government policy documents and systems, and investment in knowledge and skills of key VAWG actors, including police, civil society and other partners, is a model that shows promise in delivering lasting benefits. The uptake and ability to sustain programme benefits depend on how well initiatives are integrated into existing national structures and systems and the level of committed resources to support them in the long term.



Focus on preventing VAWG before it occurs through mobilizing communities, education, social marketing and engaging key groups, e.g., adolescents, men and traditional leaders



Develop multisectoral approaches for preventing and responding to VAWG that entail the coordination of resources and initiatives across sectors, involving government and civil society



Ensure key frontline services (health, police and legal) are well-equipped, coordinated and available to survivors, and that prevention efforts are mainstreamed throughout



Align national legislation with international human rights standards, and promote legal reforms which address protection for women and girls and prosecution of perpetrators

Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS) Independent Evaluation Service (IES)