



**END
gender
based
violence**
Safe Homes. Safe Communities



Gender Transformation & Empowerment

MANAGING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

A GUIDE TO PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



A HANDBOOK FOR NGO'S AND CBO'S

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Acknowledgement

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In response to the alarming incidences of gender based violence in Busoga sub region, the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) in partnership with Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) and 8 local governments are implementing a Joint Programme to address gender based violence. UWONET's role in the programme is to work with duty bearers such as the police, health workers and LC's and CBO's/ NGOs to develop an agenda aimed at reduction of GBV by 2014

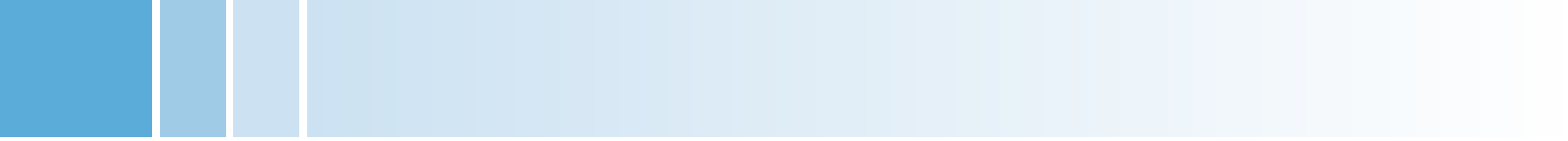
The development of this handbook is one of the strategies to equip and enhance the knowledge and skills of the CSO GBV Networks in the districts.

Our sincere thanks go to the GOU–Irishaid Joint Programme on GBV with special gratitude to the Joint programme partners i.e. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, CEDOVIP, MYSTIC Multi Media and the Staff of the respective organizations and institutions responsible for managing the programme.

Last but not least, we sincerely appreciate the partnership and support from Irish Aid towards the programme and in particular the development of this handbook.

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Foreword

This Handbook was developed in order to equip the civil society Networks and other stakeholders addressing GBV in Busoga sub region (Jinja, Iganga, Mayuge, Kamuli, Buyende, Kaliro, Namutumba, and Bugiri) with skills to enhance their capabilities to understand, Manage, lobby and advocate for GBV prevention and response in the region in a bid to contribute to eradicating the endemic in the region.

The handbook further unpacks various concepts and discusses content in the various modules under; Understanding the GBV; Framework for addressing GBV; Preventing GBV, Response and Advocacy to GBV and Social Accountability. We hope this handbook will enhance knowledge and create awareness on GBV and give skills that will foster managing, preventing and responding to GBV in the region.

Rita Aciro Lakor
Executive Director
(UWONET)

Introduction

This handbook has been prepared for use by networks with a focus on GBV, established under the Support of GOU–Irish Aid Joint Program to address Gender Based Violence in Busoga region (Bugiri, Buyende, Jinja, Iganga, Kaliro, Kamuli, Mayuge, Luuka and Namutumba districts).

Gender Based Violence prevention, response and advocacy strategies have been integrated in the main development frameworks of government namely; The National Development Plan (NDP) and the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) for Northern Uganda. The NDP is being implemented and seeks to address GBV as a core strategy to achieve the NDP goal of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

The GOU – Irish Aid Joint Programme has been designed to address the prevalence of GBV in Busoga region and contribute to the reduction of incidences of GBV and reduced social tolerance for GBV among various population groups. The programme is a collaborative effort between Ministry of Gender, Labour and social Development, District Local Governments, Civil Society organizations such as Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET).

The handbook: *Managing Gender Based Violence; A guide to Prevention and Response* is within UWONET's larger capacity development initiative to help civil society networks at grassroots level increase their understanding on prevention, mitigation, respond and management GBV. The handbook is one of the key outputs that contribute to objective two which UWONET implements: *To build capacity of duty bearers in Local Governments in Busoga Sub region to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence.*

CHAPTER 1:

Understanding Gender Based Violence

Contents

This Chapter provides information on the nature of gender based violence as well as its many types and causes. These understandings form the foundation for the rest of the handbook. The chapter aims to enable the networks to define GBV, describe the basic concepts related to GBV (such as violence, harm, and power), list the common categories of GBV, identify the root causes of GBV and identify the potential consequences of GBV.

Elements covered Include:

- Understanding what is meant by GBV
- Causes, Contributing factors and consequences of GBV

TOPIC 1: UNDERSTANDING CORE CONCEPTS

Gender and Sex:

“Gender” refers to the social differences between males and females in any society. Although the words “sex” and gender are used interchangeably, the differences between these two terms must be well understood.

“Gender” refers to the social differences between males and females that are learned. Although the social differences may be deeply rooted in every culture, social differences are changeable over time.

it is different from place to place. Gender determines the roles and responsibilities, opportunities, privileges and expectations, limitations for males and females in any culture.

“Sex” is the biological and physical characteristics that define men and women. Sex is genetic, born with and cannot change from one society to another. Some examples of sex characteristics include:

Human Rights

Human rights are basic rights such as freedoms that all people are entitled to regardless of nationality, sex, race, religion, language, among others. GBV violates human rights, such as; the right to life, the right to security, the right to protection under the law, the right to freedom from torture and other cruel, in humane, or degrading treatment.

Uganda has numerous legal and policy framework to promote human rights and protect citizens against vices such as GBV. Some of these include; the Uganda National Gender Policy, The Domestic Violence Act 2010 and its regulations, the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, 1820, the National Development plan which has incorporated GBV as a core focus area among others.

What is Violence?

Many times, we associate the word “Violence” with physical force and physical violence, but there are many other forms of violence. Violence = the use of some type of force, coercion or pressure.

Force: To cause to do through pressure, necessity by physical, moral or intellectual means

Abuse: Misuse of power. Abuse prevents persons from making free decisions and forces them to behave against their will.

- *Women Menstruate while men do not*
- *Men have testicles while women do not*
- *Women breast feed while men do not*
- *Sex is universal*

Coersion: Forcing, or attempting to force, another person to engage in behaviors against her/his will by using threats, verbal, manipulation, deception, cultural expectations or economic power.

Violence: The use of force to control another person or people. Violence can include Physical, emotional, social or economic abuse, coercion or pressure. Violence may be in the form of physical assault, intimidation, threats or other forms of social pressure among others

Table 1: Forms of Gender Based Violence in Uganda

Form/categories	Description
Physical Abuse	A pattern of physical assaults and threats used to control another person. It includes punching, hitting, choking, biting, and throwing objects at a person, kicking and pushing and using a weapon such as a gun or a knife. Physical abuse usually escalates over time and may end in the woman's death.
Sexual Abuse	The mistreatment or the control of a partner sexually. This can include demands for sex using coercion or the performance of certain sexual acts, forcing her to have sex with other people, treating her in a sexually derogatory manner and/or insisting on unsafe sex.
Emotional and Verbal Abuse	The mistreatment and undermining of a partner's self-worth. It can include criticism, threats, insults, belittling comments and manipulation on the part of the batterer.
Psychological Abuse	The use of various tactics to isolate and undermine a partner's self esteem causing her to be more dependent on and frightened of the batterer. It can include such acts as: Refusing to allow the woman to work outside the home; withholding money or access to money; isolating her from her family and friends; threatening to harm people and things she loves and or constantly checking up on her

Form/categories	Description
Rape	The use of physical force, or threat of force or emotional coercion, to penetrate an adult woman's vaginal, oral or anal orifices without her consent. In the majority of cases, the perpetrator is someone the woman knows. Rape can be a one-time occurrence or it can be ongoing. It may also involve the use of alcohol and drugs therefore making the victim more vulnerable.
Sexual Assault	non-consensual sexual contact that does not include penetration
Trafficking of women	Refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. ¹

Gender based violence

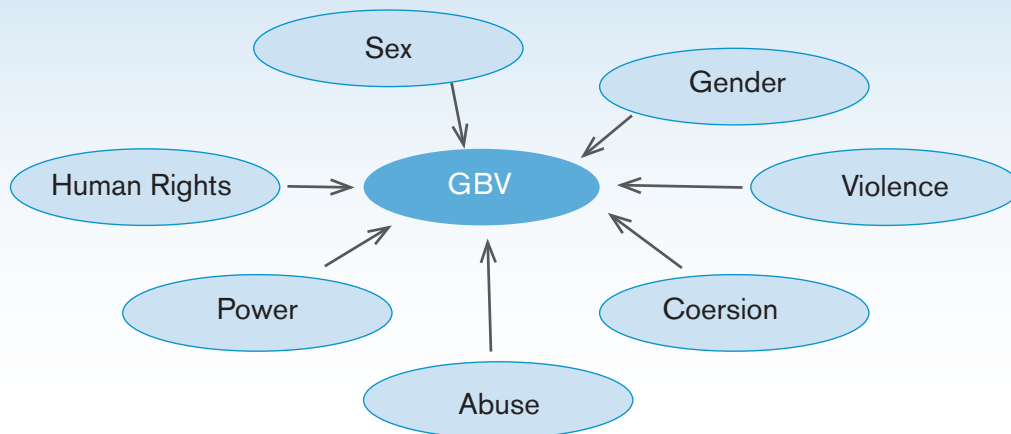
Gender-based violence involves the abuse of power for example a woman who is solely dependent on her husband for livelihood would have less power, less choices and low decision making ability in the household. This situation makes her more vulnerable to abuse by the husband who is the powerful partner since he is economically powerful, and makes all the decisions. To understand and address

¹ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, November 2000

GBV effectively, you must understand and analyze the power relations among men and women, women and women, men and men, adults and children and among children

Power: Involves the ability, skill or capacity to make decisions and take action. The more powerful a person is the more choices available to that person. People who have less power have fewer choices and are therefore more vulnerable to abuse. There are various types of power such as; Social/ community power, Economic power, Political power, social power and age related power. The core concepts below form a working definition of gender based violence.

It is important to note that GBV has greater impact on women and girls and is mostly perpetrated against women and girls. Men and boys may also be victims of gender based violence. Men and boys are often the perpetrators. Men and boys are also critical change agents in GBV prevention efforts as one approach which promises ease in delivery of GBV prevention messages to would be perpetrators by fellow men.



TOPIC 2: Causes and contributing factors of GBV– THE GBV TREE

The GBV tree helps unpack the causes, contributing factors of GBV. This method can easily be utilized with communities as a simple tool to understand GBV.

Roots: The roots are the causes and contributing factors of gender based violence are societies' attitudes towards and practices of gender discrimination. Women are usually placed in rigid roles and responsibilities and positions of power, with the women in a subordinate position in relation to men.

Contributing factors make the tree grow bigger and the roots grow stronger. While gender inequality and discrimination are the root cause of all forms of gender based violence, various factors influence the extent and type of GBV. These factors increase risk and vulnerability to GBV.

Examples include:

- Community and family support systems broken down
- Understaffed and non-existent medical and or protection facilities such as police, health
- Negative Socio-cultural Practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Early and forced marriage, child labour and wife inheritance are apt examples that have hazardous health, mental, physical and social effects, Others include folk tales, songs, proverbs and sayings that undermine women's capabilities and teach them to subordinate their own needs, wills and sexual desires in order to please and serve men, In most cultural settings, women are regarded as the property of their fathers, husbands, brothers, uncles and even sons. They are owned and controlled by families and clans. At the death of a husband, the woman becomes a commodity to be inherited, or the subject of torture, as relatives grab family property as if she and the children are of no consequence.
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- Poor communication
- Poverty

- Ignorance
- HIV status
- Poor family relationships
- Misinterpretation of religious and cultural teachings
- Mental illness among others

Branches: The branches represent the various forms/ manifestations of GBV.

The forms are grouped into four categories;

- Sexual abuse. This is “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances or acts to traffic, directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of the relationship to the victim, in any setting including but not limited to home and work” (WHO, 2002).
- Physical abuse
- Emotional and Psychological abuse
- Economic abuse. Economic violence has been cited as one of the forms of violence that is perpetrated on women and Men because of their economic dependence. Examples include withholding of financial support, deprivation of necessities such as food and basics like clothing and school fees for girl and boy children, the denial of the right to work, forced surrender of women’s money to husbands or male friends, the grabbing of widow’s or widower’s property by relatives of the deceased spouse and orphaned children among others.
- Leaves are the consequences of GBV for survivors, their families and communities. The consequences of GBV for individuals and communities are far reaching. physical consequences are include sexually transmitted diseases, Infection with HIV and other STIs, unwanted pregnancy, family breakups, Serious physical injuries and illness, Death, while others are physiological consequences such as guilt and shame, Psychological and emotional trauma, social consequences include isolation, rejection, economic consequences include reduced productivity leading to poverty among others.

CHAPTER 2 :

Framework for addressing Gender Based Violence

Contents

This Chapter helps one understand some key approaches the networks require to design appropriate and effective gender based violence prevention and response mechanisms. It also highlights some of the legal and policy framework addressing GBV. It covers:

Three approaches for effective interventions

Legal and policy framework addressing GBV

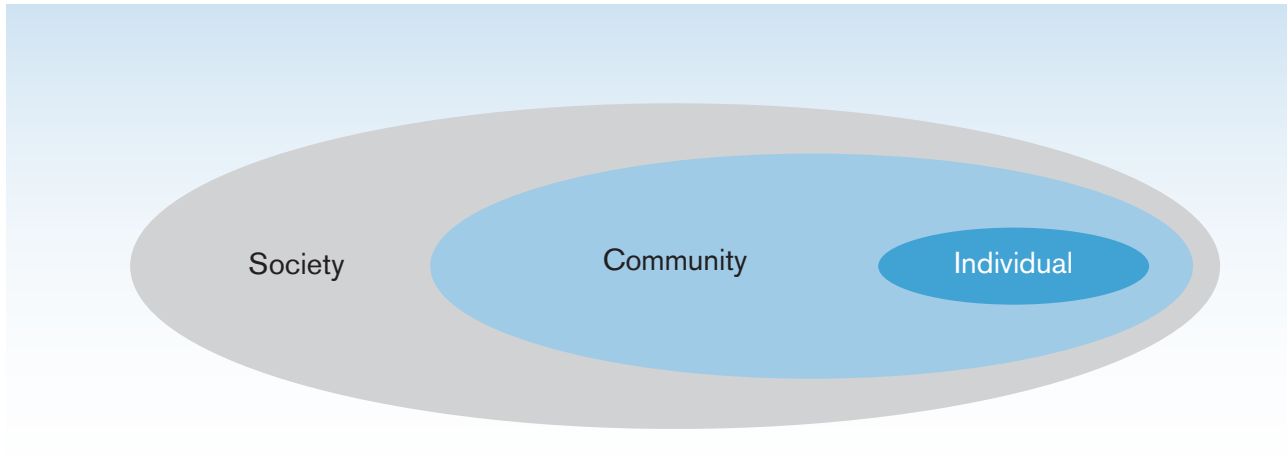
TOPIC 1: Framework/ approaches for effective intervention

Effectively addressing GBV requires actors to:

- Promote and protect the rights of affected populations(especially women and girls)
- Intervene when those rights are violated
- Provide services and assistance to both meet the needs of and realize the rights of those who have experienced violence.

Competent service delivery requires that those who engage directly with survivors have the appropriate attitudes, knowledge and skills.

The framework and levels/ approaches of intervention are described in the diagram below.



For each framework, the networks need to consider sets of interventions for GBV prevention and response

Individual: Direct intervention to address the needs and rights of survivors and facilitate recovery for survivors and victims

Community: mobilize communities to recognize, promote and protect the rights of women and children

Society: engage systems and strategies in place to protect respond and monitor when rights are violated. This includes enforcement of the international and national laws.

Society level actions include	
■ Ensuring compliance with laws and policy ■ Training key stakeholders and actors on human rights, women's rights, GBV etc. ■ Assessing and identifying areas for advocacy ■ Documentation/ data collection for advocacy	
Individual level actions include	Where GBV occurs, what is the referral procedure as per the Domestic Violence Act:
Providing information on referral services to survivors Establishing community structures or survivor friendly spaces	Their Local Council. Your LC may hear the matter, record your statement, make an order or refer to police. Police. The police post/station closest to you will record your statement, investigate the case, assist and advise; the officers will collect evidence and testify in court. Health Center: Your medical doctor, senior midwives or clinical officer will offer medical assistance, examine and treat the victim and testify in court Magistrate: Your Magistrate will hear and determine the matter, issue a protection order and issue remedies to the perpetrator. Welfare and Probation officer: Your probation officer will investigate and inquire, offer guidance and assistance as may be necessary to ensure the wellbeing of the victim will ensure the safety and protection of children and refers to police or magistrates.

Community level actions include

- Establishing and coordinating GBV response
- Community education and mobilizing communities to promote and protect women's rights
- Identifying and addressing risks among communities
- Identifying and mobilizing community leadership to advance women's rights and promote services for GBV survivors
- Establishing local data collection systems
- Developing capacity of local government and other actors
- Developing capacity of local women's rights organizations and structures.

Rights based approach: is based on standards of international human rights, involves many actors and stakeholders, requires working with and addressing the political, legal, social and cultural norms, seeks to empower survivors and communities.

A survivor centered approach: this seeks to empower the survivor by putting him in the center of the helping process. It embraces each individual survivor's physical, physiological, emotional, social and spiritual needs. This approach considers a survivor's cultural and social history as well as what

Do not tell the survivor what to do, or what choices to make. Rather, empower her/ him by helping her/him problem solve by clarifying her problems, helping her identify ways to cope better, identifying her choices, and evaluating the value and consequences of those choices. Respect her choices and preferences about referral and seeking additional services.

is happening in her or his life that could support and facilitate recovery. It recognizes that each person is unique, each person reacts differently to GBV and will have different needs as a result, each person has the right to decide how should know about what has happened to them and what should happen next.

Community development approach: this seeks to empower individuals and groups by providing knowledge, resources and skills they need to effect change in social and gender relations in their own communities to more effectively address GBV.

TOPIC 2: Legal and Policy Framework Addressing GBV

There are various laws or legal instruments that prohibit the various forms of gender-based violence experienced in Uganda. This topic will highlight some instruments at international, regional and national level.

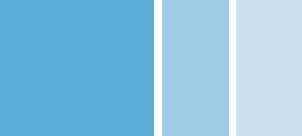
International instruments on gender based violence

In the last 30 years, international actors have devoted increasing attention to the crisis of gender based violence and particularly Violence Against Women (VAW) due to the alarming statistics of the manifestations of violence on women and girls. Spurred in part by the gaining momentum of the global feminist movement, the United Nations (UN) and numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have developed strategies intended to end GBV. Most fundamental in these developments is the recognition of women's rights as human rights. It is important to note that before the drafting of these documents, women's rights, in general—and violence against women in particular—had never been considered in any significant manner by the international community a progression in the treatment of women's interests by international law.

At international level the following instruments and Declarations address the issue of GBV:

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
2. Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
3. Beijing Platform for Action
4. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) among others

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR like the other international instruments on GBV recognize the fact that GBV has no boundaries and affects women and men of all nationalities,



class, education and economic status albeit in varying degrees. For example, many women are victimized by “relationship abuse,” or as it is more commonly understood, “domestic violence.”

The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. CEDAW was the first universal agreement to specify that women’s rights are human rights. This instrument set the standard for international women’s rights on which many human rights instruments currently rely. The UN drafted the Convention in order to define the international standards by which discrimination against women is to be judged.

CEDAW provides the framework along which discrimination against women should be addressed. The convention in Article 2 denounces discrimination and urges states to promote equality between men and women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. Uganda has fulfilled this Article by GoU passing several laws aimed at improving equality for women and their status through law reform and policy formulation. These include the labour laws passed in 2006, Electoral laws and amendments passed in 2005 and 2010 respectively, laws on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, the Equal Opportunities Commission Act in 2002, the Domestic Violence Act in 2009, the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009 and the Law prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation in 2009,. The Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa was ratified by Uganda in July 2010 with reservations.

Beijing Platform for Action. The United Nations has sponsored four world conferences to address women’s issues; These conventions were designed to encourage international uniformity and agreement on women’s issues through union rather than to produce legally binding documents. The Beijing Conference was held in September, 1995, and was attended by thousands of women from various parts of the globe. The Conference goals were broad and most significantly included GBV with particular focus on violence against women apart from other issues.

The Beijing declaration recognized the international significance of violence against women and girls thereby creating room for discussion and action on the issue of GBV. It therefore represented an advance in this area. The platform crafted international and worldwide standards by which violence

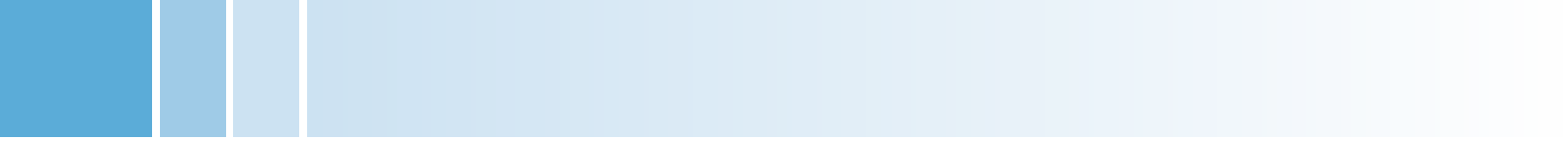
against women can be judged. “The Platform recognized that violence against women represents an impediment to the achievement of equality.

Regional Legislation on GBV

Apart from international instruments on GBV, regional state parties (Countries in Africa) including Uganda are recognizing the importance of addressing GBV.

Protocol to the African charter on human and people's rights on the rights of women in Africa. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa provides for strong protections against gender-based violence and incorporates its elimination under the scope of women's rights to life, integrity and security of the person and the right to dignity. It has several articles which promote GBV prevention and response and as detailed below:

- Article 3 of the protocol recognizes women's rights to dignity and protection from all forms violence particularly sexual violence. Uganda which is party to the protocol has not passed the Sexual Offences Bill. This remains a major hindrance to addressing sexual violence and is an area for advocacy by actors working to reduce sexual violence against women.
- Article 4 recognizes the rights of women to life, integrity and security of person. It prohibits all forms of exploitation, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment. This Article is comparable with Article 24 of Uganda's Constitution.
- Article 4(2) of the protocol mandates states to take action to protect women from violence by adopting legal, administrative, social and economic measures and promote peace education to protect women for violence. The Article unlike the provisions of CEDAW and the UN Declaration on Elimination of violence are more detailed and provide concrete steps that state parties should take to protect women from violence. Uganda has passed some legislation to protect women from violence. The Domestic Violence Act was passed in 2010, the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons was passed in 2009 and the FGM Act was passed in 2010.



The African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child includes protection from sexual abuse under the scope of “torture, inhuman or degrading treatment.” Each of these Instruments places duties on the States parties to take affirmative action to eradicate violence, including by means of legislative, social and educational measures.

National Legislation on GBV

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. In light of the variety of fundamental rights encroached upon in any instance of gender-based violence, many constitutional provisions are relevant to a consideration of national legislation pertaining to such violence.

Human dignity: Human dignity is a right that is recognized in the Constitution of Uganda.

Article 24 inter-alia provides that “everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected. In Article 33 (1) of Uganda’s Constitution, women shall be accorded full an equal dignity of the person with men.

Prohibition of torture and degrading treatment: Uganda’s constitution in Article 24 specifically provides that no person shall be subject to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment. These constitutional provisions are particularly relevant in the context of gender based violence committed by government actors, such as rape by members of the armed forces or by police officers while the victim is in detention.

Right to life: In situations where gender-based violence results in death – whether directly or indirectly through the transmission of life-threatening infections such as HIV – the victim’s right to life is contravened. Article 21 of Uganda’s Constitution guarantees the right to life.

Right to health: Considering the significant direct and indirect effects gender-based violence has on the physical and psychological health of victims, Uganda’s constitution in the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy Clause XX provides for a duty of the state to take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic medical services to the population. This provision is relevant in establishing the duty of the state to prevent gender-based violence.

Right to equal treatment and non-discrimination: Gender-based or sexual violence has patriarchal origins and can still be understood as an offence of power, domination and force, as has been discussed in chapter 1. Since the vast majority of victims of gender-based violence are women, provisions on equal treatment and non-discrimination in all constitutions place a clear duty on States to protect women from such violence. Uganda's Constitution in Article 21 provides for the right to equal treatment for all men and women and non-discrimination in line with CEDAW.

Repugnant cultures: The Constitution of Uganda in Article 2(2) makes all cultures that are in contravention of the Constitution void to the extent to which they conflict with the constitution. Uganda has moved a step further to by enacting laws to prevent harmful cultures to protect women against such cultures. In 2010, for instance, Parliament of Uganda enacted the law against FGM. This and other cultures that are against the dignity and welfare and interests of women and undermine their status are not allowed.

CHAPTER 3:

Preventing Gender Based Violence

Contents

This chapter considers what must be done to minimize risks and vulnerabilities and address the underlying causes of GBV. It is important to define two concepts:

Risk: The possibility of suffering harm or loss: danger

Vulnerability: susceptibility to physical or emotional injury

TOPIC 1: Outlining Prevention Interventions

Being aware of the underlying causes and contributing factors to GBV help define the appropriate interventions. Preventing GBV involves addressing the underlying causes (Refer to Module 1).

Preventing gender based violence also involves addressing the situation specific factors that contribute to increase in the risk to GBV.

Prevention interventions may be at three levels;

- Individual level. The individual level enables people receive direct interventions to address the needs and rights of survivors, facilitate recovery for survivors.
- Community level. At community level, systems and strategies are put in place to recognize, promote and protect the rights of women and children and respond when those rights are breached.

This involves developing systems and building capacities of the duty bearers and engaging the duty bearers and community structures on the issues emerging.

- Society level. This involves collective efforts, laws are being enforced, there is advocacy for reform of discriminatory practices and policy or customs that cause or condone GBV.

The three prevention interventions must be designed and implemented using rights based, community development and survivor centered approaches.

Working with men

Historically, prevention initiatives have targeted women; there has been a shift in the past few years towards engaging men in prevention against GBV. This shift recognizes that men can be allies and agents of change in the fight against GBV. This shift enables men to challenge the negative gender stereotypes that are imposed on them as well.

With appropriate, compassionate and respectful response services in place, survivors are more likely to seek legal redress and follow through with necessary action. Without these supports, the vast majority of survivors/ victims are frightened, overwhelmed and will avoid any police or legal action.

1. *Think of men and boys who are role models in their communities. What qualities or characteristics do they have that make them stand out? What are the ways these men and boys could be better engaged as allies in the fight against GBV*
2. *Where do men and boys usually congregate in your community? What sorts of activities do they enjoy doing? Can you think of ways to positively reach men and boys with GBV messaged where they hang out and or in context of their activities?*

TOPIC 2: Designing Prevention Interventions

It is important to understand the risks and vulnerabilities first to guide the design process of the most appropriate prevention interventions. Risk factors could increase some one's vulnerability to abuse. Some of these risk factors include; Age, Gender, Religious or political affiliation, mental and or physical disability among others.

It is also pertinent to identify the risk factors among family and community members where majority of the cases emerge. Statistics and experiences have over the years shown that GBV manifestations among family and community members in the form of domestic violence is one of the highest especially for Busoga region where each household has an average of 7 children. A number of the risk factors include stress, poverty, dependence syndrome, pre-existing social acceptance of early marriages among others

Core elements in designing prevention interventions

- Identify the risks and threats. Conducting assessment to identify the risks and threats can be obtained from community members especially women and girls, health workers, pre-existing data about GBV and other GBV actors in the area.
- Consider appropriate and context specific interventions that respond to these risks and threats. Once the risks and threats have been identified, one needs to identify a strategy depending on the risk that has been identified.
- Outline and clarify roles of various actors in implementing and or supporting these interventions. Everyone has a role to play in promoting the safety and security of those at risk of gender based violence. Work to end violence against women should go beyond ad hoc, single-sector or single-issue responses to a comprehensive, systematic and sustained approach that is adequately supported and facilitated by strong dedicated and permanent institutional mechanisms.

CHAPTER 4:

Advocacy and Response to Gender Based Violence

Contents

This chapter provides an overview of advocacy and best practices in GBV response.

Topic 1: Advocacy and Social Accountability

Advocacy: It can be defined as a deliberate planned and sustained effort to advance an agenda for a change. Advocacy consists of organized efforts and actions that use the tools of democracy to establish and implement laws and policies so as to create a just and equitable society.

These tools include lobbying, negotiation, bargaining, mass mobilization, civil action (including civil disobedience), court actions and holding of elections.

- Advocacy deals with questioning political power or policy makers and asking them to provide answers to the question of who gets what; how much one gets and how soon?
- Advocacy aims at changing social institutions by helping advocates to gain access and a voice in the decision making of such institutions; and to change the power relationships within and among those institutions.
- Advocacy try to persuade and influence decision makers or those with governmental, political and economic power, to adopt and implement public policies that will improve the lives of those people with less political power and fewer economic resources.

- Advocacy resists the unequal power relations such as patriarchy and dictatorship. It questions the existing unequal power relations in society so as to ensure that the poor, the voiceless and those people that have been marginalized or historically left out of the decision making processes are heard and included.

Types of advocacy

Confrontation/adversarial advocacy: This is when you tell a policy maker that you went wrong. Tactics used under this advocacy method include; strikes, marches, protests and petitions etc.

Constructive advocacy: is when you tell a policy maker that I have this idea will it work and how can we work together. Tactics used include; meeting with policy makers, proposing strategies for change, conducting research and publicizing, building alliances with the policy makers

Core Concepts in advocacy

1. **Power (Influence).** Power is the ability to create that desired change or effect, especially in situations of opposition. Power can be limited, unlimited or shared. The people that do advocacy seek to share the power so that they are involved in the making of decisions that will affect people's lives. Power is always changing and it is rarely given or yielded. Power must be won through resistance or struggle and thus the need to constantly engage those people with power. There are four types of power;
 - **Political power.** This is the ability to control or exercise authority over people or institutions or the ability to influence institutions through which law and policies are made and implemented
 - **Economic power.** This is the ability to control the means and place of production, including working conditions and wages.
 - **Social power.** This is the ability to control or influence people in hierarchical or patriarchal relationships in the family and other social contexts.

2. **Risk.** It is important to note that engaging in advocacy activities might present some immediate threats and risks that come from the social change they are advocating for. Right from the start, the women must be made to understand that there are constant risks to one's life, family or even community or group, when involved in any form of struggle. People with power will not be willing to give it up and it is therefore important to prepare for that struggle. The GBV networks should know that usually people who prepare for risks are less intimidated by threats and even violence from those people with power.
3. **Advocacy Must be People Centered.** The GBV networks in the Busoga region must realize that grassroots owning, organizing and mobilizing gives credibility, legitimacy and crucial bargaining power to policy advocacy. Therefore their communities' experiences and knowledge of the situation within their communities needs to be heard and respected by decision makers.
4. **Public Support for your Issue.** In order to move the GBV advocacy issues forward, the GBV networks must be able to get public support. They must try and find ways of bringing the unconvinced to their point of view. There is need to share their opinions and interests with the community and the general public; and also work with like-minded people or organizations, including the local government structures or NGOs at the national level.
5. **Dialogue.** Building Free Spaces Where you can have Safe Discussions requires that you develop a culture of listening; a sense of community responsibility and a culture of people's legitimate participation in public argument and problem solving. In the GBV advocacy the Networks must learn how to organize and share experiences with other people. They should raise those issues that would otherwise be avoided, collaborate and engage with people who are different from them in terms of views or opinions, generation or social class.
6. **Engage the Policy Makers and Policy Making Institutions.** Real change can only happen when mass mobilization and other form of outside pressure is exerted on the institutions that need to be changed. The network advocates must know what they want and present it to the policy makers in the best possible manner.

7. Use real life stories to put your issue across. Stories provide a tremendous source of power to both the person telling the story and those listening. Stories help people to make connections between their day-to-day lives and other communities, issues or struggles.

Story telling also assists people to create a culture of participation, active listening and learning. By telling their stories or listening to those told by other people about the GBV situation, the networks will be able to reflect on their own experiences so as to learn from both their successes and mistakes and be able to use the acquired knowledge in future advocacy activities.

Tool guide in Advocacy

- Clearly identify and define the issue on which you want to do advocacy and have a solid understanding of the actual facts around the issue.
- Identify your vision of the desired change.
- Define advocacy objectives and goals.
- Evaluate the advocacy issue on its merits towards achieving the goal and objectives.
- Identify the target audience.
- Communicate and engage on the advocacy issue with the right audience.

Social Accountability

In simple terms it means “answerability”. It is about holding people to account for their impacts on the lives of people and the environment. It involves the rights of those impacted and the obligations of those with power. Thus, accountability can be defined as the obligation of power– holders to account for or take responsibility of their actions.

Social Accountability can also be defined as ‘the duty to provide an account or reckoning of those actions for which one is held responsible. Thus, accountability involves two responsibilities or duties:

the responsibility to undertake certain actions (or forbear from taking action) and the responsibility to provide an account of those actions.

It can be initiated by government, private sector or civil society organizations at national, district or community levels.

Topic 2: response to GBV

Survivor Centered Response: this response approach draws on four guiding principles of safety, confidentiality, respect and non–discrimination.

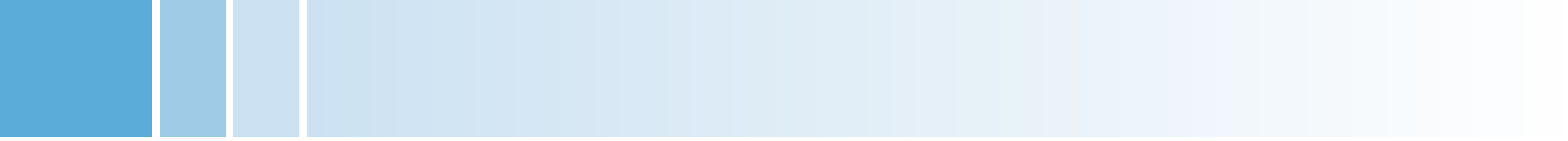
Safety: The safety and security of the survivor and others such as children are very paramount. Individuals who disclose an incident of gender based violence or a history of abuse may be at risk of further violence from the perpetrator or others in society

Confidentiality: Maintaining confidentiality means not disclosing any information at any time to any party without the informed consent of the survivors. Strategies for ensuring confidentiality include:

- Conducting interviews in private.
- Only sharing relevant information with others at the request of the survivor and after obtaining informed consent.
- Keeping all documents secure and having a plan to move or destroy case files in the event of emergency.
- Even if individual names are not used, it is important not to share general characteristics about clients. There is always a risk that an individual can be identified.

It is important to note that there are exceptions to confidentiality including:

- Situations where there are threats of on–going violence or harm to a child and the need to protect them overrides confidentiality.
- Situations where laws and policy require mandatory reporting of certain types of violence or abuse



Respect: this response approach recognizes that the survivor is the primary actor and the role of helpers is to facilitate recovery and provide resources for problem solving. The networks failure to respect the survivor's rights to find their own solutions can increase survivor's feelings of helplessness and shame, reduce the effectiveness of our interventions and may even cause then further harm.

Strategies for ensuring respect:

- Maintaining confidentiality
- Ensuring the availability of female staff for interviewing and examining women and child survivors
- Ensuring that those working with survivors demonstrate appropriate values, knowledge and skills
- Ensuring those working with survivors are non– judgmental and sensitive to the cultural and social context of the intervention
- Minimizing the number of times a survivor needs to retell her or his story

Non–discrimination: everyone has the right to the best possible assistance without unfair discrimination on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, color, language, religious or political beliefs, sexual orientation, status or social class.

Strategies to ensure non–discrimination include:

- Addressing values, attitudes and beliefs among members of the networks that promote non–discrimination
- Training members of the network and communities on human rights and relevant policies

Other Response mechanisms: There are numerous response mechanisms available to a survivors or victim of violence. The Domestic Violence Act 2010 provides some options which include:

- The Local Council. Your LC may hear the matter, record your statement, make and order or refer to police.

- Police. The police post/station closest to you will record your statement, investigate the case, assist and advise; the officers will collect evidence and testify in court.
- Health Center: Your medical doctor, senior midwives or clinical officer will offer medical assistance, examine and treat the victim and testify in court
- Magistrate: Your Magistrate will hear and determine the matter, issue a protection order and issue remedies to the perpetrator.
- Welfare and Probation officer: Your probation officer will investigate and inquire, offer guidance and assistance as may be necessary to ensure the wellbeing of the victim will ensure the safety and protection of children and refers to police or magistrates.

CHAPTER 5:

Guiding Principles to managing Gender Based Violence Content

Content

The chapter will go into greater depth on the guiding principles to managing gender based violence. By the end of this module, the GBV Networks will be able to:

- Apply the guiding principles for GBV response to a real life case study
- Work with children experiencing violence

General Principles when dealing with gender based violence cases

- Talk to the suspect and survivor separately.
- Inform the victim about confidentiality and disclosure if need be.
- Do not tell the suspect the source of information.
- Listen calmly to the victim as he/she tells her story.
- Avoid making judgmental comments or conclusions.
- Give him/her a chance to express her/his opinion.
- Avoid telling your own story of violence.
- Help him/her think through and consider the options for safety for him/herself and the children.

- Give him/her information about the available resources for abused women/men.
- Refer the survivor for further support.

Principles of working with survivors of violence

- Let the victim know that they are not to blame for violence.
- Tell the victim that there is no acceptable justification for violence.
- Remember that a victim has tried out other options and has finally come for help.
- Assure the victim of your support.
- Maintain the rules of confidentiality and disclosure which you agreed with the victim.
- Do not make promises if you are not able to follow through.
- Interview the victim in private, so not aloe people to comment on the case.

Principles of working with suspects of violence

- Calm down the suspect in case s/he is very angry, anxious or violent.
- Use non-judgmental language when interviewing the suspect.
- Get suspects side of the story.
- Avoid the question “why did you use violence?” because it justifies the violent behavior.
- Avoid telling the suspect what you discussed with the victim.
- Avoid revealing the person who reported.
- Tell the suspect the kind of offence committed.
- Avoid being dragged into issues that are not related to the offence reported.
- Do not allow the suspect to dictate over you.

Principles of working with child witnesses of violence

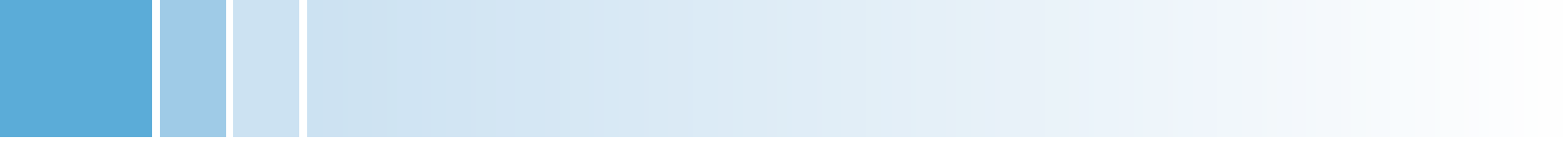
- Address the child at eye level.
- Be friendly and kind to the child.
- Use simple, direct and user friendly language.
- Explain your role to the child in simple language.
- Do not interview a child in the presence of a parent who is a perpetrator.
- Assure the child that s/he is not in trouble.
- Assure the child that s/he is not alone, violence happens to other children in their homes but it is not right.
- Ask the child for permission in case you want to use the information.

Interview guide to working with child experiencing violence

- Introduce yourself to the child.
- Please tell me what happened, how were you hurt?
- Has it ever happened to you before?
- How does that make you feel?
- Have you ever reported to anyone like an LC, an uncle, or aunt?
- Is there anybody else who knows you are experiencing violence?
- Do you have any injuries on your body now?
- Do you feel safe going back home?
- Is there anywhere else you can go?
- Please arrange for a counselor or the probation officer about what is happening at home.

Conclusion

The handbook was developed for the GBV networks and other GBV actors to increase their understanding, and knowledge on management, prevention and response to GBV. Addressing GBV is an uphill task but with this handbook as a reference material, it is UWONET's hope that the information will be used to support the GOU–IRISH Aid Joint Programme in reducing the vulnerabilities of women and girls to the vice in Busoga Sub region.



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A Joint Program To Address Gender Based Violence



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