USAID's Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV)

Learning Agenda for Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Development Contexts

September 2022

Introduction

This learning agenda for addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in development contexts highlights seven stakeholder-identified themes for research and learning across the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (Box 1). These seven themes highlight gaps in evidence relevant to USAID's GBV prevention, mitigation, and response work in development programs. They can be used to prioritize research and learning activities by USAID staff, USAID implementing partners, and others with the objective of strengthening USAID's collective action to address GBV. The learning agenda is coordinated by the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub.

Below, each theme includes a narrative about its relevance and lists questions for exploration. Where applicable, existing evidence-based documents readers can use to propel further learning are provided.

The learning agenda emphasizes opportunities for learning related to GBV programming in development contexts, including those in crisis or conflict; however, it is also relevant to humanitarian settings and can be used across the spectrum of contexts USAID works in.

Box 1. Learning Themes

- Effectively integrating GBV programming into sector-specific programming

- Assessing how to address GBV in under-researched diverse populations

- Addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV)

- Amplifying roles of locally led organizations in GBV programming

- Improving approaches to measuring effective programming for GBV

- Increasing staff prioritization of GBV prevention, mitigation, and response programming within USAID

- Assessing the role of national governments, laws, and policies in effective USAID programming

Background

Over the past decade, the U.S. government has developed policies and strategies to elevate the importance of addressing GBV. In 2012, the *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally* (updated in 2016) provided a broad strategy for addressing GBV across the continuum, from humanitarian settings to development contexts. In the same year, the first *USAID Policy on Gender Equality and Female Empowerment* (Gender Policy) identified GBV as a priority issue in USAID's development programming. This policy set then-bold standards for the integration of gender in development programs and specifically identified reducing the prevalence of GBV as one of its three policy outcomes. In 2013, the U.S. Department of State and USAID jointly launched the Safe from the Start Initiative to address GBV in emergencies, with a focus on humanitarian crises and settings. The *Women's Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Act of 2018* includes the objective "to strive to eliminate gender-based violence and mitigate its harmful effects on individuals and communities."

The 2021 *United States National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality* reiterated these priorities and included eliminating GBV as a top strategy to achieve U.S. goals for gender equality and equity.

These U.S. government policies and strategies recognize GBV as an abuse of human rights that transcends geography and culture and takes many forms (Box 2). It is important to note that while GBV can affect anyone, women and girls are disproportionately targeted (UN Women 2021).

Evidence over the past two decades has shown that GBV can be prevented (Jewkes et al. 2020, Kerr-Wilson et al. 2020). However, far more needs to be learned, particularly about the needs and effectiveness of GBV programming for diverse populations.

> **Box 2. What Is Gender-Based Violence?**
>
> "Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived biological sex, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, and/or lack of adherence to varying socially constructed norms around masculinity and femininity. It is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, and power imbalances. GBV is typically characterized by the use or threat of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, legal, political, social, and other forms of control and/or abuse. GBV impacts [sic] individuals across the life course and has direct and indirect costs to families, communities, economies, global public health, and development" (USAID and U.S. Department of State 2016, 6).

Methodology

The learning agenda is based on priority themes identified through a global desk review that included relevant research and learning agendas on GBV, a 2021 baseline study conducted by the Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV) activity, and interactive meetings with USAID stakeholders. For more information, see Annex I. Methods Used to Develop the Learning Agenda.

Research and learning agendas that supported the selection of themes for the learning agenda include the *Global Shared Research Agenda for Research on Violence against Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries* (Sexual Violence Research Initiative [SVRI] and The Equality Institute [EQI] 2021) and *Finding the Path Forward: Identifying Research Gaps on Gender-Based Violence among Conflict-Affected Refugees in the Global South* (Maclin et al. 2021) developed by the Global Women's Institute (GWI).

Framing the Learning Agenda

Guiding principles for implementing this learning agenda include a focus on learning that integrates intersectional and decolonial approaches to international development assistance. An intersectional approach recognizes that those with multiple marginalized social identities may experience overlapping and compounding forms of oppression that can intensify risks, as well as encounter unique barriers to accessing programs and services (Imkaan 1989, Crenshaw 1989). A decolonial approach in research and learning focuses on deconstructing how power imbalances influence the ways we define and articulate knowledge and how these inequities are rooted in colonial history. Research and learning that contribute to decolonizing international development assistance should entail strong participation of communities and individuals expected to benefit (Byatnal 2021, Mannell et al. 2021) and be driven by collaboration with USAID Foreign Service National (FSN) staff and local partners in countries where USAID works. These individuals and entities often provide a disproportionate amount of labor compared to the power they have within USAID.

This approach aligns with issues being raised in other learning agendas, including [USAID's Agenda Learning Agenda FY 2022–2026](#), which poses the question: "How can USAID more equitably engage local knowledge, assets, and practices and align programming with local priorities and metrics for success?" (USAID 2022a, 5).

Learning Agenda Themes and Questions

THEME 1. Effectively Integrating GBV Programming into Sector-Specific Programming

How to effectively integrate GBV programming into sector-specific programming is a priority topic for research and learning for both USAID stakeholders (CARE-GBV 2022a) and other actors (SVRI and EQI 2021).

Integrated GBV programming is sectoral programming that includes any aspect of GBV prevention, risk mitigation, or response. Some sectoral programs include comprehensive GBV prevention and response, but if the main objective of the program is to accomplish other sector-specific outcomes, this programming is considered integrated, rather than standalone GBV programming.

Integrating GBV into sectoral programming is critical due to the interdependence of GBV outcomes and sectoral outcomes in health (World Health Organization [WHO] 2021), education (United Nations Girls' Education Initiative 2019), economic growth (USAID 2021b), environment (Castañeda et al. 2020), and others. It is also important because scaling GBV

prevention, mitigation, and response across communities and countries will only be possible if implemented through both standalone and integrated programming (USAID and U.S. Department of State 2016, World Bank Group 2015).[1]

Within USAID, comprehensive technical tools are available that provide evidence and strategies to support USAID staff and implementing partners to integrate GBV into USAID's sector-specific programming. These include toolkits on integrating GBV in agriculture and market systems, democracy and governance (rule of law), economic growth, education, energy and infrastructure, health, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of GBV programming, including an M&E update (CARE-GBV 2022f). USAID's Foundational Elements for GBV Programming in Development (CARE-GBV 2022g) include 12 sector-specific program elements that detail how GBV intersects with each sector and what strategies USAID and implementing partners can use to integrate a focus on GBV into programming.[2]

However, effectively integrating GBV into sector-specific programming can be challenging. The U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally (USAID and U.S. Department of State 2016) has called for GBV programming to be integrated across sectors since 2012. Yet, USAID staff say they have neither the expertise nor bandwidth needed to effectively design integrated programming. In addition, some USAID staff expressed concerns that without more expertise in GBV, they may do harm by unintentionally exacerbating instead of reducing GBV (CARE-GBV 2022a).

QUESTIONS:

1. What is needed to motivate actors from across USAID's ecosystem of GBV programming to incorporate GBV into sector-specific programming?[3]

2. What works to build the technical capacity needed for GBV to be integrated into all sectors across USAID, particularly for non-GBV experts? To what extent is this sector-specific? What level of knowledge of GBV is critical to uphold the do-no-harm mandate?

3. How can we hold sector actors accountable for meaningfully integrating GBV without overly burdening non-GBV staff?

4. How can USAID promote and sustain effective collaboration across sectors to generate cross-sectoral programs that meaningfully integrate GBV prevention, mitigation, and response?

---

[1] Scale-up refers to "taking successful projects, programs, or policies and expanding, adapting, and sustaining them in different ways over time for greater development impact" (Hartmann and Linn 2007, USAID 2015).
[2] The sector-specific program elements are agriculture and market systems; climate adaptation and mitigation; crisis and conflict; democracy, human rights, and governance; economic growth and trade; education; energy and infrastructure; environment and natural resource management; global health; land and property rights; technology; and water security, sanitation, and hygiene.
[3] Actors in USAID's ecosystem for GBV programming in development include staff from various bureaus in USAID/ Washington, including Office of Acquisitions and Assistance; Regional Platforms; and a Mission's Front Office, Program Office, and Technical Offices. Actors outside of USAID include other U.S. government agencies, implementing partners, local sector-specific organizations, transnational and local women's rights organizations and networks, and diverse local organizations that work on GBV and other human rights issues.

THEME 2. Assessing How to Address GBV in Under-Researched Diverse Populations

In keeping with USAID's definition of GBV that is inclusive of diverse populations—including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people, and those with other sex characteristics and gender identities (LGBTQI+), persons with disabilities, and others, and in recognition of the importance of an intersectional approach, USAID is committed to programming with diverse populations that experience GBV. Yet, while there is a substantial evidence base about addressing GBV among cisgender women and adolescent girls (Jewkes et al. 2020, Kerr-Wilson et al. 2020), there is little evidence about what is needed or what is effective for other populations, such as people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC); older populations; religious and ethnic minorities; and persons with disabilities (Maclin et al. 2021, SVRI and EQI 2021).

Publications that provide data relating to GBV in populations other than cisgender women, while also highlighting the needs for additional research, include the following:

- *Violence against Women and Girls: Brief on Violence against Sexual and Gender Minority Women* (Crehan and McLeary-Sills 2015)

- *Violence against Older Women: A Systematic Review of Qualitative Literature* (Meyer et al. 2020)

- Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Gender-Based Violence in the Middle East and North Africa among Religious and Other Minorities in Conflict Settings (National Opinion Research Center [NORC] 2020b)

- Gender-Based Violence among People with Disabilities Is a Neglected Public Health Topic (Namatovu et al. 2018)

More research is needed to understand how GBV affects diverse populations and how to best address GBV in those populations. In addition, tailored monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) is needed for interventions that are expanded to populations beyond those included in the current evidence base. This work is essential to fill gaps in evidence and practice and ensure that programming is equitable, does no harm, and achieves desired outcomes.

QUESTIONS:

1. How do risk and protective factors for GBV vary across populations and contexts?

2. How do we use existing evidence about what works in addressing violence against women and girls to design and implement programming to address GBV against other populations?

3. What new approaches and interventions are needed to effectively address GBV among diverse populations, including but not limited to women and girls in all their diversity?

4. How do we expand GBV programming to additional populations without diverting funds and resources from the existing focus on women and girls, which is still under-resourced globally?

THEME 3. Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

Although not a new form of violence, TFGBV is a rapidly growing area of concern. TFGBV is defined as GBV "… carried out using the Internet and/or mobile technology and includes stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, defamation, hate speech and exploitation" (Hinson et al. 2018, 1).

TFGBV is highlighted as a form of GBV that deserves special focus because it has not received the attention needed in the past and is a form of violence that is less understood and rapidly increasing. The *United States National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality,* for example, includes efforts to address online abuse (The White House 2021).

A recent USAID GBV literature review, *The Impact of Information Communication Technologies on Gender-Based Violence,* highlights the lack of rigorous research on this topic, noting that terminology, definitions, and measures are still inconsistent. This report indicates that while there is emerging evidence to draw connections between online and offline incidences of GBV, more research is needed. It also points to unique features of TFGBV that need further investigation and research, including issues relating to anonymity, automation of harassment, and the transnational characteristic of the Internet (NORC 2020c). COVID-19, which has exacerbated the prevalence of TFGBV (CARE-GBV 2022c), is an additional factor to address.

The Centre for International Governance Innovation, in partnership with the International Development Research Centre and Ipsos, is conducting a 2-year research study in 18 countries to explore the prevalence of TFGBV against women and LGBTQ+ people. An introductory paper for the study reviews existing literature, including data related to the increased risk for those "with intersecting inequality factors," women in abusive relationships who experience TFGBV by partners, and women in leadership positions (Dunn 2020, 16). Additional points include that TFGBV is rooted in the same structures of inequality as offline GBV and can amplify older forms of GBV (i.e., intimate partner stalking) with the ability to harass and abuse a partner without being in close physical proximity (Dunn 2020).

USAID resources focused on TFGBV include *USAID's Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development*, Sector-Specific Program Element on Addressing GBV through Technology Programs (CARE-GBV 2022b) and *How to Prevent, Mitigate, and Respond to Gender-Based Violence in the COVID-19 Pandemic* (CARE-GBV 2022c).

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the impacts and consequences of TFGBV? What role do factors relating to social identity (e.g., ethnicity, race, class, diverse SOGIESC, disability) play in survivors' experiences of TFGBV?

2. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the prevalence and types of TFGBV?

3. What programmatic interventions are the most effective in countering TFGBV?

4. What role do global or national private-sector companies, local civil society organizations, and local governments play in addressing or enabling TFGBV?

5. What role do national laws and policies play in addressing or enabling TFGBV? How can USAID work with national governments to mitigate, prevent, and respond to TFGBV?

6. How can USAID amplify local voices in policy conversations with private-sector companies, including those headquartered in the United States, and their efforts to counter TFGBV?

THEME 4. Amplifying Roles of Locally Led Organizations in GBV Programming

Amplifying the roles of locally led organizations is a growing priority and challenge for international development organizations and funders, including USAID. An Agency-wide equity action plan highlights strategies to improve opportunities for local actors to engage with USAID as partners (USAID 2022b). In addition, USAID's new *Local Capacity Development Policy* outlines key principles for working with local organizations, including strategies to address barriers to local partner engagement (USAID 2021a).

Evidence demonstrates that autonomous women's rights movements are critical in mobilizing for social change related to gender equality and GBV. They play particularly important roles in promoting laws that criminalize certain forms of GBV (Htun and Weldon 2012). A new publication indicates the need to better understand how this change happens (Jiménez et al. 2021). Engaging local organizations has also been documented as a best practice in effective GBV programming (Jewkes et al. 2020).

However, while positive examples of strong partnerships do exist, including those funded by the U.S. government (for an example, see a learning brief on the Building Local Thinking Global Project), local organizations and funders widely report challenges in these partnerships. A 2021 publication by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) details this, noting that, "Despite new funding commitments made, women's rights organizations receive only 0.13% of the total Official Development Assistance and 0.4% of all gender-related aid" (Dolker 2021, 4).

Local organizations report challenges in working with funders that include unequal power dynamics; bureaucratic systems that disadvantage small organizations; biases related to knowledge and capacity required to receive money from large funders; and token, rather than meaningful, engagement, which is often used to "check a box" that local organizations are involved (USAID 2021a).

QUESTIONS:

1. How do we work with local organizations that address GBV in a way that is consistent with a decolonizing aid lens?

2. How do we identify and support local women-led organizations, informal women's groups, and those led by LGBTQI+ persons, and catalyze networks of local organizations addressing GBV? How do we engage with groups outside those we normally engage with? How do we provide support to strengthen existing local organizations? How do we engage with local universities for GBV evaluation and research?

3. What does it mean to institutionalize a decolonizing lens in policies and practices within USAID and among our implementing partners?

4. What are the diverse, context-specific priorities for locally led organizations working on GBV? What do they need from funders to achieve these priorities?

5. How do we amplify diverse women's voices and local knowledge? What does it mean to do this in a way that promotes a survivor-centered approach?

THEME 5. Improving Approaches to Measuring Effective Programming for GBV

Measurement of GBV programming using appropriate measures is important to be able to (1) track progress of specific activities or programs, (2) learn and adapt programming, and (3) report to Congress, as well as other global bodies, about what the USAID does to contribute to ending GBV.

USAID stakeholders and others (SVRI and EQI 2021, Maclin et al. 2021) prioritize how to measure effective programming for GBV for learning and research. Gaps in knowledge include how to document the range of GBV programming implemented across USAID (both standalone and integrated); how to conduct MEL related to newer areas of work, such as social norms; and how to measure incremental, intermediate, and long-term changes. In addition, USAID stakeholders identified a need to (1) improve understanding of and adherence to the ethics related to MEL processes; (2) learn how to conduct MEL that reflects intersectional and inclusive approaches; and (3) improve accountability of Missions for implementing GBV programming.

An additional priority for USAID stakeholders is to develop new custom and standard foreign assistance indicators (FA indicators) that can capture both outcomes and outputs. Identifying custom indicators that can be elevated to standard indicators is also needed. Strengthening MEL processes is cited as one approach to improve Missions' accountability.

QUESTIONS:

1. How do we measure change in GBV outcomes along a time continuum, including short-, intermediate-, and longer-term change? Which indicators should we adopt for measuring these multiple points in time? How do we move beyond counting outputs to measuring outcomes and impact? How do we create indicators that will capture more of our GBV work, particularly in integrated GBV programming?

2. What are promising practices for engaging local communities and organizations in survivor-centered, collaborative, and participatory MEL processes that reflect a decolonized approach? How can we collaborate with local organizations to create success metrics that are meaningful and valuable for communities? How do we make sure that we use context-specific data collection and measurement approaches?

3. How do we use MEL processes to support Missions and Operating Units to be more accountable for GBV programming? How do we incorporate GBV indicators into a Country Development Cooperative Strategy, the Mission's Performance Monitoring Plan, and activity designs, and then track implementation?

4. How can we safely and ethically leverage the use of technology for MEL in GBV programming?

THEME 6. Increasing Staff Prioritization of GBV Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Programming within USAID

As noted in the introduction to this learning agenda, GBV has been a priority issue in USAID's development programming for the past decade. Yet, a 2015 USAID internal evaluation of the 2012 *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally* concluded that despite many positive accomplishments, half of USAID Missions reported challenges in implementing GBV programming (USAID 2015). Also, both qualitative and quantitative data from a 2021 study by CARE-GBV suggest that USAID staff continue to find GBV programming difficult. A survey question asked for staff's perceptions about the following: "To what extent is GBV integrated into your Operating Unit's Country or Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS/RDCS) or a comparable strategy?" Only 5 percent of survey respondents said that GBV was integrated as a meaningful part of their Operating Unit's CDCS/RDCS or a comparable strategy (CARE-GBV 2022a).

An overarching finding of the CARE-GBV study is that the success of USAID's GBV programming relies on efforts that take place across USAID's entire ecosystem for GBV programming. This includes offices and staff in USAID/Washington, USAID Regional Platforms, and USAID Missions. Other key stakeholders include other U.S. government agencies, implementing partners, local sector-specific organizations, transnational and local women's rights organizations and networks, and diverse local organizations that work on GBV and other human rights issues.

QUESTIONS:

1. What motivates USAID staff across the Agency (including program and technical office staff, as well as gender advisors and gender points of contact) to proactively address GBV in programming, including incorporating it in other sectoral programs? What motivates a senior leader to champion GBV programming? What does it take to motivate others from different backstops in USAID's ecosystem? Why are some staff reluctant to engage in GBV programming?

2. What is the role of staff training in promoting GBV programming within USAID? What knowledge or practice gaps do current GBV-related training programs address and which ones they do not address?

3. How can we reach more people with GBV training, including motivating more staff to attend, and how can we better integrate GBV content into other training sessions? What is needed to translate training into action for USAID staff, especially FSN staff (e.g., what support and resources do staff need after training)?

4. What accountability mechanisms are needed to motivate USAID staff to develop GBV-related programming, and how can these be developed and implemented?

5. What is the role of funding in promoting GBV programming? To what extent does dedicated funding incentivize both standalone and integrated GBV programming across all sectors, and particularly in sectors where GBV is not typically addressed?

THEME 7. Assessing the Role of National Governments, Laws, and Policies in Effective USAID Programming

National governments play important roles in developing effective GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services and activities. They can promote an enabling environment for GBV programming by passing and implementing laws and policies, creating national action plans, passing budgets that include funds for a range of services, and ensuring that survivors of GBV have access to justice (Tavares et al. 2019).

In 2021, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a report outlining the role of government in GBV response (OECD 2021). A recent publication links effective community mobilization for GBV prevention to government engagement (Stern 2021). A recent USAID-supported literature review focused on understanding how government-sponsored justice sector institutions that address GBV, often co-located with one-stop centers, support access to justice and mitigation of harm for survivors. One finding is that programs are most likely to succeed with the commitment and active participation of local governments (NORC 2020a). Yet, much more remains to be learned about how to engage governments effectively and implement programming where there is limited or no government commitment.[4] USAID stakeholders have noted the challenges in addressing GBV in countries where government commitment does not exist or where the U.S. government cannot engage with the national government (CARE-GBV 2022a).

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the intersections between government action, laws, and policies, and social change? What role can governments play in promoting social change related to GBV, including structural and normative change? In what contexts should governments be engaged and in what contexts they can do harm?

2. What role does USAID, as a funder, play in supporting women's rights and other local organizations in advocating and organizing for change at the government level—including for laws, policies, funding, services, and justice?

3. How do we work with partner governments to adopt policies, plans, and methods to strengthen capacity to improve GBV prevention, mitigation, and response? How do we integrate a survivor-centered approach into government policies and services?

4. How do we work with government ministries and other development partners to amplify GBV work? How do we amplify this work through other partners (e.g., United Nations Population Fund)?

---

[4] Government commitment could be exemplified through policies, national action plans, services, and verbal commitments.

Next Steps

This learning agenda outlines the themes USAID stakeholders defined as priorities. It also promotes an overarching approach that will prioritize local leadership and center research and learning where implementation of GBV programming takes place. This calls on using research methods that are intentional about ensuring diverse perspectives, experiences, and identities, and value and uplift various forms of knowledge.

As a first step, this learning agenda will be widely disseminated across USAID, providing a basis for Missions and other Operating Units to reflect on which themes and questions are the most relevant to gaps in knowledge in their contexts.

Answering these questions may require a review of existing research and additional qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies within specific country contexts. Studies conducted within several countries can be analyzed to identify cross-cutting themes that can be useful to regions and possibly across the globe.

Annex 1. Methods Used to Develop the Learning Agenda

As noted in the Background section, the learning agenda is based on a global desk review that included relevant research and learning agendas on GBV, qualitative and quantitative data collected during a 2021 baseline study conducted by the CARE-GBV activity, and meetings with USAID stakeholders.

The global desk review included the following research and learning agendas on GBV:

- 2020 USAID GBV learning agenda (see Annex II)

- USAID Learning Agenda for Addressing Child, Early, and Forced Marriages and Early Unions (CARE-GBV 2022d)

- USAID Learning Agenda for Addressing Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (CARE-GBV 2022e)

- USAID Agency Learning Agenda: FY 2022–2026 (USAID 2022a)

- *Global Shared Research Agenda for Research on Violence against Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries* (SVRI and EQI 2021)

- *Finding the Path Forward: Identifying Research Gaps on Gender-Based Violence among Conflict-Affected Refugees in the Global South* (Maclin et al. 2021) developed by the GWI

The 2021 baseline study focused on understanding factors that promote and constrain GBV programming within USAID, as well as measures USAID stakeholders think would improve the quality and quantity of USAID-funded GBV programming. CARE-GBV collected qualitative data through key informant interviews and focus group discussions with 151 USAID stakeholders representing a purposive sample of staff working at 12 USAID country and 5 regional Missions.[5] An online survey, distributed to USAID staff globally, was used to collect quantitative data. Seventy-five (75) people representing 30 countries responded (Figure 1).

As a first step in developing the learning agenda, qualitative data were triangulated with findings from the desk review to determine 16 potential themes related to gaps in evidence or practice USAID stakeholders identified. Additional weight was given to themes that would support and complement other global research and learning agendas on GBV identified in the desk review, specifically the *Global Shared Research Agenda* (SVRI and EQI 2021) and GWI's *Finding the Path Forward* (Maclin et al. 2021).

Second, as part of an online survey sent to USAID stakeholders across the globe, respondents were asked to select their top six priorities for the learning agenda from the 16 themes presented. The seven themes respondents ranked the highest were selected for the learning agenda. The survey was sent to listservs for program officers, activity managers, gender-related groups, and others, as well as to Missions that were part of the 2021 baseline study. Seventy-five (75) people from 30 countries responded. This included 28 from USAID/Washington, 18 in 12 countries in Africa, 17 in 10 countries in Asia, 3 in 3 countries in Latin America and the

---

[5] This also includes six USAID/Washington stakeholders who participated in a focus group discussion in November 2021.

Caribbean, 3 in 3 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and 3 in 1 country in Europe and Eurasia. The sample included 40 gender advisors or gender points of contact, and 35 individuals in other roles.

Figure 1. Locations of respondents to the quantitative survey
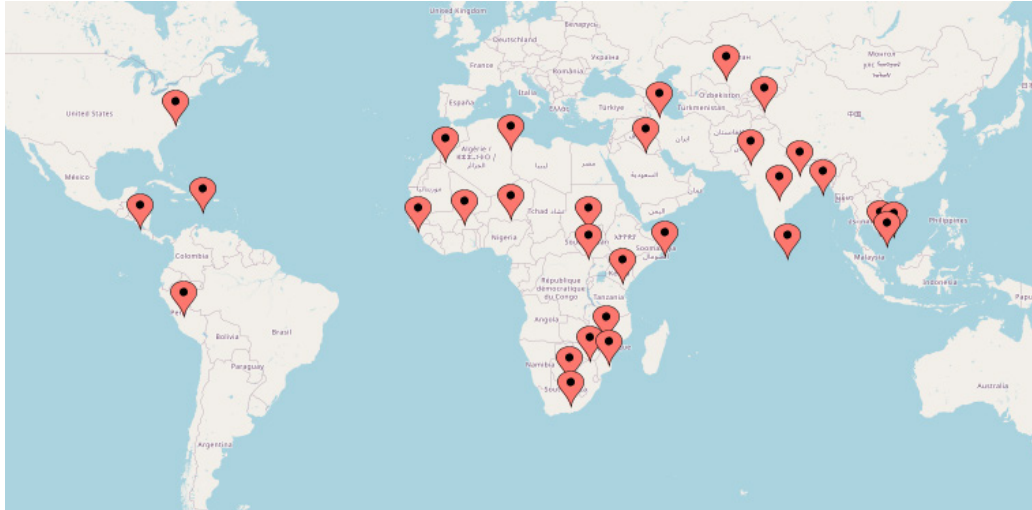
To identify more specific questions for each of the seven themes, interactive meetings were held with the USAID's GBV Community of Practice (46 members) and the Asia region gender champions group (13 participants).[6] Participants suggested questions for each theme.

As a final step, questions USAID stakeholders suggested were synthesized into three to five key questions per theme to guide learning.

---

[6] The Asia region gender champions meeting was held to engage those in time zones that may have prevented participation in the GBV Community of Practice.

Annex II. USAID Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews

The following are the 10 completed literature reviews developed as a result of an Agency-wide 2020 USAID GBV learning agenda.

National Opinion Research Center (NORC). 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Access to Justice Institutions.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00X399.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Conflict and Post-Conflict Interventions to Reduce Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Advance Survivor Recovery.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WZS7.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Corporal Punishment in Schools in Low-Income Countries: An Evidence Review.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00XV9B.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Engaging Faith and Community Leaders in Interventions to End Child, Early, and Forced Marriage. A Systematic Review of What Is Working.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WRG3.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Gender-Based Violence in the Middle East and North Africa among Religious and Other Minorities in Conflict Settings.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WQMX.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: The Effectiveness of One-Stop GBV Resource Centers.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00X5BV.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: The Impact of Information Communication Technologies on Gender-Based Violence.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WR39.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Village Savings and Loan Associations and Intimate Partner Violence.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WQ3P.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Violence against Women in the Informal Sector.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WQ8X.pdf.

———. 2020. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Women's Economic Participation in North Africa.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00X19Z.pdf.

Acknowledgments

References

Building Local Thinking Global. n.d. *Learning Brief: Successes and Opportunities for Feminist Partnerships with Women's Rights Organizations and Networks in Gender-Based Violence.* London: International Rescue Committee (IRC). Accessed September 16, 2022. https://gbvresponders. org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/BLTG-Learning-Brief_English.pdf.

Byatnal, Amruta. 2021. "Deep Dive: Decolonizing Aid—From Rhetoric to Action." *Devex Newswire*, August 2021. https://www.devex.com/news/deep-dive-decolonizing-aid-from-rhetoric-to-action-100646.

CARE-GBV. 2022a. "Baseline Study Report." Washington, D.C.: USAID.

———. 2022b. "Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development: Sector-Specific Program Element on Addressing GBV through Technology Programs." Washington, D.C.: USAID.

———. 2022c. *"How to Prevent, Mitigate, and Respond to Gender-Based Violence in the COVID-19 Pandemic."* No.7 in a series. Washington, D.C.: USAID.

———. 2022d. *Learning Agenda: Addressing Child, Early, and Forced Marriage and Unions.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://makingcents.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CARE-GBV_CEFM_Learning_Agenda_Final_508c.pdf.

———. 2022e. "Learning Agenda: Addressing Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting." Washington, D.C.: USAID.

———. 2022f. "Addendum to the Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Gender-Based Violence Interventions along the Relief to Development Continuum." Washington, D.C.: USAID.

———. 2022g. "USAID's Foundational Elements for GBV Programming in Development." Washington, D.C.: USAID.

Castañeda Camey Itza, Laura Sabater, Cate Owren, and A Emmet Boyer. 2020. *Gender-Based Violence and Environment Linkages: The Violence of Inequality.* Edited by Jamie Wen. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2020-002-En.pdf.

Crehan Phil and Jennifer McCleary-Sills. 2015. *Ending Violence against Sexual and Gender Minority Women. A Critical Development Challenge.* Washington, D.C.: International Center for Research on Women. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://archive.transatlanticrelations.org/publication/ending-violence-sexual-gender-minority-women-critical-development-challenge-phil-crehan-jennifer-mccleary-sills/?msclkid=1ef45f5cd16411eca990dcb9e0bd6f76.

Crenshaw Kimberle. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." *University of Chicago Legal Forum*. 1989(1): Article 8. https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=uclf.

Dolker Tenzin. 2021. *Where Is the Money for Feminist Organizing? Data Snapshots and a Call to Action.* Toronto, Canada: AWID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/AWID_Research_WITM_Brief_ENG.pdf.

Dunn Suzie. 2020. *Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: An Overview.* Waterloo, Canada: Centre for International Governance Innovation. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://ssrn.com/abstract=3772042.

Hartmann Arntraud and Johannes F Linn. 2007. *Scaling Up: A Path to Effective Development.* Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/200710_scaling_up_linn.pdf.

Hinson Laura, Jennifer Mueller, Lila O'Brien-Milne, and Naome Wandera. 2018. *Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: What Is It, and How Do We Measure It?* Washington, D.C.: ICRW. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.svri.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2018-07-24/ICRW_TFGBVMarketing_Brief_v8-Web.pdf.

Htun Mala and S. Laurel Weldon. 2012. "The Civic Origins of Progressive Policy Change: Combating Violence against Women in Global Perspective, 1975–2005." *American Political Science Review* 106(3):548-69. doi: 10.1017/S0003055412000226.

Imkaan. 2019. The *Value of Intersectionality in Understanding Violence against Women and Girls.* London, U.K: Imkaan. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/10/the-value-of-intersectionality-in-understanding-violence-against-women-and-girls#view.

Jewkes R, S Willan, L Heise, L Washington, N Shai, A Kerr-Wilson, et al. 2020. *Effective Design and Implementation Elements in Interventions to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls. What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls? Global Programme Synthesis Product Series.* Pretoria, South Africa: South African Medical Research Council. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/373-intervention-report19-02-20/file.

Jiménez Thomas Rodriguez Diana, Caroline Harper, and Rachel George. 2021. *Mobilising for Change: How Women's Social Movements are Transforming Gender Norms.* ALIGN Report. London, U.K.: Advancing Learning and Innovation on Gender Norms and ODI. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.alignplatform.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/align_-_mobilising_for_justice.pdf.

Kerr-Wilson Alice, Andrew Gibbs, Erika McAslan Fraser, Leane Ramsoomar, Anne Parke, Hussain MA Khuwaja, et al. 2020. *A Rigorous Global Evidence Review of Interventions to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls. What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls? Global Programme Synthesis Product Series.* Pretoria, South Africa: South African Medical Research. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/374-evidence-reviewfweb/file.

Maclin Beth, Jessie Weber, Angela Bourassa, and Maureen Murphy. 2021. *Finding the Path Forward: Identifying Research Gaps on Gender-Based Violence among Conflict-Affected Refugees in the Global South.* Washington, D.C.: The Global Women's Institute at George Washington University. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://buildgbvevidence.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs4121/f/downloads/GWI_GapAnalysisReport_2021.pdf.

Mannell Jenevieve, Safua Akeli Amaama, Ramona Boodoosingh, Laura Brown, Maria Calderon, et al. 2021. "Decolonising Violence against Women Research: A Study Design for Co-Developing Violence Prevention Interventions with Communities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)." *BMC Public Health*. June 15;(21):1147. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11172-2.

Meyer Sarah R, Molly E Lasater, and Claudia García-Moreno. 2020. "Violence against Older Women: A Systematic Review of Qualitative Literature." *PLoS ONE*. 15(9): e0239560. https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0239560.

Namatovu Fredinah, Raman Preet, and Isabel Goicolea. 2018. "Gender-Based Violence among People with Disabilities Is a Neglected Public Health Topic." *Global Health Action*. 11(sup3):1694758, doi: 10.1080/16549716.2019.1694758. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31777318/.

NORC. 2020a. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Access to Justice Institutions*. Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00X399.pdf.

———. 2020b. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: Gender-Based Violence in the Middle East and North Africa among Religious and other Minorities in Conflict Settings.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WQMX.pdf.

———. 2020c. *Select Gender-Based Violence Literature Reviews: The Impact of Information Communication Technologies on Gender-Based Violence.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00WR39.pdf.

OECD. 2021. *Eliminating Gender-based Violence: Governance and Survivor/Victim-centred Approaches*. Paris, France: OECD Publishing. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://doi.org/10.1787/42121347-en.

Stern E. 2021. "Community Mobilization to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls." Learning from Practice Brief Series, No. 1 Lessons from Civil Society Organizations Funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. New York, NY: UN Women. https://prevention-collaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/UNTF_2021_Community-Mobilization-SUMMARY_ENG.pdf.

SVRI and EQI. 2021. *Global Shared Research Agenda for Research on Violence against Women in Low and Middle-Income Countries*. Pretoria, South Africa: SVRI. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.svri.org/documents/global-shared-research-agenda-vawg.

Tavares Paula, Isabel Santagostino Recavarren, and Aarushi Sinha. 2019. *Protecting Women from Violence—Bridging the Implementation Gap Between Law and Practice*. Global Indicators Group. Indicators Group Research Note. World Bank Research and Development Center in Chile. No.4. December 2019. Accessed September 16, 2022. http://hdl.handle.net/10986/33222.

The White House. *National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality.* Washington, D.C.: The White House. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/National-Strategy-on-Gender-Equity-and-Equality.pdf.

UN Women. 2021. *UN Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025*. New York, NY: UN Women. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025.

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI). 2019. *A Whole-School Approach to Prevent School-Related Gender-Based Violence: Minimum Standards and Monitoring Framework*. New York, NY: UNGEI. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.edu-links.org/sites/default/files/media/file/Whole-School-Approach-to-Prevent-SRGBV-Minimum-Standards-Framework-UNGEI.pdf.

USAID. 2022a. *Agency Learning Agenda FY 2022–2026*. Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FY_2022-2026_Agency_Learning_Agenda_Publication_Version_03-29-22-0820.pdf .

———. 2022b. *EO 13985 USAID Agency Equity Action Plan.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.usaid.gov/equity/documents/eo-13985-agency-equity-action-plan.

———. 2021a. *Local Capacity Development Policy. Draft. Version 8.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/LCD_Policy_-_FORMATTED_508_01-11.pdf.

———. 2021b. *Toolkit for Integrating GBV Prevention and Response into Economic Growth Projects*. Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/USAID%20Toolkit%20GBV%20EG%20Final%209-22-14.pdf.

———. 2015. *United States Agency for International Development Evaluation of Implementation of The United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally: August 2012 through July 2015.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://www.usaid.gov/documents/1865/gender-based-violence-report-2015-executivesummary.

USAID and U.S. Department of State. 2016. *United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, 2016 Update.* Washington, D.C.: USAID. Accessed September 16, 2022. https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/258703.pdf.

The goal of the Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV) activity is to strengthen USAID's collective prevention and response, or "collective action" in gender-based violence (GBV) development programming across USAID. For more information about CARE-GBV, click here.

To learn more, please contact:

Gender Equality and Women's
Empowerment Hub
gendevgbvteam@usaid.gov

Diane Gardsbane, PhD

Chief of Party
CARE-GBV

diane@makingcents.com