# Annex 6

# NCA’s Global Programme on GBV (relevant abstracts)

## **Gender-Based Violence**

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries, and increases drastically during conflict and other humanitarian crisis. This programme will work on prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), and the links this has to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

It is estimated that 35% of all women worldwide will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime[[1]](#footnote-1). 1 out of 3 girls aged 15 to 19 have been subjected to female genital mutilation/cutting (FGMC) in 2018, with prevalence rates ranging much higher in some countries NCA works in[[2]](#footnote-2). 1 in 5 girls, or 23 girls every minute, are married before they turn 18, and fragile states have the highest rates of child marriages due to increased insecurity, poverty and weakened social networks[[3]](#footnote-3). Violence is “a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to the domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women”.[[4]](#footnote-4) All forms of gender-based violence[[5]](#footnote-5) undermine the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death. Societal constructs of masculinity and victimhood, alongside homophobia, foster a culture of silence among male survivors with many choosing to not report their victimization out of fear of being publicly identified as a survivor of sexual violence or for fear of being considered homosexual, and as such little global statistics exists on male survivors of sexual violence[[6]](#footnote-6).

Gender discrimination is not only a cause of many forms of violence against women and girls but also contributes to the widespread acceptance and invisibility of such violence—so that perpetrators are not held accountable and survivors are discouraged from speaking out and accessing support.[[7]](#footnote-7) Engaging men and boys to transform patriarchal gender roles and adopt positive masculinities is critical for promoting gender equality and preventing violence against women and girls. Some studies show that half of male perpetrators feel justified to commit sexual assaults and put the responsibility on women.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Many of the 1.8 billion youth (10-24 years old) across the world are unable to realise their full potential or to participate fully in society. For girls, the barriers to participation are even higher, with 11% of all births worldwide are to girls aged 15 to 19 years old. The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences.

NCA will work with faith actors, women’s groups, youth groups, local and international civil society actors, the ACT Alliance, authorities, and communities at large to promote and protect these rights, in particular women and girls’ rights. When women and girls’ rights are promoted and protected, women and girls live lives free of violence, are able to make decisions over own bodies, are able to access education, health care, attain the highest possible psychosocial wellbeing, and realise their sexual and reproductive rights.

NCA has a collaborative advantage in engaging faith-based organisations and religious leaders – women and men - in efforts to reduce GBV given their legitimacy, moral authority and outreach. NCA will challenge faith-based partners and religious leaders to take action against GBV, both within their own faith communities, in local communities and through advocacy towards duty bearers.

In line with NCA’s commitments made to the World Humanitarian Summit, NCA’s GBV programme will make a shift towards a stronger combination between development, humanitarian and advocacy work through collective outcomes. The humanitarian work stream will focus on saving lives and responding to crisis, whilst the development work stream will focus on building sustainable community mechanisms and supportive structures for positive change, while we advocate for policy change at community, national, regional and global levels.

The GBV programme intends to work with youth to create change amongst youth, and create a space where youth can grow and be empowered to make their own decisions over their own lives. Faith actors are often the gatekeepers to social and moral norms, and the GBV programme will work with faith actors to create change within congregations and communities at large. The GBV programme will further seek collaboration and support from the private sector, both in regards of financial support but also as partners for change, and to develop collaborative advantages between partners and communities. Furthermore, NCA will engage in private sector partnerships in regards to innovation and for capacity strengthening using state-of-art technology and models for practice. The GBV programme will furthermore engage local and national government, UN agencies and academic partners to develop evidence-base for our interventions.

**Global Goal: Women and girls live empowered lives free from gender-based violence**

**Sub-goal 1:** Dominant norms transformed to protect girls and women from violence and harmful practices

**Sub-goal 2:** Women and girls at risk of violence and survivors' access life-saving and specialised GBV services.

**Sub-goal 3:** Empowered women and adolescent girls lead, build self-esteem and realise their rights

Empowerment means that women and girls can take control over their lives: set their own agendas, gain skills, solve problems, claim rights, and develop self-reliance.[[9]](#footnote-9) Women and girls have to understand and ‘own’ their rights and be able to support their own life aspirations. This sub-goal will support the promotion of women and girls’ full participation in and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, religious and public life.

To be empowered women and girls must not only have equal capabilities (such as education and health) and equal access to resources and opportunities (such as land and employment), but they must also have the agency to use these rights, capabilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions (such as is provided through leadership opportunities and participation in political institutions). NCA will focus on engaging the most vulnerable girls, assess risks for each girl, including finding mitigation measures, involve girls in designing interventions with them, strengthen girls’ voices and empower girls to guide their own lives.

NCA will engage young men and boys as agents of change, to adopt roles (for example as supportive husbands, fathers-to-be, brothers) that are supportive of women and girls, working with them to understand girls’ rights, their own role, and alternative non-violent and supportive pathways. Empowerment projects will be operationalised in development and humanitarian contexts, advocate for women and girls’ leadership and will collaborate with the Climate Smart Economic Empowerment Strategic Initiative where feasible.

Empowerment allows women to make their own decisions, control their assets, and influence the policies, processes and institutions that affect their lives (including the structures and institutions that reinforce and perpetuate gender discrimination and inequality). The concept has a long history in social change work[[10]](#footnote-10) which emphasises the importance of gaining the ability to make meaningful choices[[11]](#footnote-11). Empowerment must also include the processes that lead women and girls to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decisions equally with men and boys. These processes must involve undoing negative social norms so that women and girls come to see themselves as having the capacity and the right to act and influence decisions[[12]](#footnote-12). Knowledge is power, and the programme will seek to ensure that women have access to relevant information regarding their rights to a life free from all forms of violence.

**Important to know!**

Empowering the next generation – adolescent girls

Adolescent girls focus on engaging the most vulnerable girls, assess risks for each girl, including finding mitigation measures, involve girls in designing interventions with them, strengthen girls’ voices and empower girls to guide their own lives.

According to Women’s Empowerment International, an estimated 70% of the world’s poor are women and girls. Empowered women and girls are less likely to experience gender-based violence (GBV). In most of the countries where NCA works, women and girls have little or no access to assets and make the greater percentage of those unemployed (self or formal employment). Cultures and traditions systematically bar women from basic rights e.g. inheritance from their parents, and in some cases, inheritance from their husbands. Strengthening women's access to property inheritance and land rights is key to economic empowerment. This implies that to be empowered women and girls must not only have equal capabilities (such as education and health) and equal access to resources and opportunities (such as land and employment), but they must also have the agency to use these rights, capabilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions (such as is provided through leadership opportunities and participation in political institutions[[13]](#footnote-13)).

## Programme Standard

Empowerment means that women can take control over their lives: set their own agendas, gain skills (or have their skills and knowledge recognised), solve problems, and develop self-reliance[[14]](#footnote-14).Empowerment allows women tomake their own decisions, control their assets, and influence the policies, processes and institutions that affect their lives (including the structures and institutions that reinforce and perpetuate gender discrimination and inequality). The concept has a long history in social change work which emphasises the importance of gaining the ability to make meaningful choices. Empowerment must also include the processes that lead women and girls to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decisions equally with men and boys. These processes must involve undoing negative social norms so that women and girls come to see themselves as having the capacity and the right to act and influence decisions. This implies that to be empowered women and girls must not only have equal capabilities (such as education and health) and equal access to resources and opportunities (such as land and employment), but they must also have the agency to use these rights, capabilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions (such as is provided through leadership opportunities and participation in political institutions).

## Minimum Requirement

Empowerment programmes must[[15]](#footnote-15):

* Engage the most vulnerable and isolated women and adolescent girls
* Assess the most pertinent risks and dangers for women and adolescent girls in each context
* Involve women and adolescent girls in all aspects of programme design and implementation
* Strengthen protective mechanisms that include the key stakeholders impacting the lives of women and girls
* Empower women and girls to steer their own well-being and safety once the programme is complete

**Sub-Goal 4:** Maternal mortality is reduced among women and adolescent girls

**Sub-Goal 5:** Women and adolescents access comprehensive sexuality education and modern family planning

1. WHO estimate: Sexual and physical violence, by intimate partner or non-partner (unknown), this number does not include sexual harassment [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Somalia: 98%, Mali 89%, Ethiopia 74% according to https://www.unicef.org/media/files/FGMC\_2016\_brochure\_final\_UNICEF\_SPREAD.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Girls, not Brides [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW, 1993) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. IASC GBV Guidelines definition of GBV: *GBV is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Country specific studies conflict-related sexual violence exist, for example among male combatants in Liberia in 2008 32% reporting sexual violence, and 23% of men in conflict-affected areas in DRC in 2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. IASC GBV Guidelines [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Wegner, R., Abbey, A., Jennifer, P., Pregram, S, E., Woerner, J. ‘Relationships to Rape Supportive Attitudes, Incident Characteristics, and Future Perpetration’ Violence against Women, 2015, volume 21 no.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. UN Women, p. X. [FIND CITATION]. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Cornwall, p. 1. Women’s empowerment: what works and why? World Institute for Development Economics Research (2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. PAL, p. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Rahman, p. 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. [“Gender Equality, UN Coherence and You”](https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/course/description.php?id=10), developed by UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women. E-learning Course. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. UNFPA MS, p. 30 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Adapted from IRC’s Girl Shine toolkit [↑](#footnote-ref-15)