

Irish Consortium
on Gender Based
Violence

MOVING
BEYOND
FEAR

ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018



WORDS FROM THE CHAIR



SIOBHÁN MCGEE

I am proud to have recently been appointed to the Chairpersonship of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence (ICGBV). As I come on board, my knowledge of the Consortium and its activities has deepened, and I am impressed with the work that the Consortium has achieved to date.

This Annual Report highlights the work the Consortium did in 2017/18 to further its goals around strengthening programming on GBV, learning, advocacy and leadership.

Working to end GBV in development and humanitarian contexts is as important now as it has ever been, particularly given contemporary conflicts and increased displacement. The Consortium's unique Membership—made up of Irish Aid, the Defence Forces and Irish international NGOs—provides a rare opportunity for collaboration and forming a collective voice against GBV. As CEO of ActionAid Ireland, I am committed to both bringing forward my organisation's learning on GBV and learning from other Member Organisations.

2020 is a critical year to highlight the work that the Consortium and its Members do to end GBV globally. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the 20th Anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and the first five years of the SDGs.

At these milestones, the Consortium has the opportunity to bring discussions on GBV to the fore.

Finally, I am looking forward to guiding the Consortium during the final year of its Strategic Plan and steering it as it begins its next strategically critical period. Together we are stronger in our work to end GBV globally.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siobhán McGee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Siobhán McGee

*Chair, ICGBV
CEO, ActionAid Ireland*

WORDS FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR



DOMINIC MACSORLEY

I am delighted to pass the baton to Siobhán McGee, newly appointed Chair of the Consortium. I had the pleasure of guiding the Consortium from 2016 through 2019, years in which we expanded activities at country level and increased our influence at the international policy level. This Annual Report shines a spotlight on the work achieved in 2017/18.

With a newly developed Strategic Plan and full-time Coordinator in place, the Consortium continued to strengthen in-country collaboration with Malawi and Sierra Leone and continued the promotion of learning events. New endeavours, including training for staff overseas on the IASC Guidelines on GBV in Emergencies and as well as working in partnership with University College Dublin on establishing the International School on addressing Gender Based Violence in Emergencies, were also undertaken.

These years were key for bringing the Members' field experience to high-level policy meetings around ending GBV. For the 61st and 62nd Commission on the Status of Women, the Consortium developed policy papers on GBV, which were launched at side events with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN.

None of this work would be possible without the engagement from each of the Consortium's

Steering Committee and Learning and Practice representatives, and I thank each one of them for their energy and inspiration.

Last but by no means least, a huge thanks to staff of the Consortium for the incredible hard work and commitment - Seona Dillon McLoughlin, former Coordinator, Abby Ryan, current Coordinator and recently joined team member Brianna Guidorzi, in the newly created role of Communications and Policy Support Officer.

While my time as Chair of the Consortium has ended, Concern's commitment to the Consortium remains strong. It is needed now more than ever. I am looking forward to seeing the Consortium continue to grow in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dominic MacSorley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Dominic MacSorley

CEO, Concern Worldwide

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The years covered by this Annual Report were busy ones for the Consortium. With the appointment of a full-time Coordinator, the work of the Consortium continued to grow over 2017/2018, delivering on key objectives in a timely and effective manner.

In addition to continuing with existing work, including learning events and in-country collaboration, the Consortium embarked on new activities, including rolling out IASC training overseas on GBV in Emergencies and piloting the International School on Gender Based Violence in Emergencies.

Much of the focus of 2017/18 was on the completion of the Strategic and Action Planning process. With the help of an external consultant, Shirley Graham, the ICGBV Strategic Plan 2017-2020: Leaving no behind, tackling gender based violence where the needs are greatest, was completed during 2017. Consultation on the development for the plan engaged a wide group

of external experts, donors, as well as all Member Organisations and CEOs. The Strategic Plan reaffirmed Members’ commitment to the Consortium, setting out a new ambition, guiding principles and four goals that the Consortium would work towards.

Regarding advocacy, the Consortium increased its profile in 2017/18, focusing on submissions to the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs review of Irish Aid and Irish Aid White Paper. The Consortium also held side events at the 61st and 62nd Commission on the Status of Women, with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN.

Overall, 2017/18 strongly set the scene for heading into a new Strategic Plan. This report goes into more depth on the Consortium’s work and also features spotlights on each Member Organisation.

Goal 1

Empowering for Change:
Reducing and responding to GBV through more effective programming

Goal 2

Quality through Learning:
Creating robust technical learning environments

Goal 3

Raising our Collective Voice:
Amplifying the issue of GBV at policy and public level

Goal 4

Strengthening Leadership and Accountability

ICGBV Strategic Plan 2017-2020:

Leaving no one behind, tackling gender based violence where the needs are greatest

ROLLOUT IASC GUIDELINES TRAINING

In conjunction with Christian Aid Ireland and the Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), ICGBV offered a regional training in Nairobi, for staff across the Member Organisations and their partners on implementing the standards in the IASC Guidelines on Integrating GBV in Emergencies.

The training was attended by 26 people from eight

Plan International

Plan International began in 2017 with the campaign 'Lost Girls.' Highlighting barriers that girl refugees face in Syria and Northern Nigeria, the campaign reached nearly 2.5 million people internationally, with over 800,000 viewing online videos and 2,244 people pledging to stand up for the rights of refugee girls.

Later in the same year, Plan's public engagement work focused on girls in the Rohingya Crisis, calling attention to the role that education plays in protecting them from child marriage and GBV. This campaign reached 30 mentions across national and regional print, broadcast and online media, with 1.53 million views of content and high levels of interaction on Facebook.

We also launched a Report on Safer Cities which highlighted that girls face sexual harassment, exploitation, and insecurity as they navigate urban environments. This was also supplemented by a survey in Ireland which found that six in ten women feel unsafe taking public transport and have experienced physical harassment in public. The campaign reached 4 million people.

Our EU-funded project "COMBAT" in Guinea Bissau focused on public community declarations and commitment to abandoning FGM, positively impacting the lives of over 15,000 women and girls across the country.

countries and covered topics such as GBV core concepts, risk mitigation, assessment, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), information sharing, safety planning and referrals.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ON GBV IN EMERGENCIES

The overall objective of the ISGBViE is to develop a state-of-the-art global level module on GBViE, designed to increase capacity to support action to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV in disparate humanitarian contexts. Throughout 2017 and 2018 the Consortium worked closely with the Research Coordinator in UCD on developing the draft curriculum and pilot module and engaging with international experts and setting up the Programme Board and Advisory Network.

The project has its origins in the Irish Humanitarian Consultations, in advance of the World Humanitarian Summit, where a 'suggested undertaking' for the Irish Humanitarian Community was to explore options for building excellence in training and research in protection and gender-based violence.

The pilot project received funding from Irish Aid and continues to be guided by a Programme Board of international experts in GBV while being co-chaired by the University College Dublin Centre for Humanitarian Action and the ICGBV. The programme is further informed by an Advisory Network of academics, practitioners and policy experts from a range of disciplines, including many Consortium Member Organisations' technical experts, providing advice and contributing expertise, materials and research.

The pilot session of the ISGBViE was very positively received by all the students, with expectations being met or surpassed, by all students.

There was a temporary internal Consortium technical task team set up to input into the curriculum design. This group consisted of Seona Dillon McLoughlin (ICGBV), Dr. Fiona Shanahan (Trócaire), Dr. Andrea Breslin (Concern Worldwide), Anna Marie O'Carroll (Irish Red Cross) and Deirdre Healy (Kimmage).

PARTICIPATION AT CSW

During 2017/18 a policy brief entitled 'Rural Women: Remoteness, Rights and Violence' was developed for the 62nd CSW (March 2018), on the theme of GBV in relation to rural women and girls. Then ICGBV Coordinator, Seona Dillon McLoughlin, and Trócaire's Head of Policy and Advocacy, Niamh Garvey, attended the CSW on behalf of the Consortium as part of the Irish delegation.

The Chair during 2017/18, Dominic MacSorley, traveled to New York and took part in the ICGBV side event in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN entitled 'Good Practices in the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls through Addressing GBV'.

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason opened this successful side event with representatives from the Consortium speaking on the panel, Bríd Kennedy (Concern Worldwide) and Stephen Iphani (Trócaire Malawi), as well as two speakers from IRC working on a regional and international level.

This event was a great opportunity to share the findings from the policy brief the Consortium developed with guidance and research from Dr. Aisling Swaine of London School of Economics. The ICGBV also shared key approaches and learning for addressing GBV through empowerment programming in rural areas through examples from the work of the Consortium members.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Throughout 2017 the Consortium undertook a Strategic Planning process, including an evaluation of the work of the Consortium and the development of a three-year Strategic Plan. Along with the Strategic Plan there was the development of a detailed Action Plan which is aligned to the actions of the Strategic Plan. Following on from this an annual work plan template was developed that is fully aligned to the Action Plan.

Trócaire

Trócaire strengthened specialised GBV response, prevention and protection of women and girls across humanitarian and development programming in Somalia, DRC, Lebanon, Syria, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe in line with their strategic focus on women's protection and empowerment.

This significant investment in specialised programming was achieved in partnership with local actors, particularly women-led organisations. The publication of 'More than the Money: Localisation in Practice', a research report produced by Trócaire and Groupe URD in 2017, highlighted the significant barriers local women-led organisations face in accessing funding, influencing decision makers and leading the response and practical pathways to address these barriers.

Participatory research with women and girl programme participants in DRC, Lebanon and Myanmar through the Interventions to Support Protection and Resilience (INSPIRE) research programme, funded by Irish Aid, was used to adapt and improve our interventions and to develop PSS and GBV toolkits for use in Women's and Girls' Spaces within those contexts.

Having co-developed SASA! Faith in partnership with Raising Voices, Trócaire is currently leading implementation of the methodology in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya to address the prevention of intimate partner violence and HIV.

Trócaire developed a global, integrated Protection and SGBV Framework to support programme countries delivering stand-alone or specialised Protection and SGBV programming in development and/or humanitarian settings and brought our global Women's Empowerment, GBV and Protection of Women and Girls in Emergencies team together for an eight-day global technical workshop in October 2018.

Irish Red Cross

As part of capacity building and peer-to-peer support, Irish Red Cross developed training on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) to be rolled out to all their Red Cross Red Crescent National Society partners. The training was not intended to train participants to design and implement specialised SGBV programming but rather to equip them with the basic skills and tools on how to integrate SGBV awareness, risk mitigation and referrals in programmes and projects.

Self Help Africa

The gender transformative approach SHA employs, which is captured in our Family Life Model (FLM), focuses on tackling the underlying causes of gender inequality such as culture, social norms, attitudes, beliefs and patriarchal value systems. This approach needs the support of households and communities to see real and sustained change occur in the power dynamics between women and men.

A training manual was developed to assist our gender champions which includes a module on gender based violence. This training manual, structured as a step-by-step guide, is a tool which aims to enhance Gender Champions' ability to promote SHA's Family Life Model through training and mentoring for women and men, girls and boys.

During training the Gender Champions discussed concepts of GBV, causes and consequences, mitigation and referral pathways. Special focus was also placed on how champions must report cases of GBV when they arise. Engagement of community gender champions is a fundamental element in our gender mainstreaming approach. Drawing on our learning from the 'Strengthening the competitiveness of the Cassava value chain in Kenya' engaging champions from within our beneficiary communities can lead to greater gender transformation and helps improve family and community harmony.

GOAL

GOAL is committed to promoting gender equality and has adopted the fostering inclusion approach in all programme design in order to consider gendered power imbalances in all its work. GOAL proudly Chaired the Malawian Consortium on GBV (MICGBV) during the 16 days of activism against GBV campaigns in 2017-2018.

Examples of GOAL's gender programming include scholarships to keep 1,000 vulnerable girls in school in Niger; roll out of the Gender Action Learning System approach, a community-based methodology for holding community conversations on gender, GBV, livelihoods, control of assets and nutrition in Malawi and Zimbabwe; and increasing women's empowerment through basic literacy, numeracy and financial literacy education for women in Sudan.

In Sierra Leone, GOAL adapted our entire programme to focus on adolescent girls given the high adolescent pregnancy rate and the extremely high number of maternal deaths and infant mortality in the country.

World Vision

Gender equality and responding to GBV remains a key area of focus in World Vision Ireland's programming. We continue to work on addressing GBV issues in the fragile contexts of Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Syria with a specific focus on increased protection against GBV for women and girls and access to empowerment opportunities through: teacher training, construction and rehabilitation of learning and safe spaces, provision of income generating activities, awareness raising sessions and child protection and GBV case management and referral.

World Vision Ireland began developing a Gender Equality strategy to guide its programming in development and humanitarian programmes. This Strategy ties in with World Vision International's gender strategy and provides an action plan on how to strengthen gender equality, GBV mainstreaming and standalone projects.

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GBV IN EMERGENCIES

The Consortium, represented by Dr. Fiona Shanahan from Trócaire, continued to be involved in the creation of Minimum Standards for GBV actors in Emergency settings.

These GBV Area of Responsibility Minimum Standards (launched in November 2019) set out 16 core standard areas of GBV programming including Health Care for GBV Survivors, Psychosocial Support, Case Management, Referral Systems, Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces, Safety and Risk Mitigation, Justice and Legal Aid, Dignity Kits, Cash and Voucher Assistance, Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods and Transforming Systems and Social Norms.

A specific focus of the standards development process was on localisation of GBV response and strengthening the leadership role of women-centred organisations and women's movements. This focus on women-centred organisations delivering specialised GBV programmes influenced the inclusion of standard areas on Transforming Systems and Social Norms and

Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods, given the expertise of local women-centred organisations in these areas and the protracted nature of many emergencies.

The Minimum Standards have also set out a specific standard on Staff Care, including minimum key actions to be taken during every phase of an emergency. They make a significant contribution to articulating the technical area of Psychosocial Support within GBV in emergencies programming.

CEO ENGAGEMENT

In May 2017, the ICGBV hosted a round table consultation with the Member Organisation CEOs on the Strategic Planning Process. Two main themes emerged from the discussion: first, the need for increased advocacy from the Consortium and second, using the Consortium's vast experience and learning to contribute to the evidence base and research on the topic of GBV.

In November 2018, all CEOs were updated on the Strategic Plan and what had been achieved in year one. There was also a discussion on the areas of focus for the Consortium going forward. It was noted that while work had begun on increasing the Consortium's advocacy, more could be done in this area.

Irish Defence Forces

Following up on their Women, Peace and Security implementation plans, the Defence Forces created a Gender Adviser appointment at the Defence Forces Headquarters, in order to mainstream gender in military planning, operations and training both at home and overseas. Gender Advisers are also present at Brigade, Formation, Branch and Unit levels and each Brigade/Formation conducts Gender Focal Point (GFP) training for personnel on an on-going basis.

The Defence Forces' commitment to strengthened leadership and accountability around gender is also evidenced in the publishing of their Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Statement and Action Plan, which promotes diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity to all. During this period the Defence Forces published an Action Plan on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 which operationalises the actions from Ireland's National Action Plan (NAP) in order to ensure compliance with the NAP and to be accountable for the completion of those actions contained in the NAP.

MEMBERSHIP

During 2018, Kimmage Development Studies Centre was subsumed under Maynooth University, and as a result their membership in the ICGBV ended.

In August 2018, the Criteria for Membership and Membership Charter were finalised and publicised on the website, to allow for clarity on how new members could join the ICGBV.

IN COUNTRY COLLABORATION

Malawi

In 2017, the focus of the Malawi Irish Consortium on GBV (MICGBV) collaboration was to create more awareness around intimate partner violence (IPV) including forced sex/marital rape as a violation of human rights.

Actions were aimed at making people aware that forced sex even in marriage is actually rape, creating an opportunity for dialogue towards considering forced sex/marital rape as a criminal act under Malawi's legal codes.

The MICGBV started their work with preparatory meetings reviewing similar campaigns in previous years, and building on the learning from these campaigns a direction was agreed upon by the group.

Following on from this, a qualitative study on IPV was conducted through focus group discussions (FGDs) in Kauma, a peri-urban area of Lilongwe. The study was aimed at documenting real-life experiences of women, girls, men and boys of IPV, and showed that there is a general acceptance of IPV among all groups in the community.

From this information the group built activities together that took place during the 16 Days of Activism in 2017, including having an event with a legislative theatre production and a panel discussion with experts, an interactive radio drama, a community event involving the Irish Embassy to Malawi, press releases

and further legal analysis of the existing laws on IPV in Malawi. The group in Malawi believe that through creating space for this debate, community members and duty bearers will have an increased awareness of the implications of the abuse of power in IPV.

In 2018, the Malawi Consortium again collaborated to raise awareness of GBV issues facing women working in the informal sector, especially agriculture, during the commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against GBV in Malawi. Working together, a decision was taken to focus the attention of MICGBV in 2018 on the agricultural value chain and the GBV that women face engaging in this sector. As such the group undertook a qualitative study to generate empirical evidence on GBV experiences of women.

The study was conducted in one of the MICGBV member implementation areas, Balaka. Skilled facilitators were engaged to facilitate the FGDs. Facilitators for this exercise were those that would provide appropriate referrals and support to the women after the FGD.

Key findings of the FGDs were:

- Women experience various types of violence in their lines of work (along the agriculture value chain).

Christian Aid

Christian Aid published the paper 'Gender Based Violence Programming in Contexts Affected by Violence and Conflict'. The learning paper was intended to serve as a resource not only for programme staff in Christian Aid but also other NGOs and practitioners.

It includes an analysis of existing policies, a review of relevant global programming approaches and an examination of case studies from five countries affected by violence and conflict, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Myanmar, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe. One key recommendations for programming and policy includes applying the ecological framework as an analytical tool to understand the drivers of GBV at the different levels.

There was a general acceptance from women that experiencing abuse in their line of work was regarded as normal and hence there is low/no reporting.

- Reporting of abuse is rare as the abuse has been normalised in their communities. Most women feel that reporting abuse would mean disgracing their marriage, which they still want to be in. A few that shared experiences of reporting abuse said abuse in the line of work was taken lightly in their communities and was always discussed with family councillors and/or chiefs - the man was usually just given a verbal warning to not continue with the malpractice. This has however proven to not be effective, as the behaviour usually does not stop
- Men are the predominant perpetrators of violence. Women shared experiences of mostly being the ones who work in the fields with their children to produce harvest which is later taken and sold by their husbands. Most of the narrated experiences related to unequal power dynamics in the home, including in sexual activity, as well as unequal power dynamics such as husbands or partners asserting control over issues like how, when and where produce is sold and at what cost, and over finances earned from produce.
- It was also noted that women experienced abuse in the market place when it came to dealing with duty bearers such as market chairpersons, toilet supervisors as well as 'andagwila', or men or boys who are in control of selling whatever produce or items that the women take to the market on their behalf. It was reported that the goods are sold at a higher price and the extra money goes to these men. This is a norm in the market place and women have no say over the matter.

With all of these key findings, the MICGBV Group put together media activities including a radio drama, a national level advocacy event with representatives of the Ministry of Gender and the Irish Ambassador and community events in Balaka using drama as a way of engaging communities.

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Members of MICGBV include: ActionAid, Concern, Embassy of Ireland in Malawi, Goal, Irish Rule of Law International, Oxfam, Self Help Africa, Trócaire and UN Women

Sierra Leone

The Irish Working Group on GBV in Sierra Leone was formed in 2016. They developed a TOR for the group which included organisations who are all funded through Irish Aid. Following this initiative, other national and international organisations showed interest in working collectively on GBV, and an advocacy alliance known as the Community of Practice (CoP) on GBV was formed in May 2017.

The Community of Practice (CoP) on GBV is a platform where organisations addressing GBV come together to learn from each other, share best practice, evidence-based resources, case studies, methodologies, approaches and strategies relating to the work they do to reduce GBV, specifically violence against women and girls. The Irish Working Group on GBV in Sierra Leone requested funding in 2017 to conduct a review of the Three Gender laws in Sierra Leone over a number of months in 2017 and 2018.

The overall objective of the project was to conduct research to assess the extent to which the three Gender Acts from 2007 have improved the protection of women and girls in Sierra Leone, 10 years after implementation. The research sought to review the implementation of the laws by government partners, the justice system and other key development actors. The research assessed the impact of the passing of the laws on the lives of GBV survivors, institutional practices, programmes and policies.

The research was conducted across all regions of Sierra Leone. From this an impact assessment and an advocacy brief was developed and was launched during the 16 Days of Activism in 2018 at an event in Freetown. The report highlighted the need for a comprehensive national and multi-sectoral implementation plan by the Government of Sierra Leone to address GBV/VAWC, bringing together into one costed action plan the many different yet inter-related policies, strategies and plans that currently exist.

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Members of IWGGBV-SL include: ActionAid, ChildFund, Christian Aid, Concern, Embassy of Ireland to Sierra Leone, Goal, International Rescue Committee, Plan International, Trocaire and World Vision

Irish Aid

In 2017 and 2018 the Development Cooperation and Africa Division (DCAD) of the Department of Foreign Affairs continued to support gender equality and GBV prevention and response across Ireland's development cooperation programme. Ireland's development assistance helped 130 countries around the globe, with a continued focus on key partners in Africa and on least-developed, fragile and conflict affected countries.

Through dedicated policy, programming and advocacy efforts, Ireland has prioritised the protection of women and girls and the prevention of and response to GBV in both development and humanitarian contexts. DCAD continues to work in partnership with non-governmental, civil society and government partners at national and international levels to tackle both the causes and the effects of GBV.

In 2017 and 2018, DCAD, continued as a member of the Oversight Group for Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security and supported the implementation of the NAP as key element of Ireland's broader commitment to support gender equality.

Gender-equality and tackling gender based violence also featured as a central priority in Ireland's multilateral engagement at the EU and the UN, including at the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

In 2018, Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations was appointed as Chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations for 2018-19. As Chair, Ireland ensured that addressing GBV was a clear priority in global negotiations on gender equality.

Ireland also supports a number of multilateral partner organisations in addressing GBV, including for example, annual support to the UN Women administered Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.

In 2017, the OECD DAC reported that approximately 86% of Ireland's bilateral official development assistance (ODA) made a significant contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment while approximately 15% made a direct contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Oxfam Ireland

The Executive Director of Oxfam in Ireland became one of 5 members of the Oxfam Confederation's Gender Justice Steering Committee which informs and drives strategic level decision making on Oxfam's global efforts to address the root causes and consequences of gender inequality. This leadership function was reflected across a range of internal governance and management functions by staff at multiple levels who championed accountability to our collective commitment to challenge unequal power structures and resourced and gave voice to efforts to promote equitable access to resources, opportunity, meaningful participation in decision making and protection.

In Malawi, we launched our ELECT HER! campaign which aims to advance women's political participation and reached over 3 million people with ENOUGH!, a campaign to end violence against women and girls. In South Sudan, we enabled more than 2,000 women and girls to safely access essential health services and humanitarian aid in some of the most remote parts of the country. In Uganda, we quadrupled the income of young women we supported through income generating activities.

Concern

Concern updated its Equality Strategy in 2018. Concern also continued its strategic partnership with South Africa based Sonke Gender Justice. A facilitator manual, *Breaking the Barriers*, was developed jointly in English and French while 11 countries hosted Sonke-led workshops. Malawi, Liberia, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Niger, South Sudan, Central African Republic and Ethiopia hosted their first visits while Sierra Leone hosted their second. Recommendations were made to each country programme on how to improve the promotion of gender equality internally as well as programmatically, and follow up remote support was provided. Concern produced a learning paper, *Engaging Men on Gender Equality: Learning from Programming and Practice*, detailing approaches, results and learning.

In 2018, Concern's gender transformation workshop in Liberia included two members of the County Gender Office to create stronger linkages with meso-level actors for the promotion of functional referral pathways for GBV as well as to support and promote our engaging men approach. The work with religious leaders carried out in Afghanistan was piloted as a new approach for Concern due to the understanding that in this context, gender equality can only be addressed by engaging religious leaders at the highest level.

ActionAid

ActionAid Ireland held a panel discussion titled 'Where Are The Women? Gender, Localisation and the Grand Bargain'. The aim of the seminar was to provoke further thinking on gender and the Grand Bargain and bring different perspectives and experiences to the debate on localisation. The event was organized with then-CEO of ActionAid International, Adriano Campolina, in attendance and with speakers from Irish Aid, Trócaire and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London.

This event sought to raise awareness of Grand Bargain work streams, especially commitments to gender, among Irish humanitarian and development practitioners, the academic community and Irish Aid. In addition to conversations on some of the key issues of the Grand Bargain and the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016, special emphasis was placed on the need for local women in decision making positions and ensuring that women's voices are reflected in programme interventions. This is the essence of ActionAid's humanitarian signature which focuses on shifting power to local women.

In 2018, the pilot of the Safe Learning Model in Sierra Leone in partnership with UCD-School of Education was concluded including the finalization of the children's Wellbeing Index and scale up to full implementation began. Initial results have shown that male domination in household decision-making decreased from 6.41 to 2.78 while gender attitudes improved from 4.15 to 6.25 out of 10 and the proportion of women at risk of domestic violence decreased from 98.0% to 66.7%. Referral pathways were strengthened and widely shared with communities and children to support children affected by SRGBV.

RESEARCH

Research was not conducted in 2017/18. The Coordinator conducted consultations to identify topics that members feel would be most useful to undertake research on, which are listed below.

Ultimately, a decision was taken to focus on the CSW Policy Briefs, 'Rural Women: Remoteness, Rights and Violence' (2018) and 'In violence we forget who we are' (2019).

Potential research topics:

- **Localising GBV response:** Research could explore how member organisations have been working with local partners on addressing GBV. This could be looked at in the context of the various commitments the humanitarian sector has made to increase support to local response within WHS, Grand Bargain and Call to Action.
 - **Best practice and challenges could be examined from a number of Member Organisations within varying contexts.** Since we have Members who work both in development and humanitarian contexts it could be an opportunity to link localisation with the humanitarian-development nexus and examine sustainable approaches to supporting local/women led organisations in development, and how that can be maintained throughout sudden onset emergency, emerging/slow onset crises, protracted crisis, recovery, post crisis contexts.
- **Models of social norm transformation:** Research could examine behaviour change models that member organisations use. There has already been a lot of research done on this but considering that we would have a lot of on-the-ground examples we could pick a particular aspect of behaviour change and focus on that, again focusing on the successes and barriers to certain approaches.
- **M&E:** Research could examine solutions to some of the practical challenges around effectively monitoring GBV programmes in the field.
- **Participatory action research:** A piece of participatory research could be carried out which could generate advocacy and policy around Grand Bargain commitment 'A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions that affect their lives'.

LEARNING EVENTS

2017

February

Informal learning event with Jenny Becker, IRC Women's Protection and Empowerment Coordinator following Irish Aid IRC event. Jenny shared the IRC's approach to GBV prevention, mitigation and response. IRC frame GBV work within Women's Protection and Empowerment Department.

March

ICGBV co-hosted a seminar with Irish Forum on Global Health and International Center for Research on Women entitled 'Gender equality and gender-based violence: Research and practice', with ICRW President Sarah Kambou as guest speaker. Trócaire and Action Aid presented on research from their gender equality and women's empowerment programming.

May

Trócaire led on a peer learning workshop on prevention of GBV focusing on the SASA! methodology by Raising Voices. Some field offices joined the session by webinar.

June

The Coordinator delivered a training session on GBV in Emergencies for the Air Corps.

October

The Rape Crisis Centre training to build capacity around psychosocial support to survivors and skills of staff to deal with disclosures which also included strong element of self-care of staff work on GBV programming.

2018

January

This event was the second iteration of the Rape Crisis Centre Training held in October 2017.

April

Safeguarding Presentation given by the Coordinator at the Irish Aid Workshop on Safeguarding

June

Training provided on using the Pocket Guide on how to support survivors in Emergencies when there is no GBV

Actor in the area. This one day training was given by Jessica Gorham, GBV AoR, and took place as side event to the pilot International School on GBV in Emergencies.

September

Concern led a peer learning session on how Concern is trying to standardise their gender transformational approach in their Engaging Men and Women for Equitable Gender Outcomes approach, in conjunction with Sonke Gender Justice.

October

ActionAid Ireland led a peer learning event with ActionAid staff from Ethiopia, Kenya and Nepal on the Behaviour Change Model that they are implementing in connection with University College London.

October

Trócaire led a learning event on the forthcoming Minimum Standards on GBV in Emergencies and the standards being developed within them.

October

Training on the IASC Guidelines on integrating GBV in Emergencies held in Nairobi, in conjunction with Christian Aid Ireland the GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR).

October

Learning Event was run with Trócaire on Strengthening women-led approaches to protection, empowerment and psychosocial support in conflict settings. Speakers from IRC, Care International and Basmeh and Zeihtooneh (Lebanon) were invited to work with participants on outlining best practice on participatory, women-led approaches to psychosocial support in conflict and post-conflict settings.

November

In conjunction with CBM Ireland the ICGBV hosted a capacity building event for Members on Disability Inclusion and GBV.

December

As a part of the 16 Days of Activism in 2018, the ICGBV organised a discussion for staff across ICGBV member organisations on 'How to Ethically Communicate on GBV'. The speakers at this event were Deirdre Campbell (Trócaire) and Christina Sherlock (Women's Aid).

KEY LEARNINGS 2017/18

- It is positive to have a full time coordinator, allowing the Consortium to be more effective and responsive.
- The Strategic Planning process was time consuming but also energised the Members and provided an opportunity to reflect on the Consortium's strengths and weaknesses. Some feedback from the process was that the Strategic Plan did not fully interrogate what the Consortium's added value was, resulting in a Strategic Plan that was too vague. The Action Plan that was developed to accompany the Strategic Plan drilled down into this detail.
- There are challenges for member's around time and resources which limits member's engagement in Consortium work. There was a suggestion to try to address this through Annual Planning, allowing each Consortium representative to sign up for tasks within their job description with an agreed committed time for Consortium work.
- There is a need to focus externally and build on the Consortium's reputation. This also represents an opportunity to contribute to the sector as a whole.
- Preparing as early as possible for CSW is vital in ensuring a smoother process.

ICGBV Members



**Self Help
Africa**



**Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross**



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



actionaid



**Óglaigh
na hÉireann**
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND

Trócaire