



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**IRISH CONSORTIUM ON
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

FOREWORD

In 2019, I had the honour of being appointed Chairperson of the ICGBV. This was not the only change within the Consortium during 2019, a year which can be characterised by shifts and evolutions. In the same year, the Consortium welcomed a new member, the Ifrah Foundation, and a new staff member.

It has been a pleasure to see the collective strength and work of Consortium members up close. As one example to highlight from 2019, the Consortium's learning agenda continued with peer events and expanded to develop in-house learning briefs for Members to deepen their knowledge on selected topics and highlight good practice case studies of members' programmes overseas.

Of course, as I am writing now in 2020, we know that this year would prove to be one of our most challenging yet, personally and organisationally. We witnessed an increase in reports of GBV globally, illustrating that no society is immune to violence and that those who are vulnerable to violence need protection during crises. Consortium members were pressed to adapt to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic quickly and efficiently, in the development and humanitarian contexts in which we work.

I am proud to say, however, that the strong work of the Consortium throughout the years, including in 2019, consolidated its ability to adapt in response to a crisis, and the majority of its activities in 2020 would continue online.

Last but not least, I would like to extend a thank you to all of the representatives of the Consortium members, the Consortium staff, and the 2019 outgoing Chair, Dominic MacSorley. Although 2019 was defined by a number of changes, it was also a very successful year, due to everyone's hard work and dedication to the Consortium.

Siobhán McGee
Chair, ICGBV
CEO, ActionAid Ireland



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Consortium continued implementing its Strategic Plan 2017-2020, with activities around the four goals of learning, programming, advocacy, and leadership and accountability. The year 2019 was defined as one of notable change and growth for the ICGBV, from its membership and initiatives to its staff composition and Chair.

In April, the ICGBV gained its 13th member, the Ifrah Foundation. Then in July 2019, the Consortium increased its staff capacity through the creation of the role of Communications and Policy Officer. Finally yet importantly, in October 2019 the Consortium Chairpersonship passed from Dominic MacSorley, CEO Concern Worldwide, to Siobhán McGee, CEO ActionAid Ireland. The Consortium staff members transitioned smoothly to ActionAid Ireland offices by the end of 2019.

In 2019, there was a strong focus on learning, including continuing peer-to-peer learning events, re-igniting learning briefs and hosting a joint learning trip with ICGBV member organisations in Kenya. In-country collaborations with working groups in Malawi and Sierra Leone also continued, with these networks building on previous years' work and conducting activities for the 16 Days of Activism 2019 to raise awareness of gender based violence. The Consortium continued its engagement at the Commission on the Status of Women, advocating on the importance of GBV response services in humanitarian settings.

ICGBV MEMBERS



INTERNAL CHANGES

New Consortium Member

In April 2019, the Steering Committee approved the Ifrah Foundation's application for membership to the Consortium. As the smallest organisation in the Consortium, the Ifrah Foundation brings expertise and a unique voice to the Consortium through its inspiring work the end female genital mutilation (FGM) in both Ireland and in Somalia. Their membership kicked off with an event where Ifrah Ahmed, Founder of Ifrah Foundation, presented herself and her personal story as well as the work and focus of the foundation.

New Staff Role


In July 2019, the Consortium hired a second fulltime staff member, Brianna Guidorzi, in the new role of Communications and Policy Officer. This position was created in order for the Consortium to strengthen the learning that exists and to facilitate the Consortium in reporting out on the work that it does, including documenting learning internally and showcasing work externally. During the second half of 2019 when the Communications and Policy officer was in situ, a Communications Strategy was drafted and the Consortium produced a learning brief on psychosocial support and GBV (see this brief on page 15).

New Chair

In September 2019, Siobhan McGee, CEO of ActionAid Ireland, submitted an expression of interest detailing her enthusiasm in taking on the role of Consortium Chair. The Members accepted this submission, and ActionAid Ireland become the Chair in October 2019. [A statement from Siobhán](#) was published on the Consortium's website. ActionAid Ireland was able to accommodate Consortium staff members at their premises, and the Coordinator and Communications and Policy Officer moved to the ActionAid Ireland offices at the end of November 2019. The Consortium Members expressed gratitude for Concern Worldwide's three years as host, as well as enthusiasm that ActionAid Ireland took up the role of Chair moving forward.

New Communications Strategy

Following on from the appointment of the Communications and Policy Officer, the Consortium's first Communications Strategy 2019-2020 was drafted and subsequently approved by the Steering Committee. The Communications Strategy outlines a number of initiatives regarding internal and external communications. Within internal communications, priority actions included launching an internal newsletter with the aim of reducing email traffic and evaluating whether Members wish to continue using



Basecamp, an internal communications platform. Regarding external communications, priority actions included updating the website, increasing the Consortium's outreach on social media, and launching an externally-focused newsletter.

Priorities of the Communications Plan implemented in 2019 included the following:

- Improvements made to the ICGBV website, including a map of where Members work globally;
- A more consistent presence on social media (Twitter), particularly around days of collective activism such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence;
- An Internal Newsletter was launched in September 2019 and sent out a second time in November 2019

The Communications Strategy is an initial, evolving document—it was proposed that internal and external communications be addressed further in Strategic Planning in 2020.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THE IRISH RED CROSS

During 2019, the Irish Red Cross (IRC) continued to strengthen knowledge, skills, and capability in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during emergencies, as well as exchanging good practices across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. This includes the development of a toolkit for addressing Protection, Gender & Inclusion to improve the quality of Red Cross coordinated emergency response and recovery by ensuring Minimum Standards are met and, where necessary, more targeted programming is available.

The IRC also continued to strengthen the expertise of its partner National Societies by training staff and volunteers in survivor-centred approaches through the Red Cross Joint Action for Prevention and Response to SGBV training, and continued with its efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV across its programming with partner Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies in Niger, Kenya and Nepal.

Finally the Red Cross launched a case study report on action by RCRC National Societies to prevent and respond to child marriage across both development and humanitarian contexts in several continents. Key themes identified included the need to provide multiple interventions, as single activities were not effective, help girls access basic essential services, work to support the participation and leadership of adolescents and young adults, and involve parents and community leaders so that the responsibility of addressing child marriage is on adults and not on children.

GOAL 1

IN-COUNTRY COLLABORATION

Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence (MICGBV)

Building on the successes of previous campaigns and initiatives from 2018, the MICGBV continued conducting joint activities during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in 2019, focusing on ending violence in the workplace in the education, humanitarian, and agriculture sectors specifically. The 2019 Members of the MICGBV were Concern Worldwide, GOAL, ActionAid, Self Help Africa, Trócaire, Oxfam and Irish Aid, with UN Women as a collaborator.

The 2019 MICGBV initiative continued to highlight issues of GBV and lived experiences of women in these sectors while also expanding the campaign from awareness to accountability. The proposed joint initiative linked to both the global and national theme focusing on GBV in the workplace, and to the global UN women Generation Equality campaign.

The initiative began with evidence gathering in six districts—Karonga, Rumphi, Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Mphalombe and Nsanje—in order to complete an ‘issues paper’ outlining the challenges that implementing agencies and survivors face with implementation of workplace-GBV related laws. This fed into a high-level national advocacy event with State Officials in order to present the empirical findings and discuss implementation gaps in existing policies and legislation.

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*

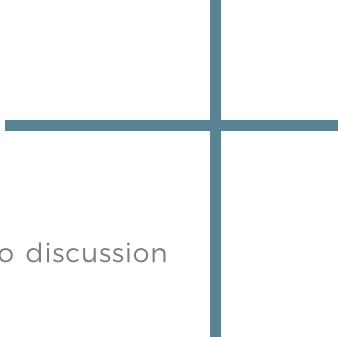
There were 240 people present at this event, including MICGBV members, MICGBV district and national level partners, women workers, and young women. The MICGBV Chairperson – Action Aid Malawi Executive Director, Assan Golowa – provided opening remarks, and the guest of Honour was the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Hon Mary Thom Navicha. The Irish Ambassador, His Excellency Gerry Cunningham gave a keynote address. Media in multiple forms complemented this high-level event: online, in print, and on the radio.



The Chairperson of Lilongwe Urban Women's Forum—Agnes Mphote—advocating for informal women workers' rights during MICGBV high-level event.

Irish Working Group on Gender Based Violence in Sierra Leone (WG-GBVSL)

In 2019, the WG-GBVSL continued advocating around the findings of the 2018 Three Gender Acts Research Report, which revealed very low implementation of Sierra Leone's legislation to improve gender equality. As a follow up to the Three Gender Acts report launch in Freetown, it was planned that member organisations in the regions would implement a series of follow up activities to share the findings of the report and look at the best way of working on the recommendations that would lead to a reduction in GBV, and explore how GBV can be more effectively addressed in communities through the



involvement of key stakeholders. These activities would be preceded by radio discussion and community mobilisation programmes.

In early March 2020, due to COVID-19, the WG-GBVSL requested a no cost extension of its grant from July 2020 through to December 2020. The same proposed initiatives will be carried out, but with provisions taken around using facemasks and social distancing for the planned meetings and initiatives. These requests were granted by the ICGBV, following the consultation of Learning and Practice representatives who had provided inputs on the annual grant.

Joint Learning Trip (September 2019)

Building on the experience of existing collaboration efforts in Malawi and Sierra Leone, a joint learning trip for ICGBV affiliates in Kenya was designed, with the aim of bringing together networks in Kenya in order to foster future collaboration around learning, advocacy or programming.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: PLAN INTERNATIONAL IRELAND

In 2019-2020, Plan International Ireland (PII) implemented the “Champions of Change” programme in the marginalised rural settlements of Beheira, Egypt to support girls and young women to play an active role in their communities. This project works to tackle the root causes of inequality taking a Gender Transformative approach at individual, family, community, and institutional levels.

PII works with Plan Liberia to improve the situation of girls who have experienced GBV with funding from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, focused on supporting survivors of GBV through safe homes and improving SRHR services, as well as the provision of livelihood alternatives for FGM practitioners. A submission on the topic of “COVID-19 and the increase of domestic violence against women” was made to the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

UN Democracy Fund has partnered with PII in Guinea Bissau to reduce FGM through Human Rights Defenders groups in rural areas led by adolescent girls and boys. School Related GBV has been tackled through projects in Vietnam, using Plan’s Gender Responsive Schools Model.

Throughout 2020, PII has been an active contributor to the UN Women led Generation Equality movement as part of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action to deliver concrete and transformative change for women and girls until 2025, removing the systemic barriers (including GBV) that restrict equal participation in all areas of life.



Caroline Nkire (ActionAid Kenya) presents the activities and outcomes of the Joint Learning Trip week at the Irish Embassy to Kenya

ICGBV staff members (Abby Ryan and Brianna Guidorzi) and the Learning Advisor from Concern Worldwide (Finola Mohan) designed and implemented an interactive, weeklong workshop from September 23 – 27, 2020. In total, there were 10 participants from eight organisations (ActionAid Kenya, ActionAid Ireland, Christian Aid Kenya, Concern Worldwide Kenya, Irish Aid, International Federation of the Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross, and World Vision Kenya).

The first two days of the agenda focused on building collective knowledge of GBV in the Kenyan context based on participants' expertise. This was followed by a day trip to Narok on the third day, which was facilitated by Christian Aid Kenya. During the final two days, participants 'took over' the workshop and collaborated to brainstorm how their organisations could collaborate on learning, advocacy and policy initiatives.

On the final day of the workshop, the participants presented the weeks' activities and outcomes at the Irish Embassy to Kenya. In attendance were Her Excellency Ambassador Fionnuala Quinlan, Ambassador of Ireland to Kenya; Lisa Doherty, Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Cooperation; the participants and facilitators of the Joint Learning Trip; and nine members of senior management from the various participant organisations. Representatives from the Steering Committee and Learning and Practice Group joined from Dublin via videoconference link. A full report on the Joint Learning Trip was produced and shared with members afterwards.

GOAL 2

LEARNING EVENTS

Similar to in past years, the Consortium focused strongly on learning events during 2019. These took place in Dublin as well as overseas, in Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Learning events are listed and described below:

IASC Training in Malawi (February 2019)

A three-day training was held in Lilongwe from February 12-14 2019 on the topic of gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE). Concern Worldwide supported this training administratively, and the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) conducted the training.

Peer Learning on Staff Care (June 2019)

The ICGBV held a learning session on June 5th 2019, facilitated by Dr. Andrea Breslin (former Humanitarian Protection Advisor, Concern Worldwide) on the topic of Staff Care for frontline staff in member organisations, particularly for staff working on GBV. Participants shared insights, good practices and challenges from their respective organisations and engaged in discussion on the topic.

Psychosocial Support Event (Sept 2020)

The ICGBV held a learning session on psychosocial support on September 4th, with facilitation by Dr. Fiona Shanahan (Humanitarian Protector Advisor – Gender, Trócaire), who led the group in reflective activities for the first part of the session. There were also presentations by Dr. Andrea Breslin (former Humanitarian Protection Advisor, Concern Worldwide) and Mariam Al-Salahat (MHPSS & Protection Coordinator, World Vision Jordan), who joined remotely from Jordan. The evaluations for this event were positive.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid works to respond to and reduce the risk of violence, including GBV across our Irish Aid funded humanitarian programme. In 2019, Christian Aid's partners engaged with senior members of communities and duty bearers in Burundi, DRC and Myanmar to influence the societal attitudes and practices that perpetuate gender inequality and GBV. Trainings covering GBV prevention, mitigation and response were provided, individually targeting local authorities, community and religious leaders. In DRC, community focus group discussions reported a reduction in violence by the military and police because of the intervention. In Burundi, DRC and Myanmar, GBV survivors were supported to access appropriate services, including medical treatment, psychosocial support, protection, legal aid and livelihood opportunities, with the majority of GBV survivors (71%, 53% and 88%, respectively) reporting satisfaction with the services received. In DRC, the provision of livelihood opportunities helped survivors build self-esteem as well as economic independence as part of their reintegration into communities.

Following a need identified during community dialogue sessions in 2019, GBV prevention and response was added to the South Sudan humanitarian programme in 2020. Christian Aid Ireland brought the humanitarian programme team to Dublin for a week-long workshop, with a day focussing on GBV prevention and response. An external speaker from Women's Aid gave a presentation on intimate partner violence, power and control, and the importance of a compassionate and supportive stance towards survivors and the survivor-centred approach.



Participants of the Joint Learning Trip in Nairobi (September 2019)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THE IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

2019 has seen the Defence Forces continued representation on the Oversight Group for Ireland's third National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. In line with commitments associated with this plan, the Defence Forces has developed the third iteration of the Defence Forces action plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 which will be launched in 2020. The third iteration of the Defence Forces action plan has three key priorities spanning the life of the plan, namely, reinforcing initiatives already in place whilst aiming to capture their effectiveness. This includes the introduction of gender advisors within the organisation, the institution of relevant training at all levels of the organisation, specifically overseas pre-deployment training. The plan will also consider the effects of harmful masculinities and discriminatory gender norms as it pertains to Defence Forces work. Lastly this plan aims to develop DF processes addressing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and GBV in the context of peacekeeping operations, and engagement and collaboration with the ICGBV will be a key in this regard.

In terms of leadership and accountability, the Defence Forces Chief of Staff this year became a member of the Women Peace and Security CHODs Network. The purpose of the WPS CHODs Network of senior military gender champions is to address the challenges associated with the implementation of UNSCR 1325, by enabling the influence of senior military leaders to drive transformative cultural and institutional change within their own armed forces.

From an equality perspective and within the framework of the Defence Forces Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Statement and Action Plan, the Defence Forces has continued to explore initiatives to encourage equality of participation, particularly at decision making levels within the organisation. This year also saw the promotion of the first ever female Brigadier General within the Irish Defence Forces, with Brigadier General Maureen O'Brien now serving as the Deputy Force Commander, UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force).

IASC trainings in Zimbabwe (November 2019)

A three-day training was held in Harare from November 12-14 2019 on GBViE. This training was supported administratively by GOAL, and training was conducted by the GBV AoR.

Duty of Care with the Defence Forces (November 2019)

The Defence Forces hosted Consortium representatives at the McKee Barracks in Dublin to share their approaches to Duty of Care with other members . There were four speakers: Commandant Shane Keogh spoke about the legal aspects of Duty of Care; Lieutenant Colonel Antony Corcoran spoke about the Clinical/Medical Perspective of Duty of Care; Capt George Balfe from the Overseas Logistical Branch shared how the Defence Forces logistically implements aspects of its Duty of Care; finally, Lieutenant Colonel John Martin gave an overview of the Defence Forces' Personnel Support Services, including psychosocial support, referral services, mental health services.



Participants and trainers in the IASC Training in Zimbabwe (November 2019)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TRÓCAIRE

In 2019, Trócaire continued to deliver and strengthen specialised GBV response and prevention and protection of women, girls and at-risk groups across humanitarian and development programming in Somalia, DRC, Lebanon, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe in line with our strategic focus on supporting women's and girls' protection, voice and leadership. Trócaire contributed on behalf of the ICGBV to the drafting of the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in emergencies programming, published in November 2019. These standards represent agreement and commitment across all GBV specialised agencies on the core package of essential services and programmes to be delivered at a minimum in all emergencies, from preparedness to recovery, and was a central commitment of the Call to Action on protection from GBV in emergencies, to which Trócaire is a partner. As a core member of the GBV AoR and a member of the Minimum Standards task team, Trócaire is committed to implementation of these standards throughout their programming and globally. To this end, Trócaire facilitated consultation and roll out activities in Somalia, DRC and the global GBV AoR meeting in Bangkok in 2019.

In Somalia, Trócaire significantly strengthened health responses to GBV programming in 2019, through investing in facility upgrades including construction of dedicated private consultation rooms, training for clinical and non-clinical staff, and the establishment of context-specific SOPs for clinical Management of Rape and IPV survivors in line with revised WHO Protocols (2019). This work was delivered in Trócaire managed health facilities, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Irish Aid.

In partnership with local organisations, particularly women centered organisations, Trócaire seeks to mobilise response pathways for survivors of GBV and those at risk of GBV. This approach to response is guided by the model of intervention from the Trócaire protection and SGBV framework, and seeks to build a broad base of supports starting at family and community level, building to focused supports and where necessary specialist supports. Once response services are established we layer in longer term strategies to support recovery and social change to address the root causes of inequality and GBV, through supporting longer term investment in women's and girl's empowerment, service system strengthening and institutional, social and political change. To support the aim of high quality programming a core focus of our work is on deepening knowledge and skills across programme teams and partners, and we are engaging in critical reflection and learning on our programme interventions at individual country level and in collective learning and sharing spaces across countries and regions. This learning is leading to dynamic and adaptive programming, where strategies that are demonstrating good impact are being deepened and broadened where possible, and where strategies that are demonstrating key challenges are being adapted based on learning and experience in addressing similar challenges in other programming.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: IFRAH FOUNDATION

The Ifrah Foundation spent 2019 developing collaborations to support the delivery of a national action plan to tackle Female Genital Mutilation in Somalia. From January to July we delivered a community empowerment programme supported by Amplify Change where some 40 community ambassadors were trained to engage directly with community members on the harmful effects of FGM. Their work consists of support to individuals and small community groups to come to a point of understand that FGM is harmful and to provide support once they have arrived at a decision to abandon it. This forms part of a wider network of FGM Ambassadors supporting the Foundation in its work in Mogadishu and the Gedo region of Somalia.

The Ifrah Foundation participated in a number of high-level events in 2019. The Foundation was on a panel at the World Bank on the International Day of Zero Tolerance Day to FGM, and this panel focused on proven paths to reduce significantly the practice of FGM. While in Washington, the Ifrah Foundation held key meetings with staff at the World Bank and other strategic partners in Washington to progress support for Somalia. This was followed by the first screening of *A Girl From Mogadishu*, the movie based on Ifrah life, showing how she transformed the adversity she experienced into a force to propel her activism and drive to end FGM. The movie screening was hosted by the Wallace Global Fund and the International Centre for Research on Women.

In June 2019, Ifrah had the opportunity to attend the Women Deliver Conference in Vancouver. Here Ifrah spoke at an event hosted by the Irish Embassy along with other Irish and international activists. The conference itself focused on harnessing the power and experiences of women in delivering fundamental societal change for the better is their respective roles.

In July 2019, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason hosted a round table for the Ifrah Foundation and key mission at the UN in New York in July. The purpose of this was to strengthen the commitment of those already active on the issues of FGM in Somalia and develop partnerships with the Ifrah Foundation. Finally, in November at the occasion of the International Conference on Population and Development in Nairobi, Minister Katherine Zappone and the Irish Embassy hosted a roundtable to further forge partnerships with missions working on FGM in Somalia. This has led to a formal partnership with the UNFPA and development of a national programme to address FGM in Somalia.

Learning Briefs

In the past, primarily from 2009 to 2012, the Consortium had produced a number of learning briefs on topics ranging from engaging men and boys to address GBV and the intersections of hunger and GBV. When the Communications and Policy Officer was appointed, the Consortium decided to produce additional learning briefs, in accordance with needs and interests identified by the Learning and Practice Group.

The “Gender based violence and psychosocial support” learning brief was published in November 2019. This paper provides a brief overview of psychosocial support (PSS), followed by specific examples of how each layer of PSS intersects with GBV prevention and GBV response. The learning brief also includes case studies from Concern Worldwide Lebanon, World Vision Jordan, and Trócaire’s work on mental health and PSS (MHPSS) globally in order to illustrate good practice in programming.

Research Initiative

In December 2019, the Consortium and an academic partner applied for a grant with the Irish Research Council (IRC), under a New Foundations strand focusing on enhancing civil society within an international context. Led by Dr. Brynne Gilmore, the application was titled “International partnership building and research prioritization for Gender Based Violence”. The research project's aims include conducting research prioritisation needs of ICGBV members internationally, identifying specific research questions and opportunities with international partners and developing a shared research strategy—including potential funding streams and in-country academic partners—to feed into the Consortium’s future Strategic Plan.

Dr. Brynne Gilmore is Assistant Professor (Ad Astra Fellow) in the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems at UCD. This joint grant application was successful and the grant, managed by Dr Gilmore, was received in early 2020.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: GOAL

GOAL remains committed to gender equality, social inclusion, safeguarding and protection, including working to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Examples from GOAL's programming work include the Spotlight Initiative in Malawi, where GOAL is responding to social norms and harmful practices that expose adolescent girls and young women to SGBV through a mentorship approach and service strengthening. GOAL's LINK II programming in Turkey includes strengthening local protection, SGBV and child protection referral pathways, facilitating referrals to specialised protection services for SGBV, and outreach and awareness raising initiatives including on SGBV. GOAL has developed a Guide to support survivors of SEA which outlines how our staff should respond appropriately to support the survivor and handle the situation well. Context mappings have been conducted in the 13 countries, in which we operate, allowing for effective and efficient referrals of GBV to protection services.

2020 saw GOAL's programmes pivot to respond to the effects of COVID-19, recognising the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the related response measures. One such example comes from GOAL Zimbabwe where, in partnership with Promobile, over 4.5 million people across five districts have been reached as part of a COVID-19 information campaign. This campaign integrates SGBV and child protection messaging and promotes toll-free helplines alongside messaging on social distancing and good hygiene. A survey was undertaken and learning paper developed to inform the expansion of this initiative. Whilst in South Sudan, teams conducted GBV and PSEA campaigns and training to youth and women groups. In Sudan, Safeguarding and GBV messages were mainstreamed as part of the rollout of Community-Led Action in vulnerable communities to prevent spread of COVID-19.

2020 also provided an opportunity for broader reflection with the 25th anniversary of the landmark Beijing Declaration on women's rights. We did this through participation in the DFAT annual seminar which focused on the learning from Beijing held in January 2020. We also developed messaging on the anniversary of the event itself which was forefront on our website in and appeared in national newspapers.

At country level, GOAL teams continue to engage with the Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence and the Irish Working Group on Gender Based Violence in Sierra Leone.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ACTIONAID IRELAND

In 2019 ActionAid became the first global organisation to have our approach to emergencies independently verified. ActionAid's emergency response work is now accredited under the CHS Alliance's Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI). The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) puts the active agency of people living in poverty and impacted by an emergency first. It promotes programming that leads to community empowerment. This achievement and recognition was particularly important to ActionAid as our approach to emergency response focuses on cultivating women's leadership in an emergency – a central pillar of our human rights-based approach. In our work we empower women. We help them to be at the forefront and play an active role in humanitarian responses. In addition, we actively work to shift power to local organisations and movements, especially those led by women.

ActionAid Ireland continued to work in collaboration with our colleagues in Kenya, Nepal and Ethiopia and the University College London (UCL) Centre for Behaviour Change in 2019 on our Women's Rights Programme. The programme aims to make communities safer for women and girls and for women to be more economically secure. We do this through behavioural analysis which helps us to tackle to root causes of GBV with women, men and other community stakeholders. ActionAid held best practice sharing workshops and trainings throughout 2019 so we could continuously improve on our programme.

GOAL 3 ADVOCACY

"In violence we forget who we are"

For the 2019 Commission on the Status of Women 63 (CSW63), the Consortium produced a paper entitled "In violence we forget who we are: Responding and empowering – GBV services in Lebanon in response to the Syria Crisis". Under the CSW's priority theme of "social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls", the report highlighted the importance of GBV response services in humanitarian settings.

In order to develop this report, Abby Ryan (ICGBV Coordinator), Cathy Doran (external consultant), and Tim Sheehan (Senior Researcher and Writer, Concern Worldwide) travelled to Lebanon to meet partners and collect data, which formed the basis of the report. Civil society organisations including ABAAD, Basmeh and Zeitooneh, KAFA, MOSAIC, Nadjeh, Women Now for Development, SAWA, International Rescue Committee (IRC), UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, Plan International Lebanon, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Concern Worldwide Lebanon, Trócaire Lebanon, Christian Aid and a diplomat of the Irish Mission to Ankara, generously gave their time to case studies and shared important expertise on GBV service provision in Lebanon. The conversation centred on the availability and quality of GBV Response services in Lebanon and the changes that have occurred there regarding service provision since the onset of the Syrian crisis.

HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY

63rd Commission on the Status of Women (March 2019)

On March 19, 2019, the Consortium co-hosted a side event at CSW with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN. The event was entitled “Empowering in emergencies: A conversation with frontline responders to GBV”, and speakers included Ghida Anani (ABAAD), Christine Heckman (UNICEF), Chikumbutso Ngosi (ActionAid Malawi). Dominic MacSorley (Chair, ICGBV and CEO, Concern Worldwide) chaired the session and Her Excellency Geraldine Byrne Nason, Chair of CSW 63, provided opening remarks and insightful input into the discussion at hand, including how the issues of GBV were progressing in the negotiations for the final text of CSW 63.

Third National Action Plan - Drafting Group and Oversight Group (Ongoing 2019)

Having been nominated to the Group that was assisting in the creation of the 3rd National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, and taking part in the drafting sub-committee, the Coordinator of the ICGBV, Abby Ryan, represented the Consortium in the creation of the 3rd National Action Plan.



From left to right: Dominic MacSorley (CEO, Concern Worldwide), Amb. Geraldine Byrne Nason (Irish Permanent Mission to the UN), Chikumbutso Ngosi (ActionAid Malawi), Christine Heckman (UNICEF) and Ghida Anani (ABAAD) at CSW 63

Abby was then invited to speak at the launch of the National Action Plan, in June 2019, and subsequently was accepted as a member of the Oversight Group of the 3rd National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Oslo Conference on Ending SGBV in Humanitarian Crises (May 2019)

On May 23-24, the Governments of Norway, Iraq, Somalia and the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Norwegian Church Aid hosted the international conference “Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises”. The Coordinator attended this conference. The conference resulted in financial commitments from 21 donors going to the prevention of and response to GBV in humanitarian settings.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: WORLD VISION

Recognising our strong commitment to and work on Gender Equality, in 2019 World Vision Ireland was invited to join the World Vision Partnership Gender Equality Leadership Team. This Team supports a Partnership wide approach to addressing Gender Equality both organisationally and programmatically.

Based on our programme experience we developed a policy brief entitled "Helping Girls Overcome Barriers to Education", building on our work in Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan . The policy brief examines the issue around providing a safe space for girls in school. The brief focuses in particular on menstrual hygiene needs and how improving access to improved menstrual hygiene services improved retention of girls in schools.

AkiDwa FGM Conference (October 2019)

On October 22nd, 2019 AkiDwa—Ireland’s network for migrant women—held a conference entitled “Community Dialogue: Debunking the Myths on FGM”. Following on from Ireland’s FGM ban seven years prior, the purpose of the conference was to further raise awareness of FGM as an issue for girls living in Ireland and discuss effective strategies for engaging with communities to end the practice. The Coordinator assisted in the planning of this event and moderated a panel.



From left to right: Naana Otoo-Oyortey (Executive Director, Forward UK), Fiona Coyle (Director, End FGM Network), Frances Fitzgerald (MEP for Dublin, Ireland) and Abby Ryan (Coordinator of ICGBV) at ICPD25

25th International Conference on Population and Development (November 2019)

Following on from the IASC training in Zimbabwe in November, the Coordinator attended the 25th International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) in Nairobi, Kenya from 12-14 November 2019. She published [a blog post](#) on the ICGBV website about her experiences and reflections at the conference. She also spoke at a follow-up event with the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), one of the organisations making up Ireland’s delegation to the ICPD.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: OXFAM

Gender Justice remains a priority for Oxfam in which we seek to address the root causes and consequences of gender inequality. Our work spans our humanitarian, development, campaigning and advocacy work and in 2019 we delivered programming in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

We reached 2 million people in Malawi with the ENOUGH and ELECT HER! Campaigns which respectively highlighted the importance of ending violence against women, and of increasing the number of women in politics. The latter was effective at the ballot box, with more women elected to leadership positions than ever before.

Our influencing work at the national level continued to ensure that legislative frameworks are in place and implemented to achieve economic empowerment for women. We worked with government stakeholders and local authorities to improve the understanding of laws relating to GBV, marriage and inheritance, family planning and unpaid care work. We supported Gender Transformation work, for example, in Rwanda, where 100 men and boys were trained and became community educators on eliminating GBV. Our programmes incorporated specific focus on the intersectional vulnerabilities of people living with disabilities to reduce the risk of GBV in their homes and communities.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SELF HELP AFRICA

Gender focus behaviour change messages including messaging on GBV were integrated into SHA's programmes in areas where we work with refugees through media particularly radio. The Family Life Model and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) continued to be mainstreamed in all our programmes to improve women's agency, financial independence, nutrition, and increase harmony in the home and reduce violence.

The priority areas in addressing GBV was in prevention and protection/mitigation where for example in Zambia a particular focus of our work has been on children as they are often viewed as the property of their parents or caregivers, rather than rights holders, making them vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence often leading to early child marriages. Home-grown school programmes adopted a multisectoral approach where Line Ministries were engaged in orienting the stakeholders in the Family Life Model and issues around gender roles, access, control and GBV were discussed and challenged. Our farmer field schools trained gender champions using the GALS methodology to address gender stereotypes, constraints, power dynamics and domestic violence that affect participation of males and particularly females in FFS.

Context mapping was updated in all countries to ensure staff and partner staff have contact details of service providers to help with responding to cases of GBV. An artist was commissioned to draw 20 cartoon images of a model family and a traditional family including images on domestic and sexual violence, which will be completed in 2020.

16 Days of Activism (November - December 2019)

For the 16 Days of Activism, running from November 25th through December 10th, the ICGBV supported the launch of the new Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender Based Violence in Emergencies Programming. The Consortium's campaign aligned with that of the GBV Area of Responsibility, focusing on highlighting one minimum standard on each day of the 16 Days of Activism. The Consortium also launched its GBV & PSS learning brief (see page 15 of this annual report) during the 16 Days, which highlighted the new Minimum Standards, particularly psychosocial support and women and girls safe spaces.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CONCERN WORLDWIDE

Concern Worldwide continues to work in partnership with the South African organisation, Sonke Gender Justice to strengthen our gender equality and GBV prevention work. In 2019, a joint Learning Symposium on Engaging Men and Women for Gender Transformation was organised. It was an opportunity to create a platform for knowledge exchange between Concern's country programmes and broaden Concern's thinking around gender transformative approaches.

Concern continued with intensive research across our Graduation and Education programmes. In relation to the graduation programme in Malawi where we are working in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin, the gender specific component of the programme is known as Umodzi, meaning 'united', engages couples to reflect upon and discuss issues such as gender norms, power, decision-making, budgeting, violence, positive parenting and healthy relationships. Participants are reporting improved handling of intra-familial conflict and partner relationships, greater freedom of movement, reduced gender based violence, and increased joint decision making and sharing of household chores.

2019 saw the continuation of research with University College Dublin of the Safe Learning Model in Sierra Leone. The model adopts a holistic approach to education that brings together transformative gender interventions within an Education programme. The approach to learning seeks to counter the issues of SRGBV and gender stereotypes, which can keep children from learning or cause them to drop out of school. Concern seeks to ensure that its humanitarian response is safe for the communities we aim to assist. This includes identifying and analysing protection risks, including the risk of GBV, and designing our programmes in a way that does not expose project participants to those risks but rather contributes to a safer environment. For example in Turkey Protection hubs were established providing services to refugees that include case management (for high risk cases such as GBV and child protection), individual Protection assistance (for medium to low risk cases), psychological support services (PSS), referrals to other specialised services, access to civil/legal documentation and legal status and provision of information on their rights and entitlements in Turkey. The Protection hubs have enabled increased access to services, supports and facilitates a more holistic support.