

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**IRISH CONSORTIUM ON
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**



FOREWORD

At the beginning of 2020, none of us knew what was in store for the year. For the Consortium, 2020 began by looking forward to and preparing for the 64th Commission on the Status of Women, where we hoped to advocate on the issue of school-related gender-based violence, an abuse that prevents girls globally from getting a quality education. Of course CSW—as well as the large majority of our events for 2020—were cancelled once the World Health Organisation declared a pandemic in March 2020.

The toughest realities were yet to come. As countries and communities braced for the pandemic, the world witnessed increased reports of gender-based violence globally, which would later be called the ‘shadow pandemic’. Women and girls were stuck in close confines with abusers as lockdown and stay at home orders were enacted; as schools closed and family finances became increasingly constrained, it was suspected that child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) would increase. The reality of the pandemic meant that there was increased need, coupled with increased barriers, to respond to GBV.

Although operating in a challenging time period, the Consortium adapted its work plan to the new constraints presented by the pandemic. I am proud of the work of the Consortium—its staff and members alike—during this time. By late spring, the Consortium had moved its learning events online and brought staff together to discuss how they were adapting their GBV prevention and response in light of Coronavirus. This grew into an online learning agenda which opened up attendance not only to programme staff overseas but also practitioners outside of the Consortium, and members of the public.

In the midst of a pandemic, the Consortium also charged ahead with a review of the Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and development of a new Strategic Plan to guide the Consortium over the next five years. All strategic planning processes bring challenges as well as excitement, as we look to the future of the Consortium and hone in on our priorities and goals. Despite a difficult climate for the aid sector, where the need to prevent and respond to GBV remains I cannot wait to see where we will go.

Siobhán McGee
Chair, ICGBV
CEO, ActionAid Ireland



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COVID-19 shaped the work of the Consortium in 2020 in more ways than one. Previously, learning events were typically held in person, in Dublin, but the constraints of the pandemic caused the Consortium to move its activities online. While this came with same challenges, it also came with opportunities—namely being able to connect more with staff overseas via online platforms. As the pandemic demanded adaptations in programming, the Consortium hosted learning and sharing platforms for discussing adaptations to GBV prevention and response programmes. Building on from this, other events would be held on topics including school-related gender-based violence, survivor-centred approach to safeguarding, Women, Peace and Security, and disability inclusion. As in previous years, learning was the strength of the Consortium.

Advocacy was more challenging to take into an online space. While the Consortium prepared for the 64th Commission on the Status of Women and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, many events such as Generation Equality were curtailed or postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. And yet drawing attention to GBV during the 'shadow pandemic' became more important than ever, as the Consortium shared in an op-ed piece for the Development Studies Association of Ireland.

Finally, as the Strategic Plan 2017-2020 came to an end, creating a new strategic plan became a focus in 2020. Following a Strategic Review, analysing how well the Consortium met its four goals over the past few years, the Consortium began future planning, engaging its member representatives and CEOs.

ICGBV MEMBERS



GOAL 2

LEARNING

IASC Training on GBV risk mitigation in Rwanda (February)

A three-day training on GBV risk mitigation was held in Kigali from February 4-6 on the topic of gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE). Oxfam Ireland supported this training administratively, and the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) conducted the training. This training was conducted in French and was targeted toward humanitarian practitioners working in francophone contexts.



Participants at the IASC GBViE training in Kigali, photo courtesy of Abby Ryan

POLICY & PROGRAMME BRIEFS

School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV)

Safe school for girls: Tackling school-related GBV The Policy and Advocacy focused on school-related GBV for the 64th Commission on the Status of Women (see Advocacy section for more). Consortium staff developed a policy and programme brief on SRGBV, featuring case studies from Irish Aid's Drive for Five Initiative, World Vision's work in Puntland, Concern's work in Sierra Leone, Oxfam's work in Malawi, and Plan's work in Vietnam. This paper can be viewed [here](#) on the Consortium's website. An online learning event on SRGBV was held in September (see page 9 for more).

Member Spotlight: Irish Red Cross

During 2020, the global environment changed very quickly and saw the Irish Red Cross (IRC) having to quickly adapt to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 global pandemic. As the pandemic raged on throughout 2020, an alarming upsurge of the shadow pandemic of SGBV became more and more evident with a compelling body of evidence that emerged from all regions and continents showing increase in trends of all forms of domestic and family violence, including intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child marriage, as countries went into lockdown and movement was restricted to contain the spread of the virus, in various settings, including in disaster and conflict contexts.

The pandemic of SGBV is not new, the COVID-19 pandemic only amplified it as risks, exposure and reports have increased, support services for survivors faltered and access to help became harder, increasing the need for Red Cross staff and volunteers as frontline workers to be focused on prevention and mitigation, and well prepared to respond to identifications and disclosures.

In countries supported by the IRC, dignity kit distribution is a key emergency response activity. So for example in Nepal, more than 3,500 women and girls in quarantine and isolation centers were prioritized by the IRC in the distribution of dignity kits. Key messages on GBV as well as referral pathways were distributed along the dignity kits.

A major focus for the Red Cross over the last 12 months has been to strengthen the capacity of the network to respond to the risks of violence, discrimination and exclusion posed by the impacts of COVID-19. In supporting our local partners adapt their GBV interventions to the pandemic, a technical guidance note on GBV and COVID-19 was developed and disseminated. The IRC also supported remote training on core competencies for Protection, and GBV for all staff and volunteers, as necessary.



A secondary school student in a counselling session with Ms Cuc, courtesy of Plan International

Disability inclusion in GBV programming

The Consortium hosted two students from the Master of Science in Development Practice programme at Trinity College Dublin, for a work placement for which they received university credit. The students conducted a literature review on the intersection of disability and GBV, with a focus on best practices in the humanitarian and development sector.

This background research was used to develop a policy and programme brief on disability inclusion in GBV programming, in partnership with CBM Ireland and CBM Global. The brief, entitled [Disability inclusion in GBV programming](#), features case studies from Oxfam Ireland's partner in Zimbabwe, Musasa, from World Vision Ireland, and from Plan International Ireland. This paper was used during the 16 Days of Activism to raise awareness on GBV (see more on the 16 Days of Activism on page 13).

Online Learning Events

Due to COVID-19, the Consortium shifted its activities online and hosted a series of webinars. Events were initially internal to Consortium members, with the purpose of facilitating sharing of programme adaptations and learning, as well as to allow the Consortium to pilot online events. Subsequently, events toward the end of 2020 were opened further, to a global audience.

Participation and feedback from the webinar attendees was strong across all events, and many participants attended more than one Consortium webinar. The figure below provides an overview of the Consortium's events; more information on the events can be seen in the descriptions that follow.

Event	Date	# of participants	# of countries represented
GBV prevention adaptations during COVID-19	May 18th	Unknown	27
GBV response adaptations during COVID-19	June 23rd	76	22
Survivor centred approaches to safeguarding	July 23rd	28	1
Ensuring girls' protection: Education free of GBV during COVID-19	Sept 30th	119	N/A
Women, Peace and Security: A Feminist Agenda	Nov 10th	186	36
Disability Inclusion & GBV Programming	Dec 3rd	130	39

Member Spotlight: Trócaire

During 2020, Trócaire worked with local partners, including women-led organisations, to deliver multi-sectoral specialised GBV programming across 16 countries (Somalia, South Sudan, Myanmar, DRC, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Kenya, Malawi, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe).

Trócaire continued to engage in inter-agency work on quality standards for specialised GBV programming, including;

- Making Progress Visible: developing the M&E framework for the Inter-Agency GBV Minimum Standards in partnership with the Global Women's Institute, GBV AoR, TOCH (South Sudan), KMSS (Myanmar) and funded by ELRHA.
- Inter-Agency Toolkit of COVID-19 Guidance on Remote GBV Services Focusing on Phone-based Case Management and Hotlines, developed in collaboration with GBV AoR core members based on our collective experience of adapting services during the initial wave of global lockdowns across all our countries of operation.
- As a Call to Action partner, Trócaire has committed to the leadership of local women's organisations. In 2020, we supported partners SEDHURO in Gedo, Somalia and TOCH in Yirol, South Sudan to co-chair GBV sub-cluster coordination mechanisms, in close coordination with the GBV AoR.

Adapting GBV services to respond to the Shadow Pandemic:

Recognising the importance and lifesaving nature of GBV services Trócaire advocated for GBV services to be classified as essential services during Covid restrictions and quickly adapted programming activities and processes to ensure continued access to response services. We supported partners to continue to provide psychosocial support, health responses to GBV, GBV case management (including emergency cash to facilitate safety planning), Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces, referral systems and dignity kits. Frontline partner staff worked with survivors to review and update their individual safety plans and establish safe contact points to maintain access to care and support when restrictions were heightened.

This meant giving participants phone credit so they could call their GBV case worker, providing female community volunteers with phones, airtime and cash so they could support women and girls to access GBV services, and ensuring GBV case workers could work out of health centres to maintain services if and when WGSS were closed. In all GBV programmes, we supported partners to transition to providing phone based case management and/or GBV toll free helplines, to support access to new clients, while maintaining face to face services for emergency cases and situations where there were immediate safety risks. Remote GBV Services guidance on implementing phone based case management and helplines, developed in March 2020, supported partners to quickly establish and implement this new modality.

Our experience of rapid transitions into and out of different modalities of GBV service provision has continued throughout 2020, in response to evolving local and national level restrictions and we have coordinated closely with peer agencies to drive improvements in services for GBV survivors and those at risk. Alongside mobilising responses and facilitating access to services, prevention programming continued, adapting activities to ensure a supportive and caring environment for survivors to access services.

GBV prevention adaptations during COVID-19 (May 18th)

This event, co-hosted with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), brought together staff from across the Consortium network—in Dublin and overseas—to discuss ongoing programme GBV programme adaptations in the context of COVID-19. Speakers included Hope Harriet, Technical Manager with Raising Voices and Angella Agado, Regional SASA! Faith Advisor with Trócaire. This event was not recorded.

GBV Response during COVID-19 (June 23rd)

Following on from the event in May, this event co-hosted with DFAT brought together staff from across the Consortium network—in Dublin and overseas—to conduct ongoing GBV response programme adaptations in the context of COVID-19. The online discussion moderated by Abby Ryan (ICGBV) took the form of a panel Q&A, and speakers included Ghida Anani, Founder and Director of ABAAD; Christiana Gbondo, GBV Programme Coordinator Nigeria, International Rescue Committee; Micah Williams, Senior GBV Global Advisor, International Rescue Committee; Fiona Shanahan, Humanitarian Protection Advisor, Trócaire. This event was not recorded.

Survivor-centred approach to safeguarding (July 23rd)

Held in partnership with Dóchas' Safeguarding Group, this event was internal to Consortium representatives and members of the safeguarding group to discuss survivor-centred approaches to safeguarding. Danielle Cornish Spencer—Safeguarding Lead for the Girls' Education Challenge at Social Development Direct—was the invited guest expert. A recording of this event was made available to Consortium members for the duration of one month following the event.

Member Spotlight: Christian Aid

In response to the spike in GBV cases that the Covid-19 pandemic and its knock-on effects brought about, Christian Aid Ireland boosted staff capacity through a webinar series and written guidance, focusing on key aspects to prevent, mitigate and respond to different forms of GBV. Program staff replicated the trainings for national partners. Following the webinars, GBV referral pathways in Northern Bahr El Ghazel, South Sudan were updated, coordinating with other GBV responders. New proposals in Iraq and Syria, included a shift to remote GBV psychological support, while mitigating negative effects of remote support, such as including code words for women locked down with their abusers. Channels of information on GBV services were updated to ensure they reached marginalized and vulnerable women in North-East Nigeria affected by stay-at-home orders.

In the face of increased gender-based and domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic, partner

CICA's (Conselho de Igrejas Cristãs em Angola) Luanda peace club launched a campaign against GBV. Guatemalan partner, Caja Lúdica, responded to an increase in cases of domestic violence during Covid, by producing audio-visual materials promoting positive masculinities among youth. Partner ORMUSA, El Salvador adapted their legal support from in-person and phone to WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger, reaching over 1,500 women victims of violence and in the process, became the most authoritative source of data on the impact of COVID-19 in the lives of women.

Member Spotlight: Irish Aid

The measures imposed to respond to COVID-19 resulted in a significant increase in gender-based violence globally. For example, in October 2020, an IRC study across 15 African countries found that of the 852 women from refugee, displaced and post-conflict settings interviewed, 73% reported an increase in intimate partner violence, 51% cited sexual violence and 32% observed a growth in the levels of early and forced marriage. Ensuring the continuity of gender-based violence response services was an important aspect of Ireland's support to the COVID-19 response both domestically and internationally. Ireland provided country level support to addressing gender-based violence in a number of countries, including in Zambia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, to expand emergency shelter services and one-stop centres, and to establish rapid referral systems.

Investments continued to focus on GBV prevention and response including through supporting transformative change at the individual and community level to end GBV. Ireland also continued its funding to the International Rescue Committee to deliver life-saving services for survivors of GBV internally displaced in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Cameroon and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, supporting efforts to address GBV at grassroots level in over 80 countries. By the end of the year, Ireland had welcomed the 2021-2025 Road Map for the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies. Ireland re-affirmed our commitment to implement the Road Map and will submit an annual public report on progress in meeting these commitments.

Ensuring girls' protection: Education free from violence during COVID-19 (September 30th)

Following on from the learning brief entitled "[Safe Education for Girls: Tackling School-related GBV](#)" which was originally intended for CSW64, it was felt that it was an appropriate time to discuss the issue of school-related GBV (SRGBV) given that the education landscape has changed significantly since the onset of the pandemic. This online discussion, taking the form of a panel Q&A and moderated by Brianna Guidorzi (ICGBV), featured guest speakers including Tien Nguyen, Youth Advisory Committee Members with Plan International Vietnam; Agnes Kola, National Coordinator - Women's Rights with ActionAid Kenya; and Amy Folan, Senior Education Advisor with Concern Worldwide. A recording of this event can be viewed [here](#) on the Consortium's website.

Women, Peace and Security: A feminist agenda (November 10th)

This event marked the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Moderated by Dr. Caitriona Dowd (Dublin City University), the Q&A panel discussion included the following speakers: Commandant Gillian Collins, Irish Defence Forces; Sarah Cotton, International Committee of the Red Cross; Dr. Zeynep Kaya, London School of Economics; and Hadeel Qazzaz, Oxfam International. A recording of this event can be viewed [here](#) on the Consortium's website.



Banner invitation for the WPS event in November, featuring the speakers

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. Due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions, training sessions were held on line.

Concern and its Alliance partners carried out research in 23 countries on the impacts of COVID-19. It highlighted high levels of intimate partner and sexual violence all regions in the study. The financial, social, and health stressors of the pandemic, combined with close confinement during lockdowns, means that women and girls are at a higher risk of violence from their family members, partners, or within a community. This reality led to country programmes adapting their approaches to providing services for survivors. For example, Concern Lebanon continues to support SGBV and Child protection cases but via a hotline number which is open 24/7, WhatsApp phone calls, messages and video calls. Community focal points distributed brochures/flyers and information via WhatsApp, raising awareness about the hotline number and services.

The Turkey programme continued providing Education through distance learning; tablets and internet packages were provided to families. Other activities included remote psychosocial support (PSS), teacher learning circles, caregiver engagement and family literacy. In order to support children whilst at home a curriculum was developed for caregivers. The resource also included advice and strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety.

Concern continued with intensive research on the 'Safe Learning Model' in Sierra Leone in partnership with University College Dublin. Research continues on the Graduation model in Malawi in partnership with Trinity College. Early results are showing positive shifts within households with reduced levels of gender based violence.

Member Spotlight: Self Help Africa

In 2020 Self Help Africa drew up guidelines for all programmes around GBV and COVID and Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia, Malawi and Uganda used community radios as a medium to broadcast messages to communities and raise their awareness on GBV, its different forms and manifestations with a particular emphasis on where to go if help was required. Integrating SGBV and child protection messaging while promoting toll-free helplines alongside messaging on social distancing and good hygiene was mandatory to ensure the safety of staff and beneficiaries.

In Kenya the messages were translated into a number of languages. In Malawi the BETTER (Better Extension Training Transforming Economic Returns) programme trained 300 lead farmers in Chitipa and Karonga who acted as gender champions and used the completed comic book to roll out messaging on GBV addressing intimate partner violence and power relations that affect the participation of males and females in farmer field schools. The Gender Technical Working Group based in Chitipa registered 269 child marriages of which 45 were male and 224 female. This large increase in child marriages was as a result of Covid and restricted mobility and the group managed to withdraw 56 girls from getting married due to their ongoing messaging and work on GBV. At country level SHA continued to engage with the Malawi Consortium on GBV and participated in the planning and roll out of events to mark the 16 days of activism.

All programmes continued to mainstream gender with a particular emphasis on using the Family Life Icons using the “Challenging Tree” to examine the root causes (root), symptoms (trunk) and solutions (branches) to GBV, making greater use of visioning drawing on the GALS methodology to reduce violence in the home and community while also sharing information on referrals to other specialized services for support. Context mapping of support services was updated to ensure expediency of response by staff and partner staff to cases of SGBV. The programme learning brief on Disability Inclusion in GBV programming was shared with the field for dissemination, learning and use by gender advisers, programme managers, field staff and partner staff.

Member Spotlight: Irish Defence Forces

The Defence Forces continued its participation on the Oversight Group for Ireland’s third National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions into 2020. In line with commitments associated with this plan, the DF launched the Defence Forces Third Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions in December 2020. The third iteration of the Defence Forces plan has three key priorities spanning the life of the plan, firstly, 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.

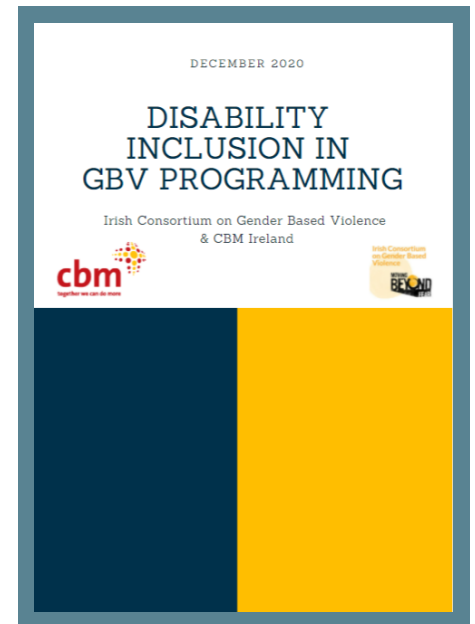
Secondly, the plan will also consider the effects of harmful masculinities and discriminatory gender norms as it pertains to Defence Forces work. Thirdly, this plan aims to develop DF processes addressing SEA and GBV in the context of peacekeeping operations, and engagement and collaboration with the ICGBV will be a key in this regard. The plan also involves an inward focus with continued efforts to address the number of serving personnel within the organisation, specifically at leadership and decision making levels. This year this involved the reporting of the Defence Forces Working Group on increasing the number of female personnel in the DF as well as the launch of White Paper Project 56, a survey to identify any impediments to the advancement of women in the PDF.

In terms of leadership and accountability, the Defence Forces Chief of Staff continued participation as 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 DF has continued to explore initiatives to encourage equality of participation at all levels of the organisation. This year the DF D&I Strategy was reviewed externally with a view to updating this plan in 2021. 2020 also saw the first ever female Commander in the Irish Defence Forces Naval Service.

Disability inclusion in GBV programming (December 3rd)

The final webinar of the year marked a number of occasions: first, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and second, the 16 Days of Activism. The event, co-hosted with CBM Global and CBM Ireland, marked the launch of the accompanying learning paper "Disability inclusion in GBV programming." Moderated by Lou Talbot Bernie, (Programme Manager, CBM Ireland), the event's guest speakers included Mariam Al-Salahat, MHPSS Coordinator with World Vision Syria Response; Emma Peace, Gender and Inclusion Consultant; Sharon Matingwina, Programmes Officer with Musasa Project; and Abia Karam, Chair of Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities and CEO of the National Forum for Women with Disabilities Pakistan. The paper and a recording of the event can be viewed [here](#) on the Consortium's website.



DISABILITY INCLUSION IN GBV PROGRAMMING: WEBINAR & PAPER LAUNCH

Co-hosted by the Irish Consortium on GBV & CBM Ireland

DECEMBER 3RD, 9 AM - 10:30 AM IRELAND / 11 AM ZIMBABWE / 4 PM BANGKOK

Moderator - Lou Talbot Beirne, Programme Manager, CBM

Opening Remarks - Vicky Dillon, Gender Equality Policy Lead, Department of Foreign Affairs

SPEAKERS:

- Abia Akram - Chair, Asia Pacific Women with Disabilities & CEO, National Forum of Women with Disabilities Pakistan
- Mariam Al-Salahat - MHPSS & Protection Coordinator, World Vision Syria Response
- Emma Pearce - Gender & Inclusion Consultant, Women's Refugee Commission
- Sharon Matingwina- Programs Officer, Musasa Project Zimbabwe

Captioning will be available

Register at: <https://bit.ly/2J5boet>

Banner invitation for the webinar on disability inclusion for the 16 Days of Activism

Communicating Ethically on GBV (November and December)

The Consortium designed and hosted participatory sessions on ethical storytelling on GBV, bringing together fundraising, communications, and programme staff from the consortium membership. The aim of the sessions was to bring together a diverse group of staff to come to mutual understanding on how to communicate ethically on GBV. Participants were invited to provide feedback and inputs, which shaped the sessions as well as a guide on ethical storytelling on GBV, to be developed in 2021.

GOAL 3

ADVOCACY

Commission on the Status of Women 64 (March 2020)

For CSW64, the Consortium developed a policy and programme paper on school-related GBV, viewable on the website. It was scheduled for Abby and Brianna (Coordinator and Policy Officer, respectively) to travel to New York to represent the Consortium, advocate to keep GBV a priority on the agenda, and participate in CSW side events. However, due to COVID-19, CSW was curtailed and no side events were held. Nonetheless, the policy and programme paper was disseminated via members and externally, on the website and via Twitter. An event on school-related GBV was postponed to September, at which point guests were able to speak to COVID-19 programme adaptations.

SAFE EDUCATION FOR GIRLS

Tackling School-Related GBV

Irish Consortium on GBV
March 2020

Member Spotlight: ActionAid Ireland

In 2020 ActionAid Ireland published their Behaviour Change Field Guide. The guide acts as a field manual for development and humanitarian practitioners drawing on ActionAid's programme experience in Ethiopia, Nepal, and Kenya. It brings together a human rights based and behaviour change approach into a single operational model. The guide has examples throughout which are drawn directly from the work of ActionAid field teams who are implementing the Women's Rights Programme, funded by Irish Aid.

ActionAid Ireland and UCL Centre for Behaviour Change have been collaborating for the last five years on this new approach to programming which ultimately is aiming to reduce GBV within development and humanitarian contexts. ActionAid hope the guide will highlight the benefits of adopting a behaviour change approach. Their rationale for this is that although GBV programming has led to improvements in knowledge and attitude towards GBV there is growing evidence that they have had limited success in changing behaviour. The manual gives the user a guide on how to identify behaviours that lead to negative actions and provides tools to change these behaviours.

In 2020, ActionAid Ireland organised a special training session with UCL Centre for Behaviour Change for programme countries using the behaviour change approach to identify behaviours contributing to the prevention of Covid-19 and draw on the experience of UCL in designing messaging around prevention behaviours in the UK. This work was supported by Irish Aid's approval of redirection of a significant percentage of programme funds towards Covid-19 response last year. ActionAid used this funding to support local women's groups (our partners) to share messaging around Covid-19 and GBV prevention, provide access to water and hygiene kits to communities as well as food and cash support to vulnerable families. Read through a summary of the guide [here](#) or the full guide [here](#).

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). This included the provision of technical support, including through the Safeguarding Advisor, the Accountability & Business Development Advisor, and the recruitment of a dedicated Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Advisor.

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. 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. In Sierra Leone, based on the findings of a study on child labour, trafficking in persons and indecent work, GOAL launched an action plan to address the worst forms of child labour and trafficking. This includes a media campaign and the promotion of safe practices and encouraging education. The plan will engage community activists, social workers and law enforcement agents to educate communities and support those affected by child labour and trafficking.

In 2020, GOAL's programmes pivoted 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 were 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. In Ethiopia, work continued with street-connected youth, including through the drop-in and rehabilitation centre – a safe space where youth can access basic literacy and numeracy education, skills training, counselling sessions, which includes prevention of GBV and child abuse, therapeutic activities, and basic hygiene, sanitation and healthcare services. 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.

GOAL has also 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.

16 Days of Activism (November and December)

The 16 Days of Activism runs from November 25th—the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women—through December 10th, Human Rights Day. The Consortium focused on the intersection of GBV and disability, with two primary sources of communications outputs: 1) the work of individual members and 2) the launch of promotion of the policy and programme paper Disability inclusion in GBV programming, co-developed with CBM Ireland and CBM Global, viewable online. The Consortium's 16 Days campaign, taking place on Twitter, achieved higher visibility than the campaigns of previous years, demonstrating improved communications impact.

Member Spotlight: Ifrah Foundation

In 2020, The Ifrah Foundation set about adjusting our programme delivery to the pandemic. We entered into partnership with UNFPA Somalia and developed an ambitious pledge-based campaign to address Female Genital Mutilation in Somalia. Our Dear Daughter Campaign will be developed across three strategic pillars, from advocacy to awareness raising and community empowerment. We are in the process of developing a consortium of partners to deliver this programme, ensure its sustainability and impact.

Through the year, and with the support of Grand Challenges Canada, we delivered a programme where some 40 community ambassadors were trained to engage directly with community members on the harmful effects of FGM. We undertook baseline research to establish where a cohort of individuals in the community stood in their approach to practicing FGM. We then trained a team of advocates to produce and disseminate factual social media content on the short and long term harms of FGM. Finally we re-survey the same cohort to measure the change in attitudes to FGM. This provides evidence that social media is influential in ending FGM. It also contributes to a growing group of people skilled to produce quality content for wider sharing on social media platforms. This forms part of a wider network of FGM Ambassadors supporting the Foundation in its work in Mogadishu and the Gedo region of Somalia.

During the 16 days of Activism, Ifrah Foundation virtually hosted 7 screenings of the movie *A Girl From Mogadishu*, with a view to raising awareness of FGM as a violence against women and bring the issues associated with it to the fore.

Finally, in collaboration with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Irish Family Planning Agency we produced an information leaflet in Somali for the community in Ireland to learn more about the services available to the survivors of FGM. The leaflet includes information on the law prohibiting FGM in Ireland.

Member Spotlight: Oxfam Ireland

In 2020, our humanitarian, development and advocacy work included: In Tanzania, our partners Kivulini, LIWOPAC and the Pastoralists Indigenous NGO Forum engaged over 45,000 people on GBV prevention through private and public level dialogues as well as specialist programmes in schools increasing understanding of what constitutes GBV, its root causes, reporting mechanisms and referral services. In Rwanda, our partner YMCA supported peer educators to use GALS methodology as a platform for GBV sensitisation.

In Zimbabwe, we supported partner Musasa to expand refuge and medical, psychosocial and legal support services to more than 270 women and their dependents who had experienced or were vulnerable to GBV. This was achieved through Community outreach incorporating “edutainment” via broadcast and social media platforms, support hotlines and construction of additional shelter capacity. In Uganda, our partner UWONET supported successful advocacy for government reclassification of GBV services as essential during Covid-19 restrictions.

We amplified in Claiming and Reclaiming the Digital World as a Public Space the experiences of women who had experienced on-line GBV. We called for increased understanding of digital safety, improved

protective legal and reporting mechanisms, and more accountable governance in the digital space to ensure the safety of activism for gender equality and freedom from violence.

In fragile contexts of South Sudan and DRC marked by protracted crisis, insecurity, weak governance structures and limited access to essential services, we supported inclusive locally led Community Protection Committees representing over 50,000 people to advocate for, claim and access protective rights including freedom from sexual exploitation and abuse, equitable economic participation and voice in decision making.

In our report Time to Care, we highlighted the heavy and unequal responsibility of care work primarily undertaken by women and girls which perpetuates gender and economic inequalities and calling for a strengthening of global social and healthcare systems and gender-equitable social security systems that address risks for women. Related messaging was integrated in our submission to the Irish Citizen's Assembly on Gender Equality.

GOAL 4

LEADERSHIP

CEOs played a role in the Strategic Planning Process. In December, they met regarding the future of the Consortium, discussing issues such as mission, purpose, and vision (see more in the section below on the Strategic Planning Process).

Strategic Planning Process

As the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan came to an end, the Consortium initiated the Strategic Review and Strategic Planning Process. The Strategic Review was conducted internally and included inputs from all members, regarding the progress made on the four goals of the Consortium as well as efficacy of governance and finance. Once the Strategic Review was completed and presented to Members in the summertime, the Strategic Planning Process began.

The Strategic Planning Process was divided into two main components: 1) a discussion paper on the future of the Consortium and, subsequently, 2) the development of a new Strategic Plan. In order to complete the discussion paper, a consultant was hired to conduct key informant interviews with members on where they hoped to see the Consortium go in the future. A number of stakeholder meetings were held with representatives from the Learning and Practice Group and the Steering Committee. The CEOs were invited to a decision-making meeting in December. The second component, the development of the new Strategic Plan, commenced in 2021.

Member Spotlight: Plan International Ireland

Since 2019, Plan International Ireland, in partnership with UNFPA, has been implementing a project in Liberia focusing on advancing gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls in exercising their reproductive rights, and on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. The intervention, set to run until the end of 2021, is facilitated by a multifaceted strategy, including

community engagement and participation, male involvement and communication for change through mass media awareness against SGBV, teenage pregnancy and harmful traditional practices.

The project works on enhancing SGBV response service provision, in collaboration with Liberia's Ministry of Health, by refurbishing existing and construction new service centres, including 4 safe homes, 12 one-stop centres (OSCs) and social coping spaces in prisons, and establishing 15 health clubs in schools. In addition, coordination and reporting of the safe homes and OSCs are improved and provide training and mentorship to reduce the stigma and discrimination that hinder women and girl survivors, LGBTQI+ identifying individuals, women with disabilities and other vulnerable groups and provide them with a space feel safe and have access to physical and psychosocial support.

Between July and September 2020, 594 SGBV survivors accessed the OSCs, with 86.7% being girls under 18 years old. During the same period, the safe homes took in 57 survivors and provided them with care, protection, and psychosocial support. 44 were later reunified, with the support of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, with their families and communities.

For the targeted youth, school health clubs provide monthly awareness meetings and discussions on SRHR, GBV and HIV/AIDs, while drop-in centres provided SRHR and mental health services, especially for disadvantaged youth. An estimated, 2,089 disadvantaged youth have received full counselling session through the drop-in centres.

Through vocational programmes such as tailoring, bead-making and soap-making, and adult literacy and psychosocial counselling sessions, the goal of the social coping centres in prisons are for detainees to be engaged positively and rehabilitated to become more useful citizens in society in the future.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19, the vulnerability of women and girls to SGBV has increased and the importance of the project was emphasised, and the response is to engage a synergy of task forces to protect and prevent further violations as well bring to front the issues women and girls face during this pandemic

Member Spotlight: World Vision

Guided by our Gender Equality Strategy 2019-2021, in 2020 World Vision Ireland completed a number of planned activities to progress our gender equality and GBV work and learning. Projects were also adapted in line with Covid 19, ensuring access to protection services could continue.

Internally, WV carried out its ever first Gender Audit to establish a baseline of understanding awareness on gender equality and GBV amongst staff. The audit covered a broad range of topics, from HR policies to minimum standards programme approaches in our international programmes. Results from the audit are guiding our strengthened approach to gender equality and GBV prevention and response.

In partnership with Trinity College Dublin, a comparative study on community participatory models

of social change was completed in South Sudan, with a focus on SASA and its implementation in humanitarian contexts. Recommendations from the report are being used to guide implementation of SASA in South Sudan, building on key strengths of our response and addressing barriers. World Vision contributed to the ICGBV and CBM Ireland learning paper and event on disability inclusion in GBV programming. WV Syria shared learnings from its online course for disability inclusion in GBV programming, which has been already been completed by over 1000 Syrian case workers.

A number of adaptations were made in response to Covid 19 to ensure our GBV prevention and response work could continue where possible. For example, in Syria women and girl safe spaces turned virtual and outreach work was carried out through use of mobile phones, individual case PSS was provided on an emergency basis in our safe spaces; in Somalia case management for survivors continued to operate in line with Covid 19 operating procedures and trainings for health professionals on GBV response were successfully completed, as were trainings for the community committees and religious leaders on referral pathways and psychological first aid response. Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a notable increase in protection concerns across all of our programme countries; in response, teams have redoubled efforts with community and religious leaders and the role they play in preventing GBV, whilst continuing to raise awareness on available services.

ICGBV MEMBERS

