

2022 Annual Report

Irish Consortium
on Gender Based
Violence

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BEYOND
FEAR

Note from the Consortium Chair, Caoimhe de Barra

Welcome all to the 2022 Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence Annual Report,

2022 was a busy year for the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence (ICGBV) and its members. My role as Chairperson has reinforced my passion, advocacy and care for women and girls in all their diversity who have survived in changing, complex and volatile contexts. The Consortium continued to navigate new ways of working, engaging with our international connections and organising key learning events and papers for our members throughout 2022. The ICGBV has achieved a great amount in 2022.



It has been a difficult year for the communities the ICGBV members work with as we have seen an increase in emergency contexts, conflict, and climate emergencies. There has been a 24% increase in the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance. 1 person in every 23, a total of 339 million people globally, will require some form of assistance in 2023. More than 70% of women and girls in humanitarian contexts have experienced gender based violence. Programming to end gender based violence only receives one third of what is needed to truly address this issue.

The Consortium unfortunately had to say farewell to the previous Coordinator of four years, Abby Ryan. We wish her all the best and thank her for her drive and support over the last number of years. We would like to thank Áine Hanrahan, the Policy and Research Officer for Acting up in the role of Coordinator for several months during the hiring process. I would also like to thank Jule Zeschky, the Graduate Officer who supported Miss Hanrahan during this time.

In 2022, the ICGBV continued their dedicated work to end gender based violence, amplify the voices of women from the communities members work within, and support our members advocacy, knowledge and training. This report will detail the work completed by the Consortium as well as providing Member Spotlights on their gender based violence work during the year of 2022.

The Consortium will continue to prioritise women and girls, survivors, and communities where gender based violence is a great risk. We continue to explore accountability in this area as we strive to implement our 2021-2026 Strategic Plan and topic of interest.

I am proud of the work of the ICGBV and am excited to continuing chairing into 2023. Members of the ICGBV look forward to continuing our work, sharing our knowledge and working together to end Gender Based Violence in all forms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caoimhe de Barra".

Caoimhe de Barra,

Chair of the ICGBV and CEO of Trócaire

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Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence

Background

The Irish Consortium of Gender Based Violence is an Irish based alliance of international human rights, humanitarian and development organisations, including international NGO's, Irish Aid and the Irish Defence Forces. Established in 2005 as a response to reports of ongoing and systematic sexual violence against women and girls in the Darfur Region of Sudan, we work together to increase knowledge and understanding of violence against women and girls, and to ensure high quality programming and policy responses, in both Humanitarian and Development settings. We also build leadership to support our shared vision of a world free from gender-based violence.

We know that we can never achieve our shared global goals of gender equality, sustainable peace and sustainable development without addressing gender-based violence. We strive for a world where survivors are supported and protected, not isolated and stigmatised. We strive for a world beyond fear for women and girls, their families and communities.

Members



Consortium Members: ActionAid Ireland, Aidlink, Christian Aid Ireland, Concern Worldwide, Self Help Africa, Irish Defence Forces, GOAL, Ifrah Foundation, Irish Aid (Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade), Irish Red Cross, Oxfam Ireland, Plan Ireland, Trócaire, World Vision Ireland.

In October 2022, Aidlink joined the Consortium bringing membership to 14 organisations. Aidlink is a development organisation, striving to achieve gender equality and tackle poverty in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, while also raising awareness of global inequality in Ireland. Aidlink works by partnering with local, African community-based organisations to collectively deliver their work, empowering people to become leaders of their own development.

The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence member continued to demonstrate their commitment to ending gender based violence and the work of the Consortium with a high level of engagement throughout the year on the Consortium's governance and operation structures.

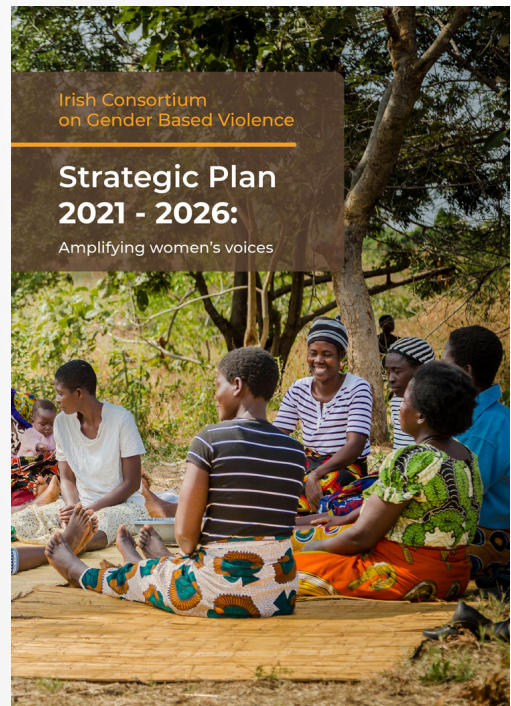
Strategic Plan 2021- 2026

The ICGBV's Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026: Amplifying Women's Voices was launched on February 8th 2022, with the participation of Minister of State Colm Brophy, the Defence Forces, and the CEOs and Leaders of all member organisations. The launch highlighted that an increased commitment is needed to ensure a world free of violence against women and girls, warning that COVID-19 has created "a pandemic within a pandemic". Minister of State Colm Brophy generously stated that the "The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence has been invaluable in informing the Department's work on the (Security) Council, informing our multilateral partnerships, and enhancing the implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security."

The Strategic Plan outlined the three key priorities over the next period:

- The promotion of Gender Based Violence prevention programming and gender equality - this requires addressing the power imbalances between men and women, as well as the social and gender norms that justify gender inequality.
- Advancing Gender Based Violence risk mitigation within humanitarian and development work - this requires compiling and distributing standards for risk mitigation, building and strengthening technical capacity in humanitarian organisations, and advancing learning between global and local contexts.
- Strengthening the response to Gender Based Violence - this includes improved access to security and justice, psychosocial support, safety and risk mitigation, and health care in humanitarian crisis and development work.

The Consortium will focus particularly on Survivor-Centred Accountability as an overarching frame for its work in this strategic period. During 2022 members, together with local partners, the Malawi Consortium and Sierra Leone Working Group, undertook development work to 'operationalise' this strategic framing, what does it mean; how can the Consortia contribute to the advancing the global work in this area; who could we work with and the overall intention of developing a project and associated actions in 2023.



Survivor Centered Accountability

Following the key discussions on the ICGBV 2021 - 2026 Strategic Plan, a workshop was organised to look at key themes, opportunities, and milestones for the next 5 years. Through this discussion a recurring topic came up, Accountability, and it was decided the theme for the upcoming 5 years for the Consortium would be a survivor centered approach to Accountability.

With the selection of survivor centered accountability as the core theme and investigation of the ICGBV 2021 - 2026 Strategic Plan, the activities of 2022 continuously engaged with centering survivors and the topic of accountability. The ICGBV conducted specific work in progressing our exploration of the theme.

In 2022, the Secretariat began discussions with members on what did they mean by Accountability and how would they like to further this topic going forward.

Internal sessions on accountability took place in June 2022, to discuss topics that the Consortium felt were relevant to this work This included: 1) Barriers to Accessing Accountability including - Social Norms and Stigma, Lack of Resources, Marginalised Groups and Communities, Corruption, and Barriers to Access Specific to the Judicial System; 2) Responsibility including - Non-Governmental Organisations, Community, and Governments; 3) Justice and Accountability. Attendees included ICGBV members, International Consortiums on Gender Based Violence as well as Member Partners.

A desk top literature review was undertaken and options papers for the consideration of members were developed with a particular focus on the ethical and safeguarding concerns. A full project proposal will be completed and signed off by the Steering Committee in 2023



Governance and Operations

Steering Committee

Member representatives attended 4 Steering Committee (SC) meetings. The SC provides overall leadership for the implementation of the ICGBV Strategic Plan and the governance of the Consortium.

Learning and Practice

Member representatives attended 4 Learning and Practice (L&P) meetings. The L&P provides operational insight and expertise into the achievement of the Strategic Plan goals.

In 2022 these meetings were also attended by a representative of the Malawi Consortium on Gender Based Violence and the Sierra Leone Consortium on Gender Based Violence Working Group to strengthen relationships between our organisations and to facilitate the development of shared actions and work plans.

Staffing Changes

Mid 2022, Abby Ryan, ICGBV Coordinator of four years, decided to leave to take up another opportunity. The Steering Committee responded to this staffing change by confirming Áine Hanrahan, the Policy and Research Officer, as Acting Coordinator and appointing Jule Zeschky as the Graduate Officer. The Consortium initiated a recruitment process and Jennifer McCarthy Flynn was appointed to the role of Coordinator in December 2022.

External Committees

The Secretariat represented ICGBV and contributed to the work of:

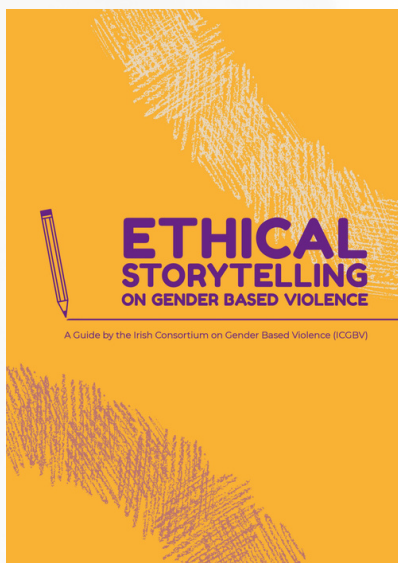
- Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings Reference Group
- DOCHAS
- The National Observatory on Violence Against Women
- National Steering Committee on Female Genital Mutilation
- Oversight Group on Women Peace and Security

Finance

The Consortium continued prudent management of its resources with the support of the host organisation, Trócaire finance team. Core funding is provided through membership fees and Irish Aid funding.

The key focus of the financial management strategy is to strengthen its long-term financial sustainability and in particular maintain the 2 person staff team to ensure the Consortium can deliver the ambitious Strategic Plan and Survivor Centred Accountability work. As part of this work a contingency fund has been established as part of the 2023-2024 annual budgeting process.

Our Work in 2022



A Guide to Ethical Storytelling on Gender Based Violence Launch

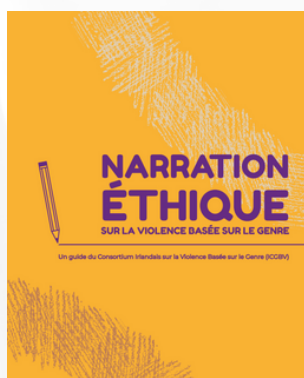
After several years of research and consultations, the ICGBV published the Guide to 'Ethical Storytelling on Gender Based Violence' in May, 2022. The Guide aims to help organisations discuss gender-based violence in a way that respects and protects those who have experienced it. The Guide has three sections highlighting the relevant phases of storytelling in cases of Gender Based Violence. They are: 1) Before engaging with a survivor, 2) While engaging with a survivor and, 3) After engaging with a survivor.

The ICGBV partnered with [DisasterReady](#), and the Guide is available on their platform now as well as the ICGBV website.

DisasterReady is a signature program of the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation launched in 2013 with a simple and powerful mission: to better prepare humanitarian and development professionals for the critical work they do by providing high-quality, relevant online learning resources at no cost. Made possible by the collaboration with NGOs, humanitarian experts, and professional development providers, DisasterReady curates the largest free online learning library targeted to humanitarian and development professionals at every stage of their career – covering essential topics ranging from humanitarian standards and child protection to safety and security and project management available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.

The partnership between the ICGBV and DisasterReady supports the dissemination of the Guide on Ethical Storytelling with the aim to help organisations talk about gender-based violence in a way that respects and protects those who have experienced it. To access the Guide on DisasterReady you will need to set up a free account that will provide you access to all their resources.

This partnership has meant more than 1000 humanitarian workers across continents has more easily accessed this important information. Due to these statistics, the positive feedback from members and partners, as well as calls for the guide in more languages, the ICGBV has translated the guide into French and Spanish. These versions are available on DisasterReady and the ICGBV website as of April 2023.



French Guide:
Narration Éthique sur
la Violence Basée sur
le Genre, released
May 2023



Spanish Guide: Cómo
Relatar Casos de
Violencia de Género
sin Faltar a la Ética,
released May 2023

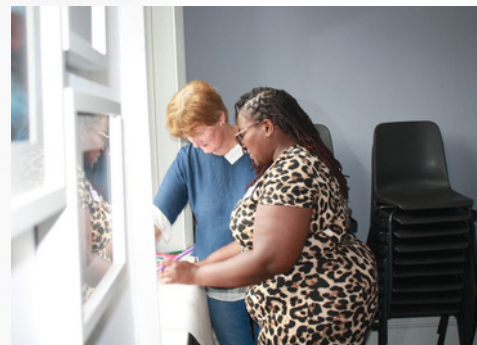
Psychological First Aid Training of Trainers

Training of Trainers: Psychological First Aid and Referrals

In September 2022, the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence conducted a Training of Trainers on Psychological First Aid and Referral in Dublin over 3 days.

During the training, which was guided by Sarah Martin,

we deepened our knowledge of what steps are important when providing Psychological First Aid and when referring survivors of gender based violence to services. These insights will be passed on to colleagues internationally that are involved in humanitarian and development contexts.



As part of the training, we also learned how to protect ourselves from vicarious traumatisation, as providing support is only possible if we take care of our own mental health.

Providing ethical and survivor-centred support to survivors is essential and we are glad to be supporting organisations in strengthening their knowledge and ability to respond to survivors of gender based violence.

The Consortium had the pleasure to host colleagues from our Sister Consortia in Malawi and Sierra Leone as well as members from both our NGO and Governmental members. Special thanks to Sarah Martin for her exceptional knowledge and training skills. A brilliant result of this training was the roll out of this knowledge to members in-country teams.

As a component of GOAL's humanitarian response to emergencies, GOAL rolled out Psychological First Aid (PFA) training to over 70 staff from 13 GOAL countries across multiple departments; Safeguarding, Gender Equality and Inclusion, Emergency Response Unit, Desk Officers and HR. The training taught participants the fundamental principles of PFA through role-plays and group activities, with the aim for participants to cascade the learning to their field level staff across GOAL.

Staff said the training enabled them to understand how to identify 'a person in need' by learning the strategies to approach them, identify their needs and conduct necessary referrals. Additionally, the training helped staff learn how to improve their protection stakeholder mapping to conduct referrals effectively. Within one month of the global roll out, two GOAL countries cascaded the training to their Safeguarding field-level Focal Points, GOAL Niger translated the training into French and South Sudan have included PFA activities to support refugees in response to the Sudan crisis.



GOAL Niger training their Safeguarding field-level focal points in PFA through role-plays and group activities.

Member spotlights

ActionAid Ireland

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a harmful cultural practice affecting girls in Kamuthe, Kenya. Poverty and cultural discrimination against women leave many girls vulnerable to this practice, which for generations was considered a rite of passage to prepare them for marriage. To address this, ActionAid and the Kamuthe women's network challenged this deeply rooted practice and organised community dialogues with local authorities, women, girls, cultural and religious leaders to



Capacity building session in Kamuthe

raise awareness of the negative consequences of FGM on girls' well-being. They also strengthened community reporting system, which led to a significant decrease in FGM (from 21% in 2014 to 15% in 2022). Also a gender policy was developed and passed by the county government of Garissa that commits to ending GBV and criminalising FGM. This was a significant milestone, and a testament to the effectiveness of community-led

act:onaid initiatives that involve cultural and religious leaders in ending harmful practices.

Aidlink

Aidlink is an Irish organisation that exists to improve the lives of people living in poverty in Africa, focusing on women and girls living in the poorest communities in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana. Aidlink works in partnership with local NGOs to deliver life-changing programmes, strengthen the capacity of communities, and deliver sustainable results.



More specifically, Aidlink works with the nomadic pastoralist communities in the Turkana and Masai counties in Kenya, which are patriarchal societies that continue to engage in customary practices and behaviours that are especially harmful to women and girls. This includes physical violence, child marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as routine exclusion of women from decision-making.

These beliefs often keep women and girls out of school, and education is at the heart of what we do. Aidlink works with communities to improve children's chances of getting a good education and supports education and learning within communities more broadly. This includes delivering awareness campaigns advocating for the rights of women and other marginalised groups, engaging communities to discuss and address harmful practices and negative social norms, and strengthening the capacity of local structures and stakeholders to advocate for gender equality and to confront all forms of violence.

Member Learning Sessions

We hosted two learning sessions, one with ActionAid in May 2022 and another with Dublin Rape Crisis Center in October 2022.

ActionAid

ActionAid joined us to discuss their work on Behaviour Change Approach to prevent Gender Based Violence. ActionAid Ireland receives funding from Irish Aid for its Women's Rights Programme in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nepal. This work supports safer and more economically secure lives for women and girls. The programme also works with men and boys to encourage the adoption of positive behaviours to ensure the rights of women and girls within their community.

ActionAid Ireland and the Centre for Behaviour Change at University College London utilise the Centre's Behaviour Change Wheel for gender work. This is an analysis process used to understand the behaviours underpinning a problem such as violence against women and girls, to identify positive behaviours and to consider how capability, opportunity, and motivation can influence positive behaviours. The Behaviour Change Wheel also guides the types of interventions and policies which can support wider change in a society.

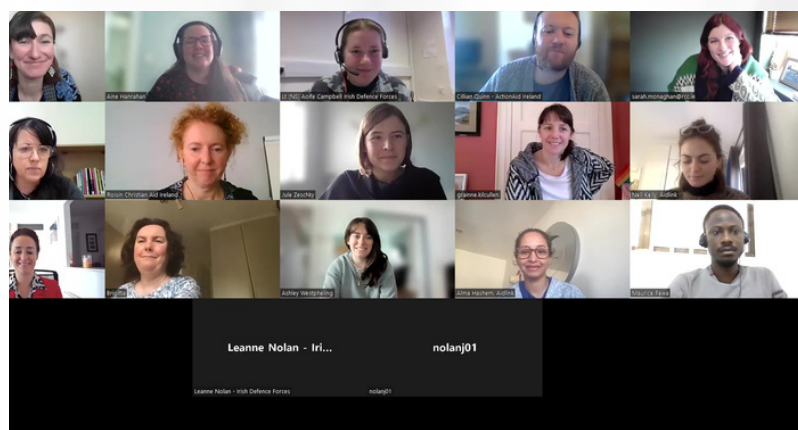


You can read more about the approach in Action Aid's Behaviour Change Manual, [Using the Behaviour Change Wheel Framework within Gender-Focused International Development Programmes: A Field Guide](#), [here](#).

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre joined us to provide an overview of their work BodyRight and Let's Get Real Programmes, their Consent Project and their Client Support Service. The BodyRight programme raises awareness as to what constitutes sexual violence, to inform young people concerning the facts, the law, the meaning of consent and the impact of sexual violence.

Let's Get Real looks at the influence of media, culture and pornography for schools, youth groups and colleges. We-Consent is a new long-term national programme to inform, educate and engage with all members of society about consent. Client Support Services include the national 24 helpline, one-to-one counselling, court accompaniment and outreach services.



Member spotlights

Christian Aid Ireland



Chantal Kanyange, Christian Aid's Humanitarian Programme Quality Advisor, with women attending a GBV awareness raising session

In South Sudan, Christian Aid and our local partner Support for Peace Education and Development Programme updated the GBV referral pathway to ensure GBV survivors have access to multi-sectorial lifesaving service assistance. The updated GBV referral pathway covered all five Counties of Northern Bahr-el Ghazal. Referral pathways in local languages were disseminated widely among communities, ensuring that women and girls, including those particularly at risk of GBV, were informed of where and how to access lifesaving services. Coordination was strengthened between key actors in the region, such as government, local and international civil society organisations and the UN, providing opportunities to discuss pending gaps in addressing GBV and ways of addressing them.

Christian Aid also supported 918 women and adolescent girls to benefit from safe spaces in 2022. These women and girls received support, including information on available GBV services, psychological first aid, GBV awareness raising, and basic skills training on income generating activities, which serve as a source of income for GBV survivors and support sustainable safe spaces. Programme participants acknowledged that the women and girls' informal spaces helped them to come together and overcome their challenges through providing peer to peer emotional and social support.



Concern Worldwide

In line with 'How Concern Understands Extreme Poverty' and our global Equality Strategy, Concern is committed to preventing and responding to GBV, and addressing gender inequality, risks and vulnerability, which we see as barriers to eradicating extreme poverty.

In the last year, we scaled up our response to GBV, particularly in countries like Haiti, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through the provision of psychosocial support, protection hubs, referrals and case management.

Our GBV prevention work is ongoing in 21 countries through gender transformative programming, supported by our partner Sonke Gender Justice, and risk mitigation. This includes the continued implementation of activities such as gender transformative dialogue across a range of sectors and Life Skills courses with adolescents and women.

We contributed to the Women, Peace and Security events, organised by the ICGBV, enabling voices from our programmes in Central African Republic (CAR) and DRC to speak directly to decision makers.

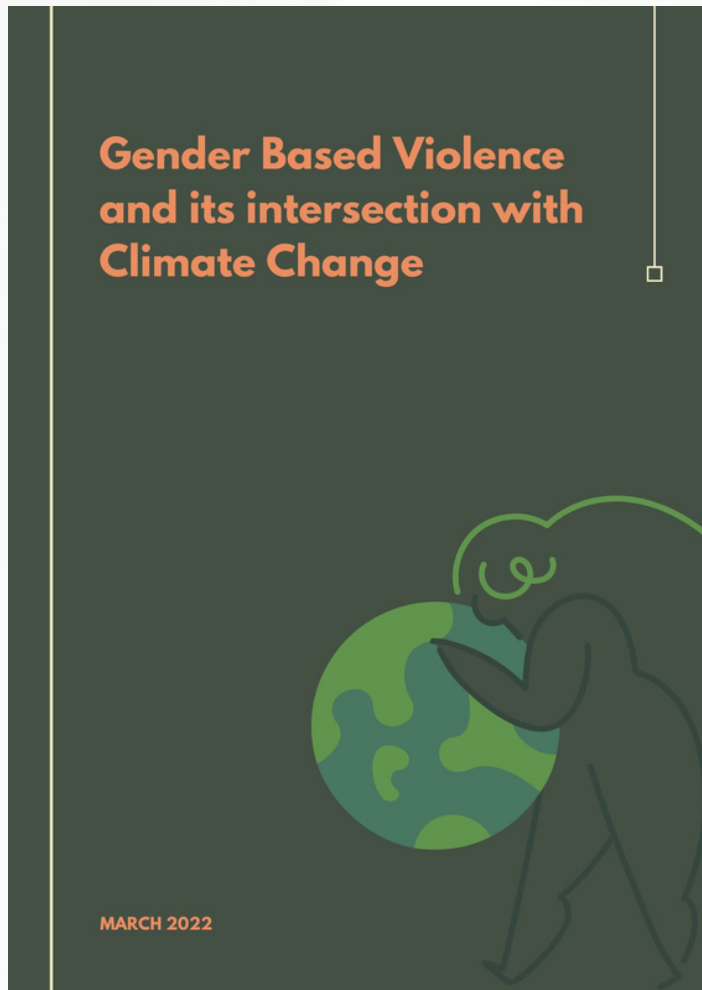


Sensitisation on violence and referral pathways in Nyaragongo territory, DRC. Photo Mathilde Bouchacourt, Concern Worldwide, 2022



As an organisation that holds learning in high regard, we completed Randomised Control Trials in Sierra Leone and Malawi which investigated the impact of programme approaches on gender equality and GBV.

CSW 66: Gender Based Violence and Climate Change



Natural disasters, climate-related conflict and displacement lead to increases in all forms of GBV, disrupts GBV response services. Rural communities in the Global South are having the least effect on the climate, however, due to rates of pollution from the Global North and their economic interests, they are the most impacted by slow onset change and acute climate disasters. Both climate disasters and slow on-set climate change, similar to other types of humanitarian emergencies negatively impact on living conditions, access to clean and safe water, livelihoods, and socio-economic stability and increase risks of GBV, as they heighten pre-existing inequalities which exacerbates women and girls' risk of GBV.

In March the Consortium held an exciting event for the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66). The theme of CSW66 was 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes'.

The ICGBV event was based on our policy paper, 'Gender based violence and its intersections with Climate Change'. To highlight this topic the Consortium brought together several key speakers on the impact climate change is having on survivors of gender based violence. Moderating the event was Caoimhe de Barra, Chairperson of the ICGBV and CEO of Trócaire. Panellists included Nancy Waegao, Gender Equality Project Manager, World Vision Solomon Islands, Carolina Amaya, Environmental Human Rights Defender, El Salvador and Grace Malera, Ombudsman Malawi.

GBV and Climate Change

An Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence Event for CSW66

The Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence will be hosting a webinar on Gender-Based Violence and Climate change in line with CSW66, 2022
Tuesday 22 March 2022 - 11am to 12pm (GMT)

Panelists include:

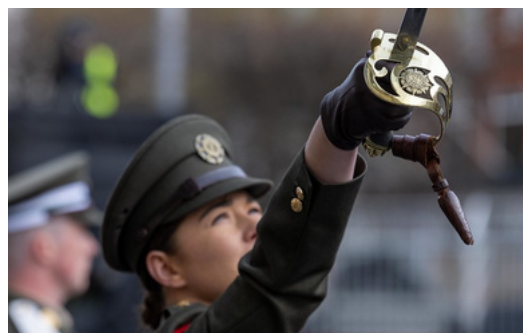
- Nancy Waegao, Gender Equality Project Manager, World Vision Solomon Islands
- Carolina Amaya, Social Worker, El Salvador
- Grace Malera, Ombudsman Malawi

You can read the paper developed [here](#) and look back at our local speakers thoughts [here](#).

Member spotlights

Defence Forces

The Defence Forces (Óglaigh na hÉireann) continued its participation on the Oversight Group for Ireland's third National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related resolutions into 2022. In line with commitments associated with this plan, Óglaigh na hÉireann is guided by the Defence Forces Third Action Plan (2020-2024) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions.



The Organisational Culture Standing Committee (OCSC), continued its work in 2022 in order to drive and coordinate the process of cultural change within Óglaigh na hÉireann. This group has a number of taskings however, of particular note, was to examine an appropriate workshop that would advance the process of cultural change within the organisation. In consultation with a number of external agencies and organisations, the Sexual Ethics and Respectful Relationships (SERR) workshop was developed. This culminated in a pilot workshop in Q4 of 2022. The workshop deals with the issue of sexual ethics in an interactive manner.



GOAL Global



Women complete a jigsaw puzzle as part of activities to raise awareness of GBV and available supports in Mersin, Türkiye. November 2022.

GOAL remains committed to gender equality, social inclusion, safeguarding and protection, including GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response. This is reflected in GOAL's Strategy 2025: From Crisis to Resilience, within which Safe, Accountable & Inclusive Programming is a stated priority.

GOAL mitigates the risk of GBV. For example, GOAL Syria undertook a project-level risk assessment, engaging participants, key informants, partners, and staff to identify risks related to gender, inclusion, protection, and safeguarding, and developed mitigation measures. A

learning brief was presented to internal and external networks.

GOAL takes action to prevent GBV. For example, GOAL uses the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) in Zimbabwe, a community-led approach focusing on gender. It explores a variety of issues, including GBV, and promotes discussion and behaviour change at household level.

GOAL also responds to GBV. For example, GOAL Honduras in collaboration with the GBV Sub-Cluster, developed a dashboard for the GBV Alert System which identifies the situation and dynamics of GBV within communities, as well as the risks to which women and girls are exposed daily.

Furthermore, GOAL contributed to the Department of Foreign Affairs listening session on Women, Peace and Security in Sudan; participated in the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Conference; explored with the NextGen Youth Programme how addressing GBV is necessary for gender equality; and commemorated other international GBV-related events.

Local Women's Voices on Women, Peace and Security

In January 2021, Ireland and Mexico were appointed to the UN Security Council and began co-chairing the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The IEG brings together Security Council experts at the working level to facilitate a systematic approach to WPS within the Council's work and enable greater oversight and coordination of implementation efforts. The IEG hosts approximately 9 sessions a year on conflict-affected countries, meeting with the UN Country Resident Coordinator and/or Heads of UN Agencies present in the country.

To create gender-inclusive and respectful societies, women and girls' holistic participation is integral, and is one of the core pillars of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which "urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts"

Women are hindered from participating due to patriarchal norms, exclusionary practices, and a lack of resources to support women's participation. Conflicts magnify gender inequalities and with that, also limits women's participation. Part of ensuring higher participation of women is providing and increasing space for civil society engagement. Civil society members and human rights defenders understand the on-the-ground needs and requirements of marginalised women and girls.

When Ireland was appointed co-chair, the ICGBV began to host listening sessions for staff of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, ICGBV members and the Irish Mission to the UN, with female civil society members from the countries under review. These sessions worked to provide a platform for local female civil society leaders to give first-hand information on the reality for women and girls in that country. This supported Ireland to be well informed and center the experiences of women in their work at the UN as well as incorporating them into the recommendations that they brought to the IEG meetings.

The ICGBV hosted 7 listening sessions in 2022 with members local partners and connections. With approximately 15-25 attendees. On average, we had 3 local female speakers per session. Our deep thanks to the women and civil society speakers who gave us their time, knowledge, and expertise. We are grateful for all their contributions.



Member spotlights

Ifrah Foundation

In 2022, we expanded our Dear Daughter Campaign, formally launch our Dear Daughter Working Group to end FGM with participants from multiple countries, EU Capacity Building Mission in Somalia and UNFPA Somalia. The groups' purpose is to share information on FGM in Somalia and coordinate advocacy. We worked with Equality Now to begin a process of building momentum in Somali civil society behind the FGM Bill.

Somalia experienced severe drought, and with the support of funders and partners, we delivered community empowerment programmes in Internally Displaced Persons Camps. This work engaged with local leaders, to build their understanding of human rights and health issues with FGM so they can support community members to end FGM.

We completed research on our impact since launching Dear Daughter, in September 2021. This research measured the impact in terms of numbers of people reached and those who have decided not to practice FGM as a result. The findings were positive. We ended the year with 50,000 pledges to Dear Daughter.



Photographed here are frontline activists with the World Bank and UNFPA, in Nairobi, November 2022. Photo credit: UNFPA Somali

Working with female African frontline activists and the Global Media Campaign to End FGM, we called for a shift in funding to the frontline who currently receive 2% of global FGM funding. We've worked on an interactive map identifying activists so funding can easily find and fund those on the front line.

Irish Aid

Addressing gender-based violence is a key objective for Irish foreign policy and Ireland's international development cooperation program. Ireland supports related initiatives through Irish and international NGOs, the UN and through our country programmes. Ireland is consistently among the OECD countries with the highest annual proportion of official development assistance (ODA) invested in gender equality measures; currently it is ranked third.

As part of the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, Ireland committed to increase investment in ending gender-based violence, with new commitments totaling approximately €15 million. As part of this, in 2022 Ireland doubled its funding to the UN Women Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women to €500,000 to support efforts to address gender-based violence at grassroots levels in over 80 countries. Ireland also expects to increasing the International Rescue Committee's budget for 2023 to €2 million for their work on gender and protection in humanitarian contexts.

Ireland is a longstanding champion of the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the United Nations used it membership. Insisting that women need to be central to building sustainable and inclusive peace was an embedded theme during Ireland's term on the UN Security Council 2021-2 and DFA worked closely with the consortium in achieving this.



"IRC welcomed us warmly and supported us emotionally. At first, we were alone, IRC helped us to set up the group to develop income generating activities ... At the beginning, we were desperate women without hope of living, but now we are hopeful and we are testifying that women can, they are capable". Members of Village Savings and Loans Association group, Burundi.



Public Engagement

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (JCFAD): Women Peace and Security

In May Mary Van Lieshout from GOAL Global and Maurice Sadlier from World Vision Ireland and ICGBV Coordinator Abby Ryan had the opportunity to brief the JCFAD on Women, Peace and Security. The ICGBV supported the amplification of Women's Voices through Listening Sessions held for the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations. These Listening Sessions supported Ireland's preparation for the Informal Expert Group on Women Peace and Security.

At the core of the briefing were the five recommendations that were echoed in all our Listening Sessions informed by local women actors.

The recommendations highlighted were 1) Inclusion of women and minorities in decision-making, 2) Removing barriers to access to services and basic needs, 3) Protection and provision of safe spaces for human rights defenders and civil society organisations, 4) Active support and collaboration with civil society organisations, and 5) Implementation of Children rights in conflict and post-conflict situations.



Policy Roundtable on Forced Migration-Human Trafficking

In October, the ICGBV Secretariat moderated a Policy Roundtable on 'The Forced Migration-Human trafficking-Labour Externalisation Nexus' at the Irish Centre for Human Rights of the University of Galway. This was part of the Research Project on Human Trafficking, Forced Migration and Gender Equality in Uganda supported by the Irish Research Council and the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

The project analyses the operationalisation of international and regional human rights standards on human trafficking in Uganda.



It focuses particularly on the gender and child rights dimension of human trafficking among forced migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The project explores how and whether the State is moving beyond a criminal justice-centered approach to combating human trafficking. Uganda has taken several measures to strengthen the coordination of counter-trafficking policy, and to build capacity among law enforcement bodies, at national level. During the session, Devota Nuwe and David Ngendo-Tshimba from the Refugee Law Project Uganda gave insights into the cutting-edge research and work of the Refugee Law Project, Faculty of Law, Makerere University. During the discussion they also stressed the importance of gender inclusivity to fully address priorities, needs and wants of human trafficking survivors.

Member spotlights

Irish Red Cross

The Irish Red Cross is committed to supporting the gender equality and inclusion, as well as addressing GBV through its work as part of the wider Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

In Ukraine and surrounding countries, the Irish Red Cross provided support to the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to reach over 14 million people in need during 2022.

In times of armed conflict there are increased risks of conflict-related sexual violence, trafficking for sexual exploitation and abuse of vulnerable groups, and pre-existing increased displacement related risks of violence. More than 90% of the people that have fled Ukraine are women, children, older people, people with disabilities and other groups facing different vulnerabilities and risks. Within Ukraine increased risks have also been identified perhaps more notably among children. The conflict has severely weakened the protective environment among children making them even further vulnerable to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

During 2022 the Red Cross reached more than 100,000 people through its Protection, Gender and Inclusion activities. The Red Cross continued to focus on working to address the causes, risks and consequences of violence, discrimination and exclusion in an integrated way through its 'Protection, Gender and Inclusion' approach it employs throughout its work. Examples of this are making sure women and girls have access to safe menstrual hygiene resources during emergencies and through specialized programmes such as SGBV prevention and response.



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross



Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) are interventions used by the Red Cross to increase children's access to safe environments and promote their psychosocial well-being. CFS programmes run by the Red Cross in Ukraine and neighbouring countries provide a safe space where children can come together to play, relax, express themselves, feel supported and learn skills to deal with the challenges they face.

Oxfam Ireland

Oxfam launched 'The Assault of Austerity. How prevailing economic policy choices are a form of gender-based violence'[1] in November 2022 arguing that 'austerity measures and their distinctly gendered harms are a form of gender-based violence'. We supported country level discussions and dissemination of this report during the 16 days of activism.



We partnered with 14 local, women-led organisations working specifically to address GBV and promote greater gender equality. We also supported partner countries, Malawi and Zimbabwe, to convene country-level CSO and Government deliberations on the South African Development Community (SADC) Model Law on GBV.

We worked with partners in Zimbabwe to strengthen communities' capacity to support Survivors through the Listen, Inquire, Validate, Enhance Safety and Support (LIVES) methodology. In Rwanda, dialogues with local government and the Rwanda Correction Services on Women's Rights in Prison and Community directly contributed to improvements in the way that women are treated in detention.



Hon Grace Kwelepeteta of Zomba Malosa Constituency addressing community members during a community campaign on Ending Child Marriage in Malawi.

We continued to support Transformative Women's Leadership and facilitate cross learning in all programmes. We supported the Women's Parliamentary Caucuses in Zimbabwe and Malawi in an exchange visit which increased regional solidarity and enhanced movement building and joined up efforts to advance gender equality including better coordinated GBV prevention programming.

[1] [The Assault of Austerity: How prevailing economic policy choices are a form of gender-based violence - Oxfam Policy & Practice](#)

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Ireland's time on the UN Security Council: How have we been addressing Gender Based Violence and what are the next steps?

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is the annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

ICGBV used the 2022 campaign to amplify the voices of local women activists who had participated in the Listening Sessions ICGV organised to support Ireland's work as a member of the UN Security Council. During its tenure, Ireland was co-chair to the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security. You can read more about the work on page 12, Local Women's Voices on Women, Peace & Security.

ICGBV hosted an online panel discussion focused on Women, Peace and Security at a local, international and political level, and the importance of women's voices being heard.

Our excellent panellists included:

- Ambassador Fergal Mythen: Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations;
- Mona Ahmed al-Shawwa: Director of the Women's Rights Unit of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights;
- Leila El Ali: Executive Director of Association Najdeh;
- Charline Yakombo Epiphanie Bangbi: Assistant Project Manager Conflict, Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction and;
- Pablo Castillo Diaz: Policy Specialist on Peace and Security at UN Women.

You can listen back to this excellent panel at: <https://youtu.be/Ho9xeuURZpw>



SAVE THE DATE
8TH OF DECEMBER 2PM IRISH TIME

Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence

Ireland's time on the UN Security Council: How have we been addressing Gender Based Violence and what are the next steps?

During the event, we will discuss, together with local women speakers and speakers from the Irish Department on Foreign Affairs, Ireland's time as the Co-Chair of the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Our Speakers:

Ambassador Fergal Mythen
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

Mona Ahmed al-Shawwa
Director of the Women's Rights Unit of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights

Leila El Ali
Executive Director of Association Najdeh

Charline Yakombo Epiphanie Bangbi
Assistant Project Manager Conflict, Gender, Disaster Risk Reduction

Pablo Castillo Diaz
Policy Specialist on Peace and Security at UN Women

A key message will be shared from our Patron and President of Ireland
Michael D. Higgins

Member spotlights

Plan International Ireland



Papua New Guinea has seen high levels of sorcery-accusation related violence (SARV), and despite a National Action Plan and amendment to the criminal code making sorcery related torture and killings punishable by law, SARV is very much prevalent today. SARV is linked to gender inequality and GBV within the region of Bougainville. Through a partnership with the EU, Plan International is implementing a two-year project, focusing on the prevention and contribution to service provision for victims and survivors of SARV, working closely with communities, local governments and CSOs.

The programme has seen 48 boys' and girls' clubs formed under Plan's Champions of Change (CoC) model. The boys clubs focus on solidarity; non-violent relationships; being a CoC committed to gender equality; and dialoguing gender for boys. For the girls' groups, the focus is on being assertive; gender aware; body confident; informed about sexual and reproductive health; and living free from GBV. Through engagement with the communities, Women Human Rights Defenders groups have been established to reduce tolerance of SARV and GBV and increase access to services. Men's Hubs were created to develop training on prevention and support mechanism addressing various forms of violence within their communities.



The project is still ongoing but has seen positive outcomes, with awareness raised, provision of appropriate care and support, and interest in the programming from other local communities.

Self Help Africa



Mainstreaming a gender transformative approach to improve the power imbalance between men and women, boys and girls within families and society is imperative for SHA. Our interventions show that empowering women and girls contributes to increasing household wellbeing resulting in a reduction in gender-based violence as women are encouraged to claim their power and men to share theirs. Across all our work we seek to increase women's voice, choice and control: particularly their voice within the household, their decision-making power and control over their lives.



Two approaches we use are the Family Life Model and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS). Our comic books highlighting and addressing issues around GBV in Farmer Field Schools, VSLA's and other training platforms. We use the "Challenging Tree" to examine the root causes (root), symptoms (trunk) and solutions (branches) to GBV, making greater use of drawing on the GALS methodology to reduce violence in the home and community. SHA shares 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. In Malawi SHA continued to support the work of the Malawi Sister Consortium and participated in the planning and roll out of events during 16 Days of Activism.

International Ministerial Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

International Ministerial Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative

In November 2022, Mary Van Lieshout, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Head of External Affairs of GOAL Global and Leonie Kerins, Executive Director of the Ifrah Foundation attended the International Ministerial Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative on behalf of the ICGBV.

This Conference discussed the much-needed global action to stop Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. A central premise of the conference was to strengthen the global response to prevent conflict-related sexual violence, hold perpetrators to account, seek justice, and enable access to quality support for victims and survivors.

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The agenda of the first day of the conferences reflect the objective of tackling sexual related violence and supporting victims, with sessions focusing on tackling impunity, using evidence to promote effective action, documenting, and investigating crime of war as well as supporting rights and well-being of children born of conflict-related sexual violence.

The second day theme focused on overlooking the underserved, the global movement of survivors, education, truth and justice.



[Sarah Yong of GESSO (Gender Empowerment for South Sudan Org) at [#PSVI](#) (Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative) Conference in London today.

Mary Van Lieshout noted the UK Strategy on Combatting Sexual Violence in Crisis has broad political support across many key and smaller partner governments, much of the discussion focused on evidence on prevention: 1325: participation of women and challenging patriarchal norms, and working with Security Services to ensure change of attitudes at the top, accountability is a core theme in particular in relation to justice, and the consensus that long term funding for local agencies is the solution.

Sarah Yong (pictured) is a Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) Trainer and has worked for GOAL in South Sudan in the Upper Nile and Southern Blue Nile.

Member spotlights

Trócaire



Trócaire worked with partners, including Women Centred Organisations, to deliver GBV programming across 16 countries providing support to implement GBV specialised services in humanitarian settings and preparedness/recovery contexts.

- Partnered with Global Women's Institute in developing consensus-based guidance on survivor-centred Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPHSS) interventions with GBV survivors and those at risk, in emergency settings.
- Partnered with GBV AoR, supporting women-led organisations (ADA and WFC) to co-chair GBV coordination mechanisms in Somalia and South Sudan, providing technical accompaniment and financial support. A resource package based on the learnings, will be finalised in 2023.



Members of the Masidama group in Matham Community meet on a regular basis to discuss women's rights, empowerment, and also to run a VSLA scheme

- Ethiopia programme supported 15 organisations with safeguarding: including developing codes of conduct, establishing feedback/complaints handling mechanisms and developing organisational commitments towards protecting people from harm.
- With Raising Voices, published a review of our SASA Faith! approach tackling harmful norms contributing to GBV. The process generated lessons learned, stories of impact and recommendations for future iterations.
- In Zimbabwe, advocacy (Trócaire/Musasa) led to the criminalisation and mandatory sentencing for SGBV, the criminalisation of forced marriage, and the recognition of GBV services as essential. In Sierra Leone, advocacy driven by Trocaire and partners under the 'Yellow Ribbon Campaign' culminated in the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, providing for women's representation (30%) in political office etc.

World Vision Ireland



It is estimated that 10,000 boys and girls experience sexual abuse every year in Lesotho and one in seven children face physical abuse. Citizen Voices Addressing Violence Against Children (CVAVAC) is a project World Vision Ireland is implementing with our World Vision Lesotho (WVL) team which seeks to empower communities to advocate for improvements in the justice sector for survivors of abuse or neglect, particularly in relation to child rights, violence against children and Gender Based Violence. Through the implementation of World Vision's social accountability model Citizen Voice and Action (CVA), CVAVAC targets a national audience on child rights and engages justice sector authorities. The project is building necessary structures to engage CSOs in the prevention of violence against children and addressing barriers to justice for women and girls. It does this by helping youth and communities to participate and lead community sensitisation on child rights and protection; facilitation of a national advocacy coalition campaign on violence against children to pursue enactment of child-rights related legislation, such as the Counter Domestic Violence Bill of 2021; and making child appropriate improvements within the Justice sector, such as child friendly court rooms.

Meet our Sister Consortia

Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence

In its first year of setting up its Secretariat, the Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence (MICGBV) and the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare



in Malawi organised Malawi's first 'Gender Based Violence and Gender Research Dissemination Conference' under the theme: "Gender Based Violence and Gender Research: key to Identifying Solutions towards Eliminating Gender Based Violence in Malawi". The conference attracted over 170 participants and targeted a diverse range of stakeholders including representatives from academia, Government of Malawi, policy makers, individual researchers, civil society organisations, the Judiciary, Development

Partners, media and students. The high level conference was presided by the then Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Honourable Patricia Kaliati and the Ambassador of Ireland to Malawi H.E. Seamus O'Grady. The conference was a success as it provided a platform for researchers to showcase their research findings, enhance cooperation, collaboration, networking, and partnerships in the GBV sector,



[MICGBV is a coalition of six member organizations: ActionAid Malawi, Concern Worldwide, Irish Rule of Law, Oxfam, Self-Help Africa-United Purpose and Trócaire with support from and in close collaboration with the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi that was setup in 2014.

Irish Gender Based Violence Working Group in Sierra Leone

The Irish Gender Based Violence Working Group (IGBVWG) in Sierra Leone officially launched a documentary on the 7th of June 2022 that reviews the implementation of the Sexual Offences Amended Act (SOAA). The documentary reviews the achievements and challenges of the SOAA within the first two years of its implementation, between 2019-2021. It highlights the positive effects on survivors of GBV like improved access to justice, faster conclusion of cases and stiffer penalties for perpetrators. Access to GBV response services for survivors from rural communities was one of the gaps identified. The working group has used the documentary as part of its advocacy strategy as a call to action for the Government of Sierra Leone and other duty bearers to do more to end GBV.



The launch was attended by working group members, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, Donor Partners, and government officials. The keynote address was delivered by the Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Hon. Manty Tarawalli, highlighting the gains made so far by the government in addressing issues of GBV in the country and acknowledged the role of IGBVWG members in supporting government's efforts. The video was officially launched by the Ambassador of Ireland to Sierra Leone, Claire Buckley, reaffirming

Ireland's commitment in combating GBV and promoting the rights of women and girls in Sierra Leone. The documentary was disseminated on social media and at district level. A policy brief is being developed and will be shared in the coming months. Please see the [link to the documentary](#).

Next Steps for the Consortium

The Consortium is looking forward to continuing to build our relationships with the Sister Consortia in Malawi and Sierra Leone, strengthening our connection, supporting one another's learning and developing more formal relationships. The ICGBV will also continue to engage with external organisations and including the GBV AoR, DÓCHAS, the National Observatory on Violence Against Women, National Steering Committee on Female Genital Mutilation and the Oversight Group on Women Peace and Security. We will also explore more avenues to engage with the Irish and International community working to end gender based violence.

The Survivor Centered Accountability Project is the key priority for the Consortium. Reflections on the already completed work will assist the Consortium in furthering our development of a comprehensive and relevant body of work that will assist members working with individuals and communities facing gender based violence.

Member engagement is of great importance to the ICGBV and will continue to ensure the interests of members are being met. The continuance of the Steering Committee and the Learning and Practice group will ensure the consortium is meeting the needs of all members. The consortium remains available to all member ideas and areas of interest. The ICGBV also continues to be open to new members – if interested in joining further details are available on the ICGBV website [here](#).

The Consortium looks forward to the year of 2023 and the remainder of the Strategic Plan life, as we support, share knowledge and develop projects of interests for all our members.



OXFAM
Ireland

CONCERN
worldwide

act:onaid

World Vision
Ireland



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND



Crois Dhearg na hÉireann
Irish Red Cross

Trócaire



Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Aidlink
Educate Enable Empower



Self Help
Africa

Irish Consortium
on Gender Based
Violence



**Thanks to all
contributors to the work
of the Consortium
throughout 2022**

2022 Annual Report

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