

# CHAPTER 8

## CO-ORDINATED STRATEGIES

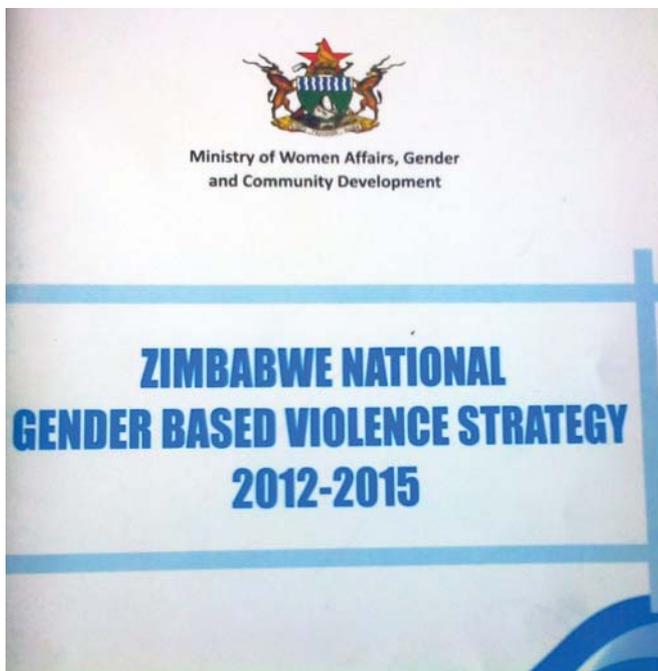


Zimbabwe and Namibia present strategies for ending gender violence at the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. *Photo by Colleen Lowe Morna*

Zimbabwe has developed a National GBV strategic framework, which forms a basis for the development of multi-sectoral policies, systems, and services, as well as community support mechanisms to prevent and respond to VAW. The multi-sectoral model entrenched in the framework outlines the collaborative and co-ordinated involvement of different VAW stakeholders including health, social services, security, legal and NGOs. A number of coordinating platforms have been initiated and established, including the Anti-Domestic Violence Council, the VAW-Sub Cluster, the Gender Forum and the Victim Friendly Initiative.

This chapter outlines integrated approaches to end VAW in Zimbabwe the National VAW Strategy 2012-2015 framework; the mandate and achievements of the Anti-Domestic Violence Council, and the move towards developing a decentralised VAW Information system.

### The Zimbabwe National Gender Based Violence Strategy 2012 - 2015



MWAGCD identified the inconsistent application of service delivery to clients of GBV by service providers as a result of a lack of standardisation in GBV service provision to be a huge gap in GBV response at national level. The result of these inconsistencies was that coordination efforts remained fragmented.

MWAGCD in collaboration with different stakeholders developed Zimbabwe National Gender Based Violence Strategy 2012 - 2015. Officials drawn from government ministries, civil society organizations, donor agencies and UN agencies participated through various consultation meetings including the consultation meeting that produced the draft strategy.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide stakeholders with a framework which outlines where greater effort should be placed in order to address VAW challenges systematically. The overall goal of the strategy is to reduce all forms of VAW in Zimbabwe by 20 percent by 2015.

The strategy provides for the co-ordination of the different multi-sectoral interventions by MWAGCD. This includes:

- MWAGCD GBV Coordination Committees at provincial and district levels
- The Gender Forum which coordinates multi-sectoral stakeholders around broader gender issues including the 16 days of activism against VAW.
- The GBV Cluster which is mainly focused on coordinating the humanitarian response and hence mainly linked to humanitarian coordination structures such as the Protection cluster. It is mainly national with no linkages with lower level structures such as provinces and districts.
- The Victim Friendly Initiative (VFI) which is an initiative led by the MJLA and focuses on providing a safe environment for survivors of child abuse and witnesses. This initiative is reported to be working very well and is almost spread countrywide.

The GBV strategy is anchored around four key result areas which are, prevention; service provision; coordination; research, documentation, monitoring and evaluation.

**Table 8.1: The National GBV Strategy Framework**

Key Result Area	Outcomes	Output	Strategies
Prevention	Outcome 1: An enabling environment for non-tolerance of GBV through the implementation of primary level prevention interventions aimed to ensure the adoption and implementation of protective laws and policies.	Output 1.1: Increased capacity of leaders at all levels to address GBV including negative cultural and religious practices that fuel violence against women and girls. Output 1.2: Increased community awareness on rights, GBV responsive laws, mechanisms and services. Output 1.3: Increased male involvement in GBV prevention. Output 1.4: Strengthened legal framework that adequately deters perpetration of GBV. Output 1.5: Enhanced capacity for women participation in economic activities .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising overall community awareness, mobilizing community based efforts, providing support for evidence-based advocacy and conducting mass media campaigns that improve knowledge, attitudes, and practices of community members.</li> <li>• Empowering women economically to reduce their dependence on men through income generating projects.</li> <li>• Training in entrepreneurship to enhance women business skills.</li> <li>• Facilitating access to loans and technical assistance to start self-help projects for women.</li> <li>• Credit facilities that increase women's access to resources for economic initiatives must be made available.</li> </ul>
Service provision	Outcome 2: Improved utilization of comprehensive quality services for the protection, care and support of GBV survivors.	Output 2.1: Increased availability and accessibility of survivor centred GBV services. Output 2.2: Strengthened capacity of institutions responsible for the care and support of GBV survivors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilising the three models of community based referral system, coordinated multi-sectoral referral and one stop centre promoted and supported as appropriate.</li> <li>• Provision of PEP services around the country and raising awareness among women and girls on the availability of these services.</li> <li>• Building safe shelters around the country especially in rural areas</li> <li>• Life skills training to GBV survivors.</li> <li>• Providing free legal aid.</li> <li>• Developing sector specific standard guidelines and systems for operation, including referral systems.</li> <li>• Mainstreaming GBV modules into the syllabuses of legal practitioners, health workers, police and social workers.</li> </ul>
Research, Documentation, Monitoring and Evaluation	Outcome 3: Evidence based programming and advocacy on GBV.	Output 3.1: Increased availability of evidence for GBV programming and advocacy. Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity for monitoring and evaluation among GBV actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing the capacity of GBV providers and training the service providers in such areas as child abuse, counselling, referrals and case management.</li> <li>• Developing and conducting training programmes for multi-sectoral groups.</li> <li>• Carry out research on GBV and to use the research findings for advocacy and to inform programme design.</li> <li>• Prioritise GBV monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>• Developing consistent standards across GBV stakeholders, create standard indicators, formulate qualitative methods to capture local variations and nuanced differences in contributing factors, experience, and response to GBV. Carrying out impact evaluations of past and on-going projects/programs and of successful GBV interventions to inform programming.</li> <li>• Emphasis will be placed on documentation of learning, trends and knowledge sharing to guarantee institutional memory. Developing an electronic database to capture data at national level.</li> </ul>
Coordination	Outcome 4: Integrated systems and institutional frameworks to address GBV at all levels.	Output 4.1 Increased participation of stakeholders in national GBV prevention and response. Output 4.2: A functional and effective Anti-Domestic Violence Council by 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a strong national GBV coordinating body.</li> <li>• Enhancing the capacity of other GBV related coordinating structures or bodies with the aim of achieving the national priorities outlined in the strategy document. The multi-sectoral model calls for the involvement of different sectors working together in a coordinated way.</li> <li>• Creating synergies among stakeholders through collaborative engagement.</li> <li>• Strengthening the capacity of MWAGCD to lead the coordination of the GBV Strategy.</li> <li>• Strengthening the operations of other GBV-related structures so that they can contribute to the achievement of national GBV priorities outlined in the GBV strategy.</li> <li>• Developing a GBV funding mechanism to finance the operationalisation of the GBV strategy.</li> </ul>

Source: Adapted from the National GBV Strategy 2012-2015.

### **The Anti-Domestic Violence Council (ADVC)**

The ADVC was appointed in terms of Section 16 of the DVA with a mandate to oversee the operationalisation of the DVA. The members of the council are drawn from government ministries which are the Ministries of Justice, Women Affairs, Police, Social Welfare, Health, and Education. Other members are civil society engaged in the welfare of children and women's rights. These include, Women's Action Group (WAG), Musasa, Padare, Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) and Justice for Children Trust. The council of Chiefs is also represented in the composition of the ADVC

The core functions of the ADVC include;

- To constantly review GBV problems in Zimbabwe;
- Promoting research on GBV;
- Disseminating information and promoting public awareness of domestic violence issues;
- To promote the provision of services necessary to deal with VAW. This includes promoting the establishment of safe houses and shelters for VAW survivors;
- Promoting support services for the survivors in case of imprisonment of the perpetrator; and
- To monitor the application and enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act and any other law relevant to issues of domestic violence.
- Ensure that the SOPs are set and rolled out to partners by 2015.
- Develop guidelines to guide service providers on the minimum package of services that should be availed to VAW survivors.
- work with other partner organisations to review the VAW service models that have already been done like the one stop centre approach in Makoni District, and the coordinated multi-sectoral model in Mberengwa and Mudzi Districts.

### ***The Anti-Domestic Violence Strategic Plan 2012-2015***

There is need for the survivors of domestic violence to readily access services from service providers such as the police, the courts, health and other organisations that help VAW survivors. Provision of such services should be done uniformly and in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set.

In order to roll out its plans, the ADVC developed a second strategic plan to guide its operations from 2012 to 2015. The overall goal of the strategic plan is to reduce incidences of domestic violence through coordinated multi-sectoral interventions. The specific key result areas are to:

- Coordinate the provision of services to deal with acts of domestic violence;
- Monitor the implementation of the domestic violence act;
- Promotion of research, documentation and information dissemination regarding domestic violence; and
- Resource mobilisation.

It has been documented by both MWAGCD and the ADVC that knowledge of the domestic violence act is low among the general populace of Zimbabwe. Such a scenario makes it difficult for domestic violence programmes and activities to be fully appreciated by the VAW survivors and perpetrators. The ADVC has plans to produce two annual fact sheets on DV Indicators by 2013. Two major researches are on the cards and should be rolled out by 2015. These are intended to provide baseline information and also to evaluate progress made in reducing VAW. One of the major tasks of the ADVC is to track the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act. This is being achieved through the:

- Development of data gathering tools which are useful to check incidences and trends of domestic violence throughout the country.
- Development of a directory of service providers and other VAW stakeholders in VAW issues will be set up.
- Measures to ensure a fully operational and functional council is in place by end of year 2013.

### ***Strengths of the ADVC in implementing the 2012-2015 strategic plan***

The ADVC is composed of a pool of experts in various domains who work in various government ministries and civil society organisations. The ADVC relies on these experts to implement the strategic plan. The MWAGCD also provides tremendous support to the ADVC, while donor support is expected to continue to support DV activities.

## Case study: GBV Service Providers Fair

The Anti-Domestic Violence Council (ADVC) and MWAGCD organised a three day GBV Fair from 23-25 November 2012. This initiative by the ADVC is a first of its kind in the history of the country's fight to end GBV.

### *Objectives*

Guided by the theme, "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the Community", the purpose of the GBV Fair was to provide a platform for close interaction between communities and GBV service providers; present an opportunity for partners to co-operate and share notes on the successes and failures of past and current interventions to end GBV and inform the public on where to access multi sectoral services on domestic violence (legal support, counselling services, safe sheltering, and GBV education).

### *Service Provision*

A total of 42 organisations participated at the fair which was held at the Africa Unity Square gardens in Harare. Services offered during the fair included counselling, legal advice and services that included will writing, administration of estates, inheritance, filling of protection orders, maintenance claims and birth registrations, health advice on emergency contraceptives, family planning, HIV testing, male circumcision, public education on children's rights and referrals to other service providers. Women empowerment projects were also showcased during the GBV fair, these included enlightening women on the opportunities in trade, microfinance, small businesses like selling product and wares, opportunities in mining, agriculture and manufacturing. The Fair attracted over 5000 visitors, with an average of 50 visitors per day per organisation. About 15000 IEC materials were distributed, over 100 people drafted wills while over 20 protection orders were drafted.

### *Public dialogue*

One of the huge successes of the GBV Fair was its ability to provide an opportunity for policy makers, traditional leaders, directors of civil organisations, the Judicial Service Commission, and the Zimbabwe Republic Police to come together and share notes, experiences, and to map the way forward on ending GBV. The chiefs reiterated that traditional leaders condemn GBV and the courts have jurisdiction to preside over some civil cases like domestic disputes whereupon they may even impose a penalty on the perpetrator.

### *Public launches*

At the same event, the Ministry took the opportunity to:

- Officially launch the 16-365 days of Activism against GBV running under the theme;
- Launch the National GBV strategy 2012-2015; and
- Launch the Standard Operating Procedures for Safe Shelters in Zimbabwe.



### *Impact*

The fair increased knowledge and awareness on GBV and domestic violence among men, women, children, professionals from civil society, civil servants, uniformed forces, and parishioners who were part of the visitors. It also led to strengthened coordinated efforts amongst GBV service providers and an improved referral pathway to ensure victims promptly access to GBV services.

### *Next steps*

The Anti-Domestic Violence Council plans to cascade the GBV Fair to other provinces, districts, and townships in the country and prioritise GBV as a national issue not just an economic issue is important.

## The UN Gender Theme Group

The UN Gender Theme Group (GTG) established at national level are joint and co-ordinated structures that ensure that each of the UN organizations who form part of the UN Country Team (UNCT) brings its comparative advantage in advancing gender equality and women's human rights. The GTG is also a means of ensuring the alignment with national development goals and that commitments already made to gender equality - national plans of action, gender equality laws, CEDAW form part of mainstream policy frameworks. The GTG contributes to the UNCT efforts to improve the national statistical base and capacity in support of gender equality.

The UN Gender Theme Group (GTG) was established to provide an oversight role in mainstreaming gender in the implementation of the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Framework (ZUNDAF). The 2012-2015 ZUNDAF is the UN's strategic programme framework which has been developed in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe with the participation of donors and civil society organisations.

Within this framework MWAGCD in close collaboration with MJLA and MHA coordinate and monitor training, education and community mobilization programmes being run by NGOs, CBOs and other partners. MWAGCD also coordinates mechanisms for ensuring availability of data on GBV and state party reporting to international and regional bodies on GBV and status of women. MWAGCD, MLPSC, MOF, MHA, MJLPA, MOHCW ensure the provision of shelter, medical care, legal aid and psychosocial support. NGOs are contributing through shelter, legal aid and psychosocial support, legal services and sharing best practices.

## The GBV Information System (GBVIS)

The GBVIS is a form of data collection system which MWAGCD is adopting through its VAW strategic framework 2012-2015. The objective of the GBVIS will be to develop a comprehensive tracking system to

collect, capture, analyse and share information on VAW in Zimbabwe.

The electronic database will be based at district level and all implementing partners will be required to submit data. Sources of information for the system include line ministries, NGOs and CBOs. Coordination forums set up at district and provincial levels have the responsibility to ensure that all activities conducted in a given district are recorded and counted. After consolidation of the data at district level, the district offices will send the data to the provincial and national levels<sup>40</sup>.

The GBVIS is premised on the need to have proper monitoring and evaluation as well as coordinated research activities. It is also intended that the VAWIS will align indicators from partners with outcome results or national priorities articulated in VAW strategies developed by MWAGCD. (GBV Strategy 2012-2015). Subsequently capacity building programmes will be conducted to enable the system to be used by all partners.

## Conclusion

The ADVC is the multi-sectoral machinery tasked with implementing the DVA. The Council reviewed its strategic framework in order to align its purpose to the prevailing and new VAW challenges in the country. The ADVC has put several initiatives in place in order to end domestic violence. Some of the initiatives include resource mobilisation, research and documentation, and information dissemination on domestic violence. Despite the lack of funding from government the council has engaged the donor community so that it can execute its mandate more effectively.

Plans are under way to develop a comprehensive GBVIS which will help various actors and stakeholders to access information on GBV in the country. This will be a shift from the current scenario where VAW activities lack coordination. This report can be used as a baseline to set targets, indicators, time frame and a strong monitoring and evaluation framework.

<sup>40</sup> National VAW strategy.