

Bridging the Gap with Local Authorities

Local Authorities can play a key role in community crime prevention initiatives that protect women's right to safety. The tasks of Local Authorities in the area of GBV are manifold, including: a) establishing a partnership between all the social services and the criminal justice system; b) involving gender issues in urban management policies; and, c) encouraging the participation of women in the decision-making process.

Yet this remains an untapped resource in many communities. New GBV prevention efforts are underway within local government that recognizes the link between violence in the public and private spheres. Local governments are based right in the community they serve and as such can be key catalysts for change. Linkages between NGOs and Local Authorities could further GBV prevention efforts as both groups have specific skills, resources and expertise needed in GBV prevention efforts.

Core Concepts

- Local government is strategically located close to the people, has mobilizing power and controls resources. It has the legitimacy and responsibility to work on GBV prevention.
- The link to the central government can be positive, building a bridge between policy and practice.
- Strengthening the role of local government in social crime prevention and violence against women needs to include education, women's involvement, and community ownership.
- Local governments can work effectively in partnership with NGOs, media and other stakeholders.

Key Practical Concerns

- Internal and external lobbying of Local Authorities is important so that GBV is included as a priority issue in municipality budgeting and allocating appropriate human resources
- Review the by laws and laws/policies to ensure effective access and implementation of laws and by laws/policies.
- Initiate research to assess the needs, direct programme development and measure impact
- Institutionalize GBV prevention efforts for sustainability.
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis (define who does what), consultation meetings and create a database that analyzes the gaps.
- Ensure synergies between central, provincial government and local government
- Invest in capacity building with Local Authorities and partners.
- Encourage networking e.g., Women and Cities Network – Montréal Conference, etc. so practitioners can find support and exchange ideas.

Safer Cities Project Tanzania

Safer Cities is an initiative that works to build the capacity of Local Authorities to address issues of urban insecurity in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders. While working with communities to develop local initiatives for crime prevention, it was found that women's safety is often overlooked in the general approach. When women are involved in activities that are of concern to them, such as the safety audits, they are able to identify the factors that contribute to fear of being victims of crime which policing cannot address. Such issues include the environment in which women live and work.

The gender component of the Safer Cities project in Dar es Salaam has begun with safety audits for women. The approach is based on the fact that fear of crime for women is much higher than for men and often restricts them from participating fully in community activities and inhibits their freedom. The audit tool works on the premise that the experts on the security of a particular area are those who frequent it. It is a participatory tool used to examine specific locations in the community to assess how safe it is for women. As a result, the women are consulted at each stage of the walk about. The audits involve those who are the most vulnerable, women, children, the elderly, etc. The audit guide helps the user to detect what corrective actions need to be taken in the urban environment in order to make it safer for its inhabitants.

In this context, *exploratory walks* are one way of critically evaluating the urban environment. An exploratory walk is an audit conducted in the field by a group of 10-15 people, mostly women and key stakeholders. At each specific site, participants identify areas where the potential for an attack is high or where women may feel unsafe.

Women's Safety Audits increase awareness of violence against vulnerable groups and helps users and decision-makers to understand how men and women experience their environments. It gives legitimacy to women's concerns and is an effective tool for building community safety.

Two areas (Kurasini and Manzese) have implemented the safety audit exercise and have identified: (i) areas that are perceived as unsafe and recommended what can be done to address the problem. (ii) alternative safer economic activities for women instead of the previous ones that forced the women to stay out when dark exposing them to possible victimisation.

Objective

1. Creating a safer environment for everybody to live and actively participate in the development activities, especially women.

Programme Description

Women's groups have been trained in how to conduct women's safety audits in the community to identify prevalent types of crimes and suggest the most appropriate ways to address insecurity problems affecting their daily life. The audit reports on the findings are compiled and the results are presented to the Ward Development Committees for implementation of the audit recommendations. Below are some of the results from the audits that are being implemented:

- Safe employment through income generation activities e.g., selling of cereals instead of local brew, food vending, tailoring.
- Environment cleaning where women participate in clearing of open spaces, cemetery sites and footpaths which are hide-outs for criminals.

- Neighborhood campaign on household lighting where each household is sensitised to put up a bulb outside their verandas (front and rear and on the sides) to light up the surroundings. Similar lighting campaigns have been directed towards industry owners including cutting hedges.
- Organizing unemployed youths.

Notable Innovation

Practical steps to create a climate of safety for women

The Safer Cities Programme in the three municipalities in Dar es Salaam has been able to take concrete steps toward increasing women's safety by making specific changes in the environment. The perspectives that informed the initiatives are as follows.

- Women's safety in their community depends primarily on the decisions made at the local level. From the environment in which they earn their living to the environment in which they live, women are vulnerable to opportunistic violence simply because they are women. Thus the entire community needs to be mobilised to address women's safety concerns.
- Women's biggest concern is lack of safety that limits their earning potential. This ranges from their earning being confiscated by their partners to them being robbed.
- Women experienced the process of articulating their fears through a systematic process as empowering. While many practical solutions were developed, the greatest benefit was derived from openly talking about their concerns, a sense of being heard and taken seriously.
- The perception of safety is an individual matter influenced by many environmental concerns (i.e., dark, unlit roads and places) as well as psychological factors (i.e., feeling vulnerable as a woman). Thus there is a need for Local Authorities and women-centered NGOs to collaborate to build a social climate that promotes women's sense of well-being.

Nairobi City Council Kenya

The Nairobi City Council (NCC) is a statutory organ charged with the responsibility of service delivery in Nairobi. To achieve its objective, the council formulates policies and programmes or projects responding to various needs of the community.

The NCC is actively involved in the campaign to prevent domestic violence against women and children which is a major concern that creates fear, insecurity and lack of participation in development. The main focus of the GBV component within the Nairobi City Council is to strengthen violence prevention initiatives through the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

Objectives

1. Development of local policy measures to protect of women and children against violence.
2. Establish a department within local government dealing with gender, youth, and children issues.
3. Develop a sustainable approach addressing violence against women.
4. Influence positive attitude and behaviour change in our society.
5. Strengthening the capacity building of clients and the Local Authorities staff.
6. Establish organization links, NGO's, CBO's etc.

Programme Description

As part of the Safer Nairobi Initiative, the NCC is involved in community organization initiatives aimed at improving the living standards of the community which includes, communication, mobilisation, development meetings, seminars and workshops. Counseling services are also available and income generating activities are underway. The Nairobi City Council is committed to creating a violence free environment for women and children in the society, this involves working with men to ensure that they recognize women's input in matters pertaining to development and the negative effects of violence against women.

Activities

Educating women on their human rights. The Council works closely with women's groups and community volunteers to whom they offer basic skills to understand and respond to GBV. These groups then go share information with organized peer groups through forums, public events, mobile theater recreation activities, discussion and drama groups. This approach has shown great impact.

Referrals. The Department of Social Services and community volunteers conduct family interventions and referral to the relevant institutions. They also hold monthly meetings at the community level to monitor progress and problem solve.

Community Outreach . The Council organizes exchange programmes from different divisions and areas in the community where groups and leaders visit, learn from, and share their practical experience on preventing violence against women.

Counseling Training. Since violence prevention is a long-term goal, the Council offers counseling skills to the community so they can better approach and assist women experiencing violence.

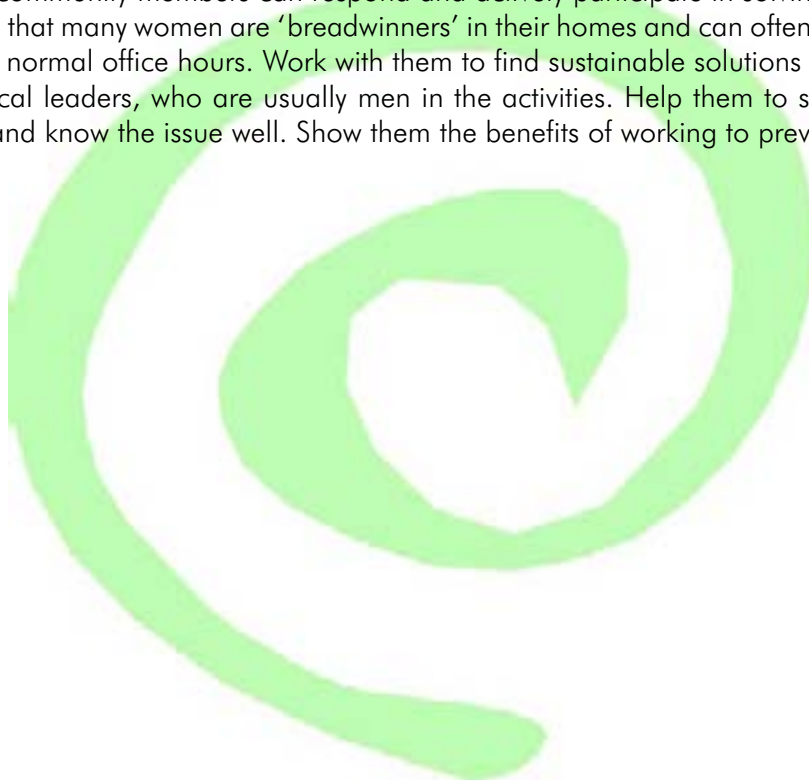
Rehabilitation Centers. In Nairobi, there is an enormous problem of women and children living on the streets. Many are there because they are fleeing violent homes or are victims of violence themselves. The Council has established rehabilitation centers for street families.

Notable Innovation

Involving community members in GBV prevention

NCC's GBV prevention programme is meeting success. A key component of this success is the active involvement of community members. Suggestions for facilitating their participation are as follows.

- Ask questions to community members and listen carefully to their opinions.
- Recognize that they are the experts in their own lives, they know the GBV situation in their communities best.
- Trust that community members can respond and actively participate in solving the problem.
- Recognize that many women are 'breadwinners' in their homes and can often volunteer more outside of normal office hours. Work with them to find sustainable solutions to scheduling.
- Involve local leaders, who are usually men in the activities. Help them to successfully lead activities and know the issue well. Show them the benefits of working to prevent GBV.



Local Authorities Lessons Learned

The Safer Cities Programme is a catalyst. The role of the UN-Safer Cities Programme is not to implement initiatives but to inspire and guide Local Authorities to take leadership in development of crime prevention strategy. The local initiatives are implemented through specific Safer Cities projects in various cities. The Safer Cities Programme can provide tools such as safety audits and violence against women surveys. It also plays a crucial role in terms of reinforcing the capacities of Local Authorities, developing exchange of expertise and fostering city networks.

Local Authorities should develop crime prevention strategies that take into account women's safety. Both locally and internationally, the role of cities in crime reduction has only recently received impetus in the last few years. In 1994, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development brought together, for the first time, delegates from twenty seven different countries to discuss the theme of "Women and cities: housing, facilities and urban environment". In Europe, the publication of the 'European Charter on Women in Cities' in 1995, led to one of the first real attempts to seriously consider women's safety in cities and villages and generated debate on the issue of citizenship, cities and public safety. The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996 marked an important turning point in locating women's safety within the role of city governance. The City Summit of Habitat II placed great emphasis on women's concerns around their safety in cities, leading to a series of commitments by national governments within the framework of the Habitat Programme (Smaoun, 2000). This involves creating infrastructure for interaction with civil society and setting up forums for exchange of ideas. It also means the Local Authorities must find credible ways of involving the local community in articulating needs and developing solutions.

Local Authorities should ensure the participation of women in the decision-making process. In order to apprehend and modify one's response to women's particular needs with respect to city affairs, their participation in the decision-making is vital. Thus, it is essential that women are encouraged to participate in the management of municipal services. City councils must develop various measures to encourage women into key positions within its administration. Equally, these measures must ensure that the workplace is secure and non-discriminatory, with clear policies against sexual harassment and towards a safe working environment.

Women are also key players in implementing prevention strategies to fight against the lack of security for women in urban areas. They are thereby in a position to channel the action and energy of those in local associations and city networks involved in these issues

It is important to develop an activist culture within the Local Authorities. Identify influential allies within the local authority who can track down budgets and advocate for specific plans that address women's safety and proactively reach out to NGOs. Also, the role of local government in promoting public safety needs to be anchored within the broader context of its role in social development. Social crime prevention programmes are meant to be pivotal to and integrated into the developmental initiatives of all local government directorates and departments.

The link between civil society and Local Authorities needs to be developed and strengthened. This means specific mechanisms must be developed by both parties to exchange ideas, information and expertise (including capacity building mechanisms).

Bridging the Gap: NGOs & Local Authorities

Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- Local authorities are strategic opportunities for action, their services are often the first point of contact for many poor women.
- Programmes of Local Authorities and NGOs could support and enhance each other.
- Both groups are concerned about the welfare of the populations and therefore have a common goal.
- Local Authorities and community-based NGOs are both on the ground. Working together could avoid duplication and strengthen the overall work of GBV prevention.
- Local Authorities are influential and have the mandate to control a variety of services to the community. Linking GBV concerns to the planning and delivery of some these services could enhance the reach of the ideas in the community.
- NGOs are often trusted by the community, especially if the population has concerns with the current government. Thus a partnership with the local authority could create a mutually beneficial collaboration.
- Local Authorities can affect policy change and thus NGOs could work with them to ensure they are gender-sensitive and protect women's right to live free of violence.

Challenges

- More women activists who are sensitized to women's rights and GBV are needed in the local authorities.
 - NGOs often see Local Authorities as ineffective and bureaucratic, and feel working with them means slowing down level of programming and at times getting stuck. Local Authorities may seem ineffective and bureaucratic, but this may be due to lack of management and vision/direction.
 - Local Authorities often consider NGOs much better funded and this can create tension, competition and lack of transparency between the groups.
 - Cannot assume that women in Local Authorities in particular are gender-sensitive and this at times frustrates NGOs.
 - Local authorities may be challenged, for instance, with regard to allocation of financial and human resources specifically to GBV issues, but may also lack capacity-knowledge of how to deal with GBV.
- NGOs fear compromising their independence and autonomy by associating too closely with government programmes.
- Civil society and government often have very different priorities. Collaborations could require too much compromise.

Linked Issues: GBV and HIV/AIDS

Prevention of GBV begins with a broader analysis of power imbalance in intimate relationships and the social norms that relegate women's status as lower than that of men. In this broad conceptualization, a whole range of issues become linked to GBV prevention, particularly HIV/AIDS. Women's vulnerability to HIV infection is clearly related to their autonomy and status in their intimate relationships, their ability to negotiate safer sex with their partners, and the level of communication, respect and mutuality in their partnership. Women's vulnerability to both GBV and HIV is a result of a core set of issues including gender inequity, imbalance of power in their personal relationships and their low status in their community. Activists and practitioners working both on GBV and HIV could greatly benefit from linking the issues if it means, in turn, that causes of infection would be better understood and prevention efforts could be facilitated. At the same, however, there are challenges with overlapping the two areas of work. It is important that we analyze the linkages, conceptualize them within the framework of prevention and invest further in creating practical programmatic responses that take into account the context and constraints of both groups.

Core Concepts

- Violence against women and women's vulnerability to HIV are both rooted in gender inequity.
- Women's vulnerability to HIV infection is closely linked to the levels of violence in their intimate relationships.
- HIV prevention efforts must address GBV.
- There is an ethical responsibility to discuss GBV and HIV with women accessing services.
- There are advantages to linking GBV prevention to HIV prevention. In the current climate, there is considerable momentum for addressing HIV/AIDS. GBV programmes could benefit from the impetus.

Key Practical Concerns

- HIV/AIDS organizations are not always equipped with the skills required to deal with the special needs of GBV cases and vice versa. Attempts to deal with both issues may overwhelm NGOs and reduce the quality of services.
- Close linkages between the issues may distort an organization's identity in the community.
- *It is important to make a strategic choice about how groups conceptualise and present the issue.* For groups committed to GBV prevention, it is important to address HIV transmission through within the context of GBV prevention.
- HIV/AIDS organizations often lack the rights-based frameworks that typically underpin women's organizations and GBV programmes.

Rakai Project Uganda

The Rakai Project represents a collaboration between the Ugandan Ministry of Health through Uganda Virus Research Institute, researchers from Makerere University (Kampala), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Baltimore, USA), Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (New York, USA), and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). The Rakai Project was initiated in 1988, with a focus on population-based reproductive health research. The Project conducts extensive epidemiological and behavioural studies to document the HIV/STD epidemics and risk factors, implements HIV/STD preventive services, and undertakes large community randomized intervention trials for AIDS prevention, STD control and prevention of adverse outcomes of pregnancy.

Rakai Project has an ongoing longitudinal study with a cohort established in 1994/5. Data collection is done annually and takes 10-14 months to complete. With an interest in assessing the prevalence of domestic violence and its potential contributory role to HIV transmission in the Rakai Project study population, a special module of questions was fielded in 2000-2001.

During the data collection round conducted between March 2000 and February 2001, research respondents were asked a series of detailed questions concerning experience with domestic violence including experience of abuse within their lifetime as well as within the 12 months preceding the survey, the specific acts of violence experienced, the precipitating factors for such violence, as well as the nature of any resulting injuries. Both male and female respondents were asked their views on the circumstances under which a man would be justified in beating his wife or female partner.

Select Findings

Analysis of data from the 2000-01 data indicate that domestic violence is a significant public health issue in this study population. Findings from survey data collected from 5109 reproductive-aged women in the Rakai District of Uganda indicate that 30 percent of women in the study had experienced physical threats or physical abuse by the current partner, 20 percent during the year preceding the survey. Among women reporting recent physical threats or abuse, three in five reported three or more specific acts of violence during the preceding year, and just under one-half reported resulting injuries. An analysis of risk factors highlights the pivotal roles of alcohol consumption and perceived HIV risk by the male partner in increasing the risks of male-to-female domestic violence. A majority of respondents – 70 percent of men and 90 percent of women — view wife/partner beating as justifiable in one or more circumstances, posing a central challenge to violence prevention efforts in settings such as Uganda.

Of the same 5,109 women (interviewed during the 2000-01 survey), 97.8 percent were in a consensual union or marriage and 2.2 percent had at least one current sexual relationship. Women reporting physical threats and/or violence in the past 12 months with a current partner were significantly more likely to have received HIV test results during the same interval. Of those who received their results in the past year, 47.5 percent discussed their HIV status with their partners. Of the 1,016 women who reported any physical threats or violence in the past year, 57 percent had received their HIV results in the past year among whom, 28 percent discussed their HIV status with their partners, 23 percent did not discuss their HIV status with their partners and 53 did not disclose information about couple communication. Of the women who decided to get tested for HIV and receive results, physical violence in the past 12 months was significantly associated with less discussion about the women's HIV status with her male partner.

Conclusions from Rakai Project

- < Women who perceive their current partner to be at higher risk of HIV infection are more susceptible to physical and sexual violence.
- < Although women try to protect themselves from HIV, such efforts might be negated by violence.
- < Women who reported experiences of physical violence in the past 12 months are more likely to have received their HIV results but less likely to have discussed their HIV status with their current male partner.
- < Fear of domestic violence might prevent women from using VCT services and/or discussing VCT results with their partners.

Objectives

As a result of the data linking domestic violence and HIV, the Rakai project is establishing a new project to respond.

The project objectives are:

1. To develop interventions that incorporate the issues of domestic violence, including physical abuse and sexual coercion, into HIV prevention programmes.
2. To encourage community members to change the community norms and cultural attitudes that perpetuate domestic violence.
3. To sensitise HIV testing and counseling procedures to the possibility of physical domestic violence and the ways that such circumstances may influence a woman's decision to discuss VCT results with partner.
4. To incorporate services and referral for cases of domestic violence into VCT procedures.

Programme Description

Capacity Building. Train basic health and social protection service providers to understand the impact of DV and motivate them to initiate change within their own environments; Train Rakai Project's HIV/AIDS counselors to understand the link between DV and VCT and equip them to handle cases in their daily work and make referrals; Train community opinion leaders to spread DV prevention messages.

Establishing a local support network for domestic violence victims. Develop system of referral between RP and local health and social protection service providers; Establish relationship between and system of referral among community-based service providers, NGOs, and other related organizations in Rakai.

Raising Awareness . Among men about the importance of preventing DV; Among women about their rights; Among youth about healthy male-female relationships and delayed sexual initiation; Among couples about improving partner communication; In the community by addressing cultural norms and practices condoning violence and violating women's rights.

Economic Empowerment of Women . Through training on business skills.

GBV Prevention

A Summary of Lessons Learned

Primary prevention is crucial for long-term change. Addressing the root causes of violence against women is the essence of primary prevention. In order to affect social change, it is important that programmes begin to systematically address deeply held beliefs and attitudes that underpin GBV.

Prevention emphasises popularisation of human rights. Moving beyond codification of human rights principles, prevention efforts underpinned by human rights principles can be empowering for women and increase male accountability. Promoting a human rights culture at the community level holds significant potential to affect wide-scale social change.

Prevention efforts often increase reporting of GBV . The increase in numbers of women reporting abuse during prevention programmes can often be seen as a success of prevention work as it reflects the ability of more community members to speak out. It should be noted that increased reporting does not necessarily imply that the incidence is increasing, rather that fewer people are choosing to remain silent.

Promoting equitable relationships is the core of prevention. Ultimately the work of GBV prevention is to influence the nature of relationships between women and men, the models of masculinity and femininity acceptable in the community, and increasing women's status in the community. At a programmatic level, this means that underlying issues such as gender, inequity, status, communication, etc, need to be explored before GBV is addressed directly.

Move beyond raising awareness to action. Raising awareness is only the beginning of the processes of influencing change. Helping individuals think through alternatives to violence and creating informal and formal systems of accountability and support is essential for individuals to sustain a change in attitude and behavior.

Partnering with local government. For sustainability in the long-term, developing a stronger relationship with local government can be strategic as they are well-positioned to effect change by facilitating city-level action and also mobilizing resources to this effect.

Involving men is critical. GBV cannot be prevented without the active and direct involvement of men. Lack of support from men can increase women's vulnerability to violence and create a backlash against the work. While the level of male involvement can be controversial because of the concern that it can take already scarce resources from women, it is clear that excluding them from GBV prevention efforts is not a viable option.

Make it personal. GBV issues cut to the core of what individuals and communities hold dear about women and men. Prevention work must encourage personal reflection and action. Women and men involved need to be supported to make changes in their personal and professional lives.

Ensure meaningful action . Leaders and community members often adopt the rhetoric of women's rights, however, prevention efforts must help translate the rhetoric into real change at a personal and institutional level. This includes developing policies, protocols and mandates that operationalise good intention.

Prevention is a sustainable response to GBV. While it is challenging to measure attitude and behaviour change in the short term, prevention provides an opportunity for long-term sustainable change at the individual and community level.

Recommendations

Many innovative prevention efforts are underway throughout the Horn, East and Southern Africa. These efforts are initiated, designed and maintained by activist NGOs and Local Authorities who have vision, passion and commitment to prevent GBV. Regional Dialogue participants suggest the following recommendations to strengthen GBV prevention efforts in the region.

Increase access to technical assistance and funding for operations research. Many promising efforts have not been rigorously evaluated and therefore, their effectiveness remains unknown. NGOs often lack the skills and funding to establish solid monitoring and documentation systems which are crucial for effective evaluation.

Indicators and programme standards need to be established for longer-term, social change GBV prevention approaches. This would allow for more effective analysis of programme approaches and increase cross-cultural replicability.

Broad distribution, adoption and use of the Kampala Declaration, as a concrete outcome of this Dialogue (see appendix 4) to advocate for increased interest and investment in GBV prevention in Africa.

Increasing funds available for GBV prevention efforts. This would avoid cutting back on essential components of a comprehensive response and allow NGOs and Local Authorities to sustain longer-term programmes.

Coordination of the GBV Prevention Network. A mechanism proposed by the participants to create a regional forum for all groups identified in field review in order to create a dialogue between NGOs working on GBV prevention and to facilitate learning.

Establish a website for the GBV Prevention Network to highlight members, programmes underway and relevant resources in the regions.*

Continue the dialogue between NGOs and Local Authorities in the identification of practical mechanisms of collaboration and exchange to strengthen prevention of GBV.

Initiate collaborations between NGOs and Local Authorities in other parts of the continent and other parts of the world to identify the variety of initiatives that have proven to be successful. Inter-regional exchanges would also be useful.

Further documentation of experiences of preventing GBV is needed of both successful and those that have not been effective, to facilitate learning and avoid duplication of less successful strategies and activities.

*A site is being established at www.preventgbvafrica.org and is planned for launch in May 2004.

Appendices

Appendix One:	Field Review Questionnaire
Appendix Two:	Regional Dialogue Schedule
Appendix Three:	Regional Dialogue Participants
Appendix Four:	Kampala Declaration: Prevent Gender-based Violence in Africa
Appendix Five:	Bibliography

GBV Prevention in the Horn, East and Southern Africa Field Review Questionnaire

Name of Organisation:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Website:

Director/Coordinator:

Email (if different):

1. When was your organization/institution founded?

2. When did your work on GBV begin?

3. Please tick which best describes your work on gender-based violence (GBV)

Service delivery: counseling, legal advice, shelter/refuge, referrals, etc.

Prevention at the community-level: community education, mobilisation, awareness raising, etc.

Law reform or enforcement

Advocacy

Research

Media/Publications

Other, please describe:

4. What type of violence do your programmes focus on? (tick all that apply)

Domestic violence

Rape/sexual assault

FGM

Child sexual abuse/defilement

Sexual harassment (work or community level)

Other, please describe:

5. What are the primary groups your programmes aim to reach? (tick all that apply, circle most relevant)

Women experiencing violence

All Women

Men

Youth

Children

Elderly

Judges

Health care providers

Police

Local authorities/leaders

Religious Leaders

Traditional leaders

Politicians / policy makers

Other NGOs

Other, please describe:

6. Please describe the mission and key objectives of your organization/institution?
7. What strategies do you use to prevent GBV?
8. Are men involved in your work to prevent GBV? If so, how?
9. What are your key successes in preventing GBV?
10. What are the key challenges faced in working to prevent GBV?
11. Do you work in collaboration with any local authorities on violence prevention?
If so, please describe:
12. Do you work in collaboration with any national authorities on violence prevention (e.g., criminal justice system)? If so, please describe:
13. Has your project been evaluated?
If so, are you willing to share the results? *(please attach copies of evaluation)*
14. Are you involved in any GBV networks? If so, please give us the name and contact information.
15. Do you know of other organizations/institutions in the region working on gender-based violence that we should contact? If yes, please give name and contact information
16. Are you interested in becoming involved in a regional GBV network? ___Yes ___No

Thank you very much for your time!

Preventing Gender-based Violence: Sharing Experiences, Breaking New Ground

A Regional Dialogue

4th – 6th September 2003
Kampala, Uganda

Objectives

1. To share practical experiences and lessons learnt in working on GBV prevention.
2. To build a common conceptual framework for GBV prevention work.
3. To develop a dialogue between local authorities and NGOs working on GBV prevention.
4. To develop recommendations and key principles for working on GBV prevention.

Day One: Thursday, 4th of September

09:00 - 10:30	Welcome, Introduction and Overview	Raising Voices and UN-Habitat
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Exploring Prevention	Raising Voices
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	Practical Experiences: Communtiy Mobilization	Kivulini, CEDOVIP, ECWD
15:30 - 16:00	Practical Experiences: Raising Awareness	CARE, SOS Femmes, POWA
Evening	Optional Activity	

Day Two: Friday, 5th of September

09:00 - 10:30	Practical Experiences: Media Efforts	Soul City, NISAA, COVAW
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Practical Experiences: Working with Men	MAP, ADAPT, MHRRC
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 15:30	Practical Experiences: Community-based Institutions	KZN, SWAGAA, PANOS
15:30 - 16:00	Practical Experiences: Local Authorities	Safer Cities Programmes
Evening	Optional Night Out	

Day Three: Saturday, 6th of September

09:00 - 10:30	Linked Issues: GBV and HIV	Rakai Project
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Lessons Learned	Raising Voices
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 16:00	Recommendations and Next Steps	Raising Voices
16:00 - 16:30	Evaluation and Closure	Raising Voices and UN-Habitat

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Kampala Declaration

Prevent Gender-based Violence in Africa

We are representatives of NGOs, women's groups, cities, municipalities and United Nations agencies from 10 countries in the Horn, Eastern and Southern Africa.

We gathered in Kampala, Uganda from September 4th to 6th, 2003 to conduct a Regional Dialogue: *Preventing Gender-based Violence: Sharing Experiences, Breaking New Ground*, organized by Raising Voices and UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme.

We call for action to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence in Africa.

GIVEN THAT:

- ❑ Gender-based violence is a violation of basic human rights.
- ❑ Gender-based violence results from an imbalance of power between women and men and is deeply entrenched in some cultural practices and intimate relationships.
- ❑ Gender-based violence is not a private issue but one that involves society as a whole and therefore calls for a holistic approach promoting preventive solutions.

WE RECOGNISE THAT:

- ❑ Efforts must focus on preventing rather than merely responding to gender-based violence since prevention addresses the root causes of violence, has farther-reaching effects and is ultimately more cost effective.
- ❑ Prevention efforts must be holistic in conception and comprehensive in design. They need to engage a broad cross section of the community through a range of methodologies.
- ❑ Programmatic tools need to be developed in order to implement effective programmes, to document practical experiences, to monitor and evaluate progress, and support practitioners and Local Authorities.
- ❑ The civil society has a catalytic role to play in mobilizing communities, promoting women's rights, building the bridge between policy and practice and facilitating change at the grassroots.
- ❑ Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in mainstreaming gender in safety policies, supporting and allocating appropriate resources to gender-based violence initiatives, and promoting women's access to strategic positions within local government.

WE RECOMMEND:

- ❑ **Community Mobilisation:** Strive to engage the whole community from women, men, youth and children at the grassroots to community leaders and professionals within local institutions. Address gender-based violence as a community's responsibility instead of making it a 'women's issue' and use multiple strategies to reach out to all sectors in society.
- ❑ **Awareness Raising:** Harness community creativity, expertise and resources and tailor initiatives to different cultural contexts in order to make them more successful in changing attitudes.

- ❑ Develop sustained follow-up activities to take advantage of momentum generated and link awareness with action.
- ❑ Media: Forge positive relationships with the media establishment. Proactively and constructively involve them in the process of planning communication strategies. Pay close attention to the intended audience and use traditional, mainstream and new media to reach out to diverse groups.
- ❑ Working with Men: Work *with* rather than against men to develop more inclusive, relevant and cost effective responses to violence prevention that will benefit entire communities. Use benefits-based approaches and identify male allies in communities, local government and non-government organizations to improve impact and institutionalization.
- ❑ Strengthening Existing Community Structures: Harness communities' social capital by involving all community stakeholders such as citizens, traditional and religious leaders, lawyers, police, and other professionals. Work with these structures to integrate the work of violence prevention in their policies and practice.
- ❑ Encourage Partnership between NGOs and local governments : Develop stronger relationships with local governments who are well positioned to effect sustainable change by facilitating city-level action and mobilizing resources to this effect.
- ❑ Local government capacity building : Strengthen local governments' role and ability in social crime prevention, fighting violence against women, and increasing women's involvement through training and sensitization activities.

WE THEREFORE, CALL UPON:

- ❑ The United Nations , through its mechanisms and agencies, to promote such initiatives and to document the progress made in gender-based violence prevention.
- ❑ All members of the African Union to ratify and take concrete measures in their respective countries to operationalise the Women's Rights Protocol, with specific attention to Article Four on the Rights to Life, Integrity and Security of the Person which calls for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence.
- ❑ Governments, at the central and local level, to commit to actualize policy and legal provisions on gender-based violence at the grassroots level.
- ❑ Funding agencies to support prevention efforts of NGOs recognizing that changing attitudes and behaviour is a long-term process.
- ❑ Practitioners and activists to continue building partnerships between stakeholders working on gender-based violence through dialogues, exchanges and networks.

Such efforts would allow us to monitor our progress, reaffirm our commitment and lead the way in preventing and eradicating gender-based violence throughout Africa.