

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

THE EVALUATION

NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC) undertook a portfolio performance evaluation (PPE)* for the United States Agency for International Development Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub (USAID/GenDev). The evaluation aimed to identify **facilitators** and **barriers** to **activity effectiveness, knowledge gaps, and areas for improvement**. The PPE covered 20 activities across 19 countries, comprising the four activity clusters below.

Better Together Challenge (BTC)
Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV)

Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Environments (RISE)
Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE)

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Portfolio level: How are the US Government’s principles and priorities to end GBV being incorporated and to what extent are objectives being achieved across the four activity clusters? What lessons and best practices are being learned and shared across the four activity clusters? What pervasive gaps still exist in understanding and addressing specific types of GBV?

Activity Cluster level: Are activity clusters based on context-specific and international evidence? Are they achieving the targeted GBV results? To what extent are the activity clusters sustainable?

Implementation: Is the activity design based on the local context and flexible to achieve results on the ground? Is the activity reaching target participants and is it sustainable?

RECOMMENDATIONS

FUNDING DESIGN

-  Identify **causal drivers of GBV** and evidence on relevant interventions to **inform local GBV prevention interventions**.
-  Require **synergies between activities** and strengthen cross-organization collaboration. Promote equitable local and international partnerships.
-  Promote **participatory and co-designed** intervention development processes.
-  Ensure funding is sufficient to **pay for individuals working on activities** and move away from **reliance** on unpaid community “volunteers.”
-  Future evaluations should be **commissioned to work closely with implementing agencies** prior to the start of the activities.

*Primary data collection included 129 key informant interviews, 30 focus group discussions, 4 web-based surveys, 3 face-to-face surveys, and a review of 300+ documents.

ACTIVITY DESIGN



Encourage activity designs that are **inclusive of all genders** but remain sufficiently targeted in scope to ensure they address the needs of victims of specific gender-targeted violence.



Involve survivors of violence in program design and prioritize involvement of previous survivors who are now safe from abuse and have access to services.



Define who is **accountable** for what aspects of prevention, protection, and prosecution, in addition to perpetrators' accountability for their violence.



Ethically engage men and boys, especially **gatekeepers in decision-making and power positions** in programs focused on changing social norms.



Encourage knowledge and resource sharing for service professionals likely to experience **vicarious trauma and burnout**.

IMPLEMENTATION



Promote a **start-up phase for local partners** to develop intervention-focused evidence from the community.



Monitor **emerging effects**, use data for **adaptive management**, and provide **technical support** for robust intervention monitoring and feedback systems.



Provide funding to improve strategies that ensure survivors' **awareness of and easy and safe access to quality services**.



Promote equity and sustainability by building capacity for local partners to **engage directly** with international donors.

SUSTAINABILITY



Develop a portfolio Theory of Change that articulates **causal pathways** to achieve **effective intervention models** to guide GBV investments.



Develop a **complex systems approach** (social/structural interactions) to implementation and obtain **local buy-in** and ownership from different responsible agencies.



Ensure implementation plans and timelines are designed to **fulfill program participants' and local groups' expectations** and avoid unintended harm.



Require grantees/implementing partners to develop an **exit plan for all activities ending after the funding period** and remain accountable to program participants.

For more information about this evaluation, contact:

Ritu Nayar-Stone | nayarstone-ritu@norc.org

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