



# THE COST OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN ZAMBIA

Summary version

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Study by

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Purpose of the Scale-up of the Pilot Study of the Cost of GBV

The main purpose of this study was to track the social-economic costs of domestic violence covering intangible mental and physical health costs, time cost, and direct monetary costs on four main levels of society: individual, family, community and the State within 23 districts.

### 2. Specific Objectives

- 1) To identify and quantify direct costs, non-monetary costs, and the economic and social multiplier effects of GBV.
- 2) To generate evidence on the social and economic costs of GBV at community and national level, including its effect on the Zambia's GDP.
- 3) To compare the direct costs and non-monetary costs of GBV in rural and urban areas.
- 4) To generate evidence for a national advocacy campaign promoting increased budgetary allocation to GBV activities that support the implementation of the National Gender Policy and Anti-Gender Based Violence Act 2011.
- 5) To identify and analyse gaps in the existing GBV support and suggest possible solutions.

### 3. Research design and Study Methodology

**Research Design:** A cross sectional study research design, using both qualitative and quantitative methods, was used to collect data. This scale-up of the GBV pilot study was conducted in the 23 districts.

**Study Sample:** A sample of 352 GBV survivors participated in the study. These were 38 males and 314 females. Other respondents in the study districts were 23 perpetrators, as well as 23 medical staff in the health facilities, 23 social workers and 23 police from the Victim Support (VSU).

**Research Methodology:** Data collection was conducted in April-May 2017. Primary data were collected using structured interviews, in-depth interviews and key informant interviews.

### 4. Study Findings on the Cost of Gender Based Violence

#### 5.1. Types of Gender Based Violence

- Majority (n=208, 59%) of survivors experienced physical assault, followed by those that experienced denial of resources, services or opportunities (n=56, 16%), while 35 (10%) of the survivors experienced sexual assault.
- 32 (9%) of the survivors had experienced penetrative sexual violence, which include rape, defilement, and sodomy while 18 (5%) of the survivors had experienced psychological, verbal and emotional abuse.

#### 5.2. Cost of Gender Based Violence to the Survivors and the Survivors' Families

- *Medical/health costs to survivors and their families:* The total medical or health costs (direct and indirect) was ZMW 169,986 for 208 survivors and their families, bringing the average cost per survivor and his/her family to ZMW 817.
- *Emotional stress due to Gender Based Violence:* The total indirect and direct emotional related costs was ZMW 636,553 for the 218 survivors, bringing the average per survivor and family to ZMW 2,920.

- *Legal costs to survivors and their families:* For accessing legal services, a total of ZMW 653,522 was spent for 283 survivors and their families, bringing the average to ZMW 2,309 per survivor.

### 5.3. Cost of GBV to the Perpetrators

- Costs to perpetrators incurred in 2016 amounted to ZMW 84,818 with an average of ZMW 3,855 per perpetrator.
- The largest proportion of cost was paid for handling cases in courts with ZMW 63,930 (both direct and indirect) spent in 2016. On average ZMW 2,905 was spent by a perpetrator.

### 5.5. Comparison of the Cost of GBV between the Rural and Urban Areas

- The average cost to the survivors and their family members in rural/per-urban was slightly higher (ZMW 5,445) compared to their counterpart in urban areas (ZMW 4,077).

### 5.6. National Cost of GBV in Zambia

- It cost the nation a total of ZMW 4,738,149,225 to address GBV cases in 2016, which represented 2.27% of the GDP.
- The national cost of GBV in 2016 (4,738,149,225) is almost equivalent to the Ministry of Health budget for 2016 which was 4.4 billion Kwacha.

### 5.7. Comparison of Cost of GBV as % of GDP, 2013 and 2016

- The table above shows that the cost of GBV to the nation in 2016 has significantly increased compared to 2013. In 2013 the total cost of GBV was 1.7 billion Kwacha (approx. 1.1% of GDP) whereas in 2016 it had risen to 4.7 billion Kwacha ( 2.27% of GDP). It should be noted here that the rise may be due to a larger sample size and an underestimation of costs in the smaller 2013 study. .

**Table: Comparison of Cost of GBV as % of GDP, 2013 and 2016**

Category of GBV costs at national level	Total cost per category 2013 (ZMW)	% of GDP 2013	Total cost per category 2016 (ZMW)	% of GDP 2016
National cost individual and family level	1,710,431,331	1.063%	4,674,856,538	2.237%
National cost at community level	33,082,128	0.020%	73,690,169	0.035%
National cost at government institution level	22,409,528	0.013%	55,232,039	0.026%
National costs at NGOs level	12,439,634	0.007%	8,060,648	0.004%
<b>Total GBV cost at national level</b>	<b>1,778,362,621</b>	<b>1.103%</b>	<b>4,738,149,225</b>	<b>2.27%</b>

### 5.10. The GBV Support System in Zambia

- The strengths of the GBV support system observed during the study included availability of One Stop Centres and access to certain free medical and police services.
- The weaknesses of the GBV support system included inadequate staffing, inadequate and non-availability of Government shelters, difficulties in accessing special treatment, limited legal support, lack of confidentiality at the Victim Support Unit, delayed response and lack of follow up, as well as limited awareness of One Stop Centres in the community.

## 6. Recommendations

1. The Government needs to strengthen gender responsive planning and budgeting in all sectors to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated for the prevention of GBV.
2. Government should explore the possibility of having an accounting code or classification for GBV costs across different line Ministries to ensure accurate calculations of the cost of GBV to the country.
3. Most of the donor funded projects which are supporting both Government and NGOs are closing at the end of 2017. Government needs to budget for more funds to sustain the momentum gained. Particularly, human, financial, equipment and logistical support should be increased to the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit; Social Welfare Department Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS), Ministry of Gender and the Judiciary System.
4. Women's economic empowerment programs are important to curb GBV because most survivors revealed that they returned to abusive relationships due to the inability to support themselves and their families.
5. The study reviewed that there is limited awareness on available GBV services and the dangers of GBV in communities. Government, cooperating partners, the private sector and communities need to increase financial support to NGOs to increase community sensitization.
6. Delays in legal case disposals due to adjournments resulted in high costs for survivors and their families in rural areas. There is need to introduce fast track courts in rural areas as well as urban areas
7. Strengthen community response systems to GBV to reduce the cost of GBV for rural survivors and their facilities. The opportunity costs are higher for rural survivors partly due to long distances to the one stop centres and access to justice facilities. The involvement of community leaders at all levels such as Chiefs, councillors is cardinal to the prevention of GBV.