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Violence Against Women & Girls
VAWG
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AGRICULTURE SECTOR BRIEF

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

OUTLINE

- Key points
- Intersection between agriculture and VAWG
- Ethical and safety recommendations for VAWG interventions
- Rapid situation analysis
- Key areas for integrating VAWG prevention and response in agriculture projects
- Appendices: key areas for integrating VAWG prevention and response by key agriculture and food project sub-sector, suggested indicators, relevant resource guides and tools
- References

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this brief is to highlight entry points and provide actionable guidance to support development practitioners in integrating prevention and response measures into food and agriculture projects to address violence against women and girls (VAWG). The following pages contain guidance on ethics and safety, resources for carrying out a rapid situation analysis, specific and actionable ideas for the implementation of policies at the institutional, sectoral, and community levels, detailed examples of promising practices, a menu of indicators for use in monitoring and evaluation (Pawlak and Kołodziejczak 2020), and dozens of active links to more detailed resources and toolkits.

The brief is not intended to be exhaustive, nor is it a scientific study of the prevalence and consequences of VAWG in the sectors that fall under a food system. The aim of the brief is to provide an overview and avenues for actions that are to be identified and understood as effective entry points for staff of International Finance Institutions. While the particular risks that arise from operating in the agriculture sector are highlighted, the brief does not focus on mitigating efforts in the agriculture sector, but is aimed at expanding the potential for agriculture projects to include interventions to address any forms of VAWG that may exist in the context of operations.



KEY POINTS

- Globally, agriculture is a key driver of economic growth, employment generation, and food security (Pawlak and Kołodziejczak 2020). However, productivity in the sector depends on a healthy, functional workforce (Asenso-Okyere et al. 2011).
- Women and girls are key in agriculture, accounting for 43 percent of the agricultural labor force globally (IISD 2020). They comprise more than 60 percent of the agricultural workforce in countries such as Lesotho, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone (FAO 2011), 80 percent of the rural aquaculture workforce in Viet Nam (Kusabe and Kelker 2001), and 64 percent of the workforce directly growing fresh-cut flowers for export in Colombia (Friedemann-Sánchez 2006).
- VAWG aggravates household income vulnerability, promotes the adoption of risky economic coping mechanisms, and exacerbates food and nutrition insecurity, all of which heighten women and girls' risk of further violence (Conroy, et al. 2019; FAO 2017).
- Agricultural value chains, operations, and interventions offer an important entry point for tackling VAWG at multiple levels. They can be key to preventing and responding to VAWG, supporting effective prevention and response in other sectors, promoting women's empowerment, and achieving gender equality at multiple levels (Castañeda Camey et al. 2020). Agricultural businesses also avert substantial losses by implementing effective VAWG prevention and response policies (EBRD, CDC, and IFC 2020a).
- Addressing entrenched gender-specific obstacles to women's participation in agriculture, including VAWG and limited access to land, information, capital and credit, and other inputs, would increase women's agricultural productivity by between 20 percent and 30 percent, boosting agricultural production in developing countries by between 2.5 percent and 4.0 percent and reducing the number of hungry people by 12 percent (FAO 2011).
- Closing gender gaps within agricultural value chains, such as access to paid labor, land, inputs, and decision-making roles, is key to preventing, reducing, and responding to VAWG (USAID 2014). Effective VAWG prevention and response strategies in the agricultural sector are critical to improving gender equality, ensuring sustainable livelihoods, and expanding women's well-being, access to land, credit, technology, and training (FAO 2018; USAID 2020).

INTERSECTION BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND VAWG

- Agriculture is a high-risk sector for trafficking, exploitation, violence, and forced labor (UNODC 2020). VAWG occurs in both formal and informal agricultural business operations, in both on- and off-farm contexts, on women’s way to and from agricultural work, at home, and throughout the agricultural value chain, from harvest to postharvest activities (EBRD, CDC, and IFC 2020b, 2020). Gender inequalities and power imbalances are key drivers of VAWG in the agricultural sector (FAO 2018).
- Depending on the country, women supply between 30 percent and 80 percent of agricultural labor (Croasdaile 2021), and across their lifetimes, one woman in three is subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner (WHO 2021). A study of Ecuador’s flower export industry shows that 55.5 percent of women workers and 71 percent of women workers ages 20–24 had experienced sexual violence and harassment (Mena and Proaño 2005). Over half the women interviewed in a study of Ethiopian agribusiness supply chains reported experiencing harassment (Jacobs, Brahic, and Olaiya 2015). In Turkey, 66 percent of seasonal women agricultural workers had experienced workplace violence (Şimşek et al. 2016).
- Women in the agriculture and agribusiness sectors face violence at virtually every stage of the value chain: from their intimate partners on family farms, often in retribution for seeking paid work outside the home; from supervisors and coworkers in the fields where women are largely engaged as seasonal workers; from supervisors in the packaging and processing stages; and from strangers, acquaintances, partners, buyers, and others they encounter in the distribution chain, particularly if women are traveling long distances (EBRD, CDC, and IFC 2020b).



- Violence and the threat of violence are used to deny marginalized women, such as widows, Indigenous and pastoral women, women heads of household, and elderly women, access to agricultural lands and resources (Gabrielsson and Ramasar 2013).
- In many agricultural communities, VAWG worsens during periods of conflict and displacement. It also intensifies during the clearing of farmland, ploughing, tilling, planting, weeding, harvesting, and selling (Obonyo 2012). Periods of famine and scarcity of land and food lead to competition over agricultural inputs and resources and may escalate into intrafamilial and communal conflicts, increasing the risks of VAWG (Ongoro and Ogara 2012). In South Sudan, famine and food crisis have heightened the incidence of VAWG. Routes to food distribution sites and firewood collection areas are hotspots where the majority of VAWG incidents occur, including rape, robbery, harassment, abduction, physical assault and killing (IRC and GWI 2017).
- VAWG has adverse impacts on agriculture and agricultural production. It limits productivity, restricts access to community support, diminishes women and girls' on- and off-farm work capacities, and increases workplace absenteeism, agribusiness costs, and household expenditure (FAO 2018). When Finlay, a leading Kenyan tea producer and supplier, increased attention to policies and guidelines, particularly procedures for reporting and addressing sexual harassment, the company's managers reported a boost in staff morale, a surge in productivity, and lower absenteeism (EBRD, CDC, and IFC 2020a).
- VAWG also reduces food security and adversely affects individual, family, and community health and well-being (FAO 2018). Because of fear, anxiety, illness, discrimination, stigma, and physical and emotional injury, survivors of VAWG may be unable to work at their full healthy capacities (FAO 2010).
- Household food insecurity is a strong predictor of exposure to VAWG. Food crisis and heightened poverty in agricultural communities can force families to resort to child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) to conserve already limited resources. Drawing examples from the famine brides during the droughts in Kenya in 2010 and in the Sahel in 2012, flooding in Pakistan in 2010, and the environmental challenges facing poor Bangladesh families, Girls Not Brides and ICRW (2017) suggest that families use CEFM to mitigate economic pressure and place girls in more food-secure households. In many rural contexts, young brides are also pressured to have early and frequent pregnancies to increase the number of hands to contribute to the family farm. A recent World Bank study shows that over 105 million adults were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity across Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and that women who have experienced or know other women who have experienced VAWG since the pandemic also tend to be women who felt less safe at home during the period (Amankwah, Gourlay and Zezza 20221). This suggests there is an additional stressor among these women or even possibly the denial of food as a manifestation of such violence.

Box 1. Promising Practices: Zero-Tolerance Programming in Agribusiness in Egypt

UN Women and USAID, in partnership with 10 leading agribusinesses in Egypt, implemented the Women's Employment Promotion in the Agriculture Sector: Creating Safe and Women Friendly Workplaces Program. The program included a zero-tolerance gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment policy, development of worker grievance and reporting mechanisms, and awareness-building. The intervention improved employee retention rates by 25 percent and reduced absenteeism by between 9 percent and 31 percent, improved communication between workers and supervisors, and increased worker satisfaction and productivity, while improving the reputation of participating companies within their communities and globally (UN Women 2018).

ETHICAL AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VAWG INTERVENTIONS

Any intervention that aims to prevent or address VAWG should include precautions above and beyond routine risk assessment to guarantee no harm is caused. This includes following ethical guidelines related to respect for persons, non-maleficence (minimizing harm), beneficence (maximizing benefits), and justice to protect the safety of both service providers and the survivors. The sensitive nature of collecting information about VAWG demands additional precautions above and beyond routine risk assessments to guarantee no harm is caused. Interventions should:

- Assess whether the intervention may increase VAWG
- Minimize harm to women and girls
- Prevent revictimization of VAWG
- Consider the implications of mandatory reporting of suspected VAW cases
- Be aware of the co-occurrence of child abuse
- Minimize harm to staff working with survivors
- Provide referrals for care and support for survivors

For further details on these Ethical and Safety Recommendations, visit the [Ethics](#) section of our website.



RAPID SITUATION ANALYSIS

Building effective and coherent VAWG prevention and response interventions for inclusion in agricultural sector operations requires broad understanding of the legal, social, and epidemiological contexts of VAWG in the sector, and how these influence and are influenced by violence. Rapid situational analysis can be helpful to inform program design, teams are encouraged to work with government actors, private sector, researchers, non-governmental organizations, local experts, communities, media, advocacy groups, service providers, and others at in-country level. Key rapid situation assessment questions for the sector include:

For general questions to undertake a Rapid Situation Analysis, visit the [Integrate](#) section of our website.

- What evidence or research exists on VAWG, in agricultural contexts in the country or region?
- What is the legal framework around the protection of agricultural workers from gender-based discrimination and violence (including labor laws, customary and religious laws, and standalone sexual harassment laws)?
- Do national and/or local agricultural development strategies or plans take note of VAWG, and include steps towards prevention and response?
- Are there associations and unions of agricultural employees, and do they engage in preventing and responding to VAWG?
- What are the risk factors for VAWG across the agricultural value chain? Do agricultural projects and activities require women to travel to or work in insecure, isolated and/or remote areas or in spaces that aggravate their risks for VAWG?
- What are the community-level entry points for reporting and addressing VAWG and how do these work in the sector?
- Do women and girls in agriculture experience unique barriers in accessing services, including protection, security, or keeping jobs?

KEY AREAS FOR INTEGRATING VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

Agricultural projects offer a valuable entry point for tackling VAWG at multiple levels. Interventions to prevent and respond to VAWG can be integrated at policy-, institutional/sectoral- and community-levels to not only forestall violence but also meet VAWG survivors' needs for care, protection, support, and justice. Such actions call for the coordinated response and effort of multiple stakeholders within the agricultural sector,

relevant persons in the judicial, enforcement and health sectors, and key actors at various levels, including communities. Promising practices and recommended actions at each level (policy, institutional/sectoral, and community) are outlined in further detail below.

Policy-level recommendations

- Support national agricultural agencies and ministries to **mainstream and integrate national policies and definition of VAWG in their plans.**
 - In the Philippines, all sectoral and agency plans include actions that reflect national policies on and definition of VAWG spelled out in the country's [Strategic Plan on Violence Against Women and their Children 2017-2022 \(IACVAWC 2018\)](#). All national ministries and agencies adopt these policies and this definition, set the scope of their sectoral action on VAWG, and drive sectoral plans and activities to ensure shared understanding of VAWG, as well as coordinated action to prevent and address it across relevant stakeholders.
- Engage policymakers to **develop and implement policies, protocols, and legal assurances for advancing protections from VAWG in matters of employment** in agribusinesses, and for supporting survivors to access care and services.
 - In their work in Malaysia, Colombini et al. (2012) showed that robust national VAWG policies and protocols can foster not only well-coordinated intersectoral responsiveness to IPV, but also public awareness of VAWG and shared understanding among services personnel on the rights of women

Box 2. COVID-19 and VAWG in Agricultural Communities

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a global crisis on an unprecedented scale that affected individuals and communities worldwide. As a result of the pandemic, adolescent girls in rural agricultural communities face a myriad of risks, including increased exposure to GBV and early marriage. Agricultural communities experiencing food poverty during the pandemic may become dependent on international aid, which has a long history of association with various forms of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Data collected through the World Bank's phone survey in Indonesia (late July–early September 2020) found that household food insecurity is among the strongest predictors of exposure to GBV (EAPGIL 2020).

Containment measures implemented during the pandemic also have the potential to increase risks for SEA carried out by the armed forces, police, or other officials. These types of conditions were associated with a rise in reported cases of SEA during the Ebola epidemic. The pandemic also increases the risk of child labor exploitation, trafficking, and unsafe work in poor agricultural communities because girls face pressure to support themselves and their families. In addition to increase the risk of violence, girls in such communities face the elevated risk of CEFM. Families with limited financial resources are more likely to consider CEFM as a coping mechanism, an issue that is a form of GBV. The United Nations Population Fund estimates that 13 million more child marriages could take place by 2030 than would have occurred prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of these marriages will occur in poor rural agricultural communities (CARE 2020).

and girls across sectors, the measures for their protection, and services to effectively support survivors of VAWG more broadly.

- Encourage **intercountry/intergovernmental policy learning and sharing activities** on VAWG prevention, services, and care programs and efforts through international convenings, policy dialogues and evidence sharing. Intercountry policy learning and sharing events are critical spaces for national decision-makers to learn about policy successes, challenges, and failures from their peers in other contexts.

Institutional and sectoral level recommendations

- **Develop and implement mechanisms to track and monitor legal and human resources violations** and issues related to labor relations between workers and employers in the sector. VAWG-specific monitoring in agricultural projects offers a tested approach for detecting and responding to rises in existing forms of VAWG or the emergence of new forms of VAWG (USAID 2014).
 - CARE has developed a [guide](#) (2014) for implementing monitoring and mitigation strategies for VAWG into the programming for non-VAWG focused sectors like agriculture.
- Encourage agribusiness operators to **develop and implement clear, workable, and sustainable action plans** for the protection of women and girls in their organizations, defining and integrating specific actions for VAWG prevention and response, and fostering awareness on available services for survivors of VAWG within the local context.
 - The Business Coalition for Women's [model workplace policy](#) (IFC 2017) on sexual harassment offers an easily replicable policy framework for agricultural enterprises. The model outlines the purpose, principles, and parameters of workplace sexual harassment policy, provides a clear definition of sexual harassment, highlights the complaints procedure, and gives additional guidance on formal versus informal investigations, false accusations, protection against reprisals, and record-keeping.
- Encourage agricultural sector stakeholders and business operators to **make information about existing and future laws, policies, programs, and complaint mechanisms related to VAWG prevention and response widely available and accessible to all women and girls**, including information on services to survivors of violence, laws on women's equal participation in the sector, complaint mechanism, and confidentiality practices.
 - In 2013, Unilever Tea Kenya, following an independent review of GBV in the tea plantation sector, developed and disseminated clear policies and procedures—including reporting and grievance mechanisms. The plans put in place not only empowered staff to take appropriate action when needed, but also reassured survivors, bystanders, accused perpetrators, and whistle-blowers that the company will handle cases fairly (Allan 2019).

Box 3. Promising Practices: Zero-Tolerance Programming in Agribusiness in Egypt

UN Women and USAID, in partnership with 10 leading agribusinesses in Egypt, implemented the Women's Employment Promotion in the Agriculture Sector: Creating Safe and Women Friendly Workplaces Program. The program included a zero-tolerance gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment policy, development of worker grievance and reporting mechanisms, and awareness-building. The intervention improved employee retention rates by 25 percent and reduced absenteeism by between 9 percent and 31 percent, improved communication between workers and supervisors, and increased worker satisfaction and productivity, while improving the reputation of participating companies within their communities and globally (UN Women 2018).

- Strengthen the capacity of agricultural project designers and implementers in developing and conducting robust assessments and analyses of the impacts of projects on VAWG by providing them **training on the implementation of social impact assessments¹ of projects in the field and adaptation of promising solutions** in agricultural projects.
 - Malapit et. al. (2019) show that supporting portfolios of agricultural development projects to build their capacity in the development, adaptation, field-testing and implementation of surveys and assessment tools on VAWG can strengthen their skills and learning on measurement and implementation, under different conditions.
- Strengthen the capacity of agricultural project designers and implementers to analyze **value-chains for the VAWG risks they carry for different types or groups of women.**
 - Value chains are complex, involve diverse groups of female and male actors at different points, and contain varying types and levels of risk for VAWG. Arellano Gálvez (2014) and Bejarano Celaya and Arellano (2014) note that in Mexico, women agricultural workers who are members of Indigenous groups face an added disadvantage in reporting workplace violence and harassment. They do not often speak Spanish and civil servants do not also often speak their dialects.
- Encourage agricultural firms and projects to **include professionals with expertise, competency, and experience to empower VAWG survivors** by prioritizing their rights, needs and wishes, facilitating survivors' access to appropriate, responsive, and good quality services including health care, psychological and social support, security, and legal services (UNPF 2015). Professional expertise and competency in survivor-centered case management approaches is key to helping VAWG survivors' recovery and reinforce their capacity to make decisions about possible interventions (UNFPA and Global Communities GBV Sub-Cluster 2018).
- Work with agribusiness employers and sector leaders to **prioritize, design, implement, and invest in safe workplaces, well-lit women- and girl-friendly sanitation facilities, and well-sited and lit pick-up and drop-off points for their staff** (White et al. 2015). Research in multiple contexts shows that women- and girl-friendly worksites and facilities reduce the incidence of GBV (Emery et al. 2016).

¹ A **Social Impact Assessment** is a process of research, planning and the management of social change or consequences (positive and negative, intended and unintended) arising from policies, plans, developments and projects (UNEP 2008).

- In response to workers' safety concerns about travelling through local areas at night, Supreme Poultry in South Africa introduced dedicated transportation for its night-shift workers (Emery et al. 2016).
- Support efforts to **include temporary and casual agricultural laborers in workers' unions and collective bargaining agreements**. Often, casual and temporary workers are not members of workers' unions in the sector, which exposes them to harassment and abuse.
- Work with banks, lending, insurance, and human resources management institutions to support agribusiness firms to **establish contractual stipulations on VAWG** that include code of conduct and promote safe reporting structures, anti-harassment training, physical safety of women, accountability, and redress mechanisms.
 - The Human Rights Campaign's [Corporate Equality Index](#) is a model that banks and insurers can adapt to engage agribusinesses and investors on issues related to violence. The Index rates companies on a series of policies and practices related to human rights and can be adapted to easily screen out companies that do not offer robust systems for VAWG prevention, care and support, or to spur them to develop and implement VAWG prevention and survivor-based models.
 - The National Australia Bank has also [developed programs](#) that directly benefit customers dealing with violence, including VAWG survivors. The program offers customized payments, including reduced payments, waivers of old late fees, access to support services, and grants of up to \$2,500 to survivors and those at risk of VAWG to help them leave unsafe situations. The program saves the bank \$70 million annually (Subramanian and Puglia 2020).
- **Leverage digital and mobile technology for VAWG advocacy, prevention, reporting and survivor care and support**, including to improve privacy and confidentiality in reporting and to disseminate information and awareness campaigns. Ensure that women leaders have access to digital technology and can use them, by supporting digital literacy and technology adaptation to meet the needs of women (Ragasa et al. 2014; Adams, Lea, and D'Silva 2021).
- Integrate interactions with diverse actors (CSOs, private companies, donors, service providers, etc.) in addressing VAWG to **enable cross-learning and align with priorities and programming in project affected communities**. This entails leveraging existing VAWG training programs to build the capacity of staff on VAWG prevention, mitigation, and response.
 - [HERProject](#) brings together global brands, their suppliers, and local NGOs to drive impact for women through workplace-based interventions that promote health, financial inclusion, and gender equality.
- Encourage agribusiness-focused financial institutions to extend **preferential credits and loans to women to advance their entrepreneurship and ownership** in the sector and to **offer information on available support and resources to survivors on reporting abuse and seeking treatment**. It is also critical to promote financial solutions that are responsive to gender disparities in ownership of land and other assets that may be used as collateral. Evidence shows that while stand-alone financial solutions do not contribute to the prevention of VAWG, they should be considered as components of prevention interventions.
 - The [WHO RESPECT Framework](#) recognizes VAWG prevention packages that comprise of an economic component, such as economic empowerment and social empowerment interventions for women to be effective in reducing VAWG.

- The [Women Affirmative Access Window](#) is an initiative of the Agriculture Finance Corporation that seeks to promote financial inclusion in agricultural finance.
- Support agribusinesses **to invest in VAWG prevention efforts as part of their long-term business strategy**. Sexual harassment claims have a greater effect on a company's reputation than other forms of misconduct, including fraud (Gündemir, Does, and Shih 2018). Because VAWG presents an ongoing danger to business brand, employees, reputation and productivity, prevention should be an integral part of the "big picture" that agribusinesses seek to achieve.
 - In Peru, companies lose more than \$6.7 billion a year because of absenteeism, staff turnover and lost productivity resulting from domestic violence, the equivalent of 3.7 percent of GDP (Vara-Horna 2014).
 - The [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) outlines key steps that businesses can take to ensure long-term integration of VAWG prevention in their plans, including accelerating women's leadership role in agribusinesses and establishing value-added partnerships with organizations and agencies in the frontline of local, national, and global efforts to prevent and address VAWG.

Community-level recommendations

- Promote agricultural projects that **build on positive household farm approaches and food security coping strategies** and that include a strong focus on VAWG prevention and care.

Box 4. Selected examples of ongoing World Bank agriculture operations addressing GBV

- In Mozambique, the [Sustainable Rural Economy Program](#) seeks to implement the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology in selected communities of smallholder farmers to reduce gender inequality at the household level, including contributing to reducing GBV. GALS is a facilitative household methodology aiming to empower households to identify and address intra household gender power relations that limit socioeconomic progression, and a key tool under the Government of Mozambique's approach to reduce GBV risks.
- In Guatemala, the [Responding to COVID-19: Modern and Resilient Agri-food Value Chains Project](#) promotes all stakeholders to be agents of change and seeks to address negative stereotypes and behaviors. The project invites women, couples, and male and female leaders from local communities in project sites to participate in gender-sensitivity training, which can contribute to lessening gender stereotypes and social norms, indirectly reducing GBV. Other activities help empower women and close gender gaps in agricultural productivity by offering specific calls for proposals for women-led MSMEs, supporting outreach activities to socialize training opportunities in agro-industrial jobs for women, providing digital literacy training, and facilitating access to the online labor-matching platform.
- The [National Agriculture Development Program](#) in Democratic Republic of Congo aims to close gender gaps in agricultural productivity and to empower women to improve their agency. Project activities challenge underlying unequal gender social norms, which as a result contribute to preventing GBV. The project recognizes the importance of creating an enabling environment for women's participation through strategic and behavior change communication that target religious and traditional leaders, community members, and men and women, and offers opportunity to enhance community awareness and to strengthen the capacity of project beneficiary communities, implementing partners and government staff in preventing and reducing risks of GBV.

- Target agricultural communities and households with **information on services and resources for VAWG and survivors** and on the rights and needs of girls and women who have experienced violence in a non-stigmatizing manner, avoiding stereotypes and depictions of survivors as instigators of violence or only as victims. The Food and Agriculture Organization (2010; 2018) suggests that community agricultural extension workers can be a critical resource in VAWG awareness creation and in diffusing information on existing services and resources for VAWG survivors at the community level.
- Leverage existing agricultural programs that offer households and communities **training on collaborative and equitable household decision-making, capacity building on healthy conflict resolution, and coaching on entrepreneurship, rights, and life skills** for women and girls.

Box 5. Promising practice: Examining the effectiveness of a gender transformative approach in economic empowerment programs to reduce Intimate Partner Violence

Starting in June 2018, [Send a Cow](#) (SAC 2022) – a non-profit with operations in Africa- undertook a two-year research study to examine the effectiveness of SAC’s economic interventions in reducing rates of IPV in target communities in western Kenya. Although SAC’s programming was not specifically designed to reduce violence in rural settings, by measuring VAWG the study has shown that the practical tools and methodologies they applied were effective to address this type of GBV.

The Economic and Social Empowerment (EASE) approach that SAC’s implemented included a strong gender component combined with agricultural and social inclusion interventions, together with its Transformative Household Methodology (THM). The approach incorporated training, inputs, supportive supervision, and mentoring, and was delivered by SAC and government extension staff to self-help groups where most members were women.

The results show that the project has significantly impacted the lives of women by empowering them socially and economically, which has in turn reduced GBV. Household dynamics between men and women have improved and rates of physical, sexual, emotional, and economic IPV have reduced considerably for a high proportion of women. Finally, the study also reveals that the program’s impact goes beyond the specific households considered, having beneficial impacts on the wider community.

- Collaborate with existing community-based agricultural interventions to engage communities – including families, women, girls, men, boys, caregivers, service providers, traditional and religious leaders – and incorporate components for **exploring, understanding, and disrupting the social and cultural norms that underlie and perpetuate VAWG**.
 - [Rabbits for Resilience](#) is a **small animal microfinance project with 10-15-year-old male and female adolescents in rural Democratic Republic of Congo**. Youth members receive a 2–4-month-old female rabbit. When the rabbit gives birth, the member repays the loan to the project in the form of 2 female rabbits, which are then used as new loans to other youth in the village. Youth and their parents receive support from each other during the group meetings and from trained microfinance agents through supportive home visits and monthly meetings. The program also includes training and discussions to reinforce equitable gender relationships and positive social norms (SVRI 2016).
- **Strengthen the capacity of community-based agricultural cooperatives** to offer equal access to participation and leadership positions for women, become champions of women’s rights, and support VAWG awareness, prevention, and care efforts. Connecting community-based cooperatives and organizations with established and experienced [feminist and women-focused organizations](#) for

mentorship, support, and capacity building on women-friendly leadership strategies, VAWG prevention, and community engagement can transform them into vocal champions and activators of women's rights and VAWG prevention in their contexts.

- **Encourage and strengthen associativity among women and women's cooperatives and organizations in agriculture.** These relationships in agricultural and other workplaces can serve as vehicles for survivors of violence to raise complaints and seek support and as surveillance mechanisms to prevent violence. Ensure that membership conditions are not exclusive, based on asset or resource ownership.
- **Work with local media and advocacy groups to provide awareness and information on VAWG and services and resources for VAWG and survivors,** avoiding negative portrayals of survivors. In Mozambique's Feed the Future Resilient Agricultural Markets Activity initiative, local radio stations were key in promoting awareness on VAWG and disseminating information on services and resources for VAWG survivors in local communities. [CARE](#) has identified practical women- and girl-centered strategies for community-focused GBV communication, engagement and advocacy.





KEY AREAS FOR INTEGRATING VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE BY KEY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROJECT SUB-SECTOR

Agriculture and Food Project Sub-Sector	Policy and Institutional strengthening recommendations	Community and Local Government opportunities and implementation readiness	Incentives and opportunities for engagement of Private Sector	Capacity strengthening of actors involved
Livestock and One Health	Given the multiple roles that women play in the agriculture sector, empowering them to decide and act for better health outcomes for people, animals and the environment is fundamental			
	Support national agricultural agencies and ministries to mainstream policies that prevent and respond to VAWG by, for example, incorporating a “safe spaces” policy in livestock vaccination centers/places for GBV survivors.	Target communities and households that specifically work with livestock with information on services and resources for VAWG and survivors and on the rights and needs of girls and women who have experienced violence.	Incentivize the Private Sector establish a policy of “gender violence free” when deciding to invest in livestock producers and suggest they implement clear actions to communicate this.	Train public veterinary services to be gender-sensitive and equip them with the necessary skills to recognize GBV survivors and provide them support; recruit female veterinary staff.
Agribusiness and value chains	Women occupy a relevant role across all the stages of the agribusiness value chains, from obtaining inputs and production in the field to the consumer, through stages such as processing, packaging, and distribution.			
	Engage policymakers and legislators to promote the approval of regulations for advancing protections from VAWG in matters of employment in	Encourage and strengthen associativity among women and women’s cooperatives and organizations in each stage of the value chain, potentially serving as vehicles for survivors of violence to	Encourage safe and hygienic workplaces for women in the agribusiness across all the value chain.	Train government officials to enforce national legislation on VAWG across the whole agribusiness value chain and across small, medium and big producers.

	agribusinesses and through its value chains.	seek support and raise complaints.		
Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)	Women can become leaders in CSA, addressing the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change but, for this, it is urgent to eliminate the violence that can prevent them from doing it.			
	Leverage digital and mobile technology in the sector for VAWG advocacy, prevention, reporting and survivor care and support by requiring CSA apps to include virtual reporting mechanisms and to disseminate information and awareness campaigns on VAWG.	Support community-based cooperatives to bring women to the center of CSA and set up community “safe spaces” for women to report on VAWG and get support.	Extend preferential credits and loans to women to advance their entrepreneurship and ownership in CSA, offer information on support and resources to survivors who face barriers to reporting abuse.	Ensure that women have access to digital technology and CSA tools, and can use them, by supporting digital literacy and technology adaptation to meet the needs of women, including reporting VAWG through these tools.
Food Security	Women occupy a key role in providing food security to their families and the society			
	Promote the adoption of strategies that support the re-design of food-markets to be safer places for women and girls.	Implement GBV prevention campaigns in local community-based food markets.	Encourage firms in the food security sector to include professionals with expertise, competency, and experience to empower VAWG survivors.	Train women and men in production systems on collaborative and equitable household decision-making, capacity building on healthy conflict resolution, and coaching on entrepreneurship, rights, and life skills.
Policy and Governance of the Sector	Governance of the Agriculture sector has traditionally been male dominated, despite the relevant role that women have in the sector. To change this, it is urgent to bring women to the center of the sector’s policy and governance.			
	Create a national unit specialized in GBV that directly articulates policies and action plans with the agriculture Ministry -or similar institution.	Strengthen the capacity of community-based agricultural cooperatives to offer equal access to participation and leadership positions for women, thus promoting	Enact laws that fix quotas for the minimum number of women that should occupy decision-making positions in the private sector. Suggest a list of topics that should be	Train and provide VAWG prevention and response materials to agriculture authorities across at different levels (government at all levels, non-profits, advocacy



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		women's rights, and supporting VAWG awareness, prevention, and care efforts.	addressed in these companies' governing bodies, including addressing VAWG.	groups, media and the private sector).
Irrigation and Infrastructure	Improving infrastructure such as irrigation systems is a key factor for increasing productivity in the agriculture sector and reducing women's exposure to violence.			
	Create a strategic action plan to address VAWG comprehensively across the Agriculture, Infrastructure and Women/GBV national organisms.	Provide counseling/support services for VAWG survivors in community centers where irrigation and infrastructure projects are taking place.	Incentivize the private sector to establish contractual stipulations on VAWG that include code of conducts and promote safe reporting structures, anti-harassment training, physical safety of women, accountability, and redress mechanisms by making these a requirement in contracting bids across the irrigation and infrastructure sector.	Provide training to irrigation and infrastructure workers on prevention of VAWG as well as on early detection of violence survivors, equipping them with tools to provide support and advice on current reporting channels.
Agriculture Innovation Systems (AIS)	Enabling the agriculture sector, farmers and rural entrepreneurs to adapt rapidly when challenges occur (climate change, urbanization, etc.) and to respond readily when new opportunities arise is central for AIS, and women should play a key role in it.			
	Encourage Intergovernmental policy learning and sharing activities on VAWG prevention, services, and care programs through international convenings, policy dialogues and evidence sharing around Agriculture Innovation Systems. Promoting cross-border	Work with specialized media, NGOs and advocacy groups to provide awareness and information on VAWG and services and resources for VAWG and survivors.	Engage the Private Sector by providing them incentives (such as tax reductions) to prioritize funding producers/companies that promote the training and development of women in agriculture innovation areas, thus promoting women's rights, and supporting VAWG	While training women in agriculture with digital tools and resources that help them to increase productivity and market access while also promoting their awareness of VAWG issues and how to approach them.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS RESOURCE GUIDE
AGRICULTURE SECTOR BRIEF

	dialogues across VAWG and AIS can lead to the adoption of international standards and foster its implementation in the national sphere.		awareness, prevention, and care efforts.	
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SUGGESTED INDICATORS

Type of Indicator	Suggested Indicators
Key Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of surveyed agribusinesses reporting workplace VAWG prevention policies as part of their business strategy and are operationalized. • Percentage of surveyed women and men in agribusinesses who feel empowered to take appropriate action when they experience or observe workplace VAWG • Percentage/number of surveyed women and men working in agriculture whose attitude of acceptance of VAWG or IPV changes • Percentage of women and men who report an incidence of violence in the context of agricultural work receiving referral to appropriate services • Proportion of men and boys involved in agricultural activities willing to act against violence against women and girls • Proportion of men and boys involved in agricultural activities who do not support any form of violence against women under any circumstance • Percentage/number of women and men receiving legal support for VAWG or IPV experienced in the context of agricultural activities • Percentage of women and men involved in the agricultural sector receiving VAWG sensitization, advocacy and legal literacy training focused on the sector
Intermediate Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of women in leadership roles in agribusinesses • Number of agribusinesses conducting staff training on workplace VAWG incorporating prevention and reporting strategies • Number of agricultural communities reached with long term VAWG prevention and reporting training • Percentage/number of women and men involved in agricultural activities who receive VAWG prevention and reporting training

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR INTEGRATING VAWG INTO AGRICULTURE SECTOR PROJECTS

Toolkits and Frameworks

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