



# Preventing and Addressing Gender-Based Violence<sup>1 2</sup>

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is widely recognized as an impediment to the social and economic development of communities and States and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Experiencing violence precludes women from contributing to and benefiting from development initiatives by limiting their agency, that is, their choices and ability to act. Therefore, GBV prevention should be of central concern to governments as an intrinsic human rights issue due to its impact on women's lives, economic growth, and poverty reduction.
- Addressing GBV requires a comprehensive combination of prevention and protection measures involving a multi-level, multi-stakeholder approach and sustained engagement leveraging various sectors. The most effective initiatives address underlying risk factors for violence, including social norms regarding gender roles and the acceptability of violence.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the World Bank has engaged with countries and partners to support the integration of GBV prevention and response components and interventions in sector-specific projects and several projects across all Global Practices.

1 The term GBV is most commonly used to underscore systemic inequality between males and females—which exists in every society in the world—and acts as a unifying and foundational characteristic of most forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls (VAWG). The term GBV stems from the 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women.” Discrimination based on sex or gender identity is not only a cause of many forms of GBV but also contributes to the widespread acceptance and invisibility of such violence—so that perpetrators are not held accountable, and survivors are discouraged from speaking out and accessing support (World Bank 2018).

2 This note is an output of the LAC Regional Gender Coordination (Poverty and Equity) and the Social Sustainability and Inclusion Gender-based Violence Team (Social Sustainability and Inclusion). It was written by Ursula Casabonne with inputs from Catalina Buitrago, Paola Buitrago, Manuel Contreras, Lorena Levano, Daniela Maquera, Miriam Muller, and Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich.

# THE CONTEXT

**Gender-based violence (GBV) is widespread in LAC and produces immediate and long-term harm to survivors, their families, and society.** According to available data, the percentage of women in 21 Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries who reported that their partners physically and sexually abused them at some point in their lives ranges from 16 percent in Panama to more than 42 in Bolivia (Figure 1). The acceptance of GBV is linked to patriarchal social norms – especially *machismo* – that entail men’s power and control over women, according to which such behavior can be justified. Factors perpetuating this type of violence include weak or discriminatory legal and institutional frameworks, patriarchal social norms that underpin gendered differences in power, and attitudes that tolerate violence against women (Heise 2011).

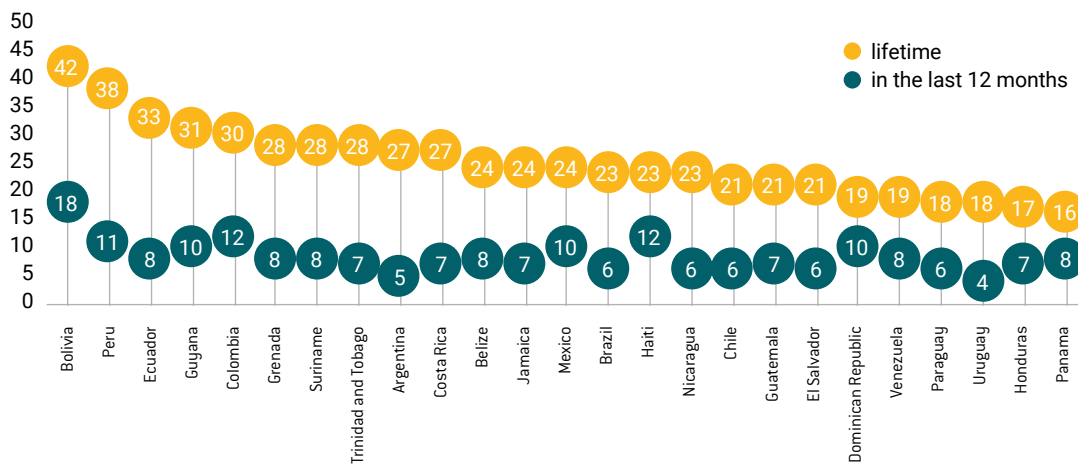
**GBV takes many forms, including sexual, physical, and psychological abuse.** It occurs in the home, streets, schools, workplaces, farm fields, and refugee camps during times of peace and in conflicts and crises. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is one of the most common forms of VAWG; it refers to behavior by a current or previous husband, boyfriend, or other partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors. GBV affects women and girls throughout their life cycle; from pre-birth sex-selective abortion; in infancy, female infanticide, neglect (health care, nutrition); during

childhood, female genital mutilation, child abuse, malnutrition; during adolescence, forced prostitution, trafficking, forced early marriage, psychological abuse, rape; during their reproductive age, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, femicide, sex trafficking; and during their elderly years, elder/widow abuse, economic abuse, among others.

**GBV devastates survivors of violence and their families and entails high social and economic costs.** The experience of violence increases women’s risk of poverty due to the direct costs of violence, such as out-of-pocket health expenditure, and indirect costs, such as reduced earnings productivity. In 2020, the total cost of lost wages due to domestic violence was estimated at USD \$2.42 billion in Chile and \$45.8 million in Nicaragua. Importantly, this figure does not account for other costs associated with GBV, such as health care or police response, meaning it likely understates the actual economic impact of GBV. Several studies have estimated the total cost of GBV as a fraction of a country’s gross domestic product (GDP): 6.46 percent of GDP in Bolivia (Vara-Horna 2015), 4.28 percent of GDP in Ecuador (Vara Horna 2020), 3.7 percent of GDP in Peru (Vara Horna 2013), 2 percent of GDP in Chile (Morrison and Orlando 1999), 2.4 percent of GDP in Paraguay (Vara-Horna 2018), and 1.6 percent of GDP in Nicaragua (Morrison and Orlando 1999).

**Figure 1. Women in LAC Face High Rates of Intimate Partner Violence**

The proportion of ever-partnered women aged 18-49 years experiencing intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime and the last 12 months



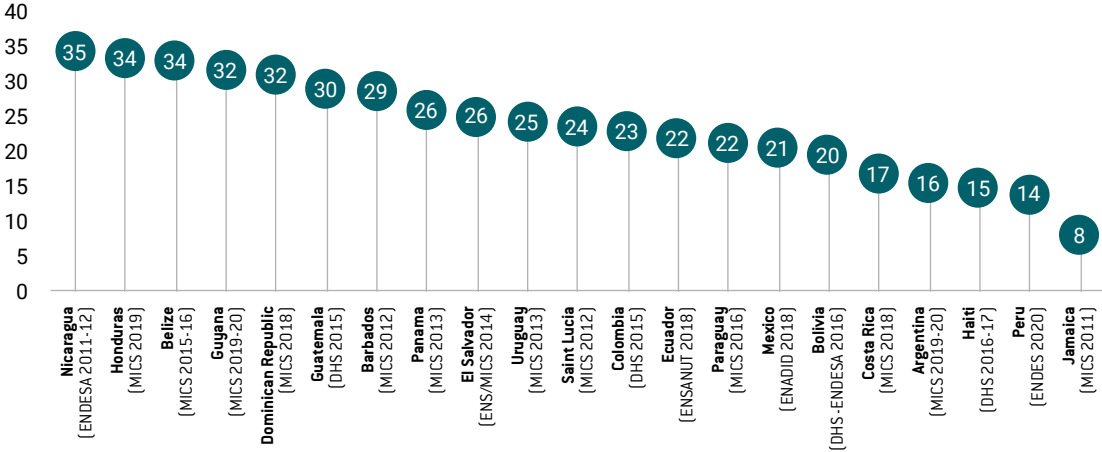
Source: PAHO Data: <https://www.paho.org/en/enlace/burden-other-forms-interpersonal-violence>, 2018

**Early marriage is a form of GBV with devastating effects on the life and development of girls in LAC.** According to UNICEF, one in four young women in the region was married or in early union before age 18, and this rate has remained constant over 25 years (UNICEF 2019). In Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, and the Dominican Republic, the rate of women (aged 20 to 24) who married or were in a union before 18 exceeds 30 percent (Figure 2). In LAC, women are more likely to be married as children when residing in rural areas, in poor households, and with lower access

to education; and early marriage in the region most often takes the form of informal or non-matrimonial union (UNICEF 2019). As a result, child brides face increased risks of poor health outcomes, having children younger, dropping out of school, earning less over their lifetimes, and living in poverty compared to their peers who marry later (Wodon et al. 2017). In addition, young women who marry before the age of 18 may also be more likely to experience intimate partner violence, restricted mobility, and limited decision-making.

**Figure 2. Women in LAC Face High Rates of Early Marriage**

Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18



Source: UNICEF SDG Target 5.3.1 global database 2020, based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), and other nationally representative surveys.

**In response to high levels of GBV, LAC governments have updated their legal frameworks to cover all forms of GBV, including domestic violence, harassment, and rape.** Alongside these legislative changes, LAC countries have developed national strategies, action plans, and protocols to ensure inter-institutional coordination. In addition, they have started to provide a wide range of support services for victims and survivors of violence against women. For example, in 2017, Peru outlined criminal penalties for sexual harassment with aggravating circumstances to cover educational, employment, and training relationships. That same year, Paraguay expanded the legal definition of GBV by including economic, sexual, labor, political and cyber violence,

among others, in its legal code (OECD 2020). However, some countries, such as Antigua and Bermuda, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, continue to suffer from poor legislative protection against GBV (Table 1). Furthermore, some countries (Bolivia, Brazil, and Venezuela) have weak legal frameworks against early marriage, contributing to its high incidence. It is also worth noting is that most LAC countries have not yet eliminated exceptions to early marriage (Table 1).

**Table 1. Legislation on Protection Against GBV and Early Marriage**

(Red- highlighted text notes an absence of legislation)

Economy	Legislation Against GBV – 2022					Legislation on Early Marriage – 2020			
	Does the legislation establish clear criminal penalties for domestic violence?	Is there a specialized court or procedure for cases of domestic violence?	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	What is the legal age of marriage for girls?	Are there any exceptions to the legal age of marriage?	Is marriage under the legal age void or explicitly prohibited?	Are there penalties for authorizing or entering into child or early marriage?
Antigua and Barbuda	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	No	Yes	No
Argentina	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	No
Bahamas, The	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barbados	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belize	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bolivia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	No	No
Brazil	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	No	No
Colombia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	No
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	No	Yes	Yes
Dominica	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dominican Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ecuador	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	No	Yes	No
El Salvador	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	No	Yes	No
Grenada	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guatemala	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	No	Yes	Yes
Guyana	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haiti	No	No	No	No	No	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Honduras	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jamaica	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	No	Yes	Yes
Nicaragua	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Panama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	No	Yes	Yes
Paraguay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	No
Peru	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Puerto Rico (U.S.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Kitts and Nevis	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Lucia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suriname	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trinidad and Tobago	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	18	No	Yes	Yes
Uruguay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Venezuela, RB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	Yes	No	Yes

Source: Women, Business and the Law 2022/2020 data: <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl-data>

**LAC governments have also progressively turned their attention to the incidence of femicide.** Data for 2020 shows that 14 of the 25 countries with the highest rates of femicide worldwide are in LAC<sup>3</sup>. According to data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean's (ECLAC) Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2020, 4,127 women in the LAC region were victims of femicide<sup>4</sup>. The highest rates of femicide or feminicide per 100,000 women in 2020 are observed in the case of Honduras (4.7 per 100,000 women), the Dominican Republic (2.4), and El Salvador (2.1)<sup>5</sup>. The “Ni Una Menos” (Not one [woman] less) movement started as a protest against femicide, and many governments have made legislative changes to ensure that women are protected from this hate crime. As a result, all LAC countries, except Cuba and Haiti, have approved laws that penalize feminicide (Deus and Gonzalez 2019).

**The COVID pandemic and accompanying economic and social instability gave new impetus for addressing risk factors that pre-date the pandemic but were exacerbated by lockdown measures and restriction of services.** Data and reports from countries worldwide indisputably show that GBV intensified during 2020-22 as women were confined with abusers, isolated from support services, and subject to increased stress (Peterman and O'Donnell 2020). Numerous studies often showed dramatic upticks in calls to abuse support hotlines and cases reported to authorities. Several studies conducted in LAC countries following the outbreak of COVID-19 have demonstrated an increase in intimate partner violence cases. In Peru and Argentina, studies reported an increase of 48 percent and 32 percent in the incidence rate of calls to a domestic violence hotline (Aguero 2020; Perez-Vincent and Carreras 2020). In Brazil, data from the first two months of confinement measures (March and April 2020) point to a 22 percent increase in femicide and a 27 percent increase in complaints to the national GBV helpline in 2019 (Bastos and Tavares 2020).

## EVIDENCE OF WHAT WORKS

**Some interventions have empirically proven to be more effective than others in preventing and responding to VAWG.**

Table 2 shows the results of a recent meta-analysis of 104 rigorous impact evaluations<sup>6</sup> published between 2000 and 2018 on interventions to prevent women's experience and men's perpetration of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence (Kerr-Wilson, et al. 2020). The table shows that nine categories of interventions were effective in reducing VAWG including cash transfers or economic empowerment programs for women when combined with group discussions on VAWG and gender transformative programming, couples' interventions, parenting programs to prevent domestic violence and child maltreatment, community activism to shift harmful gender norms, and school-based intervention to prevent dating violence. The review also notes key elements regarding the design and implementation of more effective interventions to prevent VAWG, including:

- Rigorously planned with a robust theory of change, rooted in the knowledge of local context.

- Tackles multiple drivers of GBV, such as gender inequity, poverty, poor communication, and marital conflict.
- Especially in highly patriarchal contexts, works with women and men, and where relevant families.
- Based on theories of gender and social empowerment that view behavior change as a collective rather than solely individual process and fosters positive interpersonal relations and gender equity.
- Uses group-based participatory learning methods for adults and children, that emphasize empowerment, critical reflection, communication, and conflict resolution skill-building.
- Integrates support for survivors of violence.
- Optimal intensity: duration and frequency of sessions and overall program length enables time for reflection and experiential learning.
- Staff and volunteers are selected for their gender-equitable attitudes and non-violence behavior and are thoroughly trained, supervised, and supported.

3 Country data on intentional homicides by intimate partners/family members available at: <https://dataunodc.un.org/content/homicide-country-data>

4 CEPALSTAT Statistical Database, Number of femicide and feminicide: [https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/databank/index.html?lang=en&indicator\\_id=2780&area\\_id=](https://statistics.cepal.org/portal/databank/index.html?lang=en&indicator_id=2780&area_id=)

5 ECLAC Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean: Femicide or feminicide. <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/femicide-or-feminicide>

6 Based on randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-experimental studies



**Table 2. Effectiveness of Intervention for the Prevention of VAWG**

Effective, when well designed and executed	Promising, but requires further research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic transfer programs.</li> <li>• Combined economic and social empowerment programs targeting women.</li> <li>• Parenting programs to prevent domestic violence and child maltreatment.</li> <li>• Community activism to shift harmful gender attitudes, roles and social norms.</li> <li>• School-based interventions to prevent dating or sexual violence.</li> <li>• School-based interventions for peer violence.</li> <li>• Interventions that work with individuals and/or couples to reduce their alcohol and/or substance abuse (with or without other prevention elements).</li> <li>• Couples' interventions (focused on transforming gender relations within the couple or addressing alcohol and violence in relationships).</li> <li>• Interventions with female sex workers to reduce violence by clients, police or strangers (i.e., nonintimate partners) through empowerment/collectivization or alcohol and substance use reduction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) based interventions with pregnant women.</li> <li>• Self-defense interventions to prevent sexual violence for women at college.</li> <li>• Economic and social empowerment programs targeting men.</li> <li>• Interventions with female sex workers to reduce violence by non-paying intimate partners.</li> </ul>
No effect	Conflicting evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good evidence that as standalone interventions these do not reduce levels of VAWG:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Microfinance, savings, and livelihood programs.</li> <li>▫ Brief bystander interventions.</li> <li>▫ Brief counseling and safety planning for pregnant women.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Insufficient evidence but unlikely to work as standalone interventions to reduce levels of VAWG:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Social marketing campaigns and edutainment.</li> <li>▫ Digital technologies for VAWG prevention.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-defense interventions to prevent sexual violence for girls at primary and secondary schools.</li> <li>• Working with men and boys alone.</li> <li>• Home visitation programs in the antenatal and postnatal period to prevent domestic violence.</li> </ul>

Source: Kerr-Wilson, et al., 2020

## HOW ARE THE WORLD BANK GROUP (WBG) PROJECTS ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE?

The WBG addresses GBV through data collection, analytics, client dialogue, and operations. The WBG funds standalone projects and/or components of projects that support policies and services to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV. It also assesses and mitigates the risk of sexual exploitation, harassment, and abuse across the WBG-funded portfolio; and helps strengthen institutions addressing GBV. The WBG also

supports data collection and analysis for GBV policy development and generates rigorous impact evaluation evidence to determine how different interventions help reduce GBV. Furthermore, the WBG carries out evidence-based advocacy to position the topic in the public agenda and convenes stakeholders and survivors to share experiences, knowledge, and good practices.

**In LAC, the WBG has supported GBV prevention and response policies, interventions, and activities in operations across all sectors and at different levels of engagement: national, sectoral, institutional, community, and household levels.**

At the *national level*, several Development Policy Operations (DPOs) strengthened the national policy and legal framework to address GBV and provided technical assistance to create an integrated system for survivors' prevention, care, and protection. At the *sectoral level*, the Bank has supported GBV prevention and response policies, programs, and services in various sectors. For example, in the Education sector, several projects focus on creating safe spaces for young people through physical upgrading (such as building separate latrines for girls); strengthening policies and protocols for reporting and sanctioning violence; the sensitizing parents, teachers, students, and the surrounding community regarding GBV; and introducing a national observatory of school dropouts that include GBV risk indicators. In the Health sector, projects have focused on strengthening health systems to respond to the needs of survivors through training doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health officers to identify and refer GBV survivors; improving the provision of services, including psychosocial support; and removing barriers to access. In the Governance sector, projects have enhanced access to justice and services for women survivors of violence. At the *institutional level*, projects have improved public service provision for GBV response. This includes the creation of shelters, the development of intersectoral action protocols, the establishment of telephone helplines to provide advice, information, guidance, and support to the survivors, and training public sector professionals to improve the prevention and detection of GBV and provide first-line support. The WBG has also strengthened policies, procedures, and protocols to improve the response to sexual harassment in transport and energy utilities. Finally, at the *community and household levels*, WBG projects have included GBV prevention programs that seek to shift harmful social norms which perpetuate violence. Examples of GBV prevention and response efforts in WBG operations are listed below.

## National level

- In **Brazil**, the WBG provided [analytical support](#) to federal and subnational governments in understanding the increased risks of VAW in the country under COVID-19 and suggested the most appropriate responses in the short, medium, and longer term.
- In **Chile** and **Argentina**, the WBG provided technical assistance to create an integrated management system designed to improve state institutions' coordination response for the prevention, care, and protection of survivors. The lack of a single integrated system has prevented case monitoring, resulting in unidentified cases of recurring violence and delays in service delivery. Moreover, critical information that could

facilitate early detection and prevention was not systematically collected. An effective response requires strengthening response services, robust data collection and analysis platform systems, and better coordination. The proposed roadmap for [Chile](#) details chronological recommendations to improve coordination between institutions that collect and analyze data on GBV and provide services to survivors using a survivor-centered approach.

- In **Peru**, the WBG analyzed [Public Investments](#) in the GBV agenda in the country. In **Argentina**, the WBG analyzed national and provincial budgets to shed light on the gaps in GBV budget allocation. In addition, the WBG developed a handbook and trained 40 civil society organizations, the justice and legislative branches, and several local and provincial governments on analyzing and tracking future budgets. The Bank also financed an analysis of GBV policy responses during COVID-19 and studies about violence against the LGBTI community.

## Sectoral level

### Education

- In **Brazil**, two projects tackle GBV in schools.
  - ▶ The [Recovering Learning Losses from COVID-19 Pandemic in Brazil Program for Results \(PforR\) Project](#) (P178563) will include GBV risk indicators in the National and State Observatories of School Dropouts (OSD) and in the Early Warning System (SAP) to help identify students at high risk of dropping out. In addition, the Project will develop protocols to guide local agents in approaching households, families, or students that dropped out due to GBV, teenage pregnancy, or other related drivers.
  - ▶ The [Mato Grosso Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Learning Project](#) (P178993) will support the design and implementation of a violence prevention program in schools. The Project will be co-designed with students, professors, directors, school staff, and parents. Focus groups and in-depth interviews will be conducted to identify the leading causes of violence in schools, suggestions to prevent and respond to GBV in schools, and implement the Project successfully. Once the Project is designed, it will be piloted in 35 schools and then scaled up to at least 50% of schools in Mato Grosso. Recognizing that each school is different, the Project will develop other kits that the schools can implement according to their needs. The Project will also have an intercultural approach to respond to the needs of the indigenous schools.

## Health & Social Protection

- In **Nicaragua**, the [Integrated Public Provision of Health Care Services project](#) (P164452) will implement the National Intersectoral Adolescent Health Strategy for the Prevention or Delay of Adolescent Parenthood with emphasis on the concepts of agency and prevention of GBV. Specifically, this will include training health workers, parents or guardians, and teachers on violence prevention and best practices in working with adolescents.
- In **Colombia**, the [Improving Quality of Health Care Services and Efficiency PforR Project](#) (P169866) supports the implementation of intersectoral mechanisms and procedures to respond to GBV in targeted municipalities. These procedures have five components: detection, derivation, or activation of the intersectoral protocol, delivery of health services when sexual violence has occurred, rehabilitation, and social inclusion. In addition, the Project is strengthening the Integrated Gender-Based Violence Information System.
- In **Brazil**, the [Salvador Social Multi-Sector Service Delivery Project](#) (P162033) aimed to improve the effectiveness of social protection services offered by the Social Assistance Referral Centers (CRAS). Specifically, the Project developed training materials for GBV prevention targeted at social assistance professionals, with beneficiary families of the municipal social assistance system and CRAS coordinators in the Municipality of Salvador.

## Digital Development

- In **Peru**, the [Centralized Emergency Response System](#) (P170658) is supporting the improvement of the national GBV hotline. This included enabling geo-location; purchasing software and equipment; and implementing training and protocols to build the capacity of the hotline operators and first emergency response units on GBV emergency management, including psychosocial support services, guidance, and counseling.

## Disaster Risk Management

- In **Haiti**, the [Strengthening DRM and Climate Resilience Project](#) (P165870) aims to improve early warning and emergency evacuation capacity in selected municipalities in high climate risk-prone areas and the provision of and accessibility to safe havens. The Project ensured that shelter/safe haven designs met international standards that consider women's and girls' physical safety and needs, such as separate toilets, wheel-chair access, medical rooms, dedicated storage space for the assets of women merchants, etc. In addition, the Project trained law enforcement and security patrols to prevent and respond to GBV.

- In **Honduras**, the [Second DRM Development Policy Credit Project](#) (P177001) is supporting GBV prevention and response programmatic actions in the new national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) legal framework of the National System for Integral Disaster Risk Management (SINAGER). The Project is also supporting the strengthening of the legal framework for the establishment and management of shelters that include protocols and procedures to report cases or suspicions of GBV, including safe, accessible, inclusive, and confidential channels for reporting that consider gender, age, and ethnicity, as well as coordination mechanisms with judicial instances.

## Governance

- In **Peru**, two justice sector projects have enhanced access to justice and services for women living in situations of violence. The [Justice Services Improvement Projects I](#) (2004-2010) and [II](#) (2010-2016), through the primary vehicle of ALEGRA centers (legal aid centers that provide free legal, social, and psychological support to low-income populations), supported family courts to ensure domestic violence victims' access to legal help. The Project's second phase created MEGA ALEGRA, which provided specialized services for victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence. Further, the [Improving Performance of Non-Criminal Justice Services Project](#) (2019-2024) aims to ensure that women and children have full access to the legal system, especially in cases of sexual and physical violence. Through the support of ALEGRA centers, the Project integrates actions under the National System of Specialized Justice for the Protection and Punishment of Violence against Women to provide access to justice for women living in gender-based and family violence. In addition, the Project seeks to remedy discrimination for linguistic, cultural, social, or gender reasons that create barriers to justice.

## Institutional level

### Transport & Education

- In **Ecuador**, the [Quito Metro Line One Project](#) (2013-2020) includes gender-specific design components relative to women's preferences and security. Each station funded through the Project will consist of well-lit platforms, stations, and surrounding areas to increase women's safety as they travel to and from the metro. In addition, if passengers feel unsafe once onboard, enclosed gangway links between train cars will enable them to change cars while the train is moving. After the construction of the metro line is complete, the Project will implement a communications campaign to reduce



sexual harassment; and institute a mechanism to prevent and facilitate ease of reporting of harassment. This includes a mobile application for reporting cases of sexual harassment in a timely and easy way. In addition, transport operators will receive training in appropriate responses to sexual harassment.

- In **Brazil**, the WBG is supporting three projects that address sexual harassment in public transport: [Improving Mobility and Urban Inclusion in the Amazonas Corridor in Belo Horizonte](#) (P169134), [São Paulo Aricanduva Bus Rapid Transit Corridor](#) (P169140), and the [Rio de Janeiro Adjustment and Sustainable Development Policy Loan](#) (P178729). These projects support the development of response protocols for sexual harassment in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, training bus operators on the appropriate response to sexual harassment, and incorporate features in the designs of the passenger stations, pedestrians' crossing, and bus terminals to enhance security (street and station lighting and cameras).
- In **Chile**, the [Strengthening of State Universities in Chile Project](#) (P163437) supported the development or strengthening of Gender Action Plans across all State Universities, including actions to address GBV and sexual harassment in universities.

## Household and Community level

- In **Ecuador**, the [Territorial Economic Empowerment for the Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorians, and Montubian Peoples and Nationalities Project](#) (TEEIPAM) (P173283) includes a community mobilization GBV standalone intervention to address harmful gender norms that lead to GBV and strengthens the institutional response to GBV. The intervention involves actions targeting the

community, household, institutional, and individual levels. At the institutional level, the Project will train and sensitize the local indigenous leaders and authorities to effectively develop and communicate to their communities that GBV is unacceptable and strengthen the community sanction mechanisms. At the community level, the Project will undertake community mobilization activities and conduct communication strategies with appropriate local activities, such as painting murals. The Project will also create active learning spaces at the household level to discuss gender equality, healthy relationships, effective communication, and livelihood strengthening. In addition, the Project will work alongside indigenous leaders. The intervention was designed based on a [participatory-action formative research](#) study led by a local indigenous women's organization—the Women Central Committee (Comité Central de Mujeres)—analyzing the [context of GBV](#) in the [indigenous communities](#) of Cotacachi, Ecuador.

- In **Honduras**, the [Corredor Seco Food Security Project](#) (P148737) aimed to enhance the food and nutrition security of vulnerable households in select geographical locations in the Corredor Seco (dry corridor) of Honduras's western and southern areas. The Project supported farmers in designing financially viable business plans and incremental food security plans to support small-scale rural producer organizations and small enterprises. In addition, the Project trained community monitors on GBV prevention and response to provide counseling and connect women to GBV community services. The Project also trained female beneficiaries on how gender inequitable household relationships impact women's self-esteem, how harmful gender norms lead to GBV, and what to do if they are domestic violence survivors.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The WBG has a strong comparative advantage in financing GBV prevention and response interventions and bringing them to scale. Looking ahead, the WBG will continue to support legislative and policy reforms that create an enabling environment for GBV prevention, guaranteeing legal protection for survivors and toughening the penalties for offenders. A critical policy agenda item in the future is supporting integrated processes to achieve a more efficient provision of services and

data management. Furthermore, given the increased occurrence of climate change-provoked disasters, the WBG will continue supporting the strengthening of GBV prevention and response within disaster risk management policies and actions. Lastly, the WBG will support efforts to change harmful social norms that lead to violence in communities and households in partnership with community leaders, local governments, civil society organizations, and schools.

# RELEVANT RESOURCES

## WORLD BANK PUBLICATIONS ON THE TOPIC

Arango, Diana J.; Morton, Matthew; Gennari, Floriza; Kiplesund, Sveinung; Ellsberg, Mary. 2014. [Interventions to Prevent or Reduce Violence Against Women and Girls: A Systematic Review of Reviews](#). World Bank, Washington, DC

Bastos, Gabriela; Carbonari, Flavia; Tavares, Paula. 2020. [Addressing Violence against Women under COVID-19 in Brazil](#). World Bank, Washington, DC

Buitrago Orozco, Diana Catalina; Odiaua, Ishanlosen; Saenz Ortigosa, Julia; Coirolo, Cristina Elizabeth. [Latin America and the Caribbean - Gender Based Violence Portfolio Review and Roadmap](#). World Bank, Washington, DC

Casabonne, Ursula, Contreras Urbina, Juan Manuel, Buitrago Orozco, Diana Catalina, 2022. [How To Note: Tool for Integrating Prevention and Response Actions for Violence Against Women and Girls in World Bank Operations](#). World Bank, Washington, DC

Casabonne, Ursula; Contreras Urbina, Juan Manuel; Buitrago Orozco, Diana Catalina. 2022. [Analysis of Gender-Based Violence Prevention Opportunities by Sector](#). World Bank, Washington, DC

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- [OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index](#)
- [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#)
- [World Bank World Development Indicators](#)
- [World Bank Women Business and the Law](#)
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