



**Spotlight
Initiative**
*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*



A GUIDANCE NOTE

LIBERIAN GBV ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM/FRAMWORK



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Abbreviations

AFL	Armed Forces of Liberia
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GEWE	Gender Equality Women's Empower
GoL	Government of Liberia's
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HP	Harmful Practices
HTPs	Harmful Traditional Practices
LNP	Liberia National Police
MOD	Ministry of Defense
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection
MoFDP	Ministry of Finance Development Planning
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOI	Ministry of Information
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
PAPD	Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WACPS	Women and Child Protection Services

Acknowledgement

We deeply appreciate the collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication demonstrated in the development of the Gender-Based Violence Accountability Framework document. In developing the Gender-Based Violence Accountability Framework, our primary goal is to create a safer and more equitable society for all. This framework will serve as a vital tool in our ongoing battle against gender-based violence, providing a roadmap for progress and accountability. This vital initiative has been made possible through the collective contributions of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MOGSCP), other government ministries, local CSO actors, the European Union and UN agencies.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our national Consultant, Ms. Caroline Bowah, whose unwavering dedication and profound understanding of the subject matter played a pivotal role in structuring the framework with meticulous attention to detail. Her expertise has been invaluable.

Funded by the European Union and the United Nations Spotlight Initiative Program, this GBV Accountability Framework delineates the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders working in the areas of GBV, Harmful Practices (HP), and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). It outlines the multi-sectoral levels at national, county, and community levels. The accountability framework serves as a guide to measure progress and identify gaps for enhancing program effectiveness and service delivery.

Recognizing the intricate nature of promoting gender equality and addressing sexual and gender-based issues, this framework signifies a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to creating a just and inclusive society in Liberia. The unwavering support and guidance from the Ministry of Gender, along with the active participation of local CSOs, have been instrumental in shaping a comprehensive strategy that reflects the diverse needs and perspectives of our community. We extend our gratitude to the Spotlight Initiative Programme for their valuable insights and collaborative spirit, which have enriched the framework with international best practices and a broader global perspective. This partnership has been crucial in ensuring the framework's relevance and effectiveness in the wider context of gender advocacy.

As we move forward with the implementation of the Gender-Based Violence Accountability Framework, we are committed to conducting regular assessments and utilizing the framework's insights to tailor our programs and services better. Our vision is a community where every individual, regardless of gender, feels safe and empowered.

We want to acknowledge the roles of all stakeholders involved, we are well-positioned to effect change that promotes equality and empowers women and girls affected by SGBV and other marginalized groups.

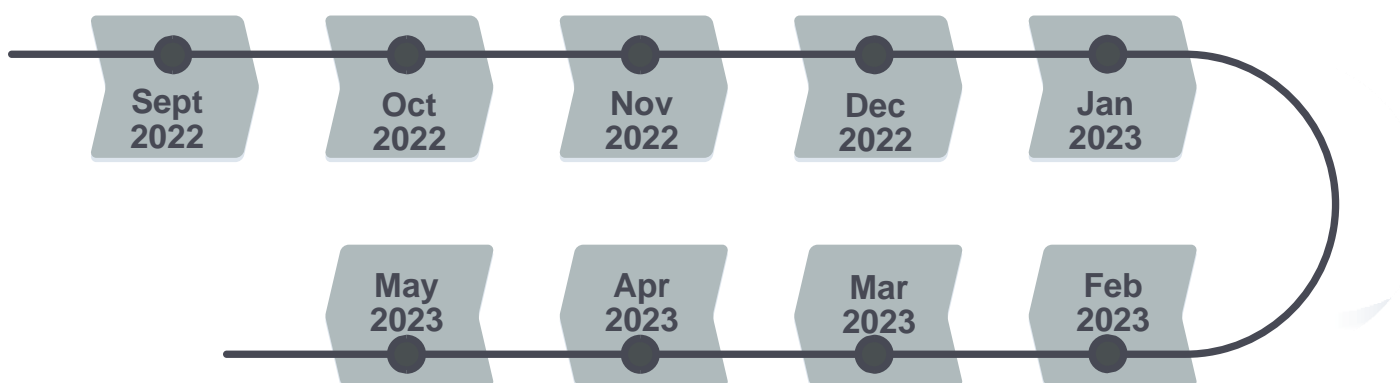
Once again, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to each and every contributor who has made this remarkable achievement possible.

1 Background

The Guidance Note for Liberia’s Mechanisms and Framework for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Accountability was collaboratively developed through extensive consultations with a diverse range of stakeholders. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the EU/UN Spotlight Initiative provided oversight to an external consultant who worked alongside these stakeholders. Their collective efforts aimed to assess and establish internal and external accountability mechanisms and frameworks to enhance and streamline the approach to data collection on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Furthermore, the stakeholders devised a coordinated communications flow mechanism that facilitates data collection, enabling the monitoring of Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment (GEWE), Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), and Harmful Practices (HP) at the national, sub-national, and community levels in Liberia. Notably, key government ministries, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Education, actively participated in this process. Additionally, senior decision-makers from the Judiciary and the Liberia National Police represented their respective institutions. Valuable input and experience-based insights into the framework and accountability mechanism were also provided by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), women’s organizations, key SGBV service providers, and the media.

As a national accountability tool, the primary objective of this initiative is to strengthen the collective implementation of GBV prevention and response facilities, policies, and the creation of an enabling operational environment. During the process, stakeholders assessed their individual capacities and formulated a roadmap to establish an internal and external accountability framework. This framework serves as a jointly owned and operated referral pathway, facilitating efficient GBV prevention and response. The assignment spanned from September 2022 to May 2023, as shown in picture below:



2 Introduction

The purpose of the consultancy, as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR), was to establish internal and external accountability mechanisms/framework that will strengthen and harmonize the data collection approach to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and create a communication flow to facilitate harmonized data collection. Over the past months, the consultant has collaborated with various government institutions to formulate a comprehensive plan for establishing an internal and external accountability framework. This endeavor entailed fostering commitment, developing policies, providing guidance, and allocating resources to key stakeholders at the national level. Moreover, training sessions were conducted throughout the consultancy period to enhance the utilization and application of the GBV (Gender-Based Violence) accountability framework. These sessions aimed to operationalize the specific activities outlined in the framework. Furthermore, the consultancy offered technical guidance to bolster the implementation of the accountability framework, including expanding its reach and integrating it into government institutions that were involved in the process. The exercise began in September 2022 and was completed in May 2023.



3

Accountability in SGBV Programming

Accountability in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) programming can be defined as the internal process of recognizing and addressing the harms caused by individuals or organizations to themselves and others. This definition aligns with the perspective of feminist scholar Ann Russo, who characterizes accountability as an internal resource. At the Liberia SGBV workshop held in 2022, participants also expressed similar understandings of accountability.

In the context of SGBV programming, accountability encompasses several key elements. First, it involves acknowledging and taking responsibility for the actions, policies, or decisions that have perpetuated or contributed to SGBV. This includes recognizing the harm caused by these actions and understanding the broader social, cultural, and power dynamics that underpin SGBV.

Second, accountability requires a commitment to redressing the harm done. This entails implementing measures to address the immediate and long-term consequences of SGBV, including providing support and services to survivors, ensuring access to justice, and actively working to prevent further instances of violence. Redress may also involve engaging in restorative justice processes, such as facilitating dialogue, reconciliation, and healing for all parties affected by SGBV.

Third, accountability involves fostering a culture of transparency and openness. It requires creating spaces where survivors, affected communities, and stakeholders can safely come forward, share their experiences, and hold individuals and institutions accountable for their actions. This includes establishing mechanisms for reporting, investigating, and addressing allegations of SGBV, as well as ensuring confidentiality, protection, and support for survivors throughout the process.



Furthermore, accountability in SGBV programming necessitates collaboration and partnership among various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders, and international actors. It requires a collective effort to address the root causes of SGBV, challenge harmful norms and attitudes, and promote gender equality and social justice.

Overall, accountability in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence programming is a multifaceted concept that involves recognizing, taking responsibility for, and redressing the harm caused by SGBV. It encompasses individual and collective actions, transparency, and collaboration to create a safe and just society that is free from violence and discrimination.

In so doing, Liberia's Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Accountability Framework mechanism is being developed to ensure adequate commitment, policies, guidance, and resources for key actors in addressing gender-based violence. It is a structured guidance for actors to fully meet, properly report on, and effectively communicate about their mandates regarding the prevention and response to gender-based violence, harmful practices, and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services.

The framework articulates the roles and responsibilities of key actors working in these areas and highlights their inter-connected multi-sectoral levels at the national, county, and community levels. It also emphasizes the higher level of accountability in situations where there is a failure to perform within the office of the President and CSO's mandate. Consequently, the accountability framework plays a crucial role in not only guiding the measurement of progress and assessment of gaps but also ensuring robust accountability for determining and implementing necessary improvements in service delivery pertaining to gender-based violence, harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health rights issues.

4 Legal Framework and Policies

The Government of Liberia has made significant commitments regarding Sexual Gender Based Violence, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Harmful Practices. These commitments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Liberia Constitution
- Pro-Poor Agenda for Development (PADP)
- Revised National Gender Policy (2018-2022)
- The National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to SGBV - Phase III
- National Anti-SGBV Roadmap (2018-22)
- Six-count policy on abolishing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Revised Public Health Law (currently under legislative review)
- The Domestic Relations Law
- The ratification and domestication of International Human Rights Laws
- The ratification of International Humanitarian Law
- The African Charter on Human and People's Rights
- The ratification and adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security
- Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW)
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



It is important to note that Liberia operates a dual legal system that recognizes both customary and statutory laws. However, this creates loopholes and potential conflicts in the interpretation and enforcement of the law. For instance, there is disagreement regarding the definition of the age of consent, early marriage, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) practices. The application of customary jurisprudence and traditional beliefs often leads to ambiguity in laws such as the Penal Code on Rape, the 2018 Land Rights Act, the 2019 Domestic Violence Act, and the Decent Work Act.

The lack of harmonization between these two legal systems adversely affects women and girls, compromising their personal, legal, physical, and economic security, thereby impeding progress. However, it is essential to strengthen efforts towards addressing the discrepancies between customary and statutory laws, as well as ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks, to safeguard the rights and well-being of women and girls in Liberia.

Recognizing this increased insecurity for women and girls during the pandemic, in September 2020, the government developed a two-year Anti-SGBV Road Map 2020-2022 in response to the increase in SGBV cases. The review of the final Accountability Mechanism also emphasized the need for the Law Reform Commission to review existing laws and address areas of concern.

Implementation Plan for Utilizing the GBV Accountability Framework



Figure 1 Implementation Plan for Utilizing the GBV Accountability Framework



5

Coordination & Promotion of Partnership amongst SGBV, SRH and HP Actors (See GBV Accountability Framework)

The Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection as lead shall introduce the GBV accountability framework as part of existing SGBV platforms such as SGBV taskforces, Gender, and Security Taskforces (at the national and county levels). The implementation of the Framework is coordinated and led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, which is also responsible for its implementation.

Also, partnership and coordination amongst actors will enhance service delivery and accountability to survivors and communities. Additionally, all, participating institutions are actively engaged and reporting on mandates and activities related to SGBV, SHR, HP utilizing the reporting tools developed as means of accountability (see GBVIMS and Kobo collect tool).

The Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) is the central reporting platform for all GBV related incidences. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection as the Custodian and administrator of the GBVIMS is responsible for the periodic analysis and dissemination of GBV data as well as the data management and security.

All convening's minutes and action points should be recorded and shared with other parties within the framework for reference. It is important to ensure the newly established cultural task force forms part of the SGBV task force to ensure the enforcement of the recent moratorium on groves closure and support operations.

The existing meeting schedules (e.g. monthly and quarterly) should be maintained and continue to monitor the situation and take appropriate action to support coordination and information sharing. County-level institutions will continue convening the meetings adhering to their existing Terms of Reference with the scope to include additional items if needed.

At the county level, the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection's County Offices are the focal point and lead on coordination in collaboration with other partners working on SGBV/SRHR/HP. The close collaboration between the county and national levels will enhance sharing of information, accountability and document lessons learned to improve prevention and response services.

In terms of legal prosecution, the Ministries of Health, Gender, Children and Social Protection as well as Justice, MoJ coordinate and monitor cases prosecution during the court proceeding while the Ministry of Gender will report to the SGBV Taskforce on status of case prosecutions.

Given the dynamic nature of the country, it is recommended that the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection liaise with newly formed structures and platforms that have mandates on SGBV/HP/SRHR to be included in the GBV Accountability Framework.

Efforts on coordination amongst actors are crucial for effective implementation of the GBV accountability framework.

Given the dynamic nature of the country, it is recommended that the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection establishes communication with newly formed structures and platforms that

have mandates on SGBV/HP/SRHR. Including these entities in the GBV Accountability Framework will ensure comprehensive coordination and maximize the effectiveness of efforts to address GBV.



6 Leadership

The government has a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of women and girls. It holds legal responsibility for ensuring the provision, coordination, and effective implementation of services addressing gender-based violence (GBV), harmful practices (HP), and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SHR). The responsibilities are outlined in the National Action Plan, which is divided into various pillars and allocated to different ministries. In this context, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MOGSCP) assumes a leadership role in implementing the GBV Accountability Framework in alignment with its mandate.

To effectively incorporate oversight of the SGBV Accountability Framework, it is necessary to integrate it into the scopes of work at the MOGSCP. The ministry should actively demonstrate the benefits of promoting and supporting the GBV accountability framework in policy and related programs through regular meetings and briefings with relevant stakeholders.

Through engagement with legislative bodies, the MOGSCP should advocate for budgetary allocations that support the operationalization and regular updates of the GBV accountability framework. These updates should reflect contextual changes, such as the renaming or restructuring of SGBV platforms and national/county-level mechanisms.



7 Commitment and Performance Management

This concerns the assurance of funding for the programmatic areas of line ministries related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SHR), and Health Promotion (HP). It is crucial to assess whether the direct funding aligns with SGBV/SHR/HP programs in order to ensure accountability. A clearly measurable performance matrix should be established and periodically evaluated through internal and external assessments.

To address gaps, such as information sharing, regular coaching and capacity building should be provided. Additionally, an effective forum for quarterly review and reflection at all levels of the GBV accountability framework needs to be established.

The Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, in consultation with other stakeholders involved in the GBV Accountability Framework, should be responsible for developing annual action plans. These plans will facilitate the monitoring of performance and identification of gaps. The creation of an effective forum for quarterly review and reflection at all levels of the GBV accountability framework.

The Ministry of Gender and Social Protection in consultation with other stakeholders, who are part of the GBV Accountability Framework, should ensure that annual action plans are developed to monitor performance and identify gaps.

8 Service Delivery

Different types of support services play a crucial role in addressing the diverse and intricate short-term, medium-term, and long-term needs of victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), while also ensuring accountability for perpetrators. In order to optimize the effectiveness of interventions, it is essential for key sectors such as law enforcement, judiciary, social protection/assistance, child protection, and healthcare to offer specialized services through a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach in the prevention and response to GBV, harmful practices, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues. These services should be easily accessible and delivered with the highest standards of quality.

9 Capacity Building

Capacity building is crucial for enhancing the quality and management of a multi-sectoral response to GBV/HP & SHR. To achieve this, comprehensive training programs should be offered to professionals across all sectors and at all levels. For instance, it is essential to integrate GBV training into public service providers such as the police, healthcare personnel, and court staff. These training initiatives should not only aim to develop the necessary skills

for an effective response to GBV/HP & SHR and promote accountable service provision, but also prioritize the transformation of attitudes and behaviors related to GBV/HP & SHR.

10 Sustainability

It is essential to work with community-based structures such as GBV Observatories and strengthen capacities to respond to and prevent SGBV. A key focus should be on creating a community-based peer network to facilitate information and resource sharing. Additionally, as part of sustainability measures, it is important to integrate SGBV, SRH, and HP within development agendas at county and national levels.

Moreover, the designated staff from various institutions should remain focal points over a longer period. In case of transition, it is crucial to ensure a systematic handover note format across institutions.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the MFDP allocates a budget line to support the implementation of the GBV accountability framework as a new budget item. This allocation would enable the undertaking of the different measures outlined.

Lastly, it is further recommended that all Gender focal points named in the Framework TORs be reviewed to reflect the GBV accountability framework for the long-term. This adjustment would minimize high turnover and ensure the effectiveness of the framework.

11 Key Actors

The GBV framework recognizes the involvement of various actors, including international, national, and community-level institutions. The strategic workshop conducted in October 2022 with government partners highlighted the existing gaps and challenges in implementing a multi-level sectoral approach to address these issues. Additionally, the unfunded mandates of government institutions contribute to the limited implementation of their responsibilities.

As such, the Liberian government is designated as the lead entity responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of women, girls, and marginalized groups from SGBV, SHR, and HP, aligning with policy commitments. The Ministries of Gender, Children & Social Protection, Health, and Justice are specifically identified within the Executive Branch as essential institutions. Other relevant ministries include Youth & Sports, Education, National Defense & the Armed Forces of Liberia, Information and Cultural Affairs, Internal Affairs, and Finance & Development Planning. Additionally, the Judiciary and the committees on Gender and Human Rights within the Legislature are considered vital.

Given its legal responsibility for service delivery, the government assumes lead accountability. Gender focal points from each institution play a crucial role in the GBV framework, representing their respective agencies and ensuring accountability.

The inter-ministerial committee is a key coordinating structure within the government, responsible for making commitments, providing leadership, and enforcing accountability among line ministries. The national SGBV Taskforce, inter-agency Multi-Task Force, and other National Level Mechanisms serve as additional coordination mechanisms for receiving updates, conducting periodic reviews, publishing reports, and taking action accordingly. The Gender Security Taskforce is also recognized as a multi-sectoral mechanism that advances SGBV from a women peace and security perspective. Encouraging cooperation with joint security at the county level is important for information sharing on suspected and alleged perpetrators of SGBV cases.

Furthermore, it is recommended to include the Legislature in the GBV accountability framework. Legislators have a crucial role to play in law development, government accountability, and oversight related to SGBV, SHR, and HP. They are well-positioned to make unique contributions to the prevention and response efforts. As overseers of the national budget, legislators can ensure adequate budget allocations and hold the government accountable to international and national frameworks. They can achieve this by adopting and enforcing legislation, policies, and practices that prevent violence and other forms of violations against women and girls' rights. Additionally, legislators should actively engage specific committees such as Gender, Health, and Budget periodically to promote the rights of women and girls and exercise their oversight roles effectively.

12 Judiciary and Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice and the Judiciary play a crucial role in the legal response to sexual and gender-based violence (S/GBV). The Judiciary serves as the final authority in civil and criminal cases, granting them the power to sanction perpetrators and send a clear message to the community that such actions will not be tolerated. Their role in ensuring access to justice and protecting the rights of women and girls is of paramount importance. By consistently and promptly enforcing laws, they can safeguard the rights of victims and hold perpetrators accountable. In cases where judges must exercise their discretion in the administration of justice, they should prioritize the best interests of the victim.

Furthermore, when establishing courtroom policies and procedures, judges should prioritize gender-sensitive approaches. These policies should ensure the protection of victims during their testimony, provide safe access for victims, and ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, it is recommended to include the Law Reform Commission in the process, as they can periodically assess the adequacy of existing laws and make necessary legal reviews for potential reforms.



13 Development partners and IFIs



Development partners play a crucial role in funding initiatives and supporting development in the country. Their contributions include financial support, technical assistance, ensuring compliance measures, assessing resource performance and program interventions, and monitoring program implementation. However, it is essential to acknowledge power dynamics that can influence the relationship between grantee and funder. When designing programs, it is important to engage in conversations with grantees and communities to address these dynamics and ensure local buy-in. Context-specific interventions that address structural issues should be prioritized, valuing local competencies and supporting sustainable local initiatives.

The Paris Declaration (2015) provides a roadmap for improving funding relationships and enhancing development impact. To promote aid effectiveness, certain principles need to be included, such as ownership, alignment, harmonization, results, and mutual accountability. The Development Coordination Framework and Paris Development Aid Coordination are vital for implementing these principles.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) have significant influence over major economic policies and decisions affecting the lives of Liberians, particularly women. However, the emphasis placed by IFIs on private sector development and support for private concessions and agribusinesses often neglects the gender needs and interests of women, as well as their roles in these sectors.

To address this, IFIs should have a thorough understanding of the local policy context, especially regarding gender, when making policy recommendations. Gender representation

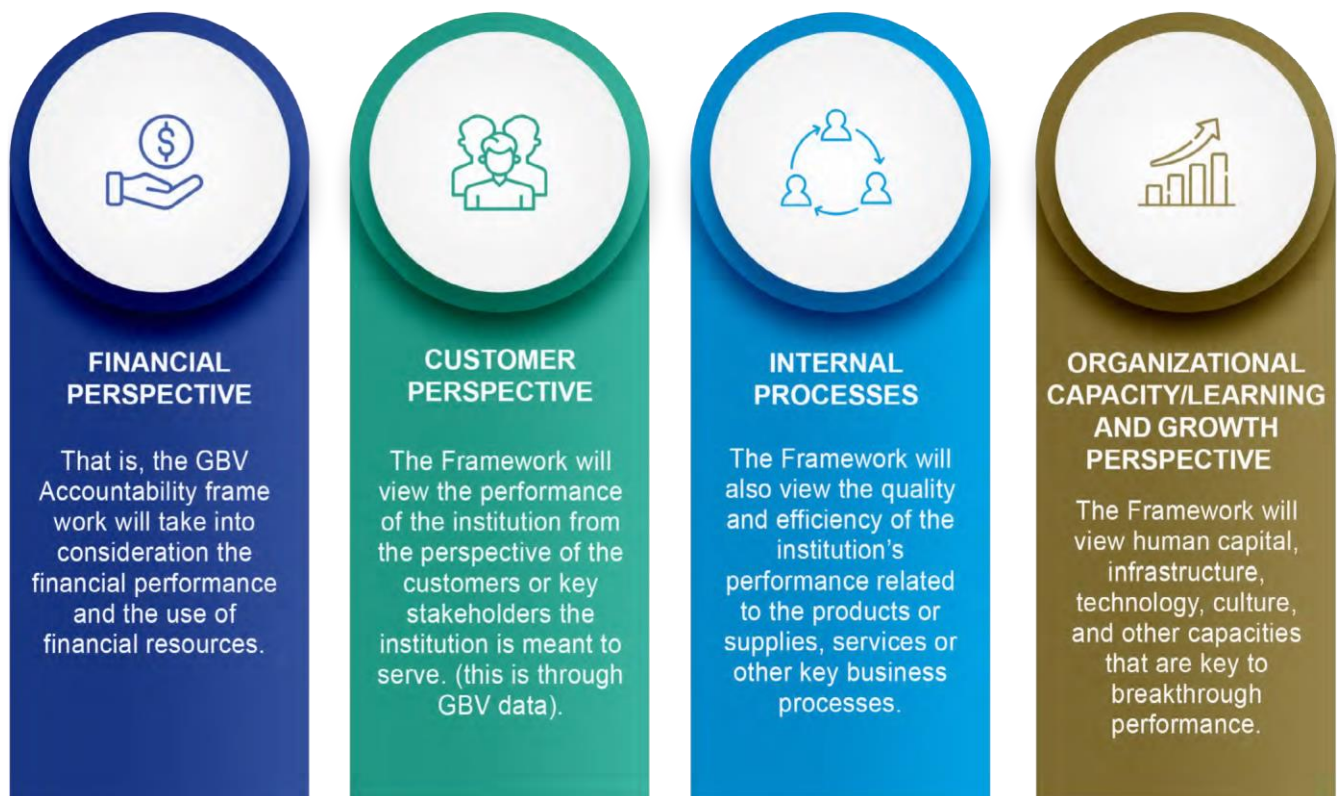
and expertise should also be included in working group bodies to ensure a more inclusive approach.

14 Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role as watchdogs in society, while also providing essential services to communities. They monitor and engage with public actors, holding government ministries accountable for their progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). CSOs also ensure the implementation of protective laws and advocate for legal and policy reforms when deficits are found. To measure the performance of actors in the gender-based violence (GBV) accountability framework, a scorecard system should be established to assess implementation. The Balanced scorecard is a strategic planning and management system to:

- Communicate what the GBV accountability framework is trying to accomplish.
- Align the day-to-day work that everyone is doing with framework.
- Prioritize projects, products and services.
- Measure and monitor progress towards the strategic targets. (This is where GBV reporting is paramount).

The Balanced score card suggests that we examine the organization from four different perspectives to help develop objectives, measure KPIs (Key Performance Indicators are measurable goals set by the institution which help track the progress in a particular area), and targets. The four perspectives are as follows:



The data pillar will be key in influencing decisions and for the GBV accountability framework to be collectively exhaustive, reporting on GBV data is paramount. Reporting on the GBV data falls under the Customer perspective in the Scorecard as this perspective monitors how the

entity is providing value to its customers (Survivors) and determines the level of Survivor satisfaction through the number of Survivors accessing the services provided. With GBV reporting, the framework will enable the entity to establish baselines find benchmarks and set performance goals to keep moving forward in addressing GBV issues but most importantly, survivor satisfaction will be an indicator of the entity's success.

The African Development Bank (AFDB) recognizes the significance of engaging with civil society to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. President Akinwumi Adesina has emphasized this engagement since the beginning of his mandate, and the bank has reaffirmed its commitment to mainstreaming civil society by establishing a new department dedicated to gender, women, and civil society, along with a division specifically focused on civil society engagement.

CSOs also have the responsibility of monitoring government ministries to ensure they report on their progress and achievements regarding international obligations. Regular reports to the relevant bodies are crucial for demonstrating compliance with agreements and commitments. Furthermore, CSOs engage with governments to promote the adoption of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) initiatives, ensuring gender sensitivity and analysis within the national budget. CSOs document and monitor the implementation of national action plans as well. It is important for CSOs to be accountable for adhering to national and donor regulations, and they should maintain transparency in their operations and provide regular reports.



15 Media



The media plays a crucial role in preventing and addressing gender-based violence (GBV) by raising awareness, promoting accountability, and supporting survivors. Responsible reporting is of utmost importance, and media organizations should adopt guidelines and ethical standards for reporting on GBV cases. Sensitivity and empathy must be prioritized to ensure that victims and survivors are not retraumatized or stigmatized through media coverage. Protecting their privacy and confidentiality, avoiding victim-blaming language, and refraining from sensationalizing or exploiting incidents are essential aspects of responsible reporting.

Education and awareness are key in combating GBV, and media platforms can play a significant role in this regard. They can educate the public about GBV, its root causes, and the impact on individuals and society. Through news articles, documentaries, radio programs, and social media campaigns, the media can provide accurate information and challenge harmful stereotypes, working towards changing societal attitudes towards GBV and promoting gender equality.

Addressing the root causes of GBV is a critical role for the media. By exploring the underlying causes such as gender inequality, harmful cultural norms, and social norms that perpetuate violence, the media can contribute to changing attitudes and behaviors that lead to GBV. In-depth coverage and encouraging critical discussions can shed light on these issues and promote necessary change.

Holding institutions accountable is another important responsibility of the media. Media outlets can investigate and report on cases of institutional failures in addressing GBV, including within the justice system, law enforcement, and support services. By bringing these failures to

light, the media can create public pressure for reforms, improved services, and enhanced accountability for perpetrators.

16 Community Level Structures

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) serve as a vital link between communities and formal institutions, bridging the gap and ensuring that the needs and concerns of community members are heard and addressed. CBOs work closely with local leaders, community members, and other stakeholders to challenge harmful cultural norms and practices that perpetuate GBV. They engage in awareness-raising activities, sensitization campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives to promote gender equality, respect, and empathy within the community. By challenging these norms, CBOs play a significant role in shifting attitudes and behaviors that contribute to GBV.

GBV Observatories serve as important community structures dedicated to monitoring, documenting, and reporting incidents of GBV. These observatories work closely with NGOs, CBOs, and county Gender offices, community members, including survivors, to gather data and evidence on GBV cases. They provide a platform for survivors to share their experiences and seek justice. GBV Observatories also collaborate with law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a coordinated response to SGBV cases. By establishing effective reporting mechanisms, GBV Observatories enable survivors to access essential support services and hold perpetrators accountable.



In addition to their preventative efforts, community structures also play a critical role in establishing feedback and complaint mechanisms. These mechanisms enable community members to voice their concerns, share experiences, and hold accountable those responsible for addressing GBV. By creating safe spaces for community members to come forward, community structures facilitate the reporting of incidents, ensuring that survivors' voices are heard and validated. They ensure that community concerns are channeled to higher-level structures, such as local government bodies or national authorities, for appropriate action and systemic change.

When it comes to responding to cases of SGBV, community structures bear the responsibility of providing immediate support to survivors. They often work in collaboration with healthcare providers, legal professionals, and social workers to ensure survivors' physical, psychological, and legal needs are met. By facilitating access to medical care, counseling services, legal aid, and safe shelters, community structures contribute significantly to the recovery and well-being of survivors.

Overall, GBV accountability within community structures is crucial for addressing and combating GBV effectively. These structures, such as CBOs and GBV Observatories, serve as the frontline agents of change, challenging harmful cultural norms, providing feedback mechanisms, establishing complaint mechanisms, and responding to SGBV cases. By fulfilling these responsibilities, community structures not only improve the situation of women, girls, and vulnerable groups but also create a safer, more inclusive society for all.

17 Duration

It is expected that the current GBV accountability framework will be in operation for a minimum of 5 years; to be reviewed annually to ensure relevance.

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Terms of Reference: Development of the GBV Accountability Framework

GBV Accountability Mechanism/Framework

