



# BUDGETING FOR PEACE II

A COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS



Forum for Women  
in Democracy

## BUDGETING FOR PEACE

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# FOREWORD

**Patricia Munabi  
Babiiha**  
Executive Director



Violence especially against women and girls continues to plague Ugandan society and has become a pandemic in itself. Women and girls' voices, leadership and participation have been weakened by violence. Women are disproportionately affected by violence due to intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities. VAWG impedes human development and results in significant immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and psychological consequences, often hindering their full participation in society. Failure to effectively address VAWG undermines Uganda's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The protection of women's rights is enshrined in Uganda's constitution, other national instruments such as the National Gender Policy (2007), the National GBV Policy (2016), the Domestic Violence Act (2010), the Anti-female Genital Mutilation Act (2010), the Children's Act (2016), and supplemented by our obligations under international instruments/frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), etc.

Despite the existence of all these policy frameworks and several initiatives by civil society actors, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains a major challenge in Uganda. According to the 2023 annual Police Crime Report, 127 women were killed as a result of aggravated domestic violence. In the same period, 15,309 persons were victims of Sex-related crimes with 85% of them being female. The police also recorded over 12,700 cases of defilement and 1,577 cases of rape.

The plight of women and girls is glaring and represents a major challenge for the nation. Despite the inclusion of objectives and goals around the elimination of VAWG in key national documents such as the third National Development Plan (NDP-III), we have seen no major shifts in resourcing to address this vice. While objective iv of the Community Mobilization and Mindset Change programme (CMMC) is to “reduce negative cultural practices and attitudes”, the programme has suffered an over 90% funding gap throughout the lifespan of the NDP-III.

In the pursuit of new approaches to influence the prioritization of budgeting to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, FOWODE in 2021 conducted the first pioneering phase of this study in Western Uganda (Kabale and Sheema districts). Piloting the novel approach of establishing a cost-benefit analysis the study revealed a staggering cost of approximately UGX 164 billion incurred by communities in these two districts alone.

In consideration of the success achieved by the initial study, FOWODE sought resources from our development partners to expand this into a national study. Similarly with the initial study, this report examines the funding and programming trends related to VAWG and provides a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis showing costs incurred by individuals, families and communities as a result of the existing gaps in financing for and implementation of government programmes aimed at eliminating VAWG.

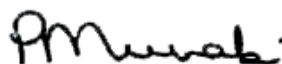
It’s evident that neither the current programming nor funding for the prevention and response to VAWG at community level matches its magnitude and associated

costs. Budgeting for elimination of VAWG at national, district, and subcounty levels by designing and funding prevention and response programmes will go a long way in not only reducing incidences of all forms of VAWG but also in reducing its costs borne by individuals and households.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to this study—researchers, field officers, local government officials, and participants from the communities — who generously shared their insights and experiences. Special thanks are also due to our partners and funders, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Womankind Worldwide and Hewlett Foundation, whose financial support made this research possible.

Finally, this report concludes with actionable recommendations aimed at policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders committed to addressing VAWG in Uganda. Our hope is that the evidence generated by this report will be taken up by the government and other key stakeholders to inform budgeting and the design of programmes for the elimination of VAWG. We look forward to a future free of violence for women and girls to enable them freely and fully participate in national development.

I believe that you will find the information in the following pages useful, meaningful, and worth your time.



**Patricia Munabi Babiiha**

Executive Director, Forum for Women in Democracy



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# LIST OF ACRONYMS/ ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BFPs</b>	Budget Framework Papers
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CFPU</b>	Child and Family Protection Unit
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>DLGs</b>	District Local Governments
<b>DPP</b>	Director of Public Prosecutions
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>FOWODE</b>	Forum for Women in Democracy
<b>FYs</b>	Financial Years
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>JLOS</b>	Justice, Law and Order Sector
<b>KI</b>	Key Informant
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>LGs</b>	Local Governments
<b>LLGs</b>	Lower Local Governments
<b>MDAs</b>	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
<b>MFPED</b>	Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development
<b>MGLSD</b>	Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MPSs</b>	Ministerial Policy Statements

<b>NDPIII</b>	Third National Development Plan
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>NSA</b>	Non-State Actors
<b>ODK</b>	Open Data Kit
<b>PLA</b>	Participatory Learning and Appraisal
<b>PPS</b>	Probability Proportional to Size
<b>PWDs</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
<b>SMT</b>	Senior Male Teacher
<b>SoPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures
<b>SWT</b>	Senior Woman Teacher
<b>TASO</b>	The AIDS Support Organization
<b>UBOS</b>	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>UDHR</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>UDHS</b>	Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
<b>UGX</b>	Uganda Shillings
<b>UNCST</b>	Uganda National Council of Science and Technology
<b>UNFPA</b>	The United Nations Population Fund
<b>UPF</b>	Uganda Police Force
<b>VAC</b>	Violence Against Children
<b>VACiS</b>	Violence Against Children in Schools
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls





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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the absence of Positive Peace, reduced spending on violence prevention will likely result in higher costs from violence (IEP, 2024). Peace has a price that needs to be paid if it is to be established and sustained. This 2nd edition of FOWODE's Budgeting for Peace Study in Uganda examines the nature of funding and programming associated with Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) at the national and local government (LG) levels. The study sought to establish and analyze the nature of funding and programming associated with VAWG in the districts of Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero, Lyantonde, and Masindi, as well as at the national level. Also assessed were the costs and benefits of budgeting for the elimination of VAWG, with a focus on the effects of violence on women and girls at the individual, household, community, and state levels.

The Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020 shows that the lifetime prevalence of intimate partner physical violence is 45%, with 16% reporting severe violence. Sexual violence stands at 36%, with forced sexual intercourse being the most common. Fifty five percent (55%) of ever-partnered women experienced emotional abuse. Similarly, the 2023 Ugandan Police Crime Report highlights the persistent nature of VAWG/GBV, with 14,681 domestic violence cases reported. This study, therefore, seeks to close the knowledge gap on the costs of VAWG on individuals, households, communities, and the nation.

This study seeks to close the knowledge gap on the costs and benefits of budgeting for VAWG at local and national levels. The study analysed the funding patterns in JLOS (focus on police and ODPP), Health, Education and Social Development Sectors. Local Government level analysis was done in the six districts of Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero, Lyantonde,



and Masindi. This analysis provides recommendations for advocacy to ensure that effective budgeting addresses VAWG/GBV concerns in planning and budgeting.

Additionally, the study assessed the monetary costs of the effects of VAWG at the individual and household levels, including the costs of physical violence, sexual violence, economic or financial violence, and psychological and emotional violence.

The study employed mixed approaches, combining participatory learning and action tools with quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. The study employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. The total administered questionnaires were 402 out of 384 (104.7%), of which 71.2% (42 out of 59) were Key Informant Interviews (KIs) and 24 FGDs that interviewed 144 participants. The study's response rate was 100.2% (588 of 587).

The study found that Government devoted a paltry UGX. 77 billion (0.0015%) of the FY 2023–2024 budget on VAWG/GBV interventions. The direct budgetary allocation for GBV in the national MPSs and BFPs analysed was UGX 7.525 billion. The examination of the LG BFPs and work plans revealed a dismal contribution of UGX. 1.534 billion for VAWG/GBV, demonstrating the same inadequate funding for investigation and prosecution. Government's VAWG response and prevention, includes community awareness and sensitization interventions. At household/individual level, Ugandans lose UGX. 31.3117 trillion or 15.5% of the country's GDP, to VAWG/GBV with transport, treatment of VAWG/GBV injury and infections, referral, follow-up, sexual and reproductive health services, divorce and separation, legal services, and death related costs.

Additionally, the analysis across four fiscal years (2021–2021, 2022–2023, and 2023–24) revealed declining investment by Government of Uganda in VAWG, increasing costs to individuals and households. Government spent UGX 7.525 billion on VAWG in the Education, Health, JLOS, and Social Development sectors, Relatedly, national and Local Government plans and budgets lacked gender indicators which may explain the generally held view by technical officers at national and LG levels of VAWG/GBV as a crosscutting issue that is addressed in other budgets and/or gender and equity obligations of ministry, departments, and authorities (MDAs) and local governments. An EPRC (2024) policy brief echoes this finding, noting that the lack of gender sensitive indicators and targets complicates efforts to track and measure the impact of Government programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment. The study provides some key recommendations below:



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.** Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFPED) needs to create a budget code for VAWG/GBV in their chart of accounts to track government expenditure on VAWG. Relatedly, all Government development plans should have gender indicators, targets, and activities, and budgets.
- 2.** Government, civil society and development partners should ringfence specific funds for VAWG-related programs directly targeting victims of VAWG.
- 3.** Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) should strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-partner coordination for VAWG prevention and response to maximize use of available funds.
- 4.** MGLSD, in collaboration with MFPED, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), LGs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Development partners should invest in mindset change through existing structures for addressing VAWG.
- 5.** MGLSD, CSOs and Development Partners need to work in coordination to build the capacity of VAWG service providers to improve standards, ethics, and respect for human rights and safety of survivors.
- 6.** MGLSD, MoH, MoES, LGs, Uganda Police Force (UPF), CSOs and Development Partners should improve gender & VAWG reporting through publicization of toll-free hotlines, online platforms dedicated apps, websites, suggestion boxes, and confidential reporting systems in health facilities and other locations to encourage victims to report incidents.
- 7.** Link the existing GBVMIS and hotlines like Sauti 116 to improve real time reporting, handling, tracking, and management of GBV cases at LG level.





# Section 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Overview

Peace means different things to different people, with some understanding it to be the absence of war. However, for many women and girls, it means a life free of violence where their bodily integrity is respected. VAWG, on top of its negative social impact, also has an economic impact on a nation or society. A 2017 World Bank study estimates that GBV incidents cost the Ugandan economy over \$77 billion for addressing its negative effects. It is estimated that healthcare providers spend about UGX 18.3 billion annually, while police and local councils invest approximately UGX 32.2 billion to deal with the effects of GBV. While we acknowledge that VAWG has implications for women's health and well-being, there exists limited knowledge and data on the cost-benefit analysis of VAWG on individuals, households, communities, and the nation at large.

To contribute to closing this knowledge gap, Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) commissioned this study titled *Budgeting for Peace*, to explore and assess the ways in which the Government of Uganda plans and budgets for interventions aimed at preventing and managing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). The study gives preliminary review findings on the nature of funding, programming and a trends analysis of VAWG at national level in the Justice Law and Order, Education, and Social Development sectors, and local government level (*Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero, Lyantonde and Masindi districts*). This research expands on a previous study undertaken by FOWODE in the districts of Kabale and Sheema in Western Uganda which estimated the true cost of GBV/VAWG to communities at UGX.164 billion (FOWODE, 2021).

The study examines funding allocations on VAWG and undertakes a budget trend analysis for each of the chosen sectors over four financial years (FYs): FY-2020/21, FY-2021/22, FY-2022/23, and FY-2023/24. Also identified are sector responsiveness to VAWG, with a particular focus on shaping interventions that seek to create public awareness about the vice. The study also reflects on the effectiveness and functionality of the various interventions designed to protect women and girls from violence. Some of the key obstacles are highlighted and key recommendations suggested.

## 1.2 Background

Uganda is signatory to and has ratified several international and regional instruments on human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). All the protocols emphasize the need to protect the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, girls, and children. These international instruments complement national laws and policies on human rights that include the 1995 Constitution, the National Gender Policy (2007), the National GBV Policy (2016), the Domestic Violence Act (2010), the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Act (2010), and the Children's Act (2016).

Despite the existence of all these policies and legal frameworks, VAWG remains a major challenge in Uganda (UBOS, 2021). According to the National Survey on Violence in Uganda Report 2021, the lifetime prevalence of intimate partner physical violence among ever-partnered women was 45% and 16% of the ever-partnered women reported severe physical violence. The lifetime prevalence of intimate partner sexual violence was 36%; the most frequent act of sexual violence was women physically forced to have sexual intercourse (29%). The lifetime prevalence of physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner was 56%. Fifty five percent (55%) of the ever-partnered women had experienced any act of emotional abuse in their lifetime. Almost all women (95%) had experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by partners or non-partners, since the age of 15. The most vulnerable to physical violence by non-partners include married women whose dowry/bride price was not paid (77%), and women who earn money (85%). The prevalence of childhood sexual abuse in Uganda is quite high, at 59%.<sup>1</sup>

The same report noted that the reported level of sexual violence by non-partners was 55% and about half of the women in Uganda (47%) face economic violence. Two in every ten women (23%) are forced to give their earnings to their partners, one in every ten women (10%) gave up paid jobs because their partners refused them to work while one-quarter of the women (25%) had their partners refuse to give them money for household expenses. Although 50% of the women that had been stalked did not understand whether stalking is a crime or not, 26% had been stalked, 97% stalked by a man and 51% stalked by more than one person. In the majority of settings, women who had ever experienced physical or sexual partner violence, or both, were significantly more likely to report symptoms of ill health than women who had never experienced such violence. They were also more likely to report pain or discomfort (58%). About half of the women (49%) reported to have ever been involved in online harassment. Women in rural areas are more likely to report online harassment (52%)

1 Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). (2021). Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020. Kampala, Uganda.





compared to women in urban areas (41%). Nine in every ten women (92%) faced online harassment via social networking sites/apps.

Four out of every ten women who had been physically abused by their partner had never sought help from formal services or individuals in a position of authority, including village elders (UBOS, 2021). About half (48%) of women who had been physically abused by their partners had ever left for at least one night. Women who had left home usually stayed with relatives and to a lesser extent with friends or neighbors. In all settings, women who had ever experienced physical or sexual partner violence, or both, reported significantly higher levels of emotional distress and were more likely to have thought of suicide or to have attempted suicide, than were women who had never experienced partner violence.<sup>2</sup>

The police annual crime report 2023 provides highlights of VAWG/GBV offences and interventions taken by the Justice Law and Order Sector (see Annex 1). Of the 15,309 victims of sex related crimes, 13,087 (85%) were girls, 312 (2%) were boys, 1687 (11%) were women while 223 (1.5%) were men. The report also shows that of the 14,846 sex related cases registered, 6,395 cases were taken to court, 4,872 cases are still pending in court and 1,015 cases secured convictions. Of the total number of defilement cases reported to police (12,771), 5,564 were taken to court, 2,402 did not proceed and 940 cases secured convictions.<sup>3</sup> It is clear that girls in Uganda are highly disadvantaged, calling for urgent and targeted interventions if Uganda's dreams of reaping the demographic dividend<sup>4</sup> are not to turn into unmitigated disaster. Examining Uganda's plans and budgets is the best way of understanding how committed Government is about cultivating a Uganda which is free from violence for women and girls.

The economic consequences of VAWG that are documented in Uganda are consistent with the documented results of similar studies that have sought to estimate the cost of violence against women in a range of countries. The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR, 2017) highlights costs related to VAWG to include law enforcement, health care, and lost productivity, mirroring the multi-dimensional economic burden profiled in Uganda. UN Women (2016) further notes that incidents of VAWG have led to debilitating legal and healthcare that may result in reduced incomes and productivity. A 2016 KPMG study in Australia echoed this position, noting that the VAWG has immediate financial costs in addition to lost productivity over the long run.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> UPF Official Annual Crime Report 2023

<sup>4</sup> Refers to the accelerated economic growth that may result from a decline in a country's mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population (National Population Council, 2018, Uganda's Demographic Dividend Roadmap).



## 1.3 Policy framework for VAWG

Uganda is signatory to international global and regional instruments that are relevant to addressing and responding to VAWG. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), International Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC). Some of the regional instruments include the Maputo Protocol and the Goma Declaration on Eradicating Sexual Violence (2008). Some of the relevant national laws in place to address VAWG include the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda as amended, the Children Act (1998), the Children (Amendment) Act (2016), the Domestic Violence Act (2010) and its Regulations (2011). Others include the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (2010) and its regulations (2013), the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009, the Penal Code Act (2007), the Employment Act (2006), the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment Regulations (2012), Prevention of Torture Act, (2012) and the Penal Code Act Cap 120.

There are also in place several plans and policies to address VAWG, including the National Gender Policy (2007), the National Policy on Gender-Based Violence in Uganda (2016), the National Plan of Action for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children (2019-2030). Also, the National child labor policy (2020), the National Action Plan on Women (2008), the National Referral Pathway for Prevention and Response to GBV Cases in Uganda (2013), the National Guidelines for Establishment and Management of GBV Shelters in Uganda (2018), and the National Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, and Goma Declaration.

Even against the backdrop of a strong policy framework and increased support to GBV/VAWG programmes, the Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey (2020) notes that it may be difficult to translate these commitments into action without additional funding. Furthermore, the dissemination and implementation of these policies and laws have been largely ineffective.



## 1.4 Purpose and objectives of the study

### 1.4.1 Purpose of the study

The study sought to assess the cost-benefit analysis of budgeting for the peace of women and girls against violence at national and local government levels.

### 1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were:

- i) To establish and analyze the nature of funding/programming (including a trends analysis) associated with VAWG in Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero, Lyantonde and Masindi districts, and at the National Level.
- ii) To conduct a cost-benefit analysis of budgeting for the elimination of VAWG (looking at the effects of violence on women and girls) on individuals, households, communities, and the State.
- iii) To generate key recommendations for advocacy aimed at ensuring that budgets effectively address the peace needs of women and girls.

## 1.5 Socio-Demographic Description of the Respondents

Ages of the respondents: 246 out of the 402 respondents (61.2%) were females, while 156 (38.8%) were males. The respondents were aged 25-34 (38.3%); 15-24 (29.4%); 35-44 (19.2%); and 45-59 (13.2%).

Relationship with the household head: 27.6% were household heads; 29.6% of the respondents were wives; 16.7% were husbands; 10.7% were daughters, 8.2% were sons, 1.5% were grandchildren. Among the respondents, 1.2% were identified as the household head's mother-in-law and nephew, respectively; 0.7% were other relatives and sister-in-law; 0.5% were niece and non-relative; and 0.2% (1 out of 402) were servants, brother-in-law, and father-in-law.

Marital status: 66.2% of the respondents had a partner, 13.7% never had a partner, 13.2% had a partner in the past, 5.5% were separated from their partners and 1.5% were divorced.

Children: 76.9% (309) of the respondents had children while 23.1% (93) had no children. Of those that had children, the average number of children per household was 3.88.



The education level: 26.6% of the respondents had partly attended primary school, while 17.2% completed; 22.9% attended some classes at O'level while 21.4% completed O'level and above. 10.9% had no formal education while 1% (4) did not know their level of education.

Employment status: 35.6% of the respondents were self-employed; 23.6% engaged in agriculture, and 10.4% unemployed (in school), 9.5% were employed, 7.5% were engaged in housekeeping, 2.2% were engaged in other occupations and 1.2% were working and studying.

## 1.6 Conceptual framework for cost-benefit analysis of VAWG

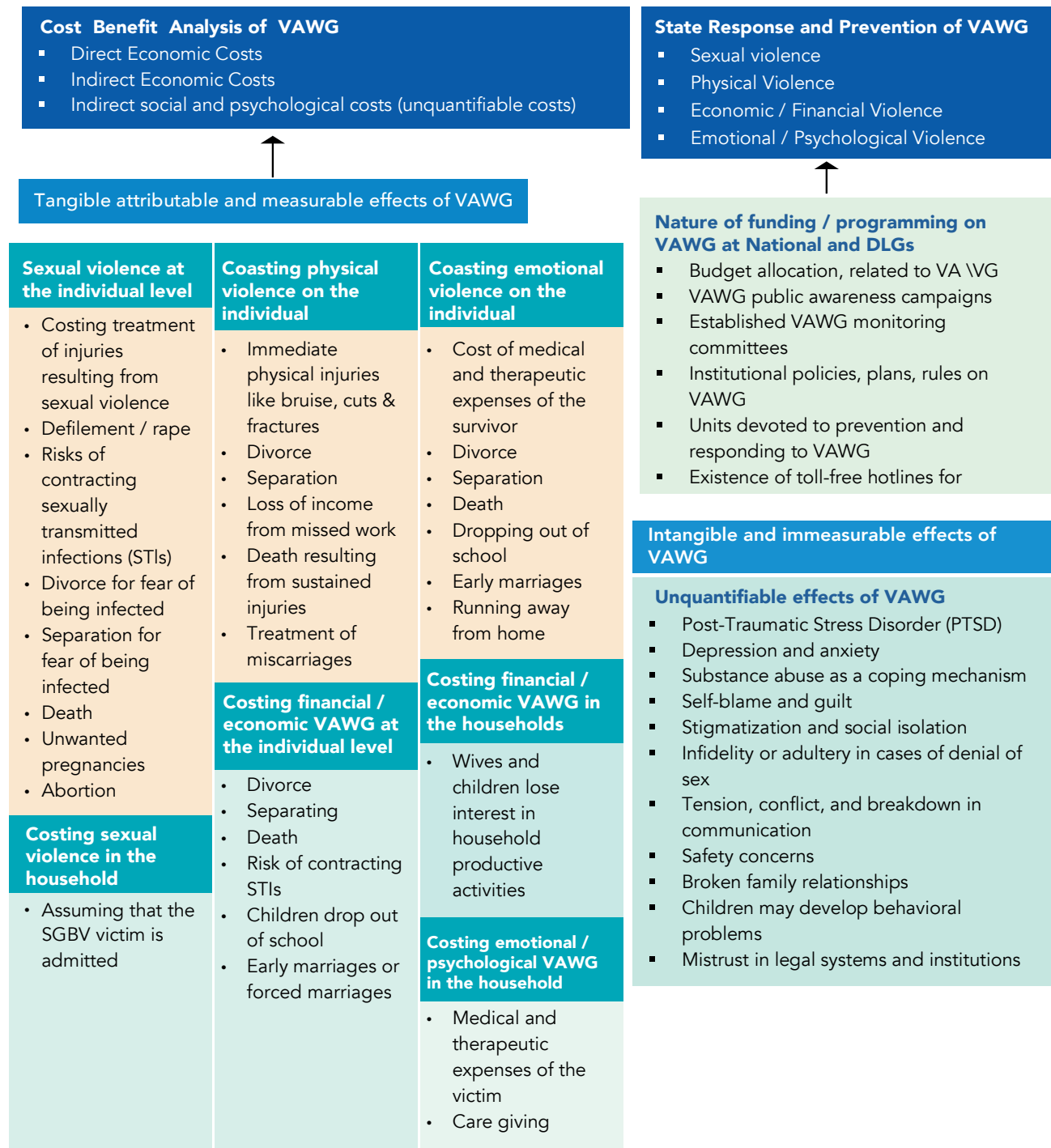
The cost-benefit analysis of VAWG has both direct and indirect costs. These include tangible (attributable and measurable) and intangible (immeasurable) costs (USAID, 2017; Max, Rice, and Mackenzie, 1990). As defined by Max, Rice, and Mackenzie (1990), direct costs include costs associated with the value of goods and services used in treating and preventing violence, while indirect costs refer to the value of goods and services lost because of violence.

Objective i of this study necessitated establishing and analyzing the nature of funding and programming (including a trend analysis) associated with VAWG/GBV in the districts of Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero, Lyantonde and Masindi, and at national level, covering Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS), education, health, and social development sectors. The analysis focused on four financial years (FY-2020/21, FY-2021/22, FY-2022/23, and FY-2023/24).

Objective ii of the study required the conducting of a cost-benefit analysis of budgeting for the elimination of VAWG/GBV on individuals, households, communities, and the State. Specifically, the study assessed the tangible, attributable, and measurable direct and indirect costs of physical, sexual, economic, psychological and emotional violence. VAWG/GBV has a triple ripple economic effect at the individual, household, and community levels. Governments also incur expenses in preventing and mitigating the impacts of violence (ISSER et al., 2019).



Figure 1: The conceptual framework that guided the study analysis



## 1.7 Approach and methodology

**Methodology & Design:** The study applied mixed methods, namely a) quantitative: numerical ratings reflecting the level of the current situation are given and b) qualitative where short narratives to triangulate quantitative findings given. The study employed an exploratory research design.

**Study Population:** The study population at the national level included key resource persons from the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Uganda Police Force, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The district-level stakeholders consulted included district planners, probation and welfare officers, education officers, health officers, district police personnel, state attorneys, district-based judicial officers, lower local government officials, and community members (women, girls, men, and boys) in *Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero, Lyantonde and Masindi districts*.

**Sample size and response rate:** A multi-stage simple random sampling technique was used to representatively select community members (women, girls, men and boys) that participated in the quantitative arm of the study across the six districts (See Annexes 2 and 3 for details). The results show that 104.7% (402 out of 384) questionnaires were administered, 71.2% (42 out of 59) Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted, and 100% (144 of 144) FGD participants interviewed across 24 FGDs. The overall response rate was 100.2% (588 of 587) respondents registered in the study.

### Quality Assurance, Data Analysis:

- 1) **Data Quality Assurance and Ethical Considerations:** FOWODE held an inception meeting with the consultant to agree on the study parameters. Audio recordings were made of KIIs and FGDs, quantitative data collected electronically, research assistants trained, and a pilot test conducted to test the study tools. **The FOWODE team also reviewed and validated the report. The key ethical and safety principles in this study included securing introductory letters from FOWODE, seeking consent from participants, and anonymous reporting.**
- 2) **Data Analysis:** The study used thematic approaches in qualitative data analysis and synthesis (i.e. to present main themes and sub-themes, explanation building, and conclusions), discourse analysis, and content analysis techniques. The quantitative data analysis utilized SPSS-21 to generate descriptive statistics.





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## Section

## 2

# FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This section highlights the key findings of the study, starting out by laying out the key forms of VAWG. It proceeds to examine effectiveness and functionality of VAWG funding and programming at individual, local government and national level, followed by a cost benefit analysis.

## 2.1 The main forms of VAWG

While unequal power relations between perpetrators and survivors were highlighted as a root cause of violence, their triggers varied. The main forms of VAWG that were identified in the study were physical, sexual, economic, and emotional/psychological violence and are explained below.

### Physical violence

Physical violence occurs when one uses physical force to cause fear or harm a partner. Uganda National Survey on Violence Report (2021) shows that 16% of the ever-partnered women have suffered severe physical violence. Furthermore, 4 in 10 (43%) of the women who had been physically abused by their partner never sought help from formal services or individuals in a position of authority (e.g. village leaders). Physical violence includes beating, burning, kicking, boxing, cutting, shooting, biting, etc. About half (48%) of women who had been physically abused by their partners had ever left for at least one night. Women who left home usually stayed with relatives and to a lesser extent with friends or neighbors. In all settings, women who had ever experienced physical or sexual partner violence, or both, reported significantly higher levels of emotional distress and were more likely to have thought of suicide or to have attempted suicide, than were women who had never experienced partner violence.

### Sexual violence

Sexual violence refers to any harmful or unwanted sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act through violence or coercion. It includes rape, defilement, harassment, marital rape and sex denial, among other acts. National Violence Against Children Survey (2018) shows that 25% of girls aged 13-17 years reported sexual violence in the year preceding the study, with violence mainly occurring in homes, on the road





and at school. Thirty-five percent of girls aged 18-24 reported experiencing sexual violence during their childhood, including 11% of girls having been pressured or forced to have sex. Relatedly, the Uganda National Violence survey (2021), indicates that 36% of women experience intimate partner sexual violence in their lifetime with most frequent act physically forced sexual intercourse. As a result of this violence, about 28% of girls aged 18-24 and 25% of those aged 13-17 missed school.

## Economic violence

The Domestic Violence Act 2010 defines economic violence as deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources the victim is entitled to under any law or custom, whether payable under an order of a court or otherwise or which the victim requires out of necessity. Uganda National Violence survey (2021), show that about half of the women in Uganda (47%) face economic violence. It further indicated that 2 in 2 every 10 women (23%) are forced to give their earnings to their partners, one in every ten women (10%) gave up paid jobs because their partners refused them to work while one-quarter of the women (25%) had their partners refuse to give them money for household expenses.

## Emotional/psychosocial violence

According to the Domestic Violence Act 2010, emotional/psychosocial violence is a pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards a victim, including repeated insults, ridicule, or name calling, threats, exhibition of possessiveness or jealousy. According to the Uganda National Violence survey (2021), fifty five percent (55%) of the ever-partnered women experienced any act of emotional abuse in their lifetime. It is evident that victims of other forms of violence suffer emotional abuse as well.

## 2.2 Show Me the Money: VAWG Funding and Programming

This section deals with objective I of the study that seeks to establish and analyze the nature of VAWG/GBV funding and programming (including a trends analysis) at the LG and national levels.

### 2.1.1 National level funding trends and sectoral response

In this subsection, the report presents sector-specific funding allocations and examines their responsiveness to VAWG. It also offers a budget trend analysis for the Education, Health, JLOS, and Social Development sectors over four financial years, from FY-2020/21 to FY-2023/24.



## a) The Education Sector

### Education sector funding trends for VAWG

The review established a negative allocation trend towards VAWG in the education sector. Despite the recognition of VAWG in the MPSs, BFPs and work plans reviewed, there were no interventions associated with VAWG in the FYs 2020/21 and 2021/22. For FY 2022/23, there were five program priority interventions associated with VAWG, as reflected in Table 1. The stakeholders in the education sector indicated that the compounding of VAWG/GBV funding into gender and equity (G&E) priority interventions meant that there would be no specific allocation in some fiscal years.

*Table 1: Education sector funding trends for VAWG*

FY	No.	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (UGX Bn)
2020/21	1	Finalize the guidelines on the prevention and management of teenage pregnancy in school settings	0.092
	2	Training of trainers and learners on gender pedagogy and violence against children in schools	
	3	Follow up on violence cases in schools	
2021/22	1	Engage stakeholders on the importance of safe learning environments; Disseminate guidelines on the prevention and management of teenage pregnancy; Train district technical teams and teachers on psychosocial support	0.057
2022/23	1	Engage stakeholders on the importance of safe learning environments.	0.057
	2	Implement a campaign to end teenage pregnancy, defilement, and promote positive parenting	
	3	Build capacity of district officials, and teachers on psychosocial support and formation of school clubs	
2023/24	1	Review the National Strategic Plan on Violence against Children in Schools (VACiS) and the Gender in Education Strategic Plan	0.031
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.237</b>

The results presented in Table 1 reveal that the education sector has experienced a consistent decline in VAWG-related funding, from UGX 0.092bn in FY2020/21 to UGX 0.031bn in FYs 2023/24. Across the four FYs, VAWG-related funding totaled UGX 0.237bn which implies a reduced focus on VAWG, a key social issue that affects managers, teachers, and learners at different levels of the education sector, directly affecting learning outcomes. These meager funds for the education sector require attention, given the fact that learning institutions host a large percentage of the youthful population. The Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020 report shows that approximately 10% of girls are physically abused by teachers who also contribute to 2% of non-sexual violence. Relatedly, the 2018 National Survey Report on Violence against Children shows that 35% of girls aged 18-24 reported experiencing sexual violence during their childhood, including 11% of girls having been pressured or forced to have sex.

On the other hand, 25% of girls aged 13-17 years reported sexual violence in the year preceding the study, with violence mainly occurring in homes, on the road and at school. Due to this violence, about 28% of girls aged 18-24 and 25% of those aged 13-17 missed school as a result. While there is UGX. 0.237 billion to address the above VAWG challenges, more resources are required to implement effective VAWG programs in schools and communities if more girls are to stay safe and in school.

### **Sector responsiveness to VAWG**

The Ministry of Education, the lead institution in the education sector, has had a Gender Unit responsible for overseeing gender mainstreaming since 2012. One of the core functions is developing and implementing gender-sensitive policies, guidelines, and strategies to address GBV in educational settings. The education sector has continued to provide training and capacity-building opportunities for teachers, school administrators, and other education personnel on gender-responsive pedagogy, child protection, GBV prevention and response.

The review established that the education sector has a number of policy documents upon which the current VAWG/GBV interventions are based. These include the National Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence against Children in Uganda (2015–2022); the National Sexuality Education Framework (2018); the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (2016–2020), the National Plan of Action for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children (2019–2030), and the Draft National School Health Policy and Sexuality Education Framework, and the National Policy on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (2016). A key informant highlighted the importance of having an enabling policy framework, noting that MoES is one of the ministries with a gender policy.



*We have the National Strategy for Girls' Education, the National Strategy on Elimination of Violence Against Children, as well as the Gender in Education Strategic Plan as a starting point. These documents are complemented by other policy documents such as the National Gender Policy, the National GBV Policy, and the National Child Policy (KI, MoES)*

In addition to the policies and strategies, the education sector has a raft of guidelines for teachers and learners designed to stem the occurrence of VAWG/GBV in schools. These include the Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Teenage Pregnancy in School (2020), the guidelines for reporting and tracking violence against children in school, and handbooks for teachers, staff, learners, and communities on how to prevent and address school related GBV.

### **Sector challenges in VAWG responsiveness**

The study noted the following challenges in addressing VAWG in the education sector:

- **Lack of awareness of VAWG:** Some education stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, and learners, have limited awareness and understanding of VAWG, its forms, nuances and impacts, and how to respond to them. While officers at MoES, MFPED and the EOC revealed that gender and equity gaps exist, their articulation of these issues was limited. This could lead to under reporting and normalization of VAWG.
- **Cultural norms and attitudes:** Deeply entrenched cultural norms and attitudes often perpetuate VAWG and may hinder efforts to address it within educational institutions.
- **Limited resources:** The Education sector faces a significant funding gap to implement its VAWG priorities. There is limited funding for VAWG training programs, staffing levels for counseling and support services, production of awareness raising materials and campaigns.
- **Weak enforcement of laws and policies:** The enforcement and implementation of the sector VAWG/GBV laws, policies, strategies and guidelines remains weak, creating critical gaps in the protections for victims.
- **Stigma and fear of reporting:** Victims or survivors of VAWG fear to report for risk of retaliation from teachers if they report abuse. Female learners may thus fail to seek help or report their abusers.



- **Limited support services for victims/survivors:** Victims that come forward need support services that include counseling, medical care and legal assistance. However, these services are scarce, and expensive when available. Indeed, according to 2020 National Survey on Violence in Uganda, the lack of financial means to access services, limited community awareness of available services, and the fear of stigmatization by community members also actively deter survivors from seeking help.
- **Inadequate data collection and monitoring:** Without accurate data on VAWG in educational institutions, it is challenging to develop targeted interventions.

## b) Health Sector

### Health sector funding trends for VAWG

A review of health sector MPSs, BFPs, and work plans for FYs 2020/21-2023/24 revealed that there were no specific interventions associated with VAWG. For FY 2022/23, there were priority interventions related to VAWG: 1) Provide sexual reproductive health services, e.g., prevention of GBV, SRH commodities, and guidelines to all health facilities. 2) Finalization, dissemination, and implementation of the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH&R) Strategic Plan. 3) A gender-sensitive and responsive national health delivery system achieved and strengthened through mainstreaming gender and prioritizing the most vulnerable population in planning. However, no specific budget was committed to these interventions. VAWG/GBV-related activities fall under two departments: Health Education and Promotion, and Reproductive Health. VAWG has only gained traction in the last ten years and yet there have been limited changes in health sector budgeting processes to capture the different facets of VAWG/GBV. The considering of VAWG/GBV as a crosscutting issue further leads to its evaporation as it is subsumed under gender and equity (G&E) priority interventions. Substantiating this position, a key resource person at the MoH remarked:

“ We have two departments involved in addressing issues of women. The department of Health Education and Promotion carries out sensitization on VAWG and reproductive health. In fact, it is a whole package of reproductive health, inclusive of gender. It is called ‘Health Education and Promotion.’ We also have another department called Reproductive Health, which deals with issues of adolescence. They go to schools and sensitize young girls about their rights and sensitize communities about domestic violence and its negative consequences and costs to families, in terms of hospital bills. (KI, MoH)



## Health sector responsiveness to VAWG

The study established that MoH has developed comprehensive national policy guidelines and protocols for identifying, documenting, and responding to GBV. These guidelines include the National Health Policy (2012), Guidelines to Implement the Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Harassment (2018), National Plan of Action for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children (2019–2030), and National Guidelines for the Provision of Psychosocial Support for Gender-Based Violence Victims and Survivors (2018).

MoH, in collaboration with partners, conducts training programs and capacity-building initiatives for healthcare providers to enhance their knowledge and skills in identifying and responding to GBV. Some of the partners include UNFPA, UN-Women, UNDP, and CSOs like FIDA-Uganda, ActionAid International Uganda, Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), Uganda Women Network (UWONET) MIFUMI and Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), working in partnership with national MDAs, LGs. The trainings cover sensitive handling of GBV cases, trauma-informed care, and referral mechanisms. There are efforts to integrate GBV screening, counseling, and support services into routine healthcare services. One-stop centers, also known as GBV shelters or safe spaces have been established to provide comprehensive services to GBV survivors. MoH conducts community outreach programs and campaigns to raise awareness about GBV, its impact on health, and available support services.

## Sector challenges in VAWG responsiveness

Different regions in Uganda are at different stages of implementing health system actions to address violence in terms of their readiness and capacity due to the following challenges.

- **Poor budgeting and resourcing:** The health sector has several national multisectoral plans and policies to address VAWG/GBV but these are inadequately disseminated and poorly resourced.
- **Limited access to and coverage of VAWG/GBV in the health sector:** The study highlights the fact that many survivors or victims of violence do not disclose or seek any type of health, legal, or police services. The National Survey on Violence in Uganda Qualitative report 2020 indicates that many VAWG/GBV victims or survivors fail to access VAWG/GBV health services because the nearest points of contact, the HCIIIIs are poorly equipped. In cases of victim referral to better resourced HCs like HCIVs and hospitals, many fail to make it due to the high transport costs.
- **Inadequate follow-up care services for the GBV victims/survivors:** The National Survey on Violence in Uganda Qualitative report 2020 indicates that health workers either do not have time to conduct follow-up visits due to limited staffing and heavy workloads or do not see this as their mandate. This restricts the providers' ability to track survivors and provide post-GBV care services.



## c) Social Development Sector

A review of the Social Development Sector MPSs, BFPs, and work plans for FYs 2020/21-2023/24 revealed that there was no specific budget allocation for VAWG/GBV in FYs 2021/22 and 2023/2024.

### Social Development Sector funding for VAWG

The review results in Table 2 for FYs 2020/21 and 2022/23 had specific VAWG allocations, reveal fluctuations in the allocations from UGX 0.582bn in FY2020/21 to 0.300bn in FY2022/23. In FY2021/22, there were three GBV related unfunded critical priorities, with budget allocations totaling 3.46 billion. In FY 2023/24, there was mention of GBV as a crosscutting issue of concern, with no specific intervention or budgetary allocation. Having a paltry UGX 0.882bn for VAWG/GBV for a critical sector like Social Development is a challenge that is likely to slow the fight against VAWG/GBV.

Table 2: Social Development Sector funding for VAWG

FY	No. VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (UGX Bn)
2020/21	1	Strengthening Social Safety and Health Safeguards in infrastructure projects.
	2	Conduct community dialogue on Gender-Based Violence
2022/23	1	Gender-Based Violence in Infrastructure Projects
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.882</b>

### Sector responsiveness to VAWG

MGLSD has a department of Gender and Women Affairs whose functions, among others, include the formulation and review of policies and legislation on gender and women empowerment, develop strategies on gender and women's advancement, training and capacity building of sectors and LGs to mainstream gender and address women's concerns. The sector also has the National Children Authority (NCA) established in May 2016 under the Children (Amendment) Act 2016 No. 9, and the National Women's Council (NWC), an autonomous body, established by the National Women's Council ACT 1993 (cap 318).

The sector has designed some programme interventions like the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) that partly targets VAWG/GBV survivors. MGLSD also hosts a 24/7 Sauti 116 helpline, a technology-based outreach service, that links children in need of care and protection to services and resources. The Sauti 116 helpline receives over 1,000 calls from GBV victims/survivors daily. The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) developed by MGLSD, currently piloted in some LGs aims at improving reporting and capturing of VAWG/GBV cases.

MGLSD has policies, strategies and guidelines used in the fight against VAWG/GBV which include the National Policy on Elimination of Gender Based Violence in Uganda (2016), the National Strategy to End Child Marriage (2014-2020), and the National Male Involvement Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Uganda (2017). Others include the Sexual Harassment Regulations (2012) and the National Guidelines for the Provision of Psychosocial Support for Gender-Based Violence Victims/Survivors (2018).

### Sector challenges in VAWG responsiveness

- **Limited Resources:** The social development sector often faces constraints in terms of funding, staffing, and infrastructure, which affects the implementation of VAWG prevention and response programs. For instance, a 2020 assessment found that Community Based Services (CBS) departments where probation and welfare falls had a 51% staffing gap<sup>5</sup>.
- **Stigma and Underreporting:** VAWG remains highly stigmatized in Ugandan society, leading to underreporting of incidents due to shame and fear of retaliation.
- **Cultural and Social Norms:** Some deep-rooted cultural and social norms condone or justify VAWG/GBV in Uganda.
- **Lack of Awareness and Education:** Some individuals, including survivors, lack awareness about their rights, available support services, and pathways to justice.
- **Data Collection and monitoring:** Data collection systems to track VAWG cases within the Social Development sector are still inadequate or underdeveloped, making it hard to assess the prevalence and patterns of VAWG, monitor trends over time, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- **Coordination and Collaboration:** While collaboration among stakeholders is crucial in addressing VAWG, coordination between different government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners is sometimes weak, leading to duplication of efforts and gaps in service delivery.

<sup>5</sup> USAID and MoGLSD functional review of the Government Social Service Workforce - 2020: Only 49% of DCDO positions were filled and while 84% of the Senior PSWO positions had substantive appointments filled, most of these officers (51%) doubled as acting DCDOs.



## d) Justice, Law and Order Sector

### JLOS funding for VAWG

The review of JLOS Sector MPSs, BFPs and work plans for FYs 2020/21-2023/24 revealed that the sector is committed to improving the administration of justice with conviction rates in cases of VAWG/GBV projected at 65% for FY 2021/22, 68% for FY 2022/23 and 70% for FY 2023/24 (Governance and Security FY 2021/022 BFP). However, like the other sectors, the JLOS institutions subsumed VAWG/GBV issues under G&E priorities. This explains why there is no specific budget allocation to such interventions highlighted in the MPSs, BFPs and work plans reviewed.

Table 3: JLOS funding for VAWG

FY	No.	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (UGX Bn)
2020/21		Combat Trafficking in Persons	0.349
		Protection and Promotion of Human Rights	1.364
2021/22	1)	Combat Trafficking in Persons	0.133
	2	Public Legal awareness and Judicial education	0.680
	3	Strengthening Monitoring and evaluation of programmes targeting the marginalized groups	0.12
2022/23		Compacted budgets	-
2023/24		Compacted budgets	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>2.646</b>

According to the results in Table 3 there was some limited direct budgetary allocation associated with VAWG/GBV in FYs 2020/21 and 2021/22, amounting to UGX. 2.46 billion. However, for FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24, the budgets under program-based budgeting were compacted alongside many other JLOS sector priorities, with no specific VAWG/GBV indicators in the JLOS BFPs which is likely to render interventions ineffective. To demonstrate this challenge, the analysis done on the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs alone, showed a potential budgetary allocation of over 640 billion. This sum covers so many activities, making it impossible to isolate allocations for VAWG/GBV. Including it in its entirety would be misleading, given that it is way above the national GBV expenditure which stands at UGX. 77 billion. While the JLOS sector has various interventions and approaches to address VAWG/GBV, the fluctuation in budgetary allocation and the absence of VAWG/GBV-specific indicators in recent budget cycles present challenges in sustaining them over time.

## Sector responsiveness to VAWG

An enabling policy framework that includes the Legal Aid Policy (2004) supports sector interventions on VAWG/GBV. The Legal Aid Policy aims to enhance access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women and girls who are survivors of violence. JLOS has developed prosecution guidelines for handling cases of GBV, providing prosecutors with standardized procedures for investigating and prosecuting GBV cases, appropriate support for survivors and holding perpetrators accountable. JLOS has established specialized courts and units to handle cases of VAWG, including special gender-based violence Court sessions and, family and children's courts. JLOS conducts training programs on gender-sensitive approaches to addressing VAWG for justice sector actors, including judges, prosecutors, police officers, and legal aid providers. To cover funding gaps, JLOS collaborates with other stakeholders to address VAWG, including government agencies, CSOs, and development partners.

JLOS has a Gender and Equity Promotion Unit (GEPU) which promotes gender equality and addressing gender-related issues, including VAWG, within the justice system. GEPU plays a crucial role in coordinating efforts to prevent and respond to VAWG within the justice sector. Some of its key responsibilities include developing and implementing gender-sensitive policies and guidelines, providing training and capacity-building opportunities for justice sector actors on gender equality and VAWG prevention and response.

## Sector challenges in VAWG responsiveness

JLOS in Uganda faces several challenges that hinder the sector's ability to provide timely and comprehensive support to survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and prevent future incidents of violence. Some of the key challenges include:

- **Limited access to justice:** Many women and girls in Uganda face barriers to accessing justice, including a lack of awareness about their rights, geographical distance to courts and legal aid services, and financial constraints, limiting their ability to seek legal remedies and protection from violence.
- **Understaffing:** The chronic scarcity of judges in Uganda translates in case backlogs, delaying the administration of justice, and eroding public faith in the legal system. According to the Judiciary's FY 2023/24 Annual Performance Report only 655 judicial officers serve the entire population of over 45 million citizens, giving a ratio of 1 judicial officer for 86,785 people. This has a direct correlation with case backlog, with over 161,838 remaining unresolved as of June 2024
- **Under reporting of cases:** VAWG/GBV victims fear to report or report the cases late possibly due to fear, lack of money for transport and litigation processes, lack of knowledge about where to report, and lack of confidence in the legal system.

## e) Uganda Police Force

### Police funding for VAWG

The UPF MPSs, BFPs and work plans for FYs 2020/21-2023/24 were analysed as presented below.

Table 4: Police funding for VAWG

FY	NO	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (UGX Bn)
2020/21	1	Investigate Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) & child related offences	0.8
2021/22	1	Expediently investigate SGBV & child related offenses	0.8
2022/23	1	Expediently investigate SGBV and child-related offences	0.5
2023/24	1	Investigate SGBV & child related offences	0.2
Total			2.8

Table 4 shows consistently declining VAWG/GBV allocations, from UGX 0.8 billion in FY 2020/21 to 0.2 billion in FY 2023/24 for UPF. While there is a decline in funding, the 2023 Annual Police Crime Report shows that there was a 1.4% increase in sex-related crimes reported to police in 2023. This implies that UPF is unable to effectively protect survivors of VAWG/GBV crimes.

### Police responsiveness to VAWG

UPF has put in place institutional mechanisms for addressing VAWG/GBV, including the establishment of three departments that directly deal with VAWG/GBV (Child and Family Protection, Department of Sexual Offences, and Children-related offences under CID, and the Department of Women Affairs). UPF has in place a Gender Policy, Gender Strategy and Action Plan (2018), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the management of VAWG/GBV cases, and a course on Gender, Human Rights and Child Protection. UPF has also recruited and promoted female officers who are key in handling VAWG/GBV cases, in addition to establishing a dedicated GBV toll-free helpline (0800199195).

## The UPF Challenges in VAWG responsiveness

- **Limited Resources:** The analysis carried out shows that Police had UGX. 2.8 bn to handle GBV cases for the four financial years under review. This affects the force's capacity and logistical resources to respond to VAWG/GBV cases effectively, provide support services to survivors, and conduct thorough investigations.
- **Under Staffing:** The UPF has a police population ratio of 1:832 (UPF, 2021) against an international police population ratio of 1:500 (International Association Chiefs of Police, 2023). This shows inadequate human resource to investigate cases. The UPF also has a limited number of female officers who make up about 27% of the force and yet more officers are needed to record statements and investigate VAWG cases, and also escort female victims/survivors for medical examinations.
- **Capacity Gaps:** The UPF lacks basic equipment, such as vehicles/motorcycles for transport when carrying out investigations, medical examination forms, and paper for recording statements. They also lack the capacity for collection, analysis, storage, and presentation of forensic data, which compromises investigations and VAWG cases in court.
- **Lack of designated spaces to record VAWG Cases:** VAWG victims/survivors are often required to record statements, in open spaces with limited privacy. This keeps complainants from freely expressing themselves because of the presence of other people that are seeking various police services.



## f) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)

### ODPP funding for VAWG

The ODPP MPSs, BFPs and work plans for FYs 2020/21-2023/24 were analysed as presented below.

Table 5: ODPP funding for VAWG

FY	NO	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (UGX Bn)
2020/21	1	Conduct case census on SGBV cases in the 16 regions.	0.1
2021/22	1	Promote gender responsiveness, in maternal and provision of breastfeeding rooms	0.2
	2	Mainstreaming gender, conduct census on availability of facilities	
	3	Dissemination of gender responsive laws and policies	
2022/23	1	Establish and tool child friendly spaces at 2 RSA stations	0.6
2023/24	1	Establishment and tooling of the child-friendly spaces	0.06
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.96</b>

The results in Table 5 show that much as VAWG-related funding increased by UGX. 0.4Bn for FY 2022/23 to UGX 0.6 Bn from UGX 0.2Bn in FY 2021/2022, there was a sharp drop to UGX. 0.06Bn in FY 2023/24. The oscillation and eventual sharp drop in VAWG funding is not representative of the 1.4% increase in sex-related cases reported in the 2023 annual Police crime report that eventually require prosecution. In 2023, the UPF forwarded 6,395 cases to Court. Out of the total number of VAWG/GBV cases taken to Court, 1,015 secured convictions, 45 acquittals, 463 dismissed and 4,872 are still pending in Court. The dismissed cases and those that are pending prosecution provide evidence that the ODPP lacks the requisite capacity to prosecute the cases expeditiously. Despite, the capacity challenges, in FY 2021, the ODPP had a critical funding gap of 0.530 billion needed for the handling of VAWG cases.

### ODPP responsiveness to VAWG

The review revealed that ODPP has two VAWG/GBV-related departments; that is; the Department of Witness Protection and Victim Empowerment; and the Department of Gender, Children and Sexual Offences. The department oversees the implementation of the following handbooks that are crucial in handling and prosecution of VAWG/GBV cases: *Prosecuting Child-related Cases in Uganda*, *Cross-Sectoral Handbook*

for *Victim Centered Investigation*, and *Cross-Sectoral Handbook for Victim-Centered Investigation, Prosecution & Adjudication Of GBV Cases*. The ODPP also introduced a *Multi-Disciplinary Training Curriculum on Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Children (VAC)* to streamline the handling of highly prevalent GBV and VAC cases. The ODPP also has an established SGBV and Children Taskforce and has a toll-free GBV line: 0800 112 300. Furthermore, the ODPP has the National Rehabilitation Centre for Children. Some of the partners who support ODPP activities include UN Women, UNICEF, Human Trafficking Institute, Capital Markets Authority, REDEEM International and several women and child rights NGOs.

### ODPP Challenges in VAWG responsiveness

- **Limited Resources:** ODPP often operates with limited and oscillating resources for staffing, and other needs. This has affected the unit's capacity to effectively respond to VAWG cases, provide support services to survivors, and conduct thorough investigations. As of FY 2020/21, ODPP made an additional funding request of 0.530bn for the handling of SGBV/ VAC.
- **Poor Coordination between ODPP and UPF:** Given that the burden of proof lies with the prosecution in court, the ODPP needs a strong relationship with UPF because of its investigative function. However, this relationship is not as strong as desired, leading to dropped, dismissed and delayed cases.
- **Capacity Gaps:** The ODPP has national representation by resident state attorneys and resident state prosecutors. Despite this national presence, the ODPP still suffers staffing gaps due to deficiencies in human resources. The available resident state attorneys and resident state prosecutors are unable to handle all the VAWG cases effectively and expeditiously in their jurisdictions. Interviews with officers in the ODPP's office revealed that, nationally, the ODPP has 405 prosecutors in only 95 districts. The ODPP has no presence in 34 districts and has a staffing gap of 455 prosecutors.
- **Inadequate Witness/Victim/Survivor Protection Services:** The ODPP and partners offer some witness/victim/survivor protection services under the Department of Witness Protection and Victim Empowerment. However, these are not enough for the increasing number of VAWG/GBV victims due to limited funding.
- **Inadequate Legal Aid Support Services:** The study revealed that one of the major barriers to accessing justice is the cost of legal aid services. In an effort to reduce the financial burden of accessing legal aid services by VAWG/GBV victims, ODPP officials revealed that there are a number of State funded Legal Aid Service Providers such as the State Brief Scheme, Law Development Centre Clinics, and pilot programs such as Justice Centers Uganda. CSOs like FIDA and Uganda Law Society (ULS) also provide legal AID services. This support is still not enough to cover the number of VAWG/GBV victims whose cases end up in court.

## 2.1.2 Local Government Funding Trends and Responsiveness

This subsection presents funding allocations on VAWG and a budget trend analysis for Busia, Gulu, Kotido, Luweero and Lyantonde DLGs from FYs 2020/21-2023/24.

### Funding Associated with VAWG

#### Masindi District

A review of the Masindi DLG approved BFPs, Budget estimates, and Work Plans revealed that the Community-Based Services Department received funding associated with VAWG/GBV for the financial years under review. However, in FYs 2020/2021, and 2023/2024, the Health and Education Departments received no VAWG/GBV funding. The Education Department had some funding associated with VAWG in FY 2021/2022. For FYs 2022/2023, despite making mention of GBV as an issue of concern, the review could not establish specific budget allocation or indicators on issues of VAWG.

*Table 6: VAWG budgetary allocations in Masindi DLG*

Department	FY	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (Millions)
Community-Based Services	2020/21	200 child welfare cases handled in all sub-counties, 4 community sensitization meetings on child and family welfare, case management sensitization	18,430,000
	2021/22	300 child welfare cases handled, supervision of childcare institutions	30,292,000
		4 community sensitizations on gender	4,000,000
Education	2021/22	Teacher and pupil HIV/AIDS awareness meetings	117,266,000
Community-Based Services	2023/24	Probation and social welfare services	3,000,000
		Gender mainstreaming campaigns	
<b>Total</b>			<b>172,988,000</b>

In Table 6 the funding associated with VAWG/GBV fluctuates from UGX 18,430,000 in FY 2021 to UGX 3,000,000 in 2023/2024. The reason for this seemingly fluctuating budget is a result of lumping issues of VAWG/ GBV under gender mainstreaming activities, with no specific budget allocation or indicators. In FYs 2020/2021 and

2021/2022, the funding associated with VAWG was relatively high because the Children and Youth Services activities had clear budget lines associated with VAWG in the approved work plan. In FY 2022/23, there was no traceable budget line associated with VAWG, partly due to program-based budgeting where most of the activities had compounded budgets with no specific breakdown on GBV-related interventions. This approach may undermine the effectiveness of interventions because specific needs related to VAWG may not receive adequate attention or resources. In addressing VAWG/GBV, clear budgetary allocations are essential for effective management of the vice.

## Lyantonde District

A review of the Lyantonde DLG-approved BFPs, budget estimates, and work plans revealed that the Community Based Services received VAWG/GBV funding across the four FYs under review. The Education Department only received VAWG/GBV funding in FY 2020/21. The Health Department did not receive VAWG funding for all the four FYs.

*Table 7: VAWG budgetary allocations in Lyantonde DLG*

Department	FY	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (Millions)
<b>Community-Based Services</b>	2020/21	Handling of children / juvenile domestic-related cases, Resettling of juveniles back to their communities	8,400,000
<b>Education</b>		Monitoring and support supervision with boys and girls on child labor and early marriages and defilement	390,718,000
<b>Community-Based Services</b>	2021/22	Handling of children / juvenile domestic-related cases, Resettling of juveniles back to their communities.	8,400,000
	2022/23	Women empowerment through education, access to credit, enabling laws to benefit from government programs (PDM, EMYOOGA, UWEP). Strengthen the family unit to reduce domestic violence and child abuse	30,000,000
	2023/24	Women empowerment programs through education, access to credit, and strengthening the family units to reduce domestic violence and child abuse	30,000,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>467,518,000</b>



There was an increase in funding associated with VAWG in Community Based Services Departments from UGX 8,400,000 in FY 2020/21 to UGX 30,000,000 in FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively. This is because the budgetary allocation is lumped with the activities of gender mainstreaming. In FY 2020/2021, the Education Department had UGX 390,718,000 for VAWG/GBV although the budget was lumped with other activities, making it hard to pick out specific VAWG/GBV allocations. The unclear budgetary allocations to the relevant departments compromise the effectiveness of VAWG/GBV interventions.

## Luweero District

A review of the Luweero DLG-approved BFPs, budget estimates, and work plans revealed that the Community Based Services received VAWG/GBV funding across the four FYs under review. It further revealed that the Education and Health Departments did not have any specific funding associated with VAWG/GBV during the four FYs. Despite the recognition of GBV in their activities, the budget had no VAWG/GBV specific interventions.

*Table 8: VAWG budgetary allocations in Luweero DLG*

Department	FY	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (millions)
Community-Based Services	2020/21	GBV community dialogues, Workshops on Human Rights Based Approach	7,173,000
		Local Councils trained on child protection, Resettlement of abandoned children to childcare institutions.	21,547,000
	2021/22	Community dialogues on GBV	4,665,000
		Local Councils trained on child protection, Resettlement of abandoned children to childcare institutions.	10,046,000
	2023/24	Sensitize communities on behavioral change	20,000,000
	Total		

Funding for VAWG/GBV in Luweero DLG declined from UGX 28,720,000 in FY 2020/21 to UGX 20,000 in FY 2023/24. In FY 2022/23, priorities specific to VAWG/GBV did not receive any funding. Interviews with the technical officers across the departments established that the practice of considering VAWG/GBV as a crosscutting issue further made technical officers to condense it under Gender and Equity priority interventions. This means that VAWG/GBV issues may not receive adequate attention, resources, and the specialized interventions they require.

## Busia District

A review of the Busia DLG BFPs, Budget estimates, and Work Plans revealed that the Community-Based Services Department received funding associated with VAWG/GBV for the financial years under review. The review further revealed that the Education and Health Departments did not have any specific funding associated with VAWG during the four FYs, despite recognizing VAWG/GBV as an issue of concern.

*Table 9: VAWG budgetary allocations in Busia DLG*

Department	FY	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (Millions)
Community Based Services	2020/21	Children cases handled and settled	6,198,000
	2021/22	Children cases handled and settled, Facilitate Probation officer to attend 48 court sessions	6,069,000
	2022/23	Sensitize population on affirmative action	36,000,000
	2023/24	Sensitize LLG Planners and partners on G&E	5,600,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>53,867,000</b>

VAWG/GBV funding fluctuated from about UGX. 6,000,000 in FYS 2020/21 and 2021/22 to UGX. 36,000,000 in FY 2022/23 and then dropped to UGX. 5,600,000 in FY 2023/24. In FYs 2020/21, 2021/22/ and 2023/24, respondents claimed that VAWG/GBV activities were lumped with other interventions. However, this could not be verified through the BFPs, budgets and work plans reviewed. The technical staff at the community-based services department stressed that all the activities they do directly or indirectly tackle issues of VAWG/GBV.

## Gulu District

A review of the Gulu DLG BFPs, Budget estimates, and Work Plans revealed that the Community-Based Services Department received funding associated with VAWG/GBV for the financial years under review. The review further revealed that the Education Department did not receive any specific funding for VAWG/GBV during the four FYs. The Health Department only had VAWG/GBV-related funding in FY 2020/2021 though the budget was lumped with other activities.

Table 10: VAWG budgetary allocations in Gulu DLG

Department	FY	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (millions)
Community Based Services	2020/21	Awareness campaigns on the Domestic Violence Act, Updating & reprinting GBV SOP & referral pathways, strengthen functionality of and reporting to National SAUTI, GBV campaigns conducted on 16 Days Gender Activism. Community dialogue Meetings on GBV, Service Providers trained on GBV prevention and response 60 women groups supported, improved justice on GBV special court, Disseminate GBV ordinance, Training of councilors on laws & policies related to GBV & gender.	260,561,000
	2020/21	200 reported social welfare cases handled 150 members of child protection committees trained, Community dialogues on ending child marriage Training of 150 members of Child protection committees, Family mediation Resettlements	93,584,000
		Hold dialogue meetings on discrimination, defilement GBV, food insecurity, and stigmatization	8,179,000
Health	2020/21	Conducted UNFPA integrated Sexual Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, and GBV activities in Gulu District	252,906,000
Community Based Services	2021/22	Training on Gender mainstreaming, Updating & reprinting GBV SOP & referral pathway, Community dialogue Meetings, Facilitate GBV meeting, Training of Cultural & religious leaders on GBV.	99,844,000
	2022/23	Sensitization of the community on GBV, Improve the referral system to report GBV cases	35,000,000
	2023/24	Promote women's economic empowerment, Scale up GBV prevention and response	20,000,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>770,074,000</b>

VAWG/GBV funding sharply dropped from UGX. 615, 230,000 in FY 2020/21 to UGX. 20, 000,000 in FY 2023/24. The drop was associated with the fact that in FY 2020/21, the activity budgets of UGX 615,230,000 lumped GBV with other activities, while in FYs 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24, the specific budgets associated with GBV were traceable to costs. The Health Department in FY 2020/21 had a funding of 252,906,000 associated with VAWG. This budget line was high because UNFPA provided funding towards the activities. The funding allocation for VAWG in Gulu district highlights a shift towards more targeted, accountable, and integrated approaches over the fiscal years, potentially enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of efforts to combat VAWG in the district. The allocation of targeted funds for VAWG indicates a recognition of the need to address GBV as a critical issue.

## Kotido District

A review of the Kotido DLG BFPs, Budget estimates, and Work Plans revealed that the Community-Based Services Department received funding associated with VAWG/GBV for the financial years under review. The review further established that the Education and Health Departments did not have any specific funding associated with VAWG during the four FYs despite recognizing VAWG/GBV as an issue of concern.

*Table 11: VAWG budgetary allocations in Kotido DLG*

Department	FY	VAWG/GBV Interventions	Budget (Millions)
Community-Based Services	2020/21	Conducting family reunions with street children	2,500,000
	2021/22	Case management of child protection-related issues, conducting home visits for abused children, Provide psychological support to children and caretakers	3,000,000
	2023/24	Community mobilization and sensitization on the dangers of gender and equity disparities	1,400,000
Total			6,900,000

Unlike other LGs, VAWG/GBV funding in Kotido DLG was generally low and fluctuating. This study showed a very high incidence of VAWG/GBV in all its forms in Kotido. Respondents indicated that physical violence stood at 69.8%, sexual violence at 88.3%, emotional violence at 72.1%, and economic violence at 79.1%. Committing a paltry UGX. 6,900,000 as a direct budgetary contribution to fight VAWG/GBV across the four FYs is unjust. Below is a table showing the summarized budget associated with VAWG across the six districts.

Figure 2: Summarized budgets associated with VAWG across six districts

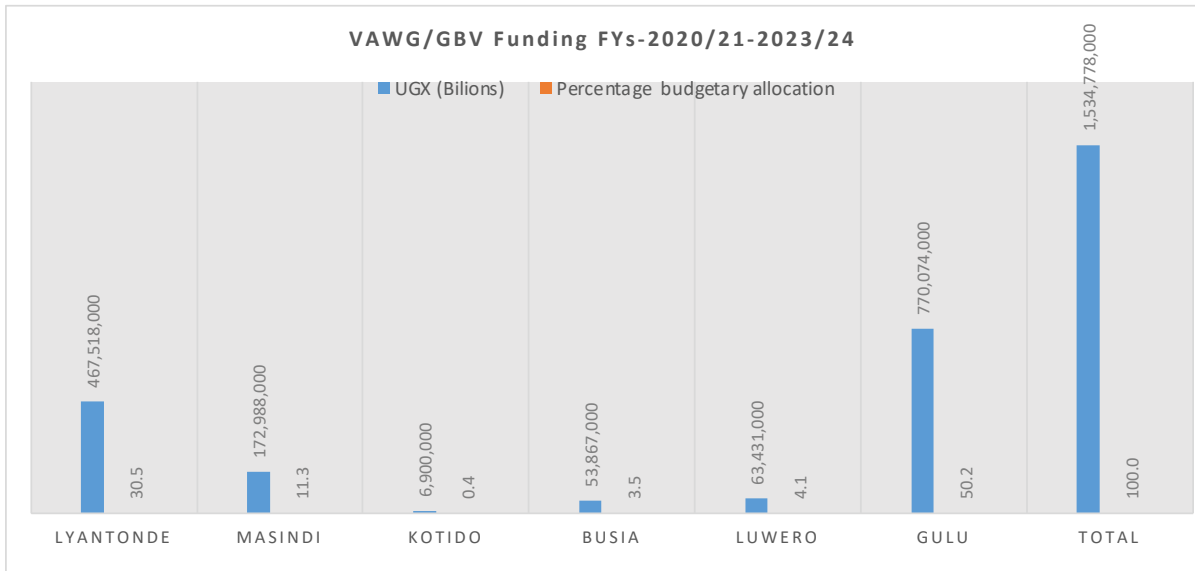


Figure 2 shows the direct total VAWG/GBV allocations of UGX 1,534,778,000 across the FYs under review with Gulu making the biggest investment and Kotido the least. Interviews with the technical staff revealed a misconception that departmental G&E mainstreaming obligations cater for VAWG/GBV. However, VAWG/GBV can be distinct and separately budgeted for across all DLG departments. The second misconception was that handling VAWG/GBV was the mandate of the Community-Based Services Department.

## VAWG/GBV Responsiveness by DLG Departments

### a) The Education Department

#### Responsiveness

Violence against women and girls is a pervasive issue that affects girls and women in the education sector. Interactions with educators in various districts revealed that funding is a critical component in the fight against VAWG/GBV. Proper VAWG/GBV funding enables the effective implementation of preventive measures, support systems, and educational programs aimed at reducing violence. Despite the glaring funding constraints, DLGs and learning institutions have interventions that respond to VAWG/GBV. The learning institutions rely on sensitization programs and community engagement to create awareness about VAWG/GBV. In some schools for example, Senior Women Teachers play a pivotal role in handling cases related to violence against girls. These teachers provide guidance, counseling, and refer severe cases to higher authorities. In some cases, schools receive funds from partners like CSOs who support VAWG/GBV-related interventions as highlighted by some key informants.

Other key interventions included debating various issues including VAWG/GBV, disseminating school regulations that prohibit VAWG/GBV, and organizing VAWG/GBV themed music, dance, and drama (MDD) competitions. A few educators at district level had received VAWG/GBV training, pointing to a funding gap in the sector that does not allow for the training of all managers and teachers at different levels. Below are some challenges faced by the sector:

“When violence occurs in schools, we call the team, headed by a Senior Male and Senior Woman Teacher who handle all issues related to violence, calling in other stakeholders like the school management committee where necessary. Partners have also set up structures like “fit persons” that help in the fight against GBV in schools. We also have community mobilization teams (CMT’s) that are handled by Hope is Education who sensitize people on the importance of education as well as eradicating violence against human beings. We also have music, dance, and drama presentations that communicate to leaders and community members that violence is a bad act that should be eradicated. GBV issues are also addressed in school debates, assemblies, and dissemination of school rules and regulations. This is why our schools are experiencing reduced GBV.

**Key Informant - Education department, Gulu District**



- Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) funds are unable to meet the budgetary needs for combating VAWG/GBV in schools across the country. According to an education resource person in Masindi District, there is no specific funding allocated to tackle violence against women and girls. The school relies solely on UPE funding which is inadequate for addressing the vice.
- There are also negative cultural attitudes among parents and the community that largely view VAWG/GBV as a normal occurrence hindering efforts to eradicate it.
- Furthermore, logistical challenges, such as poor infrastructure and lack of transportation, impede the ability of inspectors and educators to reach and inspect all schools, provide necessary support and make follow-up on VAWG/GBV cases. The problem is worse in the remotest schools who have no expectation of receiving School Inspectors.

## b) The Health Department

### Responsiveness

Violence against women and girls is a significant health concern, and District Health Departments play a crucial role in responding to and mitigating the impacts of VAWG/GBV. Adequate funding is thus critical in the fight against VAWG/GBV, enabling health departments to implement awareness programs, provide support services, and ensure the availability of necessary health services.

The interviews revealed that across the districts, most of the VAWG/GBV funding is limited to specific areas, leaving others unfunded, as shared by a resource person in the Health Department from Luweero District:

“ We have some funding for GBV, but it is mainly for raising awareness, supporting victims through counseling, and providing emergency contraception and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). ”

The study revealed that although there is no dedicated VAWG/GBV funding across the districts, SGBV cases are managed using Primary Health Care (PHC) funds. The funding covers immediate medical needs, preventing infections by offering PEP and treatment of injuries. A key informant from the Health Department in Busia confirmed this noting that PHC funds are used in cases of rape, given that there is not dedicated funding to address VAWG/GBV.



The key areas Public Health Care include preventive care, vaccinations, health and behavioral education, and disease prevention programs aimed at reducing the burden of communicable diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis. PHC emphasizes basic healthcare services, including maternal and child health, family planning, and treatment for common illnesses. These services cascade to district level health services and are used to for SGBV management. In addition, the absence of direct funding from the LGs necessitates the reliance on partners to cover the funding gaps for SGBV. Luweero has received support from *Mildmay* and have a national trainer to build staff capacity.

*We do not have funds directly allocated for violence against women and girls, in our budget, but we budget for integrated activities that include violence against women and girls and gender-based violence. The district relies on integrated services and co-funding from partners such as UNFPA, USAID, and PSI to support GBV initiatives. Key Informant, Kotido District.*

In most DLGs, the Health Departments integrate VAWG/GBV awareness into routine services, utilizing radio programs, community dialogues, and health education sessions. As a key informant from Lyantonde noted, “We take advantage of any social gathering, whether during funerals or weddings to sensitize the community.”

## Challenges

- Health departments face numerous challenges in addressing GBV effectively. A significant issue is the underreporting of cases due to economic pressures. A key informant in Busia District noted that GBV cases often go unreported. When they get to the police, they may not reach the health facilities as the officers negotiate with the perpetrators. The informant added, “Poverty drives families to settle cases privately, to avoid the financial burden of supporting victims.”
- Cultural practices further complicate efforts to address VAWG/GBV with both victims and perpetrators passing off some of them as normal occurrences that can be resolved by the community. This was particularly highlighted in Kotido and Gulu districts. A key informant in Kotido District noted that “Culture is a major factor. Many want to handle most of these cases culturally, in the community, leading to underreporting of cases.”
- Participants also decried the lack of financial support for expert witnesses during court processes, which slows down court proceedings, leading to the dismissal of cases in some instances. Health practitioners noted that the thinly resourced district health centers further complicate GBV response at different levels.





- The lack of dedicated funding for GBV limits the health sector's ability to respond appropriately to GBV cases, conduct comprehensive awareness programs and provide the necessary support services.

## c) Community-Based Services Department

### Responsiveness

LGs are at the frontline of fighting VAWG/GBV under the offices of the DCDOs. This is through awareness creation, capacity building, reporting mechanisms, and protection of women and children's rights. DCDO offices are engaged in various VAWG/GBV awareness and prevention initiatives using funds from partners. Interventions include sensitization sessions, case management, provision and management of GBV shelters, community dialogues, and economic empowerment programs aimed at addressing the root causes of VAWG/GBV. Funding for some of these activities comes from organizations that include FOWODE, Action Aid, FIDA, International Justice Mission (IJM), Uganda Law Society (ULS), Redeem International, Gulu Women Economic Globalization, CARE International, Save the Children, World Vision, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) Uganda, and Barefoot Lawyers. These partners further enhance the reach and impact of the LGs' efforts.

There was also the presence of some form of GBV monitoring committees in the districts. However, the existence and functionality of these committees varied from district to district. While some districts like Lyantonde and Luweero had specific monitoring committees dedicated to overseeing GBV work, others relied on existing structures or committees with broader mandates. Civil society and other partners play a crucial role in monitoring VAWG/GBV cases. While many of the respondents were aware of the Sauti 116 hotline, little was known about the GBVMIS.

### Challenges

- One of the foremost challenges in the fight against VAWG/GBV is the lack of specific funding. Interviews with probation officers and community development officers (CDOs) across the study districts underscored the limited financial resources available for VAWG/GBV prevention and response. Departments often rely on general funding from government grants and programs aimed at broader socio-economic empowerment, such as the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) and Uganda Women Empowerment Program (UWEP).



- There is an over-reliance on external partners in the District Community Development Offices. Due to funding constraints, local departments often rely heavily on external partners, such as local and international NGOs, and international development agencies. While these partnerships can provide valuable assistance, over reliance on their support may lead to dependency and vulnerability. This may also undermine local ownership and sustainability of VAWG/GBV interventions, leaving community development departments vulnerable to shifts in donor priorities or the withdrawal of support.
- Interactions with several officers in the DCDO's offices showed an acute capacity gap in understanding VAWG/GBV due to the limited resources available.
- Systemic barriers within the legal and social systems contribute to the perpetuation of VAWG. Corruption within the judiciary, as highlighted in one interview, poses a significant challenge to holding perpetrators of VAWG/GBV accountable.
- Patriarchal attitudes and negative cultural norms exacerbate existing gender inequalities, creating an enabling environment for violence to persist.
- VAWG/GBV survivors often face barriers to reporting incidents due to fear of stigma, retaliation, or lack of trust in the authorities. The interviews underscored the challenge of underreporting, with community members hesitant to come forward to report cases.

## d) The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and Judiciary

### Responsiveness

Responsiveness to VAWG/GBV within the judiciary is a critical aspect of ensuring justice and protection for women and girls. Interviews with key stakeholders, including magistrates and prosecutors from various districts, provide insight into this aspect. The judiciary participates in VAWG/GBV awareness campaigns by conducting radio talk shows and workshops. In some districts like Kotido, there is low listenership to radio programs due to poor network coverage. Some judicial officers indicated that there were no specific programs in the judiciary dedicated to VAWG/GBV.

Partners fund some critical aspects of VAWG/GBV interventions in the judiciary. Organizations like UN Women, Redeem International, and International Justice Mission (IJM) fill funding gaps by facilitating court sessions and assisting in investigations.



## Challenges

- The lack of specialized training and capacity-building programs for judiciary staff on VAWG/GBV remains a challenge. While refresher courses are available, they are not VAWG/GBV specific. As one key informant from Luweero District stated, “I have not seen any courses specifically addressing gender-based violence. We have sessions for general operations of court.
- Furthermore, the absence of monitoring committees and specialized departments dedicated to preventing and responding to VAWG/GBV within the judiciary exacerbates the existing challenges.
- There is an overreliance on private legal aid service providers and NGOs for addressing VAWG/GBV issues, with Government taking a back seat and failing to address funding challenges in the area of VAWG/GBV.
- The judiciary, including magistrates’ offices, lack specific budget allocations for addressing VAWG/GBV cases. However, there are High Court sessions that are set aside to specifically address GBV, according to a key informant from Luweero District. This indicates a broader systemic issue of insufficient financial support within the judiciary at LG level to effectively address the complexities of VAWG/GBV cases.
- A lack of awareness among the public about VAWG/GBV laws and offenses contributes to underreporting and dismissal of cases. Societal norms that normalize violence against women and girls are an additional obstacle.

## e) The Uganda Police Force

### Responsiveness

The UPF is a key ally and a unique government institution in fighting VAWG/GBV who have the mandate to record, investigate, and refer cases to the judiciary for prosecution. However, like other government entities, funding for VAWG/GBV-related work in UPF is very low.

The UPF at LG level mirrors the national structures for addressing VAWG/GBV, including a Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU), and the Criminal Investigation Department CID. The CFPU engages in community sensitization on VAWG/GBV. This involves different stakeholders such as probation officers, local councils, local communities and NGOs like FOWODE, FIDA Uganda, Save the Children, World Vision and IJM, among others. In some cases, UPF call for community meetings where they directly handle VAWG/GBV complaints. In some cases, they use radio programmes to sensitise communities on VAWG/GBV.

Police also reported having a home visit program where cases of child neglect, abuse and sexual harassment are unearthed and handled. Police also actively work with organizations and individuals that offer shelter to abandoned children, children that have been chased by their parents, missing children, and women victims of violence.

## Challenges

- Police suffer from limited human resources to handle VAWG/GBV, with some sub-counties not having any police units. This forces victims to travel to district headquarters to report cases.
- The police force is male dominated with some units lacking female officers as the case was in Lyantonde. This makes it difficult for female victims to freely report cases to male officers.
- The lack of or meager funding for the CFPU means that the police lack the logistical and human resources that include forensic labs, transportation, communication gadgets, shelters, trained investigators, and forensic experts, among others, to effectively play their role in addressing VAWG/GBV.
- In cattle-keeping communities like Lyantonde and Kotido, people keep moving from place to place, creating challenges in tracking both victims and perpetrators of VAWG/GBV.
- Meddling in GBV investigations by politicians, military personnel, and individuals occupying high Government offices is hindering the fight against VAWG/GBV. A key informant from Lyantonde District reported,

*“A P7 girl was forced into marriage in Kinuuka Subcounty and when we intervened and tried to stop the marriage, we were intimidated by the army. Armed officers came for the probation officer while we were attending a training for nurses and forced him to hand over the child who was taken back into marriage.”*

## f) Communities and Learning Institutions

### Responsiveness

Local communities and learning institutions play a crucial role in addressing GBV, leveraging public and private funding to implement awareness raising programs and provide support to victims. This study found that development partners, including CSOs and donors, support many VAWG/GBV interventions at the community level and in learning institutions (See Annex 6). However, 62.4% of the respondents said there were no awareness raising programs on the rights of women and girls in their communities, compared to 37.6% who said yes.



There are community initiatives to fight VAWG/GBV by both state and non-state actors. In Lyantonde and Gulu districts, various stakeholders offer VAWG/GBV support like MGLSD, UNFPA, TASO Uganda and the Spotlight Initiative. These initiatives address child marriages, and HIV prevention, working with existing cultural structures for effective community engagement.

Most of the VAWG/GBV interventions focus on raising awareness, empowering women and girls, and providing support services. Women and girls are encouraged to report VAWG/GBV cases and clubs established in schools. Gulu District implements programs through cultural institutions, using community-based approaches to address child marriages, and HIV prevention. Programs supported by NGOs like Thrive Gulu and Save the Children Denmark focus on sensitizing communities and disseminating GBV tools.

## Challenges

- Deep-rooted cultural beliefs and societal norms perpetuate negative attitudes towards victims of GBV, often leading to victim blaming and reluctance to report incidents. Cultural barriers cited as a big discouragement for women and girls from seeking justice or speaking out against perpetrators. These attitudes reinforce gender stereotypes that dictate submissive roles for women and girls, making it difficult for them to assert their rights.
- Corruption within learning and justice institutions as well as political interference undermine efforts to address GBV effectively. This interference can impede access to justice and compromise the integrity of support systems, particularly when perpetrators hold positions of power or influence.
- Limited resources, including funding, personnel, and infrastructure, pose significant challenges to GBV response efforts within communities. Inadequate funding is a major obstacle, affecting the implementation of programs, training for staff, and the provision of essential services. Without sufficient resources, institutions like learning centers and cultural institutions struggle to meet the growing demand for support and advocacy, especially in remote or marginalized communities.
- A lack of awareness of legal rights and available support services contributes to underreporting and impedes access to justice for victims of GBV. Many women and girls may not be aware of their rights including how to access support, perpetuating a cycle of silence and impunity.



- Challenges related to confidentiality and stigmatization further deter survivors from seeking help and reporting incidents of GBV. The fear of stigma and retaliation often prevents survivors from coming forward or accessing support services, exacerbating their vulnerability.
- The geographical remoteness of certain communities presents logistical challenges in reaching and providing support to survivors of GBV. Poor infrastructure, including impassable roads and inadequate transportation, hampers efforts to deliver essential services and conduct outreach programs effectively. As a result, marginalized communities may face barriers to accessing healthcare, legal assistance, and counseling support.

## 2.3 A Cost-Benefit Analysis

This section provides a cost-benefit analysis of programming and budgeting for the prevention of VAWG. It examines the different costs incurred by individuals, households, communities, and the State because of violence, and identifies the possible benefits that could be derived from investing such funds in other essential sectors like education and health.

### 2.3.1 The Financial Cost of VAWG

To determine the approximate costs of VAWG, a financial value was attached to the identified cost drivers. The study revealed that the costs for death, divorce, and separation across the different forms of violence. VAWG, exacts high economic costs on individuals and communities, that impact different sectors. These substantial resources would be better used in underfunded areas in key sectors like education and health. VAWG presents significant opportunity costs in the form of lost productivity and incomes, broken family units and loss of lives. This implies that strategically strengthening VAWG prevention interventions has potentially game changing benefits for Uganda. The costs of VAWG and the burden that it places on individuals are highlighted below (Annex 7 give a deeper perspective).

#### Death related costs

Respondents noted that the costs incurred from VAWG induced deaths are enormous and include payments for funeral planning to companies/individuals; securing permits and death certificates; making death notices; pick-up and transfer of remains to the funeral home, cemetery, or other locations; embalming the body and other preparations including cosmetology, hairstyling, or dressing for viewing; wreaths/flowers, casket, clergy, tents, chairs utensils, feeding of mourners; masters of ceremony (MCs), public address system, photography, videography, printing memorials; digging & tiling the



grave. In the case of Kotido, FGDs revealed that the Karamojong customs penalize VAWG induced death severely with the perpetrator required to pay up to 60 heads of cattle worth approximately UGX. 60m to the family of the deceased, in *Nyakibuto*, a cultural ceremony.

### Divorce/separation

Where the marriage is irretrievably broken or spouses have irreconcilable differences, there may be costs for legal or customary divorce. If the couple opt for legal divorce through the Court system, costs entail filing divorce petitions and supporting documents in courts of law (i.e. marriage certificates, medical forms, and evidence of sexual harassment that the petitioner intends to submit); securing extracts of summons from the court to prepare a defense; filling affidavits of service; mediation processes; transport to attend court hearing sessions; filing a decree nisi/absolute; hiring a lawyer; property sharing and alimony (spousal maintenance fees) pending the determination of the court proceedings. Child support to the woman per annum may be required where the proof shows that the youngest child is below 18 years of age. In case couples prefer to pursue customary divorce/separation, costs incurred will include: paying sitting allowance to the clan elders and local councils; buying food and drinks for the elders; convening the immediate family members to handle the conflicts between the couples before summoning the in-law; convening a meeting involving the in-laws from the wife's side; paying the divorce witnesses; refunding the bride price (cows, goats and sheep). FGDs in Kotido indicated that the number of animals refunded depends on the number of children born to the couple. Each child is worth three (3) cows. If the man initiates the divorce, and the woman does not consent to it, the family of the woman is not mandated to payback the cows. However, if the woman is willing to divorce her husband, two scenarios would arise: i) Three (3) cows are deducted for each child born; ii) Where a woman has no children, the family pays back the full value of the bride price with interest. The interest is double the bride price initially paid at the start of the marriage. The cost of bride price in Karamoja ranges between 60-100 cows. The implication is that in the event of divorce or separation, the woman's family pays a very steep price, one that obviously forces many women to stay in abusive relationships.

### Treating and Managing Injuries

Physical VAWG resulting into injuries bring the following costs on the victim: medical consultations, treating bruises and cuts; treating fractures; transport to the health center; income losses due to inability to work for 8.36 days; 24.11 days income losses caused by cuts, income losses caused by fractures; and medical review costs. (Annex 7.1: Cost of Treating and Managing Injuries)

## Unwanted pregnancy

Victims of rape, and defilement may conceive against their will. Such unwanted pregnancies cost victims the following - running emergency pregnancy tests; antenatal care; transport to the health facility; facilitating a normal delivery process; facilitating a caesarean section operation; buying delivery kits and baby clothes; 3 months income loss during maternity. This cost is squarely borne by the victim as the perpetrator could be in prison, on the run or at large. (Annex 7.3: Cost of Unwanted Pregnancy)

## Abortion and miscarriages

While abortion is illegal in Uganda, it is permissible for purposes of saving the life of a mother. Unsafe abortion is a serious public health problem in Uganda. According to the Uganda Demographic Health Survey (2016), leading to the loss of life. Related costs include abortive medicine; operation to remove foetus; round trip transport to and from health facility; post-abortion care; and income loss during the recuperation period. In the case of VAWG, this cost is solely borne by the survivor. (Annex 7.4: Cost of Abortion). Unlike abortions, miscarriage refers to the spontaneous loss of a fetus and costs include medical examination; treatment for the miscarriage and related complications; transport to and from the health facility; trauma management; medical reviews as well as income losses. These losses are largely incurred by the victim, or by organizations that support victims of VAWG. (Annex 7.7: Cost of treatment for miscarriages).

## Treatment of STIs

Sexual violence tends to expose victims to HIV/Aids, urinary tract infections, gonorrhoea, syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Care and response to all penetrative sexual abuse starts with laboratory tests of blood, urine and other fluids, followed by treatment of STIs if found positive. Other costs relate to medical reviews and transport to and from the health center. Individuals may also lose incomes due to the related trauma. (Annex 7.6: Cost of treating STIs).

## Defilement/rape

Defilement occurs when sexual intercourse involves any person below the age of 18. Rape is unlawful sex with a woman or girl without her consent or obtained by coercion. Section 129 and 123 of the Penal Code Act outlaw defilement and rape. Where the victim has suffered sexual abuse, costs incurred include photocopying Police Forms; medical tests at a specialized health unit; legal services (Lawyer); filing a rape or defilement case in court; transport for victim and witnesses to and from court. These costs are borne by the victim, unless supported by organizations, probation officers, para-legals or the police. (Annex 7.5: Cost of Defilement/ Rape). Uganda Police Crime Report 2023 provides a glaring statistic puts 85% of sexual crimes that were reported involved the defilement of girls.





## Economic/financial Costs

Victims suffering economic violence may incur costs such as loss in income to the household if the perpetrator sabotages productive work of the household; selling of household produce/livestock by spouse; denial of the victim the opportunity to work. However, estimating the cost in this form of violence is complex. (Annex 7.8: Cost of Economic/Financial Violence).

## Emotional/Psychological Costs of VAWG

These are costs incurred to meet psychosocial and emotional needs of the victim and include the cost of managing trauma; lost incomes as the victim loses interest or is unable to engage in productive work; medical test for mental health; medical care; and cost of restraining mentally disturbed victim. Victims may engage nonconventional means like engaging a spiritual exorcist, pastor, or witch doctor. Violence or threats of violence may cause a spouse or child to run away. In this case, the perpetrator, relatives, or well-wishers will incur the cost of finding them. Such costs include transport needed to report a missing person to police; transport to the nearest radio station; cost of radio announcements; print media announcements; community radio announcements; loss of income to the household as the victim and members of the search party are unable to work. (Annex 7.9: Cost of searching for a run-away spouse or child).

*Table 12: Average cost for each type of expenditure attributed to VAWG*

Type and cost of violence	Total Average Cost (UGX)
<b>General VAWG costs</b>	
Costing Death Induced by VAWG	10,464,034
Cost of Legal and Customary Divorce/Separation	17,528,465.12
<b>Physical Violence Costs</b>	
Treating and Managing Injuries	3,714,313.50
<b>Health costs</b>	
Caregiving Burden	156,148.52
Cost of Unwanted Pregnancy	1,380,418.40
Cost of Abortion	1,083,650.68
Cost of Defilement/Rape	1,141,988.99
Cost of treating STIs	489,226.98
Treatment for Miscarriages	1,346,286.90
<b>Economic Violence Costs</b>	
Economic/Financial Violence	1,758,918
Emotional Violence costs	
Emotional/Psychological VAWG	3,594,542.96

**Note:** Each cost is detailed in annex 7.

The results in Table 12 portray the costs associated with managing and alleviating the effects of VAWG which include health care, legal processes, psychosocial support, and lost productivity. Overall, the costs attributed to VAWG by respondents constitute economic burdens that affect survivors/victims, their families, and the society at large. Legal proceedings make up the bulk of the costs met in addressing VAWG. The magnitude of these results is only understood when we reflect on the fact that this information was drawn from a small sample of 6 districts out of a total of 146 (4.1%).

## 2.4 The National Cost of GBV to Households/ Individuals

The figures below show that households bear a very high cost of dealing with GBV meted out to household members. It is impossible to ignore the fact that households have to contribute a whopping UGX. 31.3117 Trillion to access different GBV services. The costing at the national level revealed that psychological and economic violence respectively contribute to the highest costs of GBV, yet these are usually not given due attention in national planning and budgeting. Divorce and separation, often consequences of one or a combination of the different forms of violence, contribute to a high GBV-related costs once marriages break down.

*Table 13: The National Cost of GBV to Households/Individuals*

GBV Incident	National Statistics	Source	Cost to HH/ Individual	(UGX. Trillions.)
Divorce/separation (legal and traditional/customary tracks)	370,000	HiiL 2020	17,528,465.12	6.485
GBV-induced deaths	414	UPF 2023	10,464,034.36	0.00433
GBV- induced abortions/ miscarriages*	2565	UBOS 2020	1,083,650.68	0.00277
Unwanted/unintended pregnancies	282,000	Guttmacher Institute 2022	2,429,937.58	0.685
GBV injuries reported to a health facility	75,577	UBOS 2023	3,714,313.5	0.28
Number of people treated for GBV-induced STI	29,494	UBOS 2021	489,226.98	0.0144
Defilement/rape	14,348	UPF 2023	1,141,988.99	0.0163
GBV caregivers	136,794*	2024	156,148.52	0.0213

Psychological violence	4,040280**	UBOS 2021	3,594,542.96	14.523
Economic violence	5274810***	UBOS 2021	1758918	9.277
Total Expenditure				31.3117

*\*This study found that each GBV victim has 1.81 caregivers. This number was used to generate the approximate national figure by multiplying it by the number of victims that had reported to health facilities (75,577 cases).*

*\*\*We generated the figure by multiplying the number of women who ever suffered emotional violence (36%) with the number of married women in Uganda (11,223,000).*

*\*\*We generated the figure by multiplying the number of women who ever suffered emotional violence (47%) with the number of married women in Uganda (11,223,000).*

### Important Notes On The Above Computations

- We derived the national statistics from reputable institutions working in the areas of VAWG/GBV, including UBOS and MoH.
- We derived the average cost of VAWG to the household/individual from the tables presented in Section 2.3.3 on the monetary costs of VAWG.
- The national total cost of each effect of GBV that could be costed was a multiplication of the national statistics and the average cost of the VAWG to the household/individual.

The summation of the national total costs is what generated the total expenditure of households/individuals in Uganda, totaling to UGX. 31.3 trillion.

## 2.5 District Specific GBV Costs

District specific GBV costs are computed by multiplying the number of household/ individuals experiencing GBV by average expenditure on GBV per household/ individual. To get number of households experiencing GBV divide percentage of household experiencing by 100, total number of households. National average 33.25 GBV incidence derived by creating the average incidence of the different GBV forms against women (Physical violence-22%, Emotional violence-36%, Economic violence-47%, and Sexual violence-28%<sup>6</sup>) which resulted in a 33.25% incidence to constitute the household percentage as well. The assumption is that the abused partnered woman was staying in a household. This study applied the national 33.25% average incidence of GBV at LG level because some costs did not have district specific statistics for some elements of GBV like divorce and separation, death, unwanted/ unintended pregnancies, number of people treated for GBV-induced STIs, defilement/ rape, GBV caregivers, psychological violence, and economic violence (see Table 13).

Table 14: District Specific GBV Costs

District	Total Number of Households	% of Households Experiencing GBV based on the national average	Number of Households Experiencing GBV	Average Expenditure per Household	Total Cost in Billions (UGX.)
Busia	64,812	33.25	21550	4,236,122.6	91,288,442,030
Gulu	56,812	33.25	18890	4,236,122.6	80,020,355,914
Kotido	26,181	33.25	8705	4,236,122.6	36,875,447,233
Luweero	105,209	33.25	34982	4,236,122.6	148,188,040,793
Lyantonde	20,389	33.25	6779	4,236,122.6	28,716,675,105
Masindi	64820	33.25	21553	4,236,122.6	91,301,150,398
<b>Total</b>					<b>476,390,111,473</b>

Table 15: Total Average Expenditure per Household

No.	GBV Incident	Household/ Individual (UGX.)
1.	Divorce/Separation (legal and traditional/customary tracks)	17,528,465.12
2.	GBV-induced deaths	10,464,034.36
3.	GBV- induced abortions/miscarriages*	1,083,650.68
4.	Unwanted/unintended pregnancies	1,380,418
5.	GBV Injuries reported to a health facility	3,714,313.5
6.	Number of people treated for GBV-induced STI	489,226.98
7.	Defilement/rape	1,141,988.99
8.	GBV caregivers	156,148.52
9.	Psychological violence	3,594,542.96
10.	Economic violence	1,758,918
11.	Total Expenditure	41,311,707
	<b>Total Average Expenditure per Household</b>	<b>4,131,170.711</b>

## 2.6 Comparative Analysis of Sectors

### Education Sector

Funds spent on addressing VAWG-related costs could go a long way in contributing to the education sector of Uganda which suffers from various resource constraints. According to the Ministry of Education and Sports, 2021, the average annual government expenditure per student at primary school level is approximately UGX 162,000. On the other hand, the average cost of treating injuries from VAWG is UGX 3,714,313.50, an amount that would cater for the basic education needs of 22 students. As UNESCO (2018) points out, investing in girls' education is not only a matter of girl-child empowerment but also one sure avenue of reducing poverty and accelerating economic growth. Therefore, the resources used to address the different effects of VAWG could be better channeled into education, positively advancing gender equality and its attendant benefits that include long-term economic development for the country (UNESCO, 2018).

## Health Sector

Resources that are spent on VAWG would be better spent on the Ugandan Health Sector, which faces enormous challenges in terms of accessibility and quality of care. According to the Ministry of Health, 2022, health spending per capita in Uganda is approximately UGX 166,000, covering both preventive and curative health. By comparison, managing VAWG-related miscarriages cost UGX 1,346,286.90 per individual/household. These resources could be utilized in enhancing Primary health care programs. The World Bank (2020) states that investment in primary health care saves money and pays long-term dividends in productivity and economic resilience.

Besides the direct economic costs incurred because of VAWG, productivity is lost through injury, caregiving, and psychological trauma, taking away resources that would have otherwise been invested in income-generating activities. According to the World Bank (2020), the compounded effects of workforce reduction and income loss can lead to as much as a 3.7% fall in economic output as measured by GDP in countries plagued by high rates of VAWG. Resources spent on VAWG can be effectively used on economic empowerment and skilling programs that could spur growth and poverty reduction.





# Section 3 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

## 3.1 Recommendations

- 1.** Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFPED) needs to create a budget code for VAWG/GBV in their chart of accounts to track government expenditure on VAWG. Relatedly, all Government development plans should have gender indicators, targets, and activities, and budgets.
- 2.** Government, civil society and development partners should ringfence specific funds for VAWG-related programs directly targeting victims of VAWG.
- 3.** Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) should strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-partner coordination for VAWG prevention and response to maximize use of available funds.
- 4.** MGLSD, in collaboration with MFPED, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), LGs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Development partners should invest in mindset change through existing structures for addressing VAWG.
- 5.** MGLSD, CSOs and Development Partners need to work in coordination to build the capacity of VAWG service providers to improve standards, ethics, and respect for human rights and safety of survivors.
- 6.** MGLSD, MoH, MoES, LGs, Uganda Police Force (UPF), CSOs and Development Partners should improve gender & VAWG reporting through publicization of toll-free hotlines, online platforms dedicated apps, websites, suggestion boxes, and confidential reporting systems in health facilities and other locations to encourage victims to report incidents.
- 7.** Link the existing GBVMIS and hotlines like Sauti 116 to improve real time reporting, handling, tracking, and management of GBV cases at LG level.





## 3.2 Conclusion

Uganda has an elaborate legal, policy, and institutional framework for preventing and responding to VAWG/GBV. However, this has not translated in sufficient resources for effective planning and programming. Therefore, individuals/households, suffer significant social and economic costs that amount to approximately 15.5% (UGX. 31.3117 trillion) of the national GDP. Victims spend UGX. 476.390 billion on divorce and separation, legal services, and death, treating injuries and infections, facilitating care givers, accessing sexual and reproductive health services. VAWG destroys lives, breaks families, and disproportionately affects women and girls. The vice also leads to low productivity and poor health and educational outcomes, among a host of negative consequences. Individuals and households are often saddled with numerous bills, that need to be met, leading some to abandon legal processes, further weakening an already frail system.

An analysis of the national MPSs and BFPs of the program areas under review showed that government allocates UGX. 77 billion to VAWG/GBV interventions but spent a dismal UGX. 7.525 billion. A separate analysis of the Local Government BFPs of the study districts indicates a total contribution of UGX. 1.534 billion towards GBV-related programming. The major cost drivers in government service centers were legal costs, transport for investigations, referrals, follow-ups, and testifying in courts of law. Government also incurs costs for treatment of VAWG victims who report to public health facilities in addition to investigation and prosecution costs.

The high costs that Ugandans have to incur to access GBV-related services is the strongest indicator of the need for more funding to VAWG/GBV programs by Government. Funding for GBV prevention and management would help ease the financial strain that individuals and households suffer in accessing services from underfunded institutions.



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# ANNEXES

## Annex 1: The police annual crime report 2023 VAWG/GBV offences

Sex related cases & Actions taken	Numbers
Total number of sex related cases registered	14,846
Cases taken to court	6,395
cases not proceeded with	2,790
Cases still under inquiry	5,661
Cases that Secured Convictions	1,015
Cases acquitted	45
Cases Dismissed	463
cases still pending in Court	4,872
Victims of Sex-related crimes	15,309
Victims of Sex-related crimes-Female Juveniles	13,087
Victims of Sex-related crimes-Male Juveniles	312
Victims of Sex-related crimes-Male Adults	223
Victims of Sex-related crimes-Female Adults	1,687
Defilement cases reported to Police	12,771
Defilement cases taken to Court	5,564
Defilement cases not proceeded with	2,402
Defilement cases still under inquiry	4,805
Defilement cases secured convictions	940
Defilement cases acquitted	38
Defilement cases dismissed	414

Defilement cases still pending in Court	4,172
Suspects of Defilement were arrested and charged to Court	5,671
Defilement Suspects Convicted	982
Defilement Suspects acquitted	56
Defilement Suspects discharged	400
Defilement Suspects still awaiting trial	4,233
A total of cases of Rape were reported to Police	1,577
Rape were taken to Court	625
Rape cases secured convictions	30
Rape cases were acquitted	04
Rape cases dismissed	17
Rape cases still pending in Court	574
A total of Female Adults who are rape victims	1,395
Female Juveniles were victims of Rape	171
Suspects of Rape charged in Court	661
Suspects of Rape convicted	31
Suspects of Rape still awaiting trial	610
Other related sex-oriented offenses- Indecent assault	299
Other related sex-oriented offenses- unnatural offenses	160
Other related sex-oriented offenses- incest	39

Source: UPF Official Annual Crime Report 2023

## Annex 2: Table of Kish sampling formula

Formula	Where	Calculation
] ]	<p><math>n</math> = required sample size</p> <p>Standard normal value at an alpha equal to 0.05</p> <p><math>p</math> = Estimated prevalence percent of households (27,316) in the sampled parishes=50%</p> <p><math>1-p</math>= proportion not affected, that is (100-50=50)</p> <p>=Standard error estimated at 0.05</p>	<p><math>n=</math></p> <p><math>=</math></p> <p><math>=384</math></p>

## Annex 3: Table showing the distribution of sample size by parish household population

District	Subcounty/Town Council/ Division	Parish	HP Per Parish	Actual sample
Busia	Eastern Division	North East A	1,475	21
		South East	1,117	16
	Bulumbi Subcounty	Bubango	819	12
		Buhobe	706	10
Luweero	Bombo Town Council	Bombo Central	677	10
		Nkokonjeru	876	12
	Butuntumula Sub County	Bamugolodde	1,509	21
		Bukambagga	751	11
Kotido	Rengen Sub County	Lokadeli	960	13
		Lopuyo	913	13
	Central Division	Kotido North	181	3
		Kotido West	201	3
Gulu	Awach Sub County	Gwengdiya	978	14
		Paduny	962	14
	Laroo Division	Agwee	1,374	19
		Iriaga	1,745	25
Masindi	Miirya Sub County	Bigando	1,705	24
		Isimba	1,002	14
	Karujubu Division	Kibwona	1,869	26
		Kihuuba	2,188	31
Lyantonde	Kinuuka Sub County	Bwamulamira	518	7
		Nakasozi	632	9
	Lyantonde Town Council	Kaliro	1,202	17
		Kooki Ward	2,956	42
<b>Total</b>			<b>27,316</b>	<b>384</b>

## Annex 4: Table showing qualitative sampling of KIs and FGDs participants

Type of Respondents	Description		Number	
	Male	Female	TOTAL	
<b>Key Informants</b>				
JLOS	No control over gender		1	
Health,	No control over		1	
Health	No control over gender		1	
Social Development sectors	No control over gender		2	
District Planners,	No control over gender		6	
District Community Development Officer/District Probation and Welfare Officers	No control over gender		6	
Education Officers	No control over gender		6	
Health Officers	No control over gender		6	
JLOS actors at the local government (District Police Headquarters, State Attorneys, the Judiciary)	No control over gender		12	
District councilors	3	3	6	
Lower local governments	No control over gender		6	
Alternative dispute resolution mechanism actors (Local council courts and Clan leaders)	3	3	6	
Total Number of KIIs	59			
<b>FGDs</b>				
Four gender sensitive FGDs were conducted in each district two per Sub-county. Each FGD had a maximum of six respondents	14	12	12	24
Total Number of FGD Respondents	72	72	144	

## Annex 5: Table showing triangulation of violence by category and nature

Who is affected?		Nature of Violence and		
		Sexual	Psychological or emotional	Deprivation or neglect
<b>Physical</b>	Self-directed	Suicidal behaviour		
		Self-abuse		
<b>Interpersonal</b>		Family/partner including children, partner, and older persons		
		Community includes acquaintances and stranger		
<b>Collective</b>		Social		
		Political		
		Economic		

Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). 2021. Uganda Violence Against Women and Girls Survey 2020. Kampala, Uganda.



## Annex 6: Organizations running interventions associated with VAWG

Organization/Learning Institution	Frequency		
FOWODE	25	Kyaligo Aid	1
Schools	17	AIDS LAKAI PROJECT	1
World vision	14	Child fund	1
Police	14	Child Care Uganda	1
BRAC Uganda	14	Church	1
Local authorities	13	DREAM PROGRAM	1
Mercy Corps	12	LC1 Village meetings	1
Helping hands	6	GWEDG	1
FIDA	5	UGANET	1
Justice and peace organization	3	Red cross	1
Strong minds	3	Straight talk	1
RDP Uganda	3	The local authorities	1
Save the children	3	URDTI	1
Health facilities/workers	2	USAID	1
ADRA	1	CARE UGANDA	1
		Youth Alive,	1
		Whitaker Foundation	1

*\*Represents the number of times an organization was mentioned by respondents in the six districts when asked which organizations were implementing VAWG associated interventions\*\**





## Annex 7: Tables highlighting costs of VAWG

### Annex 7.1: Cost of Treating and Managing Injuries

No.	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average Cost (UGX)
	Treating bruises	385	35229.89
	Treating cuts	385	101010.39
	Treating fractures	370	681924.34
	Transport to the health center if the victim is a bit close to the health center (cuts). It takes 4.63 visits to get a cut healed @ visit costing UGX. 9732.17. It takes 4.63 visits to get a fracture healed @ visit costing UGX 13326.56.	392	45059.94
	Transport to the health center if the victim is from far from the health center (cuts). @visit costing UGX.13326.56. It takes 4.63 visits to get a cut healed	392	61701.97
	Transport to the health center if the victim from far from the health center (fractures). It takes 12.63 visits to get a fracture healed and each visit costs UGX. 44148.73.	390	557598.46
	Income losses caused by bruises (bruises take an average of 8.36 days to heal. Daily income loss was UGX. 9460.86)	369	90391.78
	Income losses caused by cuts (cuts take an average of 24.11 days to heal. Daily income loss was UGX.10397.73)	385	250689.47
	Income losses caused by fracture (a fracture takes an average of 128.67 days to heal. Daily income loss is UGX.12689.05.)	366	1632700.79
	Medical reviews for bruises (1.49-average number of reviews, each review costing UGX. 3876.20.)	380	5775.53
	Medical reviews for cuts (3.32-average number of reviews, each review costing UGX. 9017.40.)	382	29937.76
	Medical reviews for fractures (8.56-average number of reviews, each review costing UGX. 25968.83.)	370	222293.18
	<b>Total Average Cost</b>		<b>3,714,313.5</b>

## Annex 7.2: Caregiving burden costs

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Transport given to caregivers to a hospital to look after an admitted patient (a single patient is looked after by 1.81 caregivers, each gets transported to the hospital at UGX. 13033.14) days spent in the hospital missing for this entire section	395	23589.98
	Feeding each of the caregivers in a day	399	11131.22
	Income loss for a caregiver for a week (1.81 caregivers look after a victim, each losing UGX. 67086.92. a week)	368	121427.32
	Total Average Cost		156,148.52

## Annex 7.3: Cost of Unwanted Pregnancy

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Running emergency pregnancy tests	376	14414.91
	Antenatal care	348	137041.70
	Transport to the health facility (each visit costs UGX. 9757.61 for 5.73 hospital visits)	396	55911.10
	Facilitating a normal delivery process	371	57729.12
	Facilitating a Caesarean birth	346	328916.20
	Buying delivery and baby clothes	374	205005.36
	Weekly income loss if the woman has pregnancy complications that stop her from working (each week's loss was UGX. 76500, total weeks lost are 7.6)	366	581400.01
	Total Average Cost		1380418.4

## Annex 7.4: Cost of Abortion

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Abortion in a health facility	288	166197.92
	Post-abortion care	260	120396.17
	Post-abortion income loss for 11.42 weeks (each week's loss was UGX.66829.92)	341	763197.69
	Transport to the health facility (each visit costs UGX. 9757.61 for 3.47 post-abortion care hospital visits)	270	33858.90
	<b>Total Average Cost</b>		<b>1083650.68</b>

## Annex 7.5: Cost of Defilement/ Rape

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Transport cost to the service providers i.e. organizations, probation, para-legal, or police (each round trip costs UGX. 25495.38, it takes 4.28 follow-up round trips before the case is forwarded to court)	344	109,120.22
	Photocopy form X	297	9365.00
	Medical tests at a specialized health unit	332	29899.14
	Legal services (Lawyer)	255	685355.59
	Filing a rape or defilement case in court	171	193737.48
	Transport to the court (victim needs to visit the court 7.10 times, each visit costs UGX. 16128.39)	296	114511.56
	<b>Total Average Cost</b>		<b>1,141,988.99</b>

## Annex 7.6: Cost of Sexually Transmitted Infections

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Laboratory (blood) tests	367	11024.54
	Laboratory (urine) tests	370	10167.85
	Laboratory (fluids) test	352	13872.18
	Treating the STI if found positive	356	109179.89
	Transport to the health center for treatment (it takes 4.26 visits until total healing and UGX. 8308.67 per visit)	383	35394.93
	STI-related income losses in a week (26.48 total days lost to infections, income lost per day UGX. 10623.49)	362	281310.12
	Reviews (3.34 would be needed until complete healing, each at UGX. 8466.31)	341	28277.47
	Total Average Cost		489226.98

## Annex 7.7: Cost of treatment for miscarriages

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Running required tests	313	24501.61
	Getting treated for a miscarriage	307	184599.46
	Treating a miscarriage-related complication	294	261336.75
	Transport to the health facility (a woman needs to go to the hospital 4.11 times to treat a miscarriage, each visit costing UGX. 11,459.91)	374	47100.23
	Medical review (x5, @ review costing UGX. 16398.47)	301	81,994.35
	Income losses (loss per week is UGX. 74675.45, healing back to productivity can take up to 10 weeks)	342	746754.5
	Total Average Cost		1346286.9

Total cost is equivalent to the total average costs in table 22 (UGX.1346286.9) plus the total average cost in table 16 (UGX.3714313.5) 50606000.4

## Annex 7.8: Cost of Economic/Financial Violence

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Loss in income to the household if the victim/perpetrator sabotages productive work of the household	327	829456.06
	Illegal selling of household produce/livestock by husband	300	929461.94
	Total Average Cost		1758918

## Annex 7.9: Cost of searching for a run-away spouse or child

No	Cost Drivers	Responses	Average cost (UGX.)
	Transport needed to report a missing person to police	389	7091.31
	Transport needed to reach the nearest radio station	393	8600.55
	Cost of radio announcements	366	36132.55
	Cost of print media announcements	252	32792.08
	Cost of community radio announcements	286	13938.83
	Daily loss to people searching for a missing woman or child (each of the 24.13 people in the search party loses UGX. 8823. for each search day and it takes 12.29 days to find a lost person)	316	2616528.58
	Loss in income to the household per season if the victim is unable to work or loses interest in productive work due to psychological issues	327	879459.06
	Total Average Cost		3594542.96



**Forum for Women  
in Democracy**

P. O Box 7176, Kampala

**Contact:** +256777991366

**Email:** [fowode@fowode.org](mailto:fowode@fowode.org)

 [@Fowode\\_uganda](https://twitter.com/Fowode_uganda)  [Fowode-Uganda](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fowode-uganda)

**Web:** [www.fowode.org](http://www.fowode.org)

