



REPORT

**A COMBINED REPORT FOR 3 DISTRICTS
IN KIGEZI SUB REGION TO ASSESS THE
EXISTING CULTURAL INTERVENTIONS
TO STOP SEXUAL GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE (SGBV)**



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GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**

(AN ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED IN KISORO, KABALE AND RUKIGA
DISTRICTS IN SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA)

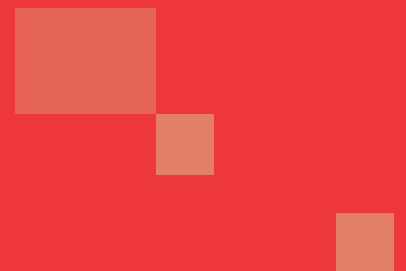
SUPPORTED BY URGENT ACTION FUND
CONDUCTED BY:
GIRLS MUST UGANDA (GMU)

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Acronyms

GMU	Girls Must Uganda
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
GBV	Gender Based Violence
KII	Key Informant Interviews
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
CDOS	Community Development Officers
UAF	Urgent Action Fund
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus

Acknowledgements

Our sincere gratitude to Urgent Action Fund- AFRICA who availed this opportunity to GMU. We would also like to thank the district leadership of the three districts in Kigezi sub-region (Kisoro, Kabale and Rukiga districts) for the great co-operation during the process of the assessment. We would also like to extend our appreciation to all the cultural leaders whose insights and contribution served a great role in understanding the contributing factors to SGBV and also coming up with conclusive recommendations. We recognize the efforts of coordinators for the good mobilization done which led to a successful assessment process.

Executive Summary

GMU Conducted an assessment in 3 districts in south western Uganda with particular focus on Kisoro, Kabale and Rukiga districts in the Kigezi sub-region to engage Cultural leaders as key stakeholders championing the fight against SGBV in the identified high-risk communities and also orient key cultural leaders on the harms of SGBV to Women and Girls living in high-risk communities.

Title of the action/intervention: Rooting Culture to stop Sexual Gender Based Violence; An African Young Feminists approach to integrate culture in advocating against SGBV in Kigezi Sub-Region in Uganda.

This combined report is a documentation of the assessment conducted in all mentioned districts with unique findings from all districts.

A total of Thirty (30) cultural leaders participated in the assessment in the sub- region; Three (3) people were facilitated from GMU to conduct the assessment in all the three districts including among others and one (1) consultant. The CDOs from the districts assessed helped in the mobilization.

During the Assessment the cultural leaders committed to being the champions of advocating against SGBV in their regions and also committed to building the capacity of other local leaders to fight against SGBV in their region.

The assessment was generally successful in all the three districts visited across all the regions as the GMU team was able to pick the beneficiaries' views on the existing cultural interventions to stop sexual gender-based violence (SGBV).

Introduction

During the COVID-19 lockdown, it was reported that Adolescent Girls and Young Women were forced to stay with their abusers who brutally violated them physically and emotionally. This occurred mostly amongst Adolescent Girls and Young Women living with HIV. The Kabale District Senior Probation's Office, one of our areas of implementation recorded 1,867 cases of girls aged under 18 who were defiled and at high risk to unintended pregnancies between March 2020 - 2021.

It's against this background that GMU, with support from Urgent Action Fund-Africa UAF implemented an intervention titled, "Rooting Culture to stop Sexual Gender Based Violence; An African Young Feminists approach to integrate culture in advocating against SGBV in Kigezi Sub-Region. This intervention is implemented in response to the continued rise of cases of SGBV in the high-risk communities in three identified Districts in Kigezi sub-region i.e. Kabale Kisoro and Rukiga Districts. It kicks starts with an assessment on existing cultural interventions to stop SGBV in the identified communities in the three Districts.

In line with this, the GMU team carried out a rapid assessment in THREE districts of Kigezi sub region including Kisoro, Kabale and Rukiga districts in the south western part of Uganda. This report therefore is a documentation of the outcomes of the Assessment.

Specific objectives

1. To engage Cultural leaders as key stakeholders championing the fight against SGBV in the identified high-risk communities of Kisoro, Kabale and Rukiga Districts.
2. To orient key cultural leaders on the harms of SGBV to Womn and Girls living in high-risk communities.

Outcomes of the assessment.

GMU clearly stated the need and urgency to guide African Young Feminist leaders and Female journalists in conducting media campaigns against SGBV, this assessment aimed at creating a baseline to develop a training manual to support this work.

The Assessment managed to indicate all the available interventions in Kigezi region to curb SGBV and the existing gaps that need remedies

Methodology

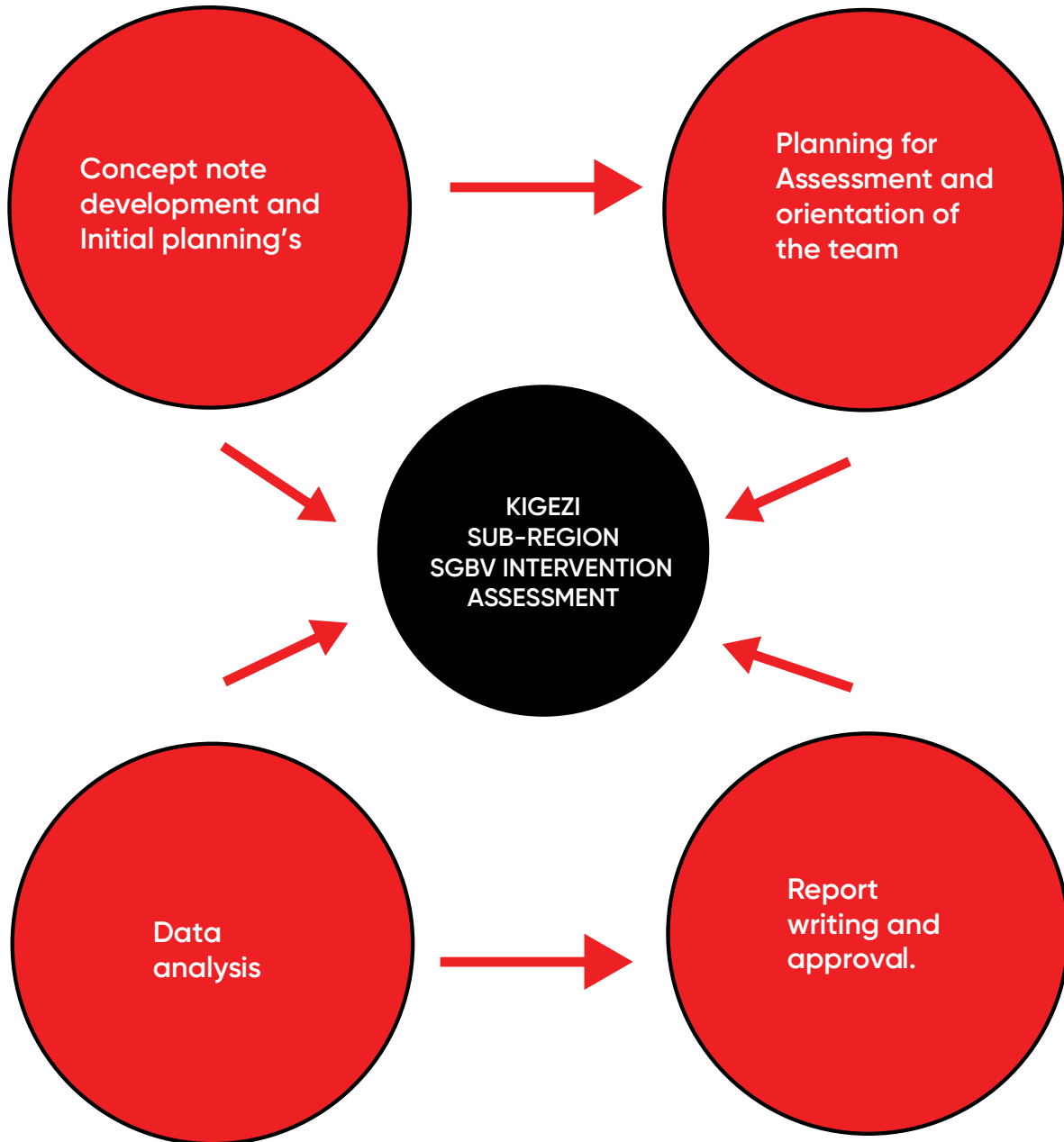
We intended to identify the key existing cultural interventions existing to curb SGBV in the three districts of Kigezi subregions and also interact with the cultural leaders in order to raise plausible recommendations and mitigation strategies for the high rates of SGBV in the Kigezi sub region.

The whole process started with the concept note, mobilization of the cultural leaders by the help of the field team and the district officials mainly working with the CDOs office.

There was also development of a suitable data collection guide which was pre-tested with the Community development officers' office.

During the assessment, the GMU team utilized Focused group Discussions coupled with Key informant interviews (One-to-one) interviews with cultural leaders.

Figure 1: Illustrates The Kigezi Sub-Region Sgbv Intervention Assessment Application Strategy





Kisoro Cultural and Youth Leaders who participated in the Assessment.

District(s)	Number of cultural leaders assessed
Kisoro	10 cultural leaders
Kabale	10 cultural leaders
Rukiga	10 cultural leaders

Demographical characteristics of Respondents

During the whole process of the assessment, specific focus was put on the cultural leaders but due to the lack of a well-defined cultural architect in Kigezi sub region, some participants were the elderly senior members of the district who doubled as clan heads and people who give strategic guidance to their region

A total number of 30 participants took part in the assessment including the following, Cultural leaders (16) (Clan head “Heads of Omuryango”, and Elders), Senior district officials e.g the Chairperson (3) of the three districts, retired district officials(7), and active senior Women leaders(4).

1. 16 Heads of Omuryango
 2. 3 District chairpersons
 3. 7 Retired district officials
 4. 4 Women district leaders (Counsellors)
- (N=30)

Assessment Findings from the 3 Districts of Kigezi subregion.

During the assessment process, the participants were asked several questions aimed at triggering serious discussion around understanding the possible interventions in place to curb the spate of SGBV in Kigezi sub region and the findings are recorded below.



Kabale District Team

Section One:

Understanding the level of knowledge regarding SGBV by the different cultural leaders, (What does gender-based violence mean to you?)

During the interaction of Cultural leaders, it was realized that many leaders had some information regarding what SGBV meant and some are the responses of the participants.

THEME	RESPONSES
<p>Subtheme One: What does gender-based violence mean to you?</p>	<p>R1 Violence against females for example a case where a deaf young woman was raped and impregnated. She was unable to breastfeed. This has forced the mother of the victim to leave her job in order to take care of both the baby and the mother while the perpetrator was left to roam freely.</p> <p>R2, R15, R17, R22 Conflict in marriage and families</p> <p>R3 Disagreements between partners</p> <p>R4, R10, R19, R13, R24 Denial of women and girls of their sexual rights.</p> <p>R5, R6, R7, R8. Misunderstandings between families and parents.</p> <p>R9 Misusing rights of a child.</p> <p>R11, R30, R26, R28, R12 There are incidences of forced sex, marriage, discrimination in child education as a boy child is favored</p> <p>R13, R16, R18, R20, R21, R23, R25. It means violence among families or even partners</p>
<p>Subtheme two: Understanding the different types of GBV in Kigezi sub region.</p>	<p>During the assessment period and through the close interactions with the participants during the FGDs and the KIs. The following were unanimously raised as the common SGBV cases in common in Kigezi sub region. (R1-R30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Harassment • Defilement • Incest cases • Rape • land wrangles • Girl child directed violence e.g., denial of girls to inherit property • Alcoholism, Fighting and poverty • Land grabbing • Early or teenage marriages • Physical violence. • Drugs and social media misuse.

THEME	RESPONSES
<p>Subtheme three: How often (if ever) do you see sexual violence cases or other forms of gender-based violence?</p>	<p>This question was aimed at understanding how frequently these cases happen.</p> <p>And during the Focused Group discussion members noted that these cases happen frequently, some on a daily basis and others are recorded and reported on monthly basis.</p> <p>During the interactions it was noticed an average of at least 20 cases of the different SGBV cases is recorded monthly and an average of 7 weekly</p>
<p>Subtheme Four: What are the commonly used channels for reporting gender-based violence? From what individuals or organizations do you typically receive reports of sexual violence?</p>	<p>This was mainly to understand the referral pathways these people use to mediate, negotiate and also understand the mechanisms the communities use to report the SGBV Cases.</p> <p>During the FGB many participants indicated the following as the common referral mechanism used as channels of reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Chairperson LCO who act as clan heads. Reporting is commonly done by children. • Through family members • Reporting to the LC1 Chairperson, Police. • LC1 chairpersons. • Calling parents, victims and having open discussions with them • Reporting directly to the CDOs office • Involving the police directly • Family negotiations • Through village committees, legal advice is given. • Referrals to CDOs, District Probation Offices, Police.
<p>Subtheme Five: Assessing the level of Knowledge about SGBV.</p>	<p>During the interaction with participants more so in FGDs and KIs, majority of participants indicated that they had not gotten sufficient expert training regarding SGBV and also showed interest in having them. The few who had had some few trainings also need some refreshers.</p>
<p>Subtheme six: Assessing the availability of safe spaces for survivors</p>	<p>It was evident throughout the discussion that the whole lacks shelters where survivors can seek refuge from their abusers.</p>

THEME	RESPONSES
<p>Subtheme seven: Understanding the exist-ing Community gaps and challenges in ad-dressing the cases of SGBV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance by families, corruption and bribery which supports male perpetrators • Travelling long distances. • Lack of enough sensitization on the causes of SGBV. • Political influence. • Lack of awareness to people about the disadvantages of sexual gender-based violence • Ignorance of the victims to comprehensively address these issues corruption victims don't know their rights and channels to go through to address these issues. • Lack of efficient support systems at community levels • Connivance of leaders at the local levels with the perpetrators • Lack of accommodation to shelter some of the survivors and victims of SGBV • Lack of enough confidence to report cases • Fear to open up to leaders•
<p>Subtheme Eight: Understanding the role of cultural leaders in bringing an end to SGBV cases in Kigezi sub-region region</p>	<p>During the interaction with cultural leaders in the FGD and KI sessions, most of the cultur-al, elderly and others leaders re-affirmed the role they play in the elimination or bringing an end to the unending spate of SGBV Cases in Kigezi sub region.</p> <p>Among the key roles pointed out included but not limited to the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the implementation and observation of child protection laws. • Creating public awareness through folk songs and narrating to people stories on how people used to handle their different cultures. • Provide guidance to the people in the communities on how to solve some of the problems that come as an outcome of SGBV • Educating people about their cultures, clans and helping solving out the family misunderstandings. • Educating the people on how to con-duct themselves in line with their cul-tures and clans • Formulation of standards to follow. • To identify clear roles played by both central and local council structures. • Create awareness on the existing cul-tural values, clan systems. • Reconciliation • Ensure equality in Educating womn and men on the harms of SGBV. • Create enough time to address SGBV as a key priority challenge.

Recommendations

After a very fruitful discussion to understand the existing cultural interventions to curb the cases of SGBV in Kigezi sub-region, the participants made the following recommendations among others as the key steps to be taken so as to reduce the occurrence of these vices in the region.

- Carrying out mass community mobilization and sensitization holistically for both boys and girls. (Visiting schools, churches and cultural gatherings).
- Formalization of Organization of clan/cultural opinion leaders to spearhead the fight against SGBV.
- Involvement of key stakeholders such as civic and other IPs through radio talk shows.
- Involvement of key stakeholders in the community like religious leaders so that they pass on the message through places of worship.
- Train communities about income generating activities to outcome poverty.
- Exposure visits to learn new practices
- Integration of SGBV into the school curriculum.
- Integrating SGBV sensitization programs into existing community initiatives for example PDM platforms to sensitize masses on SGBV.
- Using "Ebikoome", to interact with young people.
- Empowering leaders of "Abataaka" associations to fully embrace SGBV prevention interventions
- Supporting Music, Dance and Drama competitions in schools as media for creating sensitization and awareness to all the boys and girls
- Prioritizing male involvement and engagement in the response programs for SGBV prevention
- Make follow-ups to mark impact of these interventions starting at family level.
- Extend awareness programs to the grassroots.
- Formation of bylaws and find means to fight corruption
- Involvement of all leadership that is the cultural leaders, politicians at all levels of the community.
- Sensitization of people about the dangers of SGBV, providing talk shows to families it can be done through radio stations
- Involvement of all people in the fight against sexual gender-based violence all community and leadership levels, creating awareness among people, educating and providing guidance to the community people.
- Provision of talk shows on radio stations and in communities.





Rukiga Team

Conclusion

During the assessment, all participants were so excited and willingly contributed during the FGDs and KIs which raised very interventions for stopping SGBV among the young women and Women in general.

It was evident after the entire exercise that many cultural leaders self-nominated themselves as champions and committed to working with GMU effectively for the elimination of SGBV cases in Kigezi sub region.

A lot of different cases that commonly happen in Kigezi sub region.

Very practical interventions were raised during the assessment.





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