

COMBAT: A Community structure to prevent violence against Women and Girls

BASELINE FINDINGS FROM 10 COMMUNITIES IN THE AGONA EAST AND WEST DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL REGION OF GHANA.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study aimed at gathering baseline evidence on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in 10 communities of the Agona East and West Districts of the Central region of Ghana prior to the implementation of the Rural Response System (RRS) intervention using Community-Based Action Teams (COMBATs). The RRS intervention model approaches violence prevention based on an ecological model, which targets various levels of influence (See Appendix 1). The causes of violence are complex encompassing individual factors, relationship factors and community factors. Individual level factors include low educational level, young age, low economic status/income, unemployment and harmful use of alcohol or illicit drugs, among others. Relationship level factors include education disparity among couples or low couples' communication. Acceptance of violence against women, weak community sanctions and lack of societal legislation are among those factors named at community and societal levels. Annex 1 shows the Theory of Change for the study.

The main objective of the project is to reduce the incidence of violence against women and girls.

Specifically:

- 1) To increase awareness of community members including women and girls and the general population on causes and consequences of VAWG.
- 2) To improve support to women and girls to access justice and other services.
- 3) To enhance capacity of state agency personnel to effectively implement laws and respond effectively to victims who report to them.

To achieve these objectives, the following outcomes were selected:

- Outcome 1: More women and girls are aware of their rights to bodily integrity and freedom from violence.
- Outcome 2: Public increasingly supports ending VAW
- Outcome 3: Duty bearers improve and put in place laws and policies to prevent and respond to VAW.
- Outcome 4: More women and girls access necessary support and services that respect their diverse needs and identities.

Based on the above, the aims of the present baseline assessment were to:

- To determine the past year prevalence of women and girl's experience of violence
- To document survivors' use of available support
- To document possible risk or protective factors associated with violence perpetration and experience such as:

Awareness of women and girls on bodily integrity, gender attitudes, gender-inequitable social norms, attitudes towards VAWG, available support systems for survivors of VAWG, knowledge of laws on domestic violence and inheritance, and state agency capacity to respond to VAWG cases.

This report is based on a community quantitative survey of 317 women, 62 men, as well as in-depth interviews and discussions with 12 traditional leaders, and 60 community volunteers selected from 10 communities in Agona East and West Districts, and 25 female community members. Also, five state agencies' district office representatives from DOVVSU, Social welfare, CHRAJ and gender desk officers at the District Assembly were interviewed. The study used personal digital assistants (PDAs) for data collection to address ethical issues and maximize disclosure. The interviews were sex-matched such that male respondents were interviewed by male research assistants and females were interviewed by female research assistants. The study followed rigorous international ethical and safety standards for research on violence against women. Two of the ten communities were designated male study sites and the remaining eight were designated female study sites. However, community volunteers and traditional leaders were interviewed from all 10 communities.

The report presents findings from both quantitative and qualitative surveys with the main findings grouped into the following thematic subheadings:

- Prevalence and patterns of violence experienced by women
- Gender attitudes and decision making in the home
- Men's and women's attitudes towards violence against women
- Women's bodily integrity
- Available support for victims and trust in institutions
- Other critical issues related to women's experience of violence.

FINDING: Prevalence and patterns of violence experienced by women

Nine in ten women have experienced at least one form of physical, social, psychological, economic, or sexual violence in their lifetime and seven in ten reported having experienced violence in the last 12 months. One in three women reported recent experience of physical or sexual violence. Lifetime experience of sexual violence was 22%.

FINDING: Gender attitudes and decision making in the home

This study found over 96% of respondents and volunteer COMBATs to have remarkably high gender-inequitable attitudes. They both had attitudes that condone VAWG such as men need sex more than women do (>86% for both men and women), a man needs to be tough (>77%), a woman's most important role is to care for her home and cook for the family (>92%), and a man should have the final word about decisions in his home (>80%). The major point of disagreement between men and women was in relation to the woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant, for which one in five men agreed while seven in ten women agreed.

FINDING: Attitudes that condone violence against women.

Respondents generally condoned VAW with more men tolerating violence than women. About eight in ten agreed that a husband has the right to punish his wife for wrongdoing with more men (68%) than women (43%) agreeing that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten. A half of respondents believed that a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together. Only 21% of both men and women believed that wife beating was a show of love.

FINDING: Decision making in the home, gender roles and attitudes

There was general agreement that decision making was the preserve of men. Major decisions such as use of proceeds from farmlands and use of income of head of household often excluded women. Only 4% of men reported that any one of the decisions assessed was made by women only. About

40% of decision made together with women involved care for children and daily household decisions on food and supplies.

FINDING: Women's bodily integrity

Survey responses showed that women have a good sense of women's bodily integrity with over four in ten women agreeing to almost all items assessed. One major aspect in which the least proportion of women was the power to decide on whether to keep a pregnancy or not (69%). This powerlessness of women to control their reproduction was more evident in qualitative discourse around the topic. For men, the aspect of women's bodily integrity least agreed upon was the power to decide how to dress or look (55%). Although the majority (86%) of women believed they had the right to seek redress when violated, men consistently reported higher agreement (> 90%) than the women themselves. Evidence from the qualitative enquiry suggests that women are hesitant to exercise this right to seek redress due to challenges surrounding reporting in their community.

FINDING: Available support for victims and trust in institutions

Findings from this study showed that women were reluctant to seek help and the few that sought help after injuries did not all get the support they needed. About 86% of victims who sought for help from family, religious and communities' leaders got some support. However, four in ten were advised to keep quiet, one in five was blamed for the abuse while 14% got an indifferent response from the source. Nine out of the fifteen victims sustaining injuries reported to the police. There was general trust in institutions to take necessary actions to prevent VAWG even though women tended to have more trust in state institutions compared to men.

FINDING: Other critical issues related to women's experience of violence

Respondents indicated access to information on VAWG mainly from radio and television, with women reporting slightly higher access compared to men. About nine in ten of the respondents surveyed and all volunteer COMBATs were aware of the existence of laws on VAW and

inheritance. Men recorded significantly higher knowledge of DV laws compared to women, while women also recorded higher knowledge of inheritance laws than men.

One in three respondents to the survey had observed at least one act of violence perpetrated against women by parents or other persons in the household. A third of women and a quarter of men reported widespread (10-50%) prevalence of VAW in their community. However, more men felt that sexual violence against women occurred more often (more than half) in the community.

Respondents generally reported good spousal communication on all topics, but the least discussed topic was fertility or how many children women should have.

The agents of change to be used by this study did express worry about the occurrence of VAWG and expressly condemned these acts in their communities. Anticipation of the intervention was exceedingly high among traditional leaders, volunteer COMBATs and state agency personnel. However, they requested for more capacity building for them to effectively execute their part of the intervention.

FINDING: Challenges of state agencies

All the state agencies visited indicated a lack of resources as their main challenge. Chief of these was lack of transportation to the communities for outreach programmes or to apprehend offenders. Another challenge reported by both CHRAJ and DSW was that of inadequate office space for effective functioning and ensuring confidentiality of cases. The DSW especially indicated that this is possibly a main reason why persons may refuse to utilize their services and called for an allocation of an office that assures privacy. Other challenges pointed out included low staff strength and the need for further staff training for effective response. A key challenge mentioned by the DOVVSU was the inhibitive effect that charges associated with obtaining medical report has on the pursuance of sexual abuse cases. The official called either for an abolishment of the charges or an enrolment of a gynaecologist on the DOVVSU team to perform this function.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Change social norms that make VAWG acceptable
- Community-based volunteers must be given copies of state laws relating to violence, inheritance, and child protection
- Reduce women's vulnerability to VAW through economic empowerment
- Improve resources of state agencies to effectively respond to VAWG
- Enforce applicable laws.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CES	Centre for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale	GHC	Ghanaian Cedis
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	GSS	Ghana Statistical Services
CI	Confidence Interval	IDI	In-depth interview
COMBAT	Community Based Action Teams	KII	Key informant interview
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit	PDA	Personal Digital Assistant
DSW	Department of Social Welfare	RRS	Rural Response System
FGD	focus group discussions	SS CF	Stepping Stones and Creating Futures
EA	Enumeration area	UN	United Nations
GDHS	Ghana Demographic and Health Survey	VAW	Violence against Women
		VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
		WHO	World Health Organization
		GEMS	Gender-Equitable Men Scale

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a major global social and public health issue most of which occur within domestic relationships [1-3]. Evidence from the most recent nationally representative survey on violence show that 71.5% and 42% of women surveyed in 2015 reported lifetime and recent (last 12 months) experience of violence [4]. The report estimated recent national social, psychological, economical, physical, and sexual violence experience among women as 20.8%, 22.5%, 14.4%, 8.9% and 10.6% respectively. The 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey [5] report estimates a 44.5% lifetime experience of physical or sexual domestic violence among women which 20.6%, 8.2% and 33.4% were physical, sexual and psychological, violence perpetrated by an intimate partner.

National estimates of violence reported for the Central region of Ghana, where this study was conducted, are relatively higher than the national estimates except for social violence. For instance, the GFHLS 2015 estimates of recent psychological, economical, physical, and sexual among women are 22.5%, 15.6%, 10.9% and 13.5% respectively in the central region. Also, the 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey [5] reports an 18.8% prevalence of domestic violence in the Central region compared to the national estimate of 17.2%.

Although the majority of VAW is perpetrated by current and former partners [4], it is also considerably perpetrated by persons outside of the home such as employers, neighbours, and persons at school or strangers [5].

The factors identified to be associated with VAWG in Ghana include low wealth or economic status, younger age, gender-inequitable norms and attitudes that promote the use of violence against women, exposure to violence in childhood, risky sexual behaviour, substance abuse, and child neglect [4-8].

Reporting of cases to state institutions have been very low in Ghana. Evidence from national surveys since 1998 show that victims prefer to report to family members rather than to the police for several reasons. These include poor case management by the police, inadequate sanctioning of perpetrators, the lack of confidentiality, victim blaming and shaming, poor support structures for victims, entrenched social norms that condone VAW, among others [4, 5, 9].

The myriad of factors that promote VAW in this setting require very concerted efforts among stakeholders to addressing VAWG at the various levels. In 2002, the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre developed an intervention known as the Rural Response System (RRS), popularly known as the COMBAT intervention. The intervention, which uses Community-based Action Teams (COMBATs) to provide community sensitization on VAWG, provide counselling and support to victims including assistance to victims who choose to report to state agencies. The RRS-COMBAT model also incorporates training for frontline state agencies mandated to manage cases of VAWG to improve their responses to reported cases in the district. The intervention has been piloted and tested in different communities across six regions in Ghana. The intervention was recently evaluated under the DFID supported programme “What Works to prevent violence against women and girls” global programme in 2018 and was one of a few achieving results. After 18 months of the intervention, physical and sexual IPV reduced by 50% and 55% respectively [6]. The COMBAT teams reached over 25000 people in their community sensitisation and awareness raising activities with 220 cases reported to them for settlement.

Beyond the communities, the intervention has been used in many other violence prevention projects in Ghana including the HIV and Safe schools project, women in leadership, amongst others. The current study is funded by the African Women’s Development Fund under its Leading from the South (LFS) programme with the goal of upscaling the Combat intervention in 10 new communities in the Agona East and West Districts of the Central Region. This report presents findings of the baseline assessment of the community prior to intervention implementation.

CHAPTER 2: METHOD

2.1 STUDY DESIGN

This baseline study is part of a repeated cross-sectional study pre-and-post implementation of the rural response system intervention for preventing VAW.

2.1.1 Study Area and Setting

This study was carried out in the Agona East and Agona West districts located in the Central Region of Ghana. The Central Region occupies an area of approximately 9,800 square kilometres, which is about 6.6% of the land area of Ghana [10, 11]. About 63% of the region is rural, with estimated population size of 2,413,050 (for the year 2013) and a population density of about 215 inhabitants per square kilometer [10, 11]. Adult literacy rate in the region is around 50%, with more men being literate (69.8%) than women (46.3%) in the region [10, 11]. The region is predominantly Akan (2.0%) with Fante being the indigenous dialect of most districts in the region [11]. Unemployment rate is 8.0%, with rate among women being about 0.4 % higher than in men. The Central region has 17 districts which includes the two involved in the present study.

The Agona East District (AED) and Agona West Municipal (AWM) were both carved out of the Agona District in 2008 following a legislative instrument LI 1921.

The capital of AWM is Swedru with a population size of 115,358 and a 53.1% constitution of female population based on the 2010 population census figures. Agona Swedru occupies an area of 356.2 sq.km belonging to 29,478 households. Four of the communities involved in this study (Nkum, Aponsahkrom, Kwaman, and Ahomadonko) are featured on the top 20 largest settlements in the municipality. The fifth community in the AWM is Gyasikrom. Agriculture constitutes the major economic activity engaged in by over 64% of the occupants. Most of the farming is dominated by cash crops such as cocoa, coconut, oil palm and citrus.

The Agona East district capital is Nsabaa. Based on the 2010 population and housing census, the district has a population of 85,920 constituting 3.9% of the region's total population. Females represent 52.2% of the population and less than half (43.3%) of the district's population live in urban localities. The district has about 21,021 households with a crude birth rate of 28.0, which is one of the highest in the region. Two (Namanwora and Kokwado) of the five communities from

this district feature in the 20 largest communities. The remaining participating communities are Mensahkrom, Otwekrom and Suromanya.

2.1.2 Selection and randomization of sites

The choice of the Agona East and West Districts for participation in this study was based on programmatic and operational considerations. The main intention was to roll-out the intervention in more communities in the two districts following the success of the intervention in the earlier trial. This discrimination was necessary since some ten communities in the study area have already been involved in the testing of the same intervention from 2016 to 2018. Thus, the choice of the communities was done meticulously to exclude others on the grounds that earlier intervention work on GBV has been carried out in those communities. Communities in proximity with previously engaged communities were selected to increase the geographical area covered by the intervention per district as well as to leverage on support from previously trained COMBATs. Selected communities include Otwekrom; Suromanya; Kokwado; Namanwora; Amponsahkrom; Mensahkrom; Agona Kwaman; Agona Gyasikrom; Agona Nkum; and Ahomandonko.

After the identification of communities by the Gender Centre, further information on communities were sought from the Ghana Statistical Service. These included Enumeration Area (EA) maps, population, and housing characteristics. This information helped with the systematic sampling of households for the survey. Stratified sampling was used to select household in communities that had more than one EA to ensure an even spread of respondents in the communities. In one community (Namanwora) where locality map was absent, the random walk method was used in selecting the participants. This involved a division of the community into 4 parts, randomly selecting one as the starting point; after which systematic sampling was used to select households based on the number of houses in community. To ensure compliance with safety recommendations when conducting research in VAW, two communities that were spatially separated from the remaining were demarcated male study sites and the eight others were used to collect data from women and girls. This resulted in 6 female study sites (three in Agona East & three in the Agona West) and two male sites used for the survey. The two remaining (Kwaman and Gyasikrom) female study sites were involved in women and girl's focus group discussions.

2.2 STUDY TOOLS

This evaluation used both quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate multiple perspectives, contextualize information, and develop a more complete understanding of VAWG in the communities. Details of specific methods are discussed in the sub-sections below.

2.2.1 Quantitative Research

2.2.1.1. Sample Size Estimation

Sample size for this baseline assessment was determined using the method of Daniel (1999), we estimated sample size for a cross-sectional study as following these assumptions: Confidence Interval = 95%; 5% precision (d); expected prevalence of 21% VAW (P)-estimated from previous study in the Central region; factoring in a non-consent rate of 15%, an approximate number of 300 eligible women were to be selected from all the ten communities. Women age 15 years and above, who have been residents for not less than 12 months in the study area and provided consent were eligible to participate in this survey.

A minimum sample of 60 men (age 18 and above) were randomly selected from the two purposefully selected communities that are most detached from the rest. The male survey was not for the purposes of comparing with women, but for validation of any changes in gender attitudes reported by women in the survey. The involvement of men in this baseline assessment was limited by availability of funds. Aside community members, all 60 COMBAT members nominated across the 10 communities were surveyed upon consent.

2.2.1.2 Recruitment and Inclusion Criteria

The study included women (ages 15 to 49 years) and men (≥ 18 years) in the selected communities. The random walk method was used to select eligible respondents for this study. Approximately 30 households were systematically sampled in selected communities. Sampling of households within the communities was done using systematic random sampling with sample proportionate to the total number of households in each community. Only one female or male subject from each selected household was invited to participate in the study. In households having more than one eligible person, balloting was used to select one.

Inclusion criteria: respondents usually live (sleep and eat) in the household; have lived in the community for at least a year and are between the ages of 15-to-49 years old (for women) or above 18 years old (for men). All selected participants must be able to communicate in the main languages of the study (English, Akan, and Fante) and be able to provide consent (appendix 2) or assent (appendix 4) after parental consent (appendix 3) is provided. All COMBAT members were eligible for the survey.

2.2.1.3 STUDY TOOL FOR MAIN OUTCOME ASSESSMENT

The outcomes of this study were measured using a standard questionnaire designed for data collection at both baseline and post intervention (Appendix 5 – female questionnaire, Appendix 6 – male questionnaire and Appendix 7-COMBAT questionnaire). Most of the questions adopted for use in the current study had been previously translated into Fante and Twi by bi-lingual members of the project team at the University of Ghana. These questions were further independently translated by people who have not seen the English questionnaire. The project team discussed and resolved any disagreements.

The primary outcome was assessed using standard measures developed by the World Health Organisation for its multi-country study¹⁰. These questionnaires have been tested in South Africa over many years in different populations, the piloting of Stepping Stones and Creating Futures (SS CF pilot) and most recently used in the impact assessment of the RRS in four districts of the central region of Ghana, which included the current study districts. The questions on background variables, and outcomes measures were used in South Africa in the SS CF pilot, the recent impact assessment of the RRS in Ghana and some sections from the Ghana Family Life and Health Survey 2014. The questions asked about VAWG experiences in the last 12 months were used to identify recent survivors. Any participant who responds positively to any one of the ten questions on social violence, five questions on psychological violence, six on economic violence, or eight questions on physical or five questions on sexual violence in the past 12 months for baseline and post intervention was deemed to be a case of VAWG victimisation (if female).

2.2.2 Qualitative Research

The qualitative component was intended to provide in-depth understanding of the visibility of VAWG issues in the communities, available support for survivors, context specific drivers of VAWG as well as expectations for the upcoming intervention. We also hoped to draw on contextual understanding of women's bodily integrity and the grounds for compromise of autonomy over their bodies. Focus group discussions (FGDs) captured perceptions of the community on VAWG as well as the components of the proposed intervention. Male and female FGDs were conducted separately for the COMBATs pre-training to allow for expression of gendered views within a comfortable and convenient environment without any apprehension. All FGDs were facilitated by the researchers.

The in-depth interviews conducted with eight survivors of different forms of violence (identified and invited during community survey) also covered the broad themes outlined for the qualitative enquiry. The victims will be followed at different time points in the study. Key Informant interviews were conducted with critical stakeholders and decision makers who are likely to manage cases of VAWG in the communities. These included traditional leaders (chiefs, Muslim leaders, and queen mothers) in participating communities and representatives from the district DOVVSU, DSW, CHRAJ and gender desk officer at the Agona West Municipal Assembly. The key informants were interviewed on their perspectives on VAWG, current responses, the strengths and weaknesses of the current system, expectations of the RRS intervention and their recommendations for improvement if they were previously involved (state agency personnel only) in the previous implementation of the RRS. Appendices 8 and 9 show the interview guides and respondent characteristics of participants in the qualitative enquiry, respectively.

2.2.3 Data Collection

2.2.3.1 Pre-data collection activities

Pre-data collection fieldwork was carried out in three phases: mapping of study area, pre-testing of data collection instruments, and community mobilization. Mapping of localities was facilitated by EA data obtained from the GSS. Due to budgetary constraints, listing of households could not be done prior to actual data collection. Thus, the supervisor and two other trained research

assistants used the random walk method and identified selected houses with coloured chalks ahead of participant selection and interview. Households were selected systematically as described in the random walk method above. The final questionnaires were pre-tested among Akan (preferably Fante) speaking persons in Accra. Community mobilisation was done alongside community entry and COMBAT selection activities conducted by the Gender Centre. The researchers and field supervisor were introduced to the community and data collection dates shared where available. Also, announcements were made in the community about dates and selection of survey participants prior to actual days of data collection to ensure availability and reduce the need for replacing selected households.

2.3 ETHICAL AND SAFETY CONSIDERATION

This study followed ethical principles outlined by the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki [12], and the Belmont report [13], which emphasize respect for person's autonomy, justice, beneficence, and non-maleficence (do no harm) in the conduct of research with human participants. The study was done to ensure minimal risk (more than everyday risk) to participants. The interviews were done in complete privacy to ensure security of participant and interviewer. The study ensured that data collected from participants was kept safe and confidential.

Ethical approval was sought from the College of Humanities Ethical Review Committee, University of Ghana (protocol number: ECH 185/19-20). Eligible participants were given information about the aims of the study, participation procedures involved, rights and risks of participation, compensations, benefits, and their preferred interview language after which a written consent was sought. The researchers ensured that participants clearly understood the information provided to them in their language of choice. Respondents were assured of anonymity; interviews were conducted in complete privacy and unique codes were used on data collected onto the PDAs instead of names. The entire research team signed confidentiality agreement and ethical forms prior to any contact with study participants to ensure safety of participants and ethical conduct of interviews.

2.3.1 Adherence to protocols in the context of Covid-19

The research team adhered to all prevailing protocols outlined in the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19. All field researchers wore protective face masks and shields during all field activities. Social distancing measures were adhered to during all community activities including participant selection. All selected respondents were required to wear face masks which were provided by the research team during interviews. Additionally, field research assistants carried hand sanitizers and alcohol sprays which were used by both RAs and participants during the period of the interaction.

2.4 MEASURING VIOLENCE

The baseline survey adopted questions used in the Ghana Family Life and Health Survey (GFLHS 2015), which are based on measures from both the WHO multi-country study and UN multi-country study. This study considered five main forms of VAWG and assessed who the perpetrators were. Recent (past 12 months) and lifetime experience of violence was assessed. Specific questions used are shown below. An affirmative answer to any one of the items outlined for each type of violence was considered an experience of that type of violence. Specific questions asked on each type of violence are shown in box 2.1 and 2.2.

2.4.1 Sexual, Physical Psychological and Economic Violence

Box 2. 1: Measuring physical, sexual psychological and economic violence

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE
• Was slapped or had something thrown at her that could hurt her. • Was pushed or shoved. • Was hit with fist or something else that could hurt. • Was kicked, dragged, beaten, choked or burnt • Perpetrator threatened to use or actually used a weapon against her. • Perpetrator poured hazardous chemicals or substances (e.g. acid) on her	• Was physically forced to have sex when she did not want • Had sex when she did not want to because she was afraid of what he might do • Perpetrator had sexual intercourse with woman without permission • Was forced to do something sexual that she didn't want to do
PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	ECONOMIC VIOLENCE
• Was insulted or made to feel bad about herself • Was belittled or humiliated in private • Was belittled or humiliated in front of other people • Perpetrator had done things to scare or intimidate her on purpose (e.g. by yelling or smashing things) • Perpetrator had threatened to hurt her or someone she cared about.	• Was refused enough chop money even though he/she has enough money to spend on other things • Was asked about how she spends her money in detail • Perpetrator took cash or withdrew money from her account or credit/debit card without permission • Perpetrator controlled her belongings

2.4.2 Social violence

Box 2. 2 Social violence/ Controlling behaviour

Women's experience

- Perpetrator tried to keep her from seeing her friends
- Perpetrator tried to restrict contact with her family of birth
- Perpetrator insisted on knowing where she was at all times
- Perpetrator ignored and treated her indifferently
- Perpetrator called and texted her to a point where she felt uncomfortable
- Perpetrator got angry if she speaks with another man/woman
- Perpetrator has been suspicious that she is unfaithful
- Perpetrator forced her to quit her work.
- Perpetrator forced her to have an abortion against her will.
- Perpetrator controlled/checked her phones/texts/emails

2.4.3 Bodily Integrity

The baseline survey also explored the awareness of bodily integrity for women. Both men and women were asked a set of questions on whether they agreed that women had the right or autonomy over their bodies and functioning as women. Responses were assessed on a 5-point Likert scale which ranged from Strongly Disagree through neutral to Strongly Agree. The current analysis reports on proportion of men and women who agreed to each of the statements. Questions used in women's survey are shown in box 2.3 below.

Box 2. 3: Women's bodily integrity

- **You feel you have the right to decide when to have sex**
- **You feel you have the right to safe, satisfying and pleasurable sex life**
- **You feel you have the power to decide when to get pregnant**
- **You feel you have the power to decide whether or not to keep a pregnancy**
- **You feel you have the power to decide how many children to give birth to**
- **You feel you have the power to keep your body in good health**
- **You feel you have the power to associate with whoever you wish**
- **You feel you have the power to decide how to dress or look**
- **You feel you have the power to protect yourself from violence**
- **You feel you have the power to seek redress when abused by an intimate partner**
- **You feel you have the power to seek redress when abused by a family member**
- **You feel you have the power to seek redress when abused by a non-family member**
- **You feel you have control over how you express emotions**
- **You feel you have the power to demand sexual & reproductive health services**
- **You feel you have the freedom to choose to be yourself irrespective of cultural expectations**
- **You feel you have the freedom to take care of your body as a woman**

CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS

3.1 SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

3.1.1 Characteristics of respondents

Three hundred and seventeen women and 62 men were surveyed in this baseline assessment. The women interviewed were normally distributed across the different age groups from 15 to 49 years and a mean (SD) age of 31.1 (9.2) years. The men were slightly older due to the exclusion of respondents under 18 years old and inclusion of men above 49 years. Consequently, the mean age (SD) of the men surveyed was 41.4 (13.2) years with a little less than a quarter (24.2%) of them being above 49 years. Slightly more men than women (12.9% vs 7.6%) had no formal education. Slightly more women (81% vs 75.8%) also tended to have had basic school education (primary and JHS) than men. However, a comparable proportion (11.3%) of both men and women had obtained higher than a secondary school education.

A quarter of women were married as compared to half of the men interviewed. Slightly more men either had separated, were divorced or no committed relationship compared to women (12.3% vs 8.3%) while the majority (66%) of women reported being in a relationship but unmarried. Slightly above a tenth (11.4%) of women reported their age at first marriage or cohabitation as less than 15 years whereas more than a half of men indicated age at first marriage or cohabitation above 25 years. The men had slightly more children compared to the women (median number of children 3.8 vs 3.1). Both men and women had lived comparable years in the community at the time of survey and significantly more women described themselves as active in religious activities compared to men (75.1% vs 66.1%).

About 97% of men interviewed were engaged in income generating activities at the time of the survey compared to 75% of women. Even though more than a half (58%) of women indicated work in each month of the year, up to a fifth of women surveyed earned no income for their work. Please see Table 1 for details of the demographic characteristics of survey participants.

Table 1: Characteristics of Survey respondents

	Women (N=317)		Men (N=62)	
	n/ mean	%/SD	n/ mean	%/SD
Age group				
Mean $\pm$ SD	31.1 $\pm$ 9.2		41.4 $\pm$ 13.2	
15-19	42	13.3	1	1.6
20-24	49	15.5	2	3.2
25-29	53	16.7	10	16.1
30-34	54	17.0	5	8.1
35-39	50	15.8	11	17.7
40-44	38	12.0	14	22.6
45-49	31	9.8	4	6.5
$\geq$ 50	—	—	15	24.2
Education level				
No formal education	24	7.6	8	12.9
Primary education	109	34.4	14	22.6
Junior High/Middle school	148	46.7	33	53.2
Senior High school & beyond	36	11.4	7	11.3
Marital Status				
Married	74	25.4	28	49.1
separated/divorced/no relationship	24	8.3	7	12.3
Not married but in relationship	193	66.3	22	38.6
Period lived in community				
Mean $\pm$ SD	17.0 $\pm$ 11.7		20.4 $\pm$ 15.4	
<5yrs	57	18.0	10	16.1
5-9yrs	45	14.2	6	9.7
10-19yrs	82	25.9	12	19.4
20-29yrs	78	24.6	19	30.7
$\geq$ 30yrs	55	17.4	15	24.2
Active in church (Yes)	238	75.1	41	66.1
Age at first marriage/ cohabitation				
Median (LQ, UQ)	19 (17, 23)		25 (22, 30)	
15 years & below	36	11.4	0	0.0
16 to 19 years	123	38.8	5	8.1
20 to 25 years	91	28.7	24	38.7
Above 25 years	67	21.1	33	53.2
Number of Living children (mean $\pm$ SD)	3.1 $\pm$ 1.9		3.8 $\pm$ 2.2	
No child	13	6.1	2	3.2
1 or 2 children	109	51.2	16	25.8
3 or 4 children	90	42.3	18	29.0
5 or more children	1	0.5	26	41.9
Work in past year				
Each month	138	58.2	47	78.3
Most months	73	30.8	11	18.3
Once in a while	24	10.1	2	3.3
Never worked	2	0.8	2	0.1
Currently working (Yes)	237	74.8	60	96.8
Average income				
no income	66	20.8	2	3.2
<100 Gh cedis	72	22.7	5	8.1
100 and 500 GH cedis	80	25.2	27	43.6

Above 500 Gh Cedis	99	31.2	28	45.2
Alcohol consumption (Yes)	64	20.2	33	53.2
Depression				
Median (LQ, UQ)	6 (5, 8)		2 (1.8, 5)	
Mean Depression score (SD)	9.3 (6.2)		5.5 (6.6)	

Depression scores are based on the Centre for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale

3.2 RECENT (last 12 months) AND LIFETIME EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE WOMEN

A total of 299 (94.3%) and 232 (73.2%) women interviewed had experienced at least one form of violence in their lifetime and in the last 12 months respectively at the time of the survey. The top three most experienced type of violence reported by women both in their lifetime and recently in a decreasing order are psychological violence, social violence, and economic violence. About a half of women reported lifetime experience of physical violence while a fifth reported sexual violence. However, recent experiences reported show that 28% and 31% of women who reported lifetime experience of physical and sexual violence also reported recent experience.

There were some differences in the forms of physical violence reported as recent compared to lifetime experience by women. The three most reported lifetime physical violence experience included slapping or having things thrown at them (38.5%), pushing or shoving (21.8%) and kicking, dragging & beating (20.2%). However, the three most reported forms of recent physical violence include choking/strangling (47.6%), pushing or shoving (33.3%) and kicking, dragging, or beating (29.7%). Over a fifth of respondents reported being threatened with or attacked with a weapon in the last 12 months. Please refer to Table 2 for more details. None of the respondents reported experiencing hazardous chemical or substances poured on them. Some of the victims of VAWG, in the in-depth interviews, reported experiencing physical violence, thus confirming the findings of the survey. Below are extracts from some victims of VAWG:

He told me we should go to... (name of a community), there was a new clinic there; when we got there he asked me to go and they will check it [pregnancy] for me, and I told him that since we have both come to the town we should both go to the hospital for them to check on me. He said he will not go but warned me he does not want to hear me talk to any guy at the hospital. I also replied that there are only men in that hospital so it's men who will talk to me and because of that he told me not to go again. I told him since we were in the clinic, I cannot go back home without being checked. After I was checked I asked him to give me money to go and pay and he refused, so I got angry. As we were returning home, he beat me on the way so when we got back home, I had to go back to the hospital. (Victim, 22, cohabiting).

He can beat me. Sometimes when for two weeks or one month he doesn't give the children money, I go there. When I go there and ask him, he will say he doesn't have money, should he go and steal for me? Then I say that would he marry another woman if he doesn't have money. When that happens, it becomes a fight. He will beat me; lift me up and drop me on the floor. One day, he lifted me and left me on the ground and one man came to beat him. He told him what he was doing was wrong; it is not right to treat a woman that way. They guy called my brother on phone and told him. He run off when my brother came. Another time, he pushed me into a gutter by the roadside. He also pushed me close to the church building. Right now, I have pain in my ribs and if I want to

stand, my third child has to support me before I could stand. A man got some medicines for me to drink and I felt better. Later, I felt sick and I was taken to the hospital. He also beat me here and hit my head on the wall. (Victim, 40, separated)

At least a fifth of respondents reported lifetime and recent sexual violence, reporting more than one form in most cases. The forms of recent sexual violence reported by respondents who reported at least one form of sexual violence (n=71) include rape (22%), non-physical pressure to have sex (40%) and partner refusal to use protection upon request (44.4%). This is the experience of two victims of sexual violence:

I was sleeping in the room when my uncle came in and said if I don't sleep with him, he will kill me. And I said I won't do it. He forced me, tied my hands, and raped me. (victim, 15, cohabiting)

I realized that what is going on is not good. He even forces me before having sex with me. Sometimes, I have to even get out of the room naked. (Victim, 30, single)

Sexual violence was also reported to have occurred in some of the communities during the FGDs: “One happened here just recently. A man had sex with a girl on the farm. I have heard that he has been arrested or something like that. Even in our area here, one guy raped a girl...” (Victim, 40, cohabiting)

Table 2 Women's recent and Lifetime experience of Sexual and Physical violence

	Lifetime Experience (N=317)			Recent Experience (N=299)		
	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI
PHYSICAL violence acts						
Was slapped or had something thrown at them that could hurt	122	38.5	33.1 - 44.1	33	27.0	19.4 - 35.8
Was pushed or shoved	69	21.8	17.3 - 26.7	23	33.3	22.4 - 45.7
Was hit you with a fist or with something else that could hurt	54	17.0	13.1 - 21.6	13	24.1	13.5 - 37.6
Was kicked, dragged, or beaten up	64	20.2	15.9 - 25	19	29.7	18.9 - 42.4
Was choked or strangled on purpose	21	6.6	4.1 - 9.9	10	47.6	25.7 - 70.2
Was burnt on purpose	8	2.5	1.1 - 4.9	0	0	0 - 0.4*
Was threatened with or an actual weapon (a gun, knife, or other weapon) was used against her	17	5.4	3.2 - 8.4	4	23.5	6.8 - 49.9
Perpetrator poured hazardous chemicals or substances (e.g. acid) on her	0	0	0 - 0.01*	0	0	—
Experienced any physical	166	52.4	46.7 – 56.0	47	22.4	21.6 – 35.8
SEXUAL violence acts						
Was physically forced to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to (rape)	59	18.6	14.5 - 23.3	13	22	12.3 - 34.7
Was otherwise forced (e.g. blackmail, threat) to have sexual intercourse out of fear of perpetrator	5	1.6	0.5 - 3.6	2	40	5.3 - 85.3
Perpetrator had sexual intercourse with her without her permission	31	9.8	6.7 - 13.6	10	32.3	16.7 - 51.4
Perpetrator refused to use protection even after she asked	9	2.8	1.3 - 5.3	4	44.4	13.7 - 78.8
Was forced you to do something sexual that she did not want to do	14	4.4	2.4 - 7.3	14	28.6	8.4 - 58.1
Experienced any sexual violence	71	22.4	17.9 – 27.4	22	31.0	20.5 – 43.1

The most prevalent form of recent social violence reported by women include suspicion on unfaithfulness, someone wanting to know where they are all the time, checking of their phones and perpetrator getting angry when they spoke to some persons, Table 3.

When he arrived, I had cooked some food. I was sitting with his brothers when he came. He is not on good terms with them. I can't say that because he wasn't on talking terms with them, I would also not talk to them. So, when he met them sitting there, he asked why I was sitting with them and that led to the fight... He hit my eyes and my eyes was stained with blood. (Victim, 32, cohabiting)

Five days today, there is this man we both (my Partner & I) don't even know; I bought my banku and was sitting by the roadside and this man was also standing by the roadside waiting for a car so he asked to sit by me and I said okay. So when he sat down he asked me about a lady who is my partner's sister, he wanted to know if that lady is my sister and whether she has twins because he

saw another lady earlier on who resembles this particular lady he was asking me about; and I told him I haven't even seen the lady he is talking about. As we were talking my partner appeared and told the man to get up from where he was sitting, my partner asked the man whether he didn't know I was married and that any lady they see they want to talk to her, and that the man has smoked "weed". So, when he said that the man boarded his car and left. So in the evening I asked his child to go and collect money from him so I will use it to prepare food, but when the child went he got angry and locked his door, people came in to talk to him but he refused to open the door and told me to go to my mother's place; that my mother has rooms so I should go and sleep there. One of his brothers in Accra called and spoke to him before he opened the door. And since then he didn't give the kids money to buy food again. (Victim, 22, cohabiting)

The most prevalent form of recent psychological violence reported by women were insults (65.5%) and being humiliated in front of other persons (61%). More than half of the respondents who reported recent experience of psychological violence reported experience of each of the forms of psychological violence assessed. There were similarities in the form of violence reported for recent and lifetime experience of psychological violence, except the emergence of threats of harm to woman or other persons she cared about (shift from least in lifetime experience to the fourth, displacing acts by perpetrator to scare or intimidate woman). Below is the story of a victim of psychological violence:

The little I would like to say is that, for example, in my case I was married to a man and we both lived together but we are now separated... he didn't even respect me as his wife and didn't even mind if someone was with him; he will disgrace me in front of them and will show that I am nobody and when I try to talk about it, he will threaten me that he will beat me up and some time he marked on the wall that he will hurt me one day... and up until now since we separated when he meets me, he looks down upon me and he is trying to claim our child from me and wants to stop the child from coming to me. Anytime he sees me he gives me a disrespectful look... (R1, FGD 35-49 years)

Tables 3 below provides more information on proportions experiencing specific forms of social, psychological, and economic violence.

Economic violence was the third most prevalent form of VAW reported by survey respondents in this study based on both lifetime and recent experience. Some differences in the form of economic violence experienced were noted. The top three forms reported in lifetime in order of importance are denial of money for upkeep, perpetrator taking her money without permission and women being asked to account for their spending in detail. However, recent reports rather show higher

reports of women needing to account for how they spend their money, followed by prohibition from working and a denial of money for upkeep. In the FGDs and IDIs, the major form of economic violence was not providing money for the upkeep of the home. Most women reported being physically assaulted when they request for money from their partners to buy food. Below are extracts from some victims who experienced economic violence:

When I got pregnant, he didn't give me money, so I complained. When I complained, he took electrical wires and whipped my buttocks until I had cuts beneath my buttocks. (Victim, 15, cohabiting).

So an example is me, I sell coconuts and when you meet me selling, I am more than a man selling coconuts and I carry them on my head and roam about; and I lived with a man under the same roof and so I think that the men are really taking advantage of us and they take us for granted and this is what they do mostly here... My stomach was out and I was pregnant [the pregnancy was visible] and carrying coconut on my head and roaming about selling and he will be in the room and he will take the money from you as well and he will leave you to take care of yourself and the money he will take from you; he will use it in taking care of another woman behind you and when you talk he will beat you on top and so you the woman has to be quiet to avoid that [beating] and so they really take us for fools here in this community (R7, FGD, 35-49)

At my place, what occurs is that, the men don't give housekeeping money before leaving the house. He will just leave; these days if you don't give the woman something that she will be content with, it leads to the beating. (R4: FGDs women combat)

Table 3 Recent and Lifetime experience of Social, Psychological and Economic violence

	Lifetime Experience			Recent Experience		
	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI
Social violence acts						
Was kept from seeing friends	97	30.6	25.6 - 36	36	37.1	27.5 - 47.5
Was restricted contact with family of birth	26	8.2	5.4 - 11.8	7	26.9	11.6 - 47.8
Perpetrator insisted on knowing where she is at all times	83	26.2	21.4 - 31.4	52	62.7	51.3 - 73
Was ignored and treated indifferently	111	35	29.8 - 40.5	57	51.4	41.7 - 61
Perpetrator called and texted to a point where she felt uncomfortable	50	15.8	11.9 - 20.3	29	58	43.2 - 71.8
Perpetrator got angry if she speaks with another man	128	40.4	34.9 - 46	71	55.5	46.4 - 64.3
Perpetrator has been suspicious that she is unfaithful	76	24	19.4 - 29.1	50	65.8	54 - 76.3
Was forced you to quit work.	29	9.1	6.2 - 12.9	11	37.9	20.7 - 57.7
Was forced you to have an abortion against her will.	36	11.4	8.1 - 15.4	9	25	12.1 - 42.2
Perpetrator controlled/checked her phones/texts/emails	60	18.9	14.8 - 23.7	36	60	46.5 - 72.4
Experienced any Social violence	221	69.7	64.3 – 74.8	150	67.9	61.3 – 74.0
Psychological violence acts						
Was insulted	267	84.2	79.7 - 88.1	175	65.5	59.5 - 71.2
Was belittled or humiliated in private	85	26.8	22 - 32.1	45	52.9	41.8 - 63.9
Was belittled or humiliated in front of other people	105	33.1	28 - 38.6	64	61	50.9 - 70.3
Perpetrator did things to scare or intimidate her on purpose (e.g., by the way he/she looked at you, by yelling and smashing things)?	86	27.1	22.3 - 32.4	43	50	39 - 61
Perpetrator threatened to hurt her or someone she cared about	64	20.2	15.9 - 25	33	51.6	38.7 - 64.2
Experienced any Psychological violence	282	89.0	81.2 – 94.0	195	69.1	63.4 – 74.5
Economic Violence Acts						
Perpetrator refused to give enough chop money even though he/she has enough money to spend on other things	152	47.9	42.3 - 53.6	96	63.2	55 - 70.8
Was asked about how she spends her money in detail	38	12	8.6 - 16.1	29	76.3	59.8 - 88.6
Perpetrator took cash or withdrew money from her account or credit/debit card without permission	43	13.6	10 - 17.8	22	51.2	35.5 - 66.7
Perpetrator controlled her belongings	19	6	3.6 - 9.2	11	57.9	33.5 - 79.7
Was prohibited from working	17	5.4	3.2 - 8.4	11	64.7	38.3 - 85.8
Was forced you to work against her will	21	6.6	4.1 - 9.9	12	57.1	34 - 78.2
Experienced any Economic violence	186	58.7	53.0 – 64.1	121	65.1	57.7 – 71.9

3.3 PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Tables 4 and 5 below show who the perpetrators were for the distinct types of violence against women in this survey. There were differences based on the type of violence and time of occurrence whether recent or lifetime.

The four topmost perpetrators of lifetime social violence in order of importance were the male partners (58.4%), other people in the community (29.9%), former male partners (24%) and parents (22.2%). The same perpetrators made the top four perpetrators of psychological violence; however, it was topped by other people in the community (56.4%) followed by partner (29.4), parents (24.8%) and former partner (14.2%). Economic violence was also mainly perpetrated by current partners (45.7%), former partners (22.6%), siblings (17.7%) and parents (12.4%). Physical violence was perpetrated by current partners (33.1%), former partners (22.9%), other persons in the community (21.7%), siblings (17.5%) and parents (16.9%). Reported lifetime experience of sexual violence were perpetrated by current partner (32.4%), other people in the community (29.6%), other people outside of the community (23.9%) and former partners (19.7%).

Table 4 Perpetrators of lifetime violence experienced by women

	SOCIAL VIOLENCE	PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	ECONOMIC VIOLENCE	PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Violence Perpetrators	221 (69.7)	282 (89)	186 (58.7)	166 (52.4)	71 (22.4)
Partner	129 (58.4)	83 (29.4)	85 (45.7)	55 (33.1)	23 (32.4)
Former partner	53 (24)	40 (14.2)	42 (22.6)	38 (22.9)	14 (19.7)
In laws/partner's family	3 (1.4)	22 (7.8)	2 (1.1)	4 (2.4)	0 (0)
Parents	49 (22.2)	70 (24.8)	23 (12.4)	28 (16.9)	0 (0)
Sons, Daughters	1 (0.5)	2 (0.7)	3 (1.6)	1 (0.6)	0 (0)
Uncles, aunts, Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives	20 (9.1)	30 (10.6)	21 (11.3)	16 (9.6)	4 (5.6)
Grandparents	5 (2.3)	11 (3.9)	3 (1.6)	6 (3.6)	0 (0)
Siblings	24 (10.9)	41 (14.5)	33 (17.7)	29 (17.5)	2 (2.8)
Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community	10 (4.5)	20 (7.1)	4 (2.2)	7 (4.2)	0 (0)
Relatives who live outside this community	6 (2.7)	10 (3.6)	7 (3.8)	1 (0.6)	1 (1.4)
Work colleagues	6 (2.7)	12 (4.3)	2 (1.1)	2 (1.2)	3 (4.2)
Other people in the community	66 (29.9)	159 (56.4)	26 (14)	36 (21.7)	21 (29.6)
Other people outside the community	28 (12.7)	28 (9.9)	8 (4.3)	18 (10.8)	17 (23.9)
Others (e.g. stranger)	13 (5.9)	13 (4.6)	7 (3.8)	11 (6.6)	4 (5.6)

Perpetrators of recent violence against women are similar to those mentioned for lifetime experience of violence by women. Recent social violence experienced by the 68% of all women surveyed were perpetrated by current partners (75.3%), other people in the community (32%), parents (22%), former partners (20%), other people outside the community (14%) and siblings (12.7%). The majority (59%) of recent psychological violence were perpetrated by other people within the community, followed by current partners (34.4%), parents (26.2%), siblings (16.4%) and former partners (12.8%). Recent economic violence was perpetrated by current partner (56.2%), siblings (20.7%), former partner (18.2%) and other people in the community (14.9%). There emerged two new perpetrators of recent physical and sexual violence against women with all women reporting recent physical violence naming the perpetrator as relatives who live outside of the community. Again, all women reporting recent physical violence (n=47) and one less reporting sexual violence (21 out of 22) indicated work colleagues as perpetrators. Over 70% of recent physical and sexual violence experienced by women were perpetrated by other people in the community. The second and third most mentioned perpetrators of physical and sexual violence were current partners and former partners (see table 5 below). The qualitative data overwhelmingly mention partners and ex-partners as the perpetrators of violence, and a few are relatives of victims and perpetrators. Below are the experiences of some of the victims showing who the perpetrators were.

The men are the perpetrators of this violence. And sometimes some of the women insult a lot. (R, FGD 20-24 years)

In my case, the guy's mother was not doing that but his aunty. Sometimes she says that I am the reason why she is unable to reach the guy. In my case, the woman's sister is the problem, but his mother is in good terms with me. In the evening when we go to sleep, she [partner's aunt] will send someone to come and check if the man is having sex with me. So, I don't sleep in the evening, I sit in front of the gate because she will ask the children to come and check if the man is having sex with me. So, when the woman said that she is unable to reach the guy because of me, they said that until he has paid my dowry, I can't get the guy. So that was the cause of the fights. Sometimes after fighting with me, his aunty will also fight with me. (Victim, 30, single)

Yes, for instance, let's assume you're a guy, when you impregnate a lady and you deny being responsible but you later come to accept being responsible for the pregnancy which will make the lady decide not to continue being in a relationship again, the guy will then get angry with the lady for saying she can't continue with the relationship, he'll then fight with any guy he sees you standing with and also beat the girl as well. He can sometimes invite you to his house but when you go, he'll lock the door and beat you. (R8, FGD, 15-19 years)

Table 5 Perpetrators of recent violence experienced by women

	SOCIAL VIOLENCE	PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	ECONOMIC VIOLENCE	PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Experienced Violence	150 (67.9)	195 (69.2)	121 (65.1)	47 (28.3)	22 (31)
Perpetrators					
Partner	113 (75.3)	67 (34.4)	68 (56.2)	26 (55.3)	15 (68.2)
Former partner	30 (20)	25 (12.8)	22 (18.2)	9 (19.2)	5 (22.7)
In laws/partner's family	2 (1.3)	19 (9.7)	1 (0.8)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Parents	33 (22)	51 (26.2)	17 (14.1)	11 (23.4)	0 (0)
Sons, Daughters	1 (0.7)	2 (1)	2 (1.7)	1 (2.1)	0 (0)
Uncles, aunts, Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives	16 (10.7)	22 (11.3)	12 (9.9)	5 (10.6)	0 (0)
Grandparents	4 (2.7)	6 (3.1)	3 (2.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Siblings	19 (12.7)	32 (16.4)	25 (20.7)	8 (17)	1 (4.6)
Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community	7 (4.7)	13 (6.7)	2 (1.7)	5 (10.6)	0 (0)
Relatives who live outside this community	5 (3.3)	8 (4.1)	5 (4.1)	47 (100)	22 (100)
Work colleagues	5 (3.3)	7 (3.6)	2 (1.7)	47 (100)	21 (95.5)
Other people in the community	48 (32)	115 (59)	18 (14.9)	36 (76.6)	16 (72.7)
Other people outside the community	21 (14)	15 (7.7)	5 (4.1)	4 (8.5)	3 (13.6)
Others (e.g. stranger)	10 (6.7)	10 (5.1)	7 (5.8)	5 (10.6)	1 (4.6)

Box 2. 4 Summary of Lifetime and Recent Experience of VAWG

 VIOLENCE EXPERIENCE AMONG WOMEN

- ❖ **28% physical violence in past year.**
- ❖ **52% physical violence in lifetime**
- ❖ **31% sexual violence in past year.**
- ❖ **22% sexual violence in lifetime.**
- ❖ **68% social violence in past year.**
- ❖ **70% social violence in lifetime.**
- ❖ **69% psychological violence in past year.**
- ❖ **89% psychological violence in past year**
- ❖ **65% economic violence in past year.**
- ❖ **59% economic violence in lifetime.**

3.4 GENDER ATTITUDES AND DECISION-MAKING AT HOME

Generally, 96% of the respondents had gender-inequitable attitudes based on overall gender perception scores. Both men and women showed similar gender inequitable attitudes as shown by their responses to the statements in table 6. Very marked is the almost universal agreement to the statement, “a woman should obey her husband.” Although both men and women agreed on five other statements: “a man should have the final say in all family matters”; a woman cannot refuse sex with her husband”; “a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work”; “husband has right to punish wives’ wrong doing”; and “the man owns the woman if married”, there were marked differences in the proportions agreeing to each statement. More men than women consistently agreed to the items on the gender-inequitable scale. Table 6 below shows more details.

Table 6 Individual gender attitudes among men and women

Gender Inequitable Statements	Women (N=317)		Men (N=62)	
	n	%	n	%
I think that a woman should obey her husband	300	94.6	61	98.4
I think that a man should have the final say in all family matters	244	77.0	56	90.3
I think that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.	237	74.8	50	80.7
I think that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends.	98	30.9	22	35.5
I think that if a man beats you it shows that he loves you.	67	21.1	13	21.0
I think that if a woman works, she should give her money to her husband	74	23.3	30	48.4
I think that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	241	76.0	59	95.2
I think that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her.	249	78.6	51	82.3
I think that if married, the man owns her.	214	67.5	47	75.8
Reporting respondents agreeing to specific statements				

3.5 COMMUNITY ATTITUDES ON GENDER RELATIONS

Respondents in this study reported similar patterns in gender-inequitable social norms in their communities as their own attitudes. However, there was consistently higher acceptance reported

for community attitudes compared to individual attitudes. Similarly, the least accepted norm was, “if a man beats his wife it shows that he loves her” (37.5%). Over a 10% higher acceptance was recorded for community with respect to a woman’s inability to refuse sex with her husband, men having the final say in all family matters, nothing a woman can do if the husband wants to have girlfriends and a double acceptance of husband’s right to punish wife’s wrong doing. Table 7 below shows the actual proportions showing acceptance of different statements.

Table 7 Community attitudes on gender relations

	Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%
My community thinks that a woman should obey her husband	302	95.3	61	98.4
My community thinks that a man should have the final say in all family matters	279	88.0	61	98.4
My community thinks that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	279	88.0	58	93.6
My community thinks that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband	266	83.9	58	93.6
My community thinks that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends	161	50.8	36	58.1
My community thinks that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her	270	85.2	50	80.7
My community thinks that if a man has paid bride price for his wife, he owns her	249	78.6	46	74.2
My community thinks that a married man has a right to have sex with his wife	294	92.7	59	95.2
My community thinks that if a man beats his partner it shows that he loves her	119	37.5	23	37.1
Reporting respondents agreeing to specific statements				

To have an in-depth view of attitudes to gender norms, participants at the FGDs were asked if a man had the right to discipline his partner (such as beat her) if she does something wrong (such as refuse to cook). Majority of the women in the FGDs thought that a woman should prepare food for the husband no matter what. Below are some of the statements of the women participants:

As the lady... once I am living with him, even if you are angry you shouldn't neglect the role you play in your home because you quarreled, because if you return one day and he has gone for another woman you have yourself to blame so as for me when there is an argument what I have to do as a woman, I do it and when we go into our room I also find a way to teach the man a lesson because if I don't cook for him and he goes to bed on an empty stomach and something happens to him and I am asked and I give the reason that I was angry so I didn't do my duties... no matter what your duty as a woman must be done irrespective of the situation; then after you also find a way to teach him a lesson. So that is my submission. (R2, FGD 35-49 years)

If he put the money down for food and you didn't prepare the food, then you deserve to be beaten. It is right for him to correct you. It's like a child who has been sent and refused to do what was asked of him. (R3, FGD, 35-49)

Others had mixed views about the role of women in the home. On one hand, they agree that a man should discipline the partner if she does something wrong; on the other hand, they disagree that a man should discipline the wife when she does something wrong. Below are statements that explain the mixed views.

What I can also say is that if a man is living with the woman and the woman does not prepare food for the man and does not also take care of the home then it means that you want him to go for another wife because what you have done has really hurt him and if he has given you money for upkeep and he goes to work and you didn't cook and you also didn't do the house work then it's like you want the man to come and do the work. Another thing I can add is that the man shouldn't have beaten the woman and he could rather stay with the woman, talk to her about it and also make you understand that he didn't only marry her because of sex but rather for her to cook and manage the home and this is what strengthens the marriage and so this act can make the man very angry and this fight can continue and that will bring a lot of beating (laughter from background). (R7, FGD, 20-24)

What I can say to this is that the lady did the wrong thing and her husband also didn't do well because if the lady did something wrong, he is supposed to go and see her family members to report and then the woman's family will invite her over and advise her. (R3, FGD women 20-24)

The woman is at fault even though the man was wrong in beating her, it is the role of a married woman to cook for the household so she shouldn't have neglected her chores, and they should have settled the issues in the right way. (R7, FGD, 15-19 years)

The husband was at fault because he shouldn't have beaten his wife, he should have found a better way to settle the issue and the woman shouldn't have also neglected her role. (R6, FGD, 15-19)

What the husband did is not right, if something bad happened to his wife, the woman's family would make him compensate the woman with a huge sum of money. (R1, FGD, 15-19 years)

3.6 ATTITUDES TOWARD VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Figure 1 below shows respondents' attitude specifically towards violence against women. One in five respondents had the belief that wife beating is a show of love and a half believe that a woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together. About 79% and 82% of women and

men respectively believe that the husband has the right to punish his wife for wrongdoing. Significantly more men compared to women believed that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.

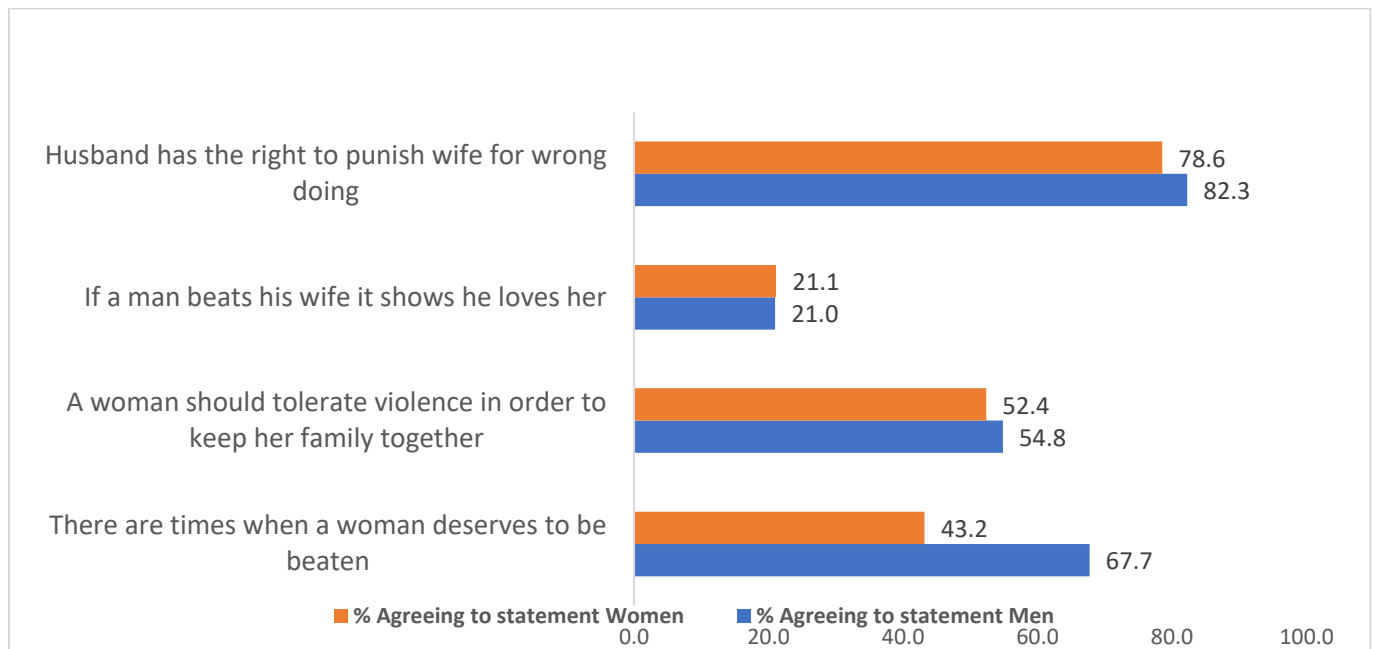


Figure 1 Respondents' attitudes about violence against women

While some of the participants think that a woman should be punished for not performing her household chores, they did not have similar views if the woman refused to have sex with the partner. The general view among FGD participants was that a man cannot punish his partner for refusing to have sex with him. Below are the views of some of the participants.

What I can say is that as for the woman she had done her part because she has done her duty at home but when it is evening and the man wants to have sex with her and she refuses that maybe could be because she is having her period; the woman has the right to get him arrested for that. (R2, FGD 20-24)

I think for this it is not with force. I have made everything for you; I have cooked; I've cleaned; but when it comes to that one it is not by force so I can decide to get you arrested. (R1, FGD, 20-24)

The little I know is that as for the woman since the man has married you and brought you to his home, sex is only natural for both of you and so if there's any arguments or issues it must be cleared and once the man is in the mood to have sex you the woman should allow him to. (R3, 20-24 years)

Then, the man should talk to her nicely and persuade her because there may be a reason why she is refusing to. We apply love to this [sex], and we don't apply anger because God does not want it like that so it's for the man to persuade the woman and make her happy so that she willingly permits you so it's not because he feels for sex so he has to do it forcibly; and if he does that it's wrong and so it's not right for him to beat her for refusing to have sex with her. (R1, FGD, 35-49 years)

3.7 ATTITUDES ABOUT FAMILIES AND GENDER ROLES

Generally, men and women seemed to agree on male and female roles in the family. The majority (>80%) agreed that men should have the final say in decisions in the home, men need more sex than women and that women's most important role is to take care of the home and to cook for the family. The major point of discordance is related to women's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant. While 74% of women believed this was the case, less than a third of men agreed. Another point recording high differences was on the need for a man to be tough. While 90% of men agreed to the statement, fewer women (77%) agreed to same. Figure 2 below shows more detailed differences in responses to roles of men and women in the family.

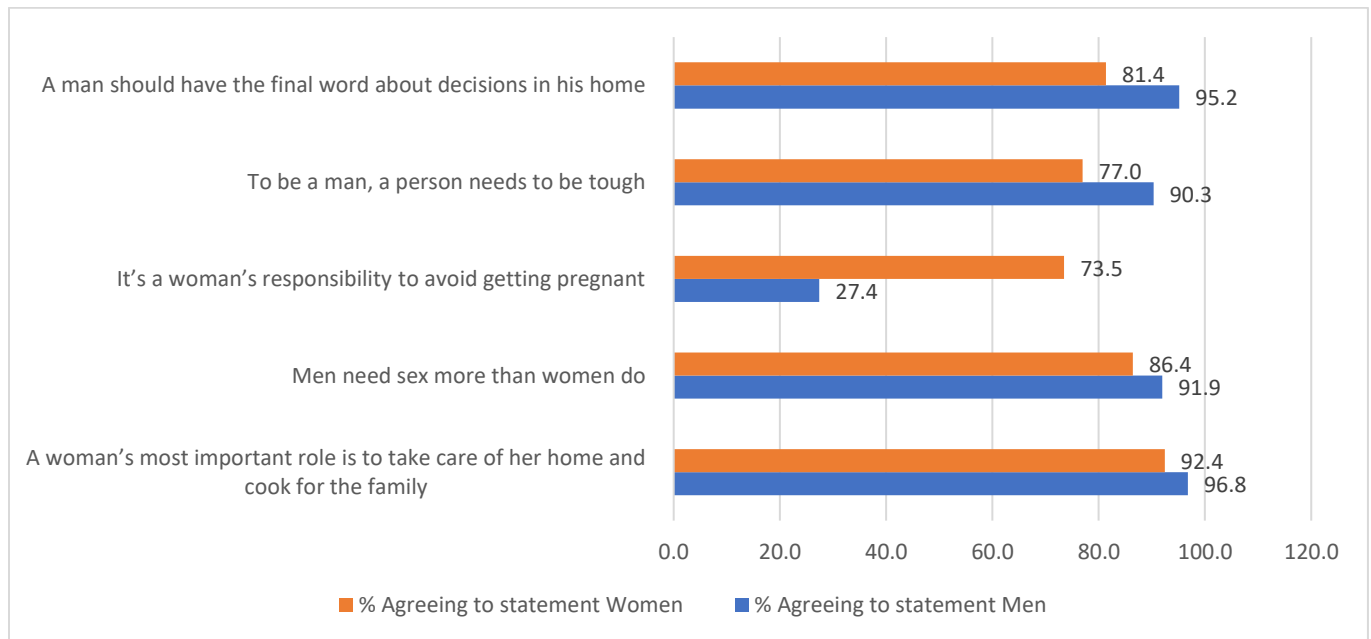


Figure 2 Attitudes about family and roles of men and women

3.8 WOMEN’S BODILY INTEGRITY

Generally, survey respondents tended to agree on women’s bodily integrity with over 50% of women agreeing to at least 14 out of the 16 items investigated. About 25% of women agreed to all statements on bodily integrity and close to a fifth (19.2%) agreeing to 15 out of the 16 statements. The four statements least supported by women includes the power to decide to keep a pregnancy or not (68.8%), power to decide who to associate with (72.2%), the freedom to choose to be themselves irrespective of cultural expectations (72.2%) and the right to decide when to have sex (75.7%). There were some overlaps between men and women’s level of agreement on specific statements. However, it is worth noting that significantly lower agreements were recorded among men. The statement that received the least agreement from men was women having the power to associate with whomever they wished (48.4%). The five other statements least agreed upon by men are women having the power to decide when to get pregnant (59.7%), women having the power to decide whether or not to keep a pregnancy (53.2%), women having the right to decide how many children to give birth to (59.7%), women having the power to decide how to dress or look (54.8%) and women choosing to be themselves irrespective of cultural expectations (59.7%). Slightly more men agreed to statements regarding women’s power to seek redress, control over emotions, taking care of their bodies, protecting themselves from violence, and demanding sexual and reproductive health services compared to women, even though agreements were generally high. See Table 8 below for further details on women’s bodily integrity.

Table 8 Women' Bodily integrity

	Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%
Women have the right to decide when to have sex	240	75.7	50	80.7
Women have the right to safe, satisfying, and pleasurable sex life	249	78.6	53	85.5
Women have the power to decide when to get pregnant	241	76.0	37	59.7
Women have the power to decide whether or not to keep a pregnancy	218	68.8	33	53.2
Women have the power to decide how many children to give birth to	247	77.9	37	59.7
Women have the power to keep your body in good health	303	95.6	61	98.4
Women have the power to associate with whoever they wish	229	72.2	30	48.4
Women have the power to decide how to dress or look	272	85.8	34	54.8
Women have the power to protect yourself from violence	289	91.2	61	98.4
Women have the power to seek redress when abused by an intimate partner	273	86.1	57	91.9
Women have the power to seek redress when abused by a family member	271	85.5	56	90.3
Women have the power to seek redress when abused by a non-family member	295	93.1	59	95.2
Women have control over how they express emotions	295	93.1	61	98.4
Women have the power to demand sexual & reproductive health services	295	93.1	60	96.8
Women have the freedom to choose to be themselves irrespective of cultural expectations	229	72.2	37	59.7
Women have the freedom to take care of their body as women	311	98.1	61	98.4
Reporting % agreeing to specific statements				

There were mixed views when FGD participants were asked about women's bodily integrity. While the older women were of the view that women have power to decide independently to do family planning, the younger participants thought otherwise. Below are examples of the views of the participants.

I will use myself as an example. The man I used to live with really loved sex and I get tired a lot; so after having a child, every day he has sex with me, so when the child was one year old I told him that now we have to do something so he brought the idea that we should do family planning and I went ahead to do it so after that whenever we had any quarrels he will say that he regrets ever having a child with me. I thank God that when I mentioned that we should do family planning he understood (R1, FGD 35-49)

For me I had it in my mind and planned that I will do it [family planning]; because my partner was someone who really liked sex and when he gives money for upkeep he would also ask you to add

some to it and when it comes to providing clothes for the child he didn't care and so I bought and used contraceptives on my own without him knowing. And so after a while he asked whether I didn't want to get pregnant again and I told him I don't know but I knew on my own that it was because of my situation I was in so I planned this on my own because I realized he wasn't a responsible man and he didn't want to take care of the children. (R2, FGD 35-49)

A woman cannot decide to use family planning if her husband doesn't give her the permission, she can only do it if her husband agrees to it, and it can lead to divorce if the husband gets to know about it. Also, if the woman is the sole provider for the home then she can decide to uptake the family planning, if the husband agrees or not. (R8, FGD 15-19)

No, a woman doesn't have the power to uptake family planning because when something bad happens in the process, the man can tell you that he's not aware of what you did so he's divorcing you. (R2, FGDs, 15-19)

A woman in our community went to do the family planning without telling her husband but her husband found out and he beat her and dragged her to the hospital to remove it. So, a woman doesn't have the power to use family planning without her partner's consent. (R5, FGD, 15-19)

Since you are married and you are living with your husband you need to reproduce so if it gets to a point when you realize that you want to slow down with childbirth then you can both agree to go for family planning especially in my case, where I am things are not good in terms of money. So, both of you may decide to keep it to just two kids. And then when things get better you can then add one or two more kids to your satisfaction. (R6, FGD 20-24)

I think she has the right to protect herself because there are situations where the kids follow rapidly which could disturb her so if she talks to her husband and her husband disagrees, she can go ahead on her own. So, for me if we have children and there is hardship and because of that I want to do family planning and you disagree, for me I'll go ahead and do it secretly. (R4, FGD, 20-24)

On whether it is right to force a woman to get pregnant or abort a pregnancy, many young people thought that it is not right for a woman to be forced to abort a pregnancy. Below are some of the statements from the participants.

It is not right to be forced to get pregnant but as a woman you are supposed to give birth so that the man's family will know that you're not barren. It's not also compulsory to get pregnant because it might be that their blood group doesn't match, or the man is impotent. (R1, FGD, 15-19)

It's not appropriate to be forced to abort a pregnancy but sometimes when a teenager gets pregnant after JHS, her boyfriend will tell her to abort the pregnancy because he doesn't want to be a father at that age; when that happens the girl is supposed to give birth and later give the baby to the boy's family to take care of the baby. (R5, FGD, 15-19)

3.9 SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS AND TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

Less than five percent (n=15; 4.7%) of the women interviewed experienced injuries as a result of the recent violence they suffered. Nine out of 15 (60%) had to stay in bed because of the injuries sustained. A third of those who suffered injuries had to take days off from their income generating activities. Forty percent (n=6) sought medical attention for the injuries of which two were admitted, one got stitches and was discharged, two were given painkillers and one sought herbal treatment. Only half (n=3) of them reported the cause of injuries to the health worker.

Of the nine cases reported to the police, case files were opened for seven, one tried to make peace with the perpetrator (husband), and one ended with the police taking bribe from the perpetrator. Aside the police, injured survivors reported their experience of violence to other sources. See Fig 5 below for more details.

While the majority (85.7%) of victims got support from at least one of the sources they reported their experience of violence, some victims got negative feedback from the various sources. Figure 3 below shows the response they got from the various sources (excluding the police) they sought help from.

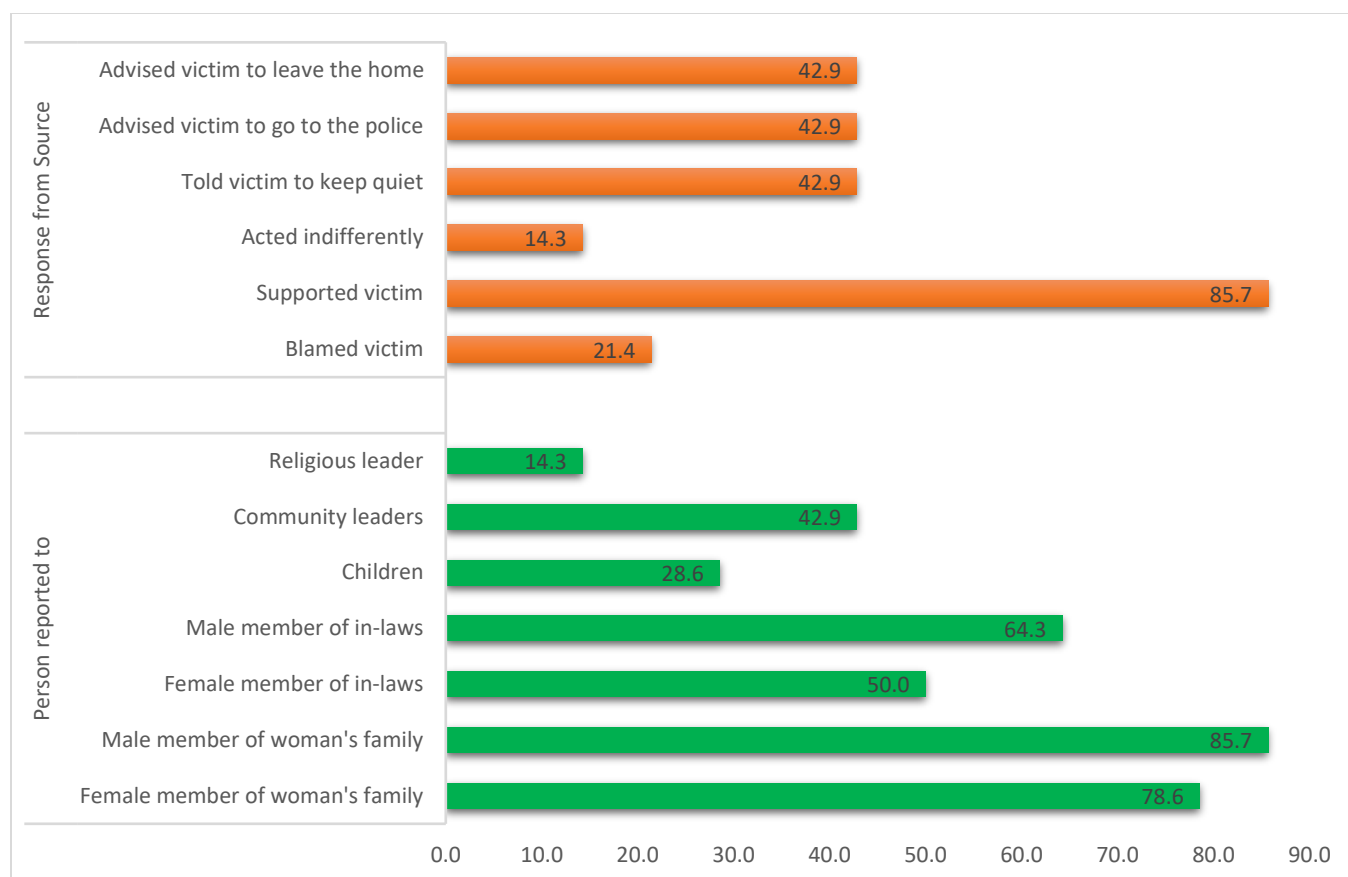


Figure 3 Persons reported to and support received after reporting

Data from the qualitative data, showed that the survivors received support from varied sources. The support they received were from family, elders of the town, and DOVVSU. Some had their family's support to report the case to DOVVSU. The following are extracts from survivors that show the support they received.

My sister also said that I am the one in the marriage so she doesn't care, I should decide what to do; whether I want to live there, or I don't want to. (Victim, 30, single)

Yes, so I report it to the leaders in this town and they address it. When they address it, he will change for some time and start again. (Victim, cohabiting)

One day also, he hit my head on the floor several times and that affected my eyes and head. There were blood stains on my eyes and my brothers took me to the police station. When they came to arrest him, he run away. The police came again but they couldn't get him. After that, we haven't taken any steps again (Victim, 40, separated)

When I returned from the hospital, my father decided to involve the police. I was there when my mother called me that my father has gone to Kasoa to report the case to the police so they want to

hear my side of the story and that I shouldn't go and let my father down or disappoint him. Meanwhile I love my man, I went to Kasoa with my father. The police asked me what happened for the man to beat me and I also told them that, we were going to the hospital and he warned me I should not talk to any man and I did, so I was beaten and so my father asked that we come here. My father was given a card from the police station to be given to my man so he will also come there on Monday for them to write down his side of the story. When we returned home, I told myself I will take the card and throw it away because if he gets to the police station, he will not return because of some of the things my father said there in addition to mine. So, I took the card and threw it away. (Victim, 22, cohabiting)

I realized I was going through a lot taking care of the children alone, so I took him to DOVVSU, and I was given a letter to hand it to him and I did. So, after bringing him the letter we all met with the children and he was asked about the work he was doing, and an arrangement was made that every month he had to pay an amount; but he wasn't paying not even 1000 cedis [GHC 1] so I stopped thinking about him, and I focused on doing business (Victim, 42, cohabiting)

3.10 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Over 60% of women and over 70% of men reported trust in institutions to take necessary actions to prevent VAWG. The top 5 institutions women had trust in in order of importance are the courts (96.9%), police (91.2%), group of trained reputable community members (88.6%), religious and spiritual leaders in the community (80.4%), and Ghanaian political leaders (80.4%). The top five institutions in order of importance among men are group of trained reputable community members (96.8%), religious and spiritual leaders in the community (93.6%), the courts (90.3%), community leaders (88.7%), and members of immediate family (87.1%). Both men and women had least trust in their community members. Generally, women had less trust in non-formal institutions except for religious and trained reputable persons in community. The following statement show how women were distrustful of non-formal institutions.

The women who go through this trouble sometimes go to the pastors or religious leaders to tell them about their problems and we have good ones and so these ones can help you even at the point of telling the congregation to help you with some contributions and will not tell them about your problems. And now let us come to our [other members] community... when you go through such a situation here and you tell someone thinking that they would help you they rather spread the issue and tell others what is going on in your home and they will tell you that they wanted to help you but the money they were expecting to get they were not able to get it so they can't help you and they end up spreading the issue to their friends and telling them about your situation; this is not good, and they are supposed to listen and help if they can or at least provide some form of advice even if they don't have money. (R3, FGD, 35-49 years)

Maybe she would first take the issue to her mother so that they invite him and talk to him and if he doesn't do the right thing then you can report this issue to a religious leader or your pastor. And I

think that no matter what he will respect the pastor because if both parents are not available today, he will be the best person to talk to. (R5, FGD, 20-24)

What I'll do is that government has put in place a lot of programs like I mentioned earlier about DOVVSU, so I can go to them and I know that no matter what whether he likes it or not he will follow the law and if he doesn't he will be arrested and jailed. So I think the best thing is to take you there because once you don't respect the elders in the community then I know that that is where I will have the problem solved and I'll be happy (R2, FGD, 20-24)

However, men trusted almost similarly, in both formal and non-formal institutions. The chart below (figure 4) shows the proportions trusting of the various institutions.

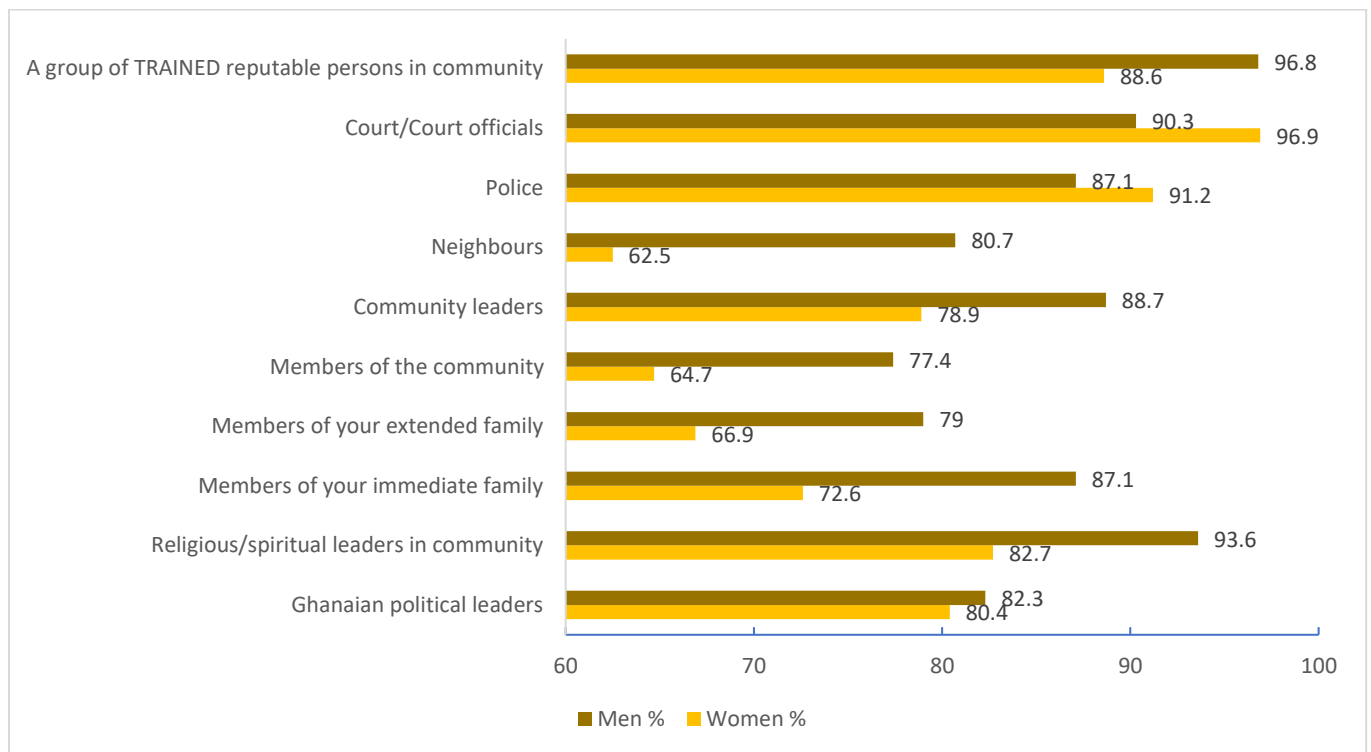


Figure 4 Trust in institutions to take necessary actions to prevent VAWG

3.10 OTHER POTENTIAL MODERATING FACTORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

3.10.1 Access to VAW information

Radio, television, billboards, or posters were the most common media used to access information on VAW for all the communities with 72% of women and 58% of men indicating having accessed information through these. Men generally reported lower access to the various sources of information on VAW, table 9. About a third of both men and women reported participating in a presentation with videos in someone's house or in a public place that has VAW content. Again, a third of women and men cited drama or films and community campaigns and activities as their source of VAW information. More women than men reported participating in discussions on VAW at church (29% vs 13%). Lastly, 14% of women reported that they took part in discussions about relationships in a bar or spot as opposed to 3.2% of men.

Table 9 Access to information on VAW

	Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%
Any campaigns or activities in your community or workplace	88	27.8	23	37.1
Radio, television, billboards, magazines, or posters?	229	72.2	36	58.1
Through pamphlets	28	8.8	3	4.8
Drama or film about the relationship between men and women?	103	32.5	18	29.0
Presentations with videos in someone's home or a public place about the relationship between men and women?	117	36.9	24	38.7
Taken part in discussions about relationships at a drinking bar/spot?	45	14.2	2	3.2
Taken part in discussions about relationships at a church?	93	29.3	8	12.9

3.10.2 Knowledge of Domestic Violence law

Slightly more men than women were aware of the existence of laws on Domestic violence (95.2% vs 83.0%). Over 80% of both men and women knew that DV offenders can be fined and jailed, offenders can be made to pay compensation to the victim, and that forced sex between married

couples was a crime that is punishable by law. However, only a third knew that DV cannot be justified based on consent. There also seemed to be some confusion about what constitutes DV in terms of frequency of violent acts. A half of women and 47% of men agreed that a single act of DV was a criminal offense and less than half of both men and women knew that any act of violence does not need to have an established pattern to be referred to as DV. Table 10 below shows proportions of men and women correctly answering statements on the DV law.

Table 10 Summary of respondents that correctly answered statements on domestic violence law

	Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%
Are there any laws in Ghana about violence against women?	263	83.0	59	95.2
In Ghana, it is not <u>a criminal offense</u> for persons in a domestic relationship (married or cohabitating) to engage in domestic violence against their partner.	238	75.1	31	50.0
A person in a domestic relationship who engages in domestic violence commits an offence, and if convicted, can spend up to two years in prison and also be fined.	264	83.3	53	85.5
The Court in Ghana can make anyone who commits domestic violence <u>to pay compensation to the victim</u> as the Court may determine.	281	88.6	52	83.9
If a cause for domestic violence complaint has arisen between persons in a domestic relationship and the two people <u>do not live together</u> , it is a criminal offense for either party to enter into the residence of the other person without that other person's permission.	263	83.0	47	75.8
The use of violence of any kind (sexual, physical, and emotional) in a domestic relationship could be <u>justified on the basis of consent</u> .	96	30.3	23	37.1
<u>One single isolated act of domestic violence</u> (of any kind) among a married couple or lovers is not a criminal offense in Ghana.	159	50.2	29	46.8
In order for any act to be classified as an act of domestic violence, there must have been number of <u>similar previous acts that form a pattern of behaviour</u> .	109	34.4	27	43.6
According to the law, if a husband forces his wife to have <u>sex against her will</u> , he will be committing a criminal act (that is, the husband can be fined or put in jail)?	261	82.3	49	79.0
Overall knowledge score Mean (SD)	6.1	1.8	6.0	2.2

3.10.3 KNOWLEDGE OF INHERITANCE LAWS

About 83% and 74% of women and men knew about the existence of property inheritance law in Ghana even though less than half of both men and women knew that the PNDC law 111 addresses inheritance issues. It was clear that respondents knew that it was a criminal offence to dispose of

a deceased person's property without consulting the spouse, children, or parents and that the wife of the deceased has the right to petition the courts if unfairly treated. However, about a half of respondents agreed that a wife has no rights to her late husband's property if he dies without leaving a will. The major differences between men and women occurred around eviction of the surviving spouse and children from the deceased home prior to the distribution of property (63.4% vs 25.8%) and the criminality in possessing a deceased man's property once there is a promise that the children of the deceased will be taken care of (61.2% vs 48.4%), with more women correctly answering the statements. Men and women seemed to agree that the deceased's property should customarily be given to male relations of the deceased and that it was not customarily proper for girls to inherit landed property such as houses and farmlands. Further details on how respondents correctly responded to various statements are shown in Table 11. below.

Table 11 Summary of respondents that correctly answered the statements on inheritance Laws

Statements asked	Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%
Are there any laws in Ghana about property inheritance?	264	83.3	46	74.2
PNDC law 111 addresses issues regarding the distribution of a deceased person's property	152	48.0	29	46.8
It is a criminal offence for anyone to possess or sell a deceased person's property without consulting the spouse, parents, and children	292	92.1	50	80.7
It is not an offense for the extended family to take half of a deceased man's property once they give the other half to the wife	144	45.4	17	27.4
If a person dies without making a will, all of his property belongs to the wife and the children	113	35.7	11	17.7
If the property of a deceased person is shared unfairly, the wife has the right to petition the law courts	294	92.7	49	79.0
A wife has no rights to her late husband's property if he dies without leaving a will	177	55.8	31	50.0
It is not unlawful to evict the spouse or children of a late person who dies interstate from the matrimonial prior to the day of distribution according to the law.	201	63.4	16	25.8
It is not a crime for other family members to take possession of a deceased man's property once they agree to take care of the children	194	61.2	30	48.4
Customarily, it is necessary for a deceased person's property to be given to a male relation to ensure that it is properly kept ^{\$}	207	65.3	41	66.1
It is not customarily proper for daughters/girls to be allowed to inherit their late father's property such as farmlands, houses cannot be given to them. ^{\$}	116	36.6	20	32.3
Overall knowledge score: Mean (SD)	6.1 (1.8)		5.5 (2.5)	

% correctly answering specific statements; ^{\$} % agreeing to statement on customary provisions; ^{\$} statements excluded from knowledge score calculations

3.10.4 EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD & SUBJECTIVE ESTIMATION OF PREVALENCE IN COMMUNITY

More than a third of all respondents interviewed had observed acts of VAW either among their parents or other household members during their childhood. The least reported VAW observed in childhood was sexual violence; 14% among women and 8% among men. The most observed VAW was psychological violence which was about 40%.

Respondents were asked to give a rough estimate of how prevalent the distinct types of VAW were in their communities. Most women (40%) reported a prevalence of 10 to 50% occurrence of social, psychological, economic, and physical violence among women in their communities. About a third of women estimated the same 10 to 50% occurrence of sexual violence among their neighbors. The men gave relatively lower estimate of their perception of VAW occurrence in their community. About a quarter of men estimated 10 to 50% occurrence of social, psychological, and economic violence in the community and a third of them estimated the same occurrence for physical violence. A half of the men interviewed felt that the occurrence of sexual violence was rather between 60 to 100% in the community, see table 12 below.

Table 12 Childhood exposure to VAW and perceptions of VAW occurrence in community

	SOCIAL VIOLENCE	PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE	ECONOMIC VIOLENCE	PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	SEXUAL VIOLENCE
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
WOMEN					
Ever observed this kind of behaviour between parents or other members of the household during childhood					
No	204 (64.4)	181 (57.1)	208 (65.6)	203 (64)	273 (86.1)
Yes, parents	27 (8.5)	35 (11)	32 (10.1)	17 (5.4)	6 (1.9)
Yes, Other members	86 (27.1)	101 (31.9)	77 (24.3)	97 (30.6)	38 (12)
Number of your 10 close neighbors do you know/or think/ experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months					
None	68 (21.5)	59 (18.6)	82 (25.9)	81 (25.6)	103 (32.5)
1-5	139 (43.9)	138 (43.5)	134 (42.3)	125 (39.4)	93 (29.3)
6-10	50 (15.8)	73 (23)	32 (10.1)	62 (19.6)	18 (5.7)
Don't know	60 (18.9)	47 (14.8)	69 (21.8)	49 (15.5)	103 (32.5)
MEN					
Ever observed this kind of behaviour between parents or other members of the household during childhood					
No	40 (64.5)	31 (50)	44 (71)	41 (66.1)	57 (91.9)
Yes, parents	5 (8.1)	15 (24.2)	12 (19.4)	4 (6.5)	1 (1.6)
Yes, Other members	17 (27.4)	16 (25.8)	6 (9.7)	17 (27.4)	4 (6.5)
Number of your 10 close neighbors do you know/or think/ experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months					
None	30 (48.4)	31 (50)	30 (48.4)	33 (53.2)	30 (48.4)
1-5	16 (25.8)	14 (22.6)	11 (17.7)	19 (30.7)	1 (1.6)
6-10	6 (9.7)	10 (16.1)	4 (6.5)	3 (4.8)	31 (50)
Don't know	10 (16.1)	7 (11.3)	17 (27.4)	7 (11.3)	(0)

3.11 Decision making

The findings presented in Table 13 show that major decisions such as earnings of the head of household, use of proceeds from farmlands are still the preserve of men. However, other decisions in the household (about 40%) involves women especially about food, daily household purchases and care of children. It was clear from the male responses that less than 4% of these decisions are left for women alone to make.

Table 13 Decision making in the home

	Women (n=291)		Men (n=57)	
	n	%	n	%
Who decides how the earnings of the head of the household are used?				
both equally	85	29.2	24	42.1
respondent only	37	12.7	32	56.1
partner	124	42.6	0	0.0
Others	45	15.4	1	1.8
Who has the final say about decisions regarding how proceeds from farmlands are used?#				
both equally	30	16.6	8	17.8
respondent only	24	13.3	36	80.0
partner	72	39.8	1	2.2
Others	55	30.4	0	0.0
Who in your family has the final say about Food?				
both equally	102	35.1	28	49.1
respondent only	69	23.7	26	45.6
partner	76	26.1	2	3.5
Others	44	15.1	1	1.8
Who in your family has the final say about Education for children*				
both equally	107	41.5	29	50.9
respondent only	50	19.4	26	45.6
partner	86	33.3	1	1.8
Others	15	5.8	1	1.8
Who in your family has the final say about healthcare for children*				
both equally	102	39.5	32	56.1
respondent only	50	19.4	23	40.4
partner	88	34.1	1	1.8
Others	18	7.0	1	1.8
Who in your family has the final say about healthcare for yourself?				
both equally	99	34.0	26	45.6
respondent only	70	24.1	29	50.9
partner	81	27.8	1	1.8
Others	41	14.2	1	1.8
Who in your family has the final say about clothing?				
both equally	109	37.5	31	54.4
respondent only	107	36.8	23	40.4
partner	54	18.6	2	3.5
Others	21	7.2	1	1.8
Purchases of daily household needs?				
both equally	103	35.4	29	50.9
respondent only	79	27.2	24	42.1
partner	68	23.4	2	3.5
Others	41	14.0	2	3.5
Major household purchases?				
both equally	103	35.4	31	54.4
respondent only	54	18.6	23	40.4
partner	91	31.3	1	1.8

Others	43	14.8	2	3.5
* Excluded respondents with no children (women: n=33); # (women: n=181; men: n=45)				

3.12 SPOUSAL COMMUNICATION

Spousal communication between respondents and their current partners in the last 12 months are generally above 60%. Women reported less communication on all topics compared to the men and showed approximately similar levels of communication across the topics investigated. The least reported topic for discussion among both men and women was fertility. The most discussed topics for both men and women bordered on worries or feelings of the couple. Figure 5 shows more details on the proportion reporting that they discussed specific topics with their spouses. The study respondents had fewer quarrels, with men reporting slightly less quarrels compared to women. About a fifth of respondents quarreled with their spouses about one to three times per week.

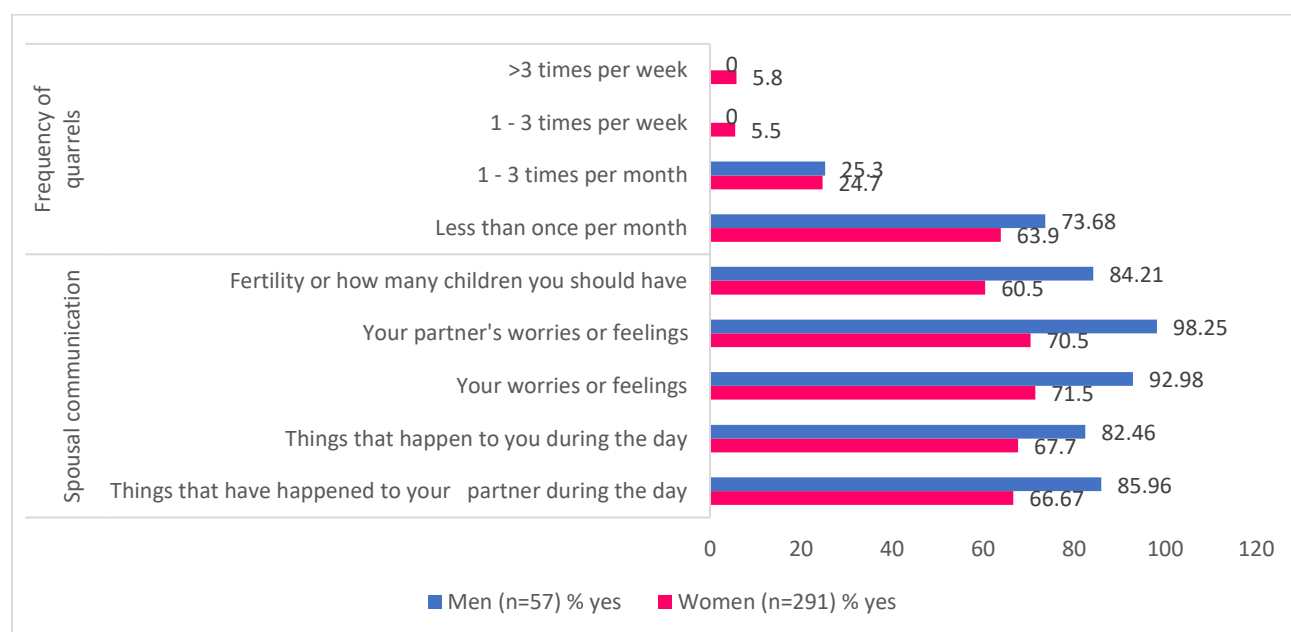


Figure 5 Spousal communication among respondents living together

3.13 Agents of Change - Community-Based Action Teams

3.13.1 Volunteer Characteristics

The COMBAT volunteers had ages ranging from 19 to 65 years with over 9 in 10 aged 30 years and above. The ages of males and females were comparable with an average of 42 years. Over 80% of the volunteers had attained a minimum of Junior high/middle school level of education. Only four volunteers, all females, had no formal education. About a fifth of them had attained senior high school level of education and beyond. About two-thirds of the volunteers were either married or cohabiting. Very few (n=5) of the volunteers had no children. However, a significantly higher proportion of female volunteers were either single, divorced, separated, or widowed compared to their male counterparts who were in a union. The volunteers had lived on average of 25 years in the participating communities. About 92% of the volunteers were currently engaged in income generating activities which are farming (33%), trading (25%) or artisanal (15%). Table 14 below shows more details of volunteer characteristics.

Table 14 Characteristics of COMBAT volunteers

	Total (N=60)	Women (n=30)		Men (n=30)	
		n/ mean	%/S D	n/ mean	%/SD
Age group					
19-24	3 (5.0)	2	6.7	1	3.3
25-29	2 (3.3)	1	3.3	1	3.3
30-39	19 (31.7)	7	23.3	12	40.0
40-49	20 (33.3)	9	30.0	11	36.7
>=50	16 (26.7)	11	36.7	5	16.7
Mean age (SD)	42.4 (10.5)	44.4	11.6	40.5	9.0
Education level*					
No formal education	4 (6.7)	4	13.3	0	0.0
Primary education	8 (13.3)	6	20.0	2	6.7
Junior High/Middle school	36 (60.0)	18	60.0	18	60.0
Senior High school & beyond	12 (20.0)	2	6.7	10	33.3
Marital Status*					
Single	7 (11.7)	5	16.7	2	6.7
Married/Cohabiting	46 (76.6)	19	63.3	27	90.0
separated/divorced/widowed	7 (11.7)	6	20.0	1	3.3
Mean years married/cohabiting (SD)	17.1 (9.5)	18.4	9.5	15.8	9.6
Period lived in community					
<5yrs	3 (5.0)	1	3.3	2	6.7
5-9yrs	3 (5.0)	2	6.7	1	3.3
10-19yrs	12 (20.0)	8	26.7	4	13.3
20-29yrs	18 (30.0)	10	33.3	8	26.7
>=30yrs	24 (40.0)	9	30.0	15	50.0
Mean (SD) years lived in community	25.9 (13.5)	24.8	14.7	27	12.2
Number of Living children (mean& SD)					
No child	5 (12.5)	2	10.5	3	14.3
1 or 2 children	11 (27.5)	5	26.3	6	28.6
3 or 4 children	22 (55.0)	12	63.2	10	47.6
5 or more children	2 (5.0)	0	0.0	2	9.5
Currently working to earn income	55 (91.7)	26	86.7	29	96.7
Current occupation					
Formal sector	8 (13.3)	2	6.7	6	20.0
Informal sector	4 (6.7)	1	3.3	3	10.0
Artisanal	9 (15.0)	3	10.0	6	20.0
Farming	20 (33.3)	7	23.3	13	43.3
Trading	15 (25.0)	13	43.3	2	6.7
Student/not working	4 (6.7)	4	13.3	0	0.0
Mean days of work (n=55)	5.3 (1.2)	5.6	1.4	5.1	1.0
Mean hours of work per day	7.4 (2.9)	7.2	3.3	7.5	2.5
Membership of another project/club	27 (45.0)	12	40.0	15	50.0

* Statistically significant difference observed between men and women

3.13.1.2 Gender attitudes of COMBAT Volunteers

Table 15 reports on the proportion of male and female COMBATs agreeing to various questions on the gender inequitable scale. The male COMBATs generally recorded better gender attitudes than female COMBATs. Specific items on which significantly more male COMBATs had more equitable attitudes include ‘men need sex more than women do; if a woman does something wrong a husband has the right to punish her and if a man beats his woman it shows love’.

Table 15 Gender attitudes of COMBAT volunteers

Statements	Total n (%)	Women n (%)	Men n (%)
A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family.	53 (88.3)	27 (90.0)	26 (86.7)
Men need sex more than women do*	54 (90.0)	30 (100)	24 (80.0)
There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	19 (31.7)	10 (33.3)	9 (30.0)
It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	28 (46.7)	17 (56.7)	11 (36.7)
A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together.	29 (48.3)	16 (53.3)	13 (43.3)
If someone insults a man, he should defend his reputation, with force if he has to.	24 (40.0)	13 (43.3)	11 (36.7)
To be a man, a person needs to be tough	44 (73.3)	23 (76.7)	21 (70.0)
A man should have a final word about decisions in his home	32 (53.3)	19 (63.3)	13 (43.3)
I think that a woman should obey her husband	59 (98.3)	30 (100)	29 (96.7)
I think that a man should have the final say in all family matters	36 (60.0)	19 (63.3)	17 (56.7)
I think that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.	45 (75.0)	25 (83.3)	20 (66.7)
I think that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends.	13 (21.7)	7 (23.3)	6 (20.0)
I think that if a man beats you it shows that he loves you*	4 (6.67)	4 (13.3)	0 (0)
I think that if a woman works, she should give her money to her husband	12 (20.0)	6 (20.0)	6 (20.0)
I think that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	49 (81.7)	25 (83.3)	24 (80.0)
I think that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her. *	37 (61.7)	23 (76.7)	14 (46.7)
I think that if married, the man owns her	45 (75.0)	23 (76.7)	22 (73.3)
Overall gender attitude score (Mean (SD)) *	39.2 (8.4)	37.0 (7.7)	41.4 (8.5)
Gender equitable*	5 (8.33)	0 (0)	5 (16.7)

*Statistically significant difference observed between men & women

3.13.1.3 VOLUNTEER KNOWLEDGE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW

Table 16 reports on the general knowledge of the COMBAT volunteers about laws on domestic violence in Ghana. The frequency and proportions reported in the table show how many correct responses they made to the statements. Generally, the male COMBATs reported significantly higher knowledge of the law compared to the female COMBATs. One major confusion about the law was the justification of violence on the basis of a victim's consent, on which the least (70%) correct responses were recorded among men. Among female volunteers, the principal areas of profound confusion related to identification of violence. In that, almost half of women thought that violence was existent or defined only when it was repeated or formed a pattern of behaviour of the perpetrator.

Table 16 Volunteer Knowledge on Domestic Violence law of Ghana

	TOTAL		Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Are there any laws in Ghana about violence?	60	100	30	100	30	100
Are there any laws in Ghana about violence against women?	60	100	30	100	30	100
In Ghana, it is not a criminal offense for persons in a domestic relationship (married or cohabitating) to engage in domestic violence against their partner.	47	78.3	21	70	26	86.7
A person in a domestic relationship who engages in domestic violence commits an offence, and if convicted, can spend up to two years in prison and also be fined.	58	96.7	28	93.3	30	100
The Court in Ghana can make anyone who commits domestic violence to pay compensation to the victim as the Court may determine.	59	98.3	29	96.7	30	100
If a cause for domestic violence complaint has arisen between persons in a domestic relationship and the two people do not live together , it is a criminal offense for either party to enter into the residence of the other person without that other person's permission.	50	83.3	26	86.7	24	80
The use of violence of any kind (sexual, physical, and emotional) in a domestic relationship could be justified on the basis of consent .	39	65	18	60	21	70
One single isolated act of domestic violence (of any kind) among a married couple or lovers is not a criminal offense in Ghana.	39	65	16	53.3	23	76.7
In order for any act to be classified as an act of domestic violence, there must have been number of similar previous acts that form a pattern of behaviour . *	40	66.7	16	53.3	24	80
According to the law, if a husband forces his wife to have sex against her will , he will be committing a criminal act (that is, the husband can be fined or put in jail)? *	56	93.3	26	86.7	30	100
Overall knowledge score Mean (SD)*	8.5	1.4	8.0	1.5	8.9	1.0

*Statistically significant difference observed between men & women

3.13.1.4 IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO MANAGE VAWG CASES REPORTED TO VOLUNTEERS

COMBAT volunteers expressed their ideas about how they expect to manage cases that will be reported to them (see Table 17 below). Generally, they responded correctly to five out of the 12 possible actions to take when a case is reported to them. The main actions that they erroneously, yet unanimously thought was the need to ask a survivor of VAW, “what did you do?” to mean what caused the violence and to rescue survivors by finding quick solutions to the situation. Aside these two statements, the three other statements more than a half of the volunteers got wrong were: “telling a victim to go back to the situation and try harder”; “encouraging the victim to stay for the sake of her children”; and “going straight away to the perpetrator to straighten things out upon receipt of report”.

Table 17 Anticipated COMBAT responses to case of VAW reported to them

	TOTAL		Women		Men	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
The first question you should ask any woman who reports violence by their partner is, “ What did you do? ”	0	0	0	0	0	0
When someone reports violence to you, you should listen to her talk about her feelings	58	96.7	29	96.7	29	96.7
When someone reports violence to you, you should let her understand that her safety and that of her children is of paramount importance	60	0	30	0	30	0
When someone reports violence to you, you should be clear that violence is never okay or justifiable	58	96.7	29	96.7	29	96.7
When someone reports violence to you, you should tell her what to do. E.g. when to leave or not to leave the relationship	32	53.3	16	53.3	16	53.3
When someone reports violence to you, you should tell her to go back to the situation and try a little harder	18	30	9	30	9	30
When someone reports violence to you, you should rescue her by finding quick solutions	0	0	0	0	0	0
When someone reports violence to you, you should encourage her to stay for the children’s sake	21	35	9	30	12	40
When someone reports violence to you, you must go and have a chat with the husband to straighten things out	5	8.3	2	6.7	3	10
When someone reports violence to you, you must do a complete assessment of her past, present and future orientation before you decide on the best intervention to offer	55	91.7	27	90	28	93.3
When someone reports violence to you, you must make it clear to her that she does not cause the abuse OR she is not to blame for her partners behaviour	44	73.3	22	73.3	22	73.3
When someone reports violence to you, you talk to her about what she can do to plan for her and her children’s safety	58	96.7	30	100	28	93.3

Reporting proportions that agreed to each of the statements

3.13.2 Community Leaders

In all 12 community leaders were interviewed to seek their views about VAWG in their communities, the support they provide to victims and whether they feel adequately resourced to handle such cases. Their views and expectations of the COMBATs were also enquired. The community leaders interviewed include two queen mothers, five religious leaders, and five traditional leaders. Except for one, all community leaders interviewed confirmed that VAWG was prevalent in their communities. They expressed concern about the high incidence of VAWG in their communities.

3.13.2.1 Cases reported to community leaders

Normally, cases that are reported to traditional leaders include wife battering. As is similar to the community views, the community leaders suggest that wife battering was caused when women pressure their partners to maintain their children.

Yes, I have plenty (VAWG cases) like not giving chop money, not taking good care of your home (Religious leader)

At other times, the wife battering was caused by the man not allowing the woman to attend funerals. Below is an example from a Queen mother:

The woman told her part of the story; that a friend asked her to go with her to a funeral on Friday and she returned on Sunday. She spoke and her husband also spoke back, and she spoke back at him and then he hit her (Queen mother)

There have also been instances where male partners assaulted women because she was seen talking to other men. The story below was recounted by one of the traditional leaders:

There is a man here... One evening, we heard that the man and his wife were fighting. When we asked, we were told that the woman went to sit with another man to chat and when the man saw them, he got angry and beat his wife. So, he beat his wife and then we called him... (Queen mother)

3.13.2.2 How Cases are Handled

When a case is reported to a traditional or religious leader, the perpetrator would be summoned for a meeting. At the meeting, the factions would be questioned by the elders to ascertain the veracity or otherwise of the allegations. The main goal of the traditional leaders is to settle the case amicably.

I addressed such issues and in that case the man was guilty and in marriage cases we don't explicitly say that one party is guilty but address it, both parties maturely (Chief)

Sometimes too the guilty one would be sanctioned. The sanctions that are commonly meted out are fines or compensations.

Traditionally when someone does something wrong to the spouse and the person is found guilty the person is fined or asked to do something for the other to calm the person down; it can be money or even food (Chief).

Below is a conversation between the interviewer and a religious leader on the sanctions meted out to a man who beat his wife:

I: How did you settle the case where a man beat his wife?

R: I listened to both parties and found out who was at fault

I: After your findings and you realized the man was at fault what punishment did you give the man as the religious leader?

R: The punishment is *mpaatade* [compensation], you are [the culprit] asked to give something to the woman to appease her (Religious leader)

Sometimes, the compensation can be in the form of paying for the hospital bills of the woman.

He was guilty because even if the woman has done something wrong, they could talk about it. He shouldn't have hit her. So, he compensated the woman. Since he has beaten her, he should give her something to go to the hospital.

When a man is found guilty of not taking care of the home, the elders explain to him the need to take care of his children.

I will explain to the man that he is responsible to his wife and children and that now they are part of him, and his immediate family and the children are his." (Religious leader)

I can handle such an issue; I call the mother of the children and if she confirms to me that it's true [that the man does not take care of the children] ... I don't rush and report to the police but rather call the man and ask him. He will then explain the reason for his behaviour; he can say the woman is the cause, but I will advise that the children have nothing to do with it so his responsibilities to his children must be met (Chief)

The fines are ridiculously small monies; not enough to act as a deterrent to others. The reason given by the traditional leaders for the little fine is that the perpetrators could not afford to pay huge fines. Below is the conversation between an interviewer and a Chief of a community:

I: I want to know what things are done to the perpetrator to serve as a lesson to others

R: We don't have such a thing here

I: Why don't you have such a thing here?

R: This is because if you fine someone GHS 1000 and the offender don't have that amount then the offender will feel the punishment is personal

It is refreshing to note that traditional leaders were aware that they cannot settle criminal cases such as rape and defilement at their palaces. They understood that such cases must be reported to the police or DOVVSU. This is what a traditional leader said to that effect:

Like the one I said he raped the girl. The girl is younger than him. We can't handle that one. If someone hurts someone with a knife too, we won't settle it here. When someone hurts another and we see that you had a fight which is not serious, we can't take it to town [police], we have to settle it. (Queen mother)

With rape we don't play with it at all, we had a case here and we reported the case; even though the man has built his nice house; after the police chased him, he run away and has since not returned (Chief)

3.13.2.3 Constraints of Traditional Leaders to Manage VAWG

The constraints reported by the chiefs are that sometimes the survivors do not want the case to be reported to the police; so, the traditional authorities have no choice than to abandon the case. Also, there are some costs that victims incur if they report the case to the traditional authorities. As custom demands, when an individual want to make a complaint at the palace, they must go with a bottle of schnapps. After the case has been adjudicated, the complainant must provide the counsellors with schnapps and pay for their transportation costs. This acts as a deterrent to others to report their cases to the traditional authorities.

Because we are not in a typical village that I will say come along with a fowl but you are obliged to come with schnapps but depending on what the issue is like a complaint or a summon attract different things (Chief)

I: So, for a complaint what should the person come with in relation to violence?

R: The woman should come with a bottle of schnapps

I: What about a woman summoning her husband or lover

R: I will say the person has to come with 200gh and a bottle of schnapps

I: So, if the person doesn't get the 200gh, can't the person come forward

R: Because we are all family if the person can come with 100gh

3.13.2.4 Expectations of COMBATs

The traditional leaders have remarkably high hopes for the COMBAT programme. They envisage that the COMBATs will solve VAWG in their communities. This is what some of the traditional leaders said of their expectations about the COMBATs:

I am looking forward that the program will come to stay, and it will help solve most of our issues in Agona. We also expect that the six people we have selected will go through the training quickly and they will be equipped to come and help so that it will bring fear in the hearts of the people and peace will prevail. Life in the village is not easy so I will plead that occasionally if you can come and support the leader of the COMBAT. (Chief)

My expectation is that if we do it well, it will help us in the future. When we didn't have COMBAT, people did whatever they liked but after they return from the training people will be scared when they are doing something bad. Those who don't even have much knowledge about them will say some people have been brought here to arrest them if they do something wrong. So, people will fear to do the wrong thing. (Religious leader)

3.13.3 State Agencies

Five officials from state agencies were interviewed. These are DOVVSU, CHRAJ, Social Welfare, and the Gender Desk at the Agona West Municipal Assembly. The official at the Gender Desk at the Agona West Municipal Assembly indicated that they do not handle VAWG cases. All cases that are reported to the official are referred to other agencies such as DOVVSU, the Department of Social Welfare, and CHRAJ.

3.13.3.1 Types of cases reported to State Agencies

All the types of VAWG, such as physical, economic, sexual, and emotional were reported to the state agencies within the period under review. The following extracts provide details of the cases reported to the state agencies:

The types of cases that we have been receiving comprises of both physical violence, socio-economic violence, cultural violence, among others. And then property acquired or spousal property. That is, whenever couples are going to divorce, how to share the property becomes a little bit of a problem. So, we see cases across all the types of violence. But basically, when it comes to the sexual violence, we don't handle it (CHRAJ).

Most of them (VAWG reported) are against children. And the children normally are females. Most of the violence that normally occur are—the one that tops all is defilement. It's very high in this community. We have defilement, rape, indecent assault. We have unnatural carnal knowledge; we call it sodomy. It normally occurs here. And sometimes we record incest whereby a father has sex

with his own biological daughter. So, these are the kinds of violence that normally happen to children in this community, against women in this community (DOVVSU).

And then we also have child custody, where men refuse the paternity of children, the pregnancies. There's rejection. There's always conflict. We bring them here to settle them. So, these are the things we do; that is child maintenance, custody taking and then paternity which normally result in conflicts between the men and women, where the women are battered, you understand. So, we bring them here (AE. DSW).

3.13.3.2 Protocol for handling VAWG

All the government agencies have protocols for handling reported VAWG cases. The protocols for handling cases is dependent on the nature and type of violence. For instance, when the case is a physical assault or a marital dispute, the focus of officers is to settle the case amicably. Below is a detailed explanation of the protocol for handling cases at DOVVSU.

So, let's take it that it's an assault, physical assault. The husband punches the wife, and then you can see serious contortion on the face, and the woman comes to DOVVSU first. Normally, what we do is we take the complaint, we write their statement. If she has witnesses, we do that. Then we issue a medical form to know the extent of injury. Maybe the contortion that she's having can cause tissue damages and must seek medical attention. So, after going through the medical process and she returns, we invite the man. Normally at DOVVSU we have invitation letters that have the police everything on. So, when he sees that, this issue is plainly a husband and wife issue. We don't even go into arrest. We issue invitation letter. The husband will see that we did not come to arrest him. They have some primitive mindset that when police come to your house, that's arrest. And normally, because we want to avoid broken homes, whereby the man becomes furious and divorces the woman. So, we issue the invitation letters. The man will come. We write his statement too. Then we put it before our crime officer, that's our senior crime officer. And he will also make sure that the case is dealt with. We have a way of doing that when talking to both sides. The woman would be talked to, then the husband too would talk to. So, the man would just take a decision based on the information he has heard from the two sides. But as to taking the man to court would come from the woman. So normally when it comes to issues of physical assault, we let the man go out, then the crime officer would talk to the woman to assess her mind whether she prefers court. You see them coming out that no, they don't want court. So, the man talks to the husband so he would sign a warning letter. In police we have warning letters that we sign. It's like a bond at the court. But our own is a letter. So, we type it and we endorse it. Meaning that you are not going to continue that. If you continue that and you are brought back to our place, we just carry your docket. With this one we are not bringing any docket again. So, we carry your whole docket and send it to court.

However, when the complaint is sexual assault—that is considered a criminal offense—the focus is to prosecute the case; there is no opportunity for an amicable settlement. Below is an explanation of how such cases are handled:

The procedure is maybe a parent brings a child that she has been defiled or sexually abused by a neighbor. This is a minor, a female. To talk to a man like me, you cannot get all the facts. That's

why we have women here. So, I will refer the child to the woman. So, the woman will talk to the child as her own child. What we do is we take the mind of the child off what we are supposed to do. An example is, oh, have you eaten, do you have anything that you do at home? We take the mind off. Then we see that the girl is psyched up, then you bring her mind back to the reason she's there, so that she will be able to tell the woman what happened. So, when we see that it's true that she agreed [have been defiled], then we give them the medical form. By that time, we have already taken their statement. We give them a medical form. They go to the hospital. Examinations are done because we are going to give the evidence to the court. And they are going to ask them if each person takes a lawyer. So, they are supposed to be done on our premises. So, the medical officer will do the examination and do everything. Then he writes a report. Then we come back to office. We make sure that we apprehend the perpetrator or the suspect. We take the statement from him, then we go to the scene, where the incident happened, where the abuse happened. Some happens in the bush, uncompleted building, the suspect's house, the victim's home. So, we do inspection. Some we can see semen; some we cannot see. We see blood clot, which means the victim is a virgin and it has been broken. So, we see them. Some we do not see anything. But for some too, we see marks of struggle like when it happens in the bush. When we go, we see that something has happened here. So, we see marks of struggle and we take pictures. We use them as evidence. We come back to the office. So, when we gather all these facts, and you charge the accused person for the offence. That is when you can take it before the court, then you start the court proceedings.

Similarly, at DOVVSU, when a non-sexual assault case is reported to CHRAJ, the primary goal is mediation for an amicable resolution and not to prosecute. Below is what CHRAJ does:

But when you say, oh my husband has beaten me, we take the complaint. Then we write a request for comment plus the date, then we invite the husband or boyfriend or whoever the person is for him to come along with his response in relation to the complaint being levelled against him. When they come, we do what is called mediation. After the mediation, if both understand each other, we start what we call terms of settlement. Maybe the complainant has agreed to do this; the respondent has [also] agreed to do this. Everybody will sign. But if we get to a point and the party who is at fault proves adamant, the case is sent to the Family Tribunal.

The protocol for handling cases at the Department of Social Welfare is similar to what has been described for DOVVSU and CHRAJ. Below is an explanation from DSW:

If a complainer comes, we issue an invitation letter to her, if she can send it to the respondent, if she cannot, she or he, because men also come. So, we do that if the respondent cannot come, then we give a convenient date; we invite the two of them. Then from there the complainant gives a statement, then the respondent also gives a statement. Then from there the complainant will also cross examine the respondent. Then we ask the complainant, if her statement is not clear on the demands she wants, then we will clarify that from her. From her statement, maybe the demands what she wants the man to do. If they are not clarified, for example, if it is feeding stipend or health that the man is responsible for or does not do. Or if the problem is with school, education, with that we will redirect the complainant. Because we don't want it to come from us that we are placing those demands. We redirect her toward that line so that she will take it to the respondent, the respondent will not realize that we are rather helping them with that. So, then we find a common ground, especially the children, that one we consider. As for the health, if the person said the children or the child is not enrolling on health insurance, most of this thing is that we make sure the respondent, we make sure he would enroll the children to have insurance so that the health care will be secured. Then the education too, we find a recommendation the education needs to be catered for. Clothing, sometimes custody on how the children will be kept. If the children will stay

with their mother, depending on the ages and the situation, the condition. If the children will be left with their mother, while the father is allowed custody from time to time. Then those conclusions are also drawn.

From the ongoing, it is evident that the inclination of the state agencies in handling VAWG cases is mediation for an amicable settlement and not for prosecution. They reason that their mandate is to bring families together and not to break them up.

3.13.3.3 Support Provided to Victims of VAWG

The support state agencies provide to victims of VAWG is limited beyond what they do officially. When the DSW was asked what support they provide victims this is what they said:

Hmm, it's difficult. You know, we have LEAP. So sometimes we connect them to LEAP. You know the monies, they are peanuts. In a way, it helps them. So, we connect them to LEAP, and maybe others, we talk to NGOs who are doing women's work.

Recounting a case where a father raped her daughter, this is what the DSW did to assist the victim.

This girl's case (name withheld), you know the father raping his own daughter, you see the thing? When the case went to police, and the police were not helping the lady, she came here. And we told her that this case is purely criminal than social. The social aspect is how to rehabilitate the mother and the child, but the incest is purely criminal. We had to go back to the police. So, in this case, we refer to the police, you see the thing? So, the case is there. We just didn't want to mess up with it. So, we are trying to organize some money for the woman, because the woman (mother of the victim) is a disabled person. So, we are trying to organize some money from the disability common fund, then set her up in business where she could raise money to take care of the child. (DSW)

At CHRAJ they normally provide counseling and provide small monetary support for transportation to some of the victims.

For the support we normally advise them. And the only support we do is that when the distance is short, that is, from Swedru to this place... Somebody would come and say, "oh, I don't have money." Oh, where are you from? From here is how much? Three cedis. We only give them about five cedis or ten cedis to take home. But it's not always [that we do that]. (CHRAJ)

3.13.3.4 Constraints of State Agencies

The agencies face several constraints in the discharge of their duties. A major constraint reported by the officials of the state agencies is inadequate staffing. CHRAJ reported that they are faced with inadequate staff, and this affects the discharge of their duties. Others also complained of staff

not being adequately trained for their tasks; and indicated that the staff would benefit from further training. This is what the DSW had to say:

Some may even need training in information technology, yes. Others may need training in social work, like reading further. Building on what you learned in school at third year; and other training that will help them to do their work effectively. So specifically, the training, I think some need capacity building, information technology like I said. And some also need to know more about social work. I don't know how they do it, but then I think that all of them will want to have some training to add to what they have now.

Another weakness reported by the government agencies is inadequate resources to help organise outreach programmes to the communities for sensitization programmes. The resources they mentioned include lack of vehicles for outreach programmes and even to apprehend perpetrators. Below are statements from Ag. East and West DSW.

Yesterday when we had to go out, we had to wait for a long time for a vehicle to come and pick us, you see? And the vehicle came around what time? Almost five o'clock (Ag. East DSW).

For that, we don't have enough resources. In fact, we are seriously constrained. In that sometimes when we are supposed to go to communities to render community services, means of transport becomes a problem. I must say that anytime I request for something from the municipal assembly, if only they can afford that, it is given, especially if I want a vehicle and I drive, there is a vehicle there which they would give to me. Sometimes... I have an old car. Sometimes if I go and request and there's no car, the alternative will be fuel. Sometimes they give me. Other times they don't give me. But because the logistics are not readily available, sometimes we are not able to function as we should (Ag. West DW).

The agencies also revealed lack of office space as another of the constraints. The officers share office space with several other government agencies thus making it difficult for complainants to feel comfortable reporting and sharing their experiences. Below is a constraint faced by Ag. East DSW.

And then here too there's lack of confidentiality. Looking at the office, we are two here (two departments). Birth and Death is here, together with Social Welfare and then Community Development. So sometimes if you want to arbitrate on cases, it becomes so difficult for us. And sometimes we may have to go to the assembly hall. And then if there's a meeting going on... and here too these people are here, then we don't even know how to go about the whole thing. I quite remember some time ago we were handling a case, somebody came to collect birth certificate, and he had to put his nose [interfere] into whatever we were saying. That was too bad. Even yesterday...so these are some of the challenges.

Also, the officials criticised the cost associated with obtaining a medical report from health facilities by the victims. An essential part of the protocol for handling sexual assault is the

submission of a medical report from a medical officer. However, victims are charged between GHC 200 and GHC 500 for the medical report; a cost some victims and their families cannot afford. This causes victims not to pursue their cases further.

We are not resourced. If we are resourced, we are supposed to get a medical assistant. It's like a gynaecologist who would assist us in any sexual offence that would come to our desk for the form to be endorsed freely. Because the people don't have. And even those that get the money for the medical form to be endorsed, when they get the money too... to get the person arrested... DOVVSU, we don't have a car. We take a taxi to the center.

3.13.3.5 Collaboration between Organisations

There was some collaboration between the state agencies. The officials of the state agencies acknowledge that they have specific mandates, so when they have a case that is not within their remit, they transfer it to the right agency. For instance, CHRAJ and the Department of Social Welfare admit that they do not handle criminal cases, only civil ones. So criminal cases such as rape and sexual assault are referred to DOVVSU when they get them. In the same way, DOVVSU indicated that they do not settle civil cases, such cases are referred either to CHRAJ or the Department of Social Welfare.

Some pass [reported] here, some would not pass here. But it's DOVVSU that refers most of their cases to me. And you know, some of the respondents are stubborn. For the stubborn ones, when they come here, then we refer to Family Court (DSW)

Let's say if a woman comes to report to us that maybe my husband has been touching the breast of my daughter, or maybe this person has done this to my child, and we realize that it is criminal, we report to DOVVSU to take it up. (DSW)

3.13.3.6 Expectations of COMBATS

The findings show that some officials of state agencies have had contact with the previous COMBATs, while some have had no interaction with them. For instance, DOVVSU, CHRAJ and Ag. East DSW officials confirmed that they have interacted with the previous COMBATs. DOVVSU reported instances where they received calls from some of the COMBATs who reported VAWG incidents from some of the communities to them. Also, an officer at the Agona East DSW indicated that he was invited to the launch of the COMBATs at Kwansakrom. He does not however interact with them since he relocated from the community.

State officials have high hopes of the COMBATs. They agree that the work of the COMBATs will help reduce VAWG in their communities. They expect that there would be a collaboration between themselves and the COMBATs. At CHRAJ, the officer indicated that the COMBATs may not have knowledge about some of the laws, to which they may need more education. Another state official suggested that more women should be selected to join the COMBATs. He argued that this would encourage women to be active in their communities. He also suggested that more middle-aged people should be selected instead of the younger ones. He intimated that the younger members are very mobile and mostly move outside their communities to seek greener pastures elsewhere. Also, he advocated that religion should be taken into consideration in the selection of COMBATs. He observed that there were more Christians in the previous COMBATs than people of other religious faiths. He called for a greater representation of Muslims and non-religious groups in the selection of the COMBATs.

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

This baseline assessment shows that violence against women is prevalent in the ten communities of the Agona East and West Districts of the Central region of Ghana with nine out of ten women interviewed experiencing at least one form of violence in their lifetime. Recent experience of any form of violence in this population was 73%. The estimates for this study are very high compared to reports indicated in the most recent nationally representative survey on violence, GFHLS 2015 [4]. Apart from lifetime sexual violence experienced which was comparable (22.4% vs 30%), the other types of violence experienced in this population were almost double the estimates reported by the GFHLS 2015. However, recent sexual violence experienced in this sample constituted 31% of violence reported by women who indicated experiencing a form of violence in the past 12 months compared to 10.6% reported in the GFHLS 2015. Our current estimates suggest a tripled proportion experiencing recent social, physical, sexual, and psychological violence and a quadrupling of economic violence. The very high reports of lifetime and recent experience of VAW is not surprising because the Central region featured in the top four highest regional reports of violence by the GFHLS 2015. It is also not uncommon that some specific clusters of high prevalence areas will be identified in a region that has higher than the average estimates. Aside this general observation, the increased reporting of violence experience in this baseline assessment may have occurred because these communities had been engaged at least twice by the Gender Centre and the research team and were more likely to have fully understood the need for reporting in anticipation of intervention implementation.

This study revealed a change in the form of violence women experienced in the last 12 months and those reported over their lifetime. For instance, our findings showed a shift in the form of economic violence from denial of housekeeping money, perpetrator taking money from women's earnings per lifetime experience reported to women being made to account for their money, followed by a prohibition from work and denial of money for upkeep suggests some shifts in the power dynamics in the home once women become increasingly engaged in income generating activities. This has implications for programmes that seek to improve women's economic situations. An earlier study

in the Central region of Ghana reported an increased risk of intimate partner violence when women were employed compared to when they were not employed [7]. It is possible that perpetrators try to regain power control over their women by making women account for how they spent their money or outright prohibition from work once their tactic of merely withholding money or taking women's income if they work from home becomes obsolete, with more women working outside of home. Another shift in recent versus lifetime experience of violence was observed with the forms of physical violence women experienced. Also, choking/or strangling of women emerged as the most prevalent form of recent physical violence; a form that was not in the top three reported for lifetime experience of violence. Again, a fifth of women who experienced violence in the last 12 months reported being threatened with or attacked with a weapon. The use of more violent forms of physical violence against women in this population requires further investigation to avert femicide.

This study found high exposure to violence in childhood with at least one in three women reporting witnessing such social, psychological, economic, and physical acts occurring among their parents or other members of their household. Expectedly, one in ten of them reported witnessing sexual violence in the household due to the relative private nature of execution of sexual acts. Witnessing of violence in childhood, especially when it is against the mother, has dire psychological consequences [14, 15] and negative risk for future experience and perpetration of violence [6-8]. Beyond childhood exposure within households, more than half of respondents reported high perceived occurrence of VAW in their communities, a situation which normalizes, validates and sustains a cycle of violence. Another theme that emerged from qualitative evidence is the issue of child neglect in the selected communities. Poverty and low economic empowerment often increase the vulnerability of women and girls to violence [2-4].

This study found very high gender-inequitable attitudes among survey respondents including the COMBAT volunteers pre-training. Similar to consistent evidence from previous Ghana Demographic and Health Survey data, the men seemed to have more gender-equitable attitudes compared to women. However, one clear distinction between the volunteers and the community members surveyed was with the relatively higher knowledge of applicable laws by the volunteers irrespective of the few areas of confusion. This finding is suggestive of very deep-rooted gender inequitable social norms that drive the VAW in the communities. The dilemma between following

socially sanctioned roles of men and women in the context of male superiority driven by patriarchy results in indifference among community leaders and members unless overt criminality is observed. Qualitative evidence from this study clearly indicated a non-acceptance of VAW to all individuals interviewed. However, the marked tolerance of it under certain circumstances such as a breach of gender roles by women or enforcement of male superiority remains an enigma to be unraveled and tackled by the multi-pronged nature of the proposed intervention.

This baseline assessment showed that most women felt that they enjoyed certain rights when it came to their bodies as women. However, some women felt that they did enjoy the freedom to network and to enjoy some sexual and reproductive rights. From the men's perspective (more than a half), the women were not to be allowed to have rights to the freedom of movement, association, freedom to choose how to dress or look, freedom to be themselves outside of cultural expectations, and the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive rights beyond safe, satisfying and pleasurable sex. These point to the very patriarchal nature of these communities where women are expected to fit into some socially constructed image that undermines the fundamental rights of women to personal autonomy, self-ownership and self-determination of their bodies; a violation of their bodily integrity [16].

The findings of this study showed that the community members were very trusting of institutions to take necessary steps in preventing VAW. Much trust was recorded in the use of trained reputable community members to help address VAW. This is particularly remarkable considering that the least trusted group to help prevent VAW was the community members. This is suggestive that respondents perceive regular community members as powerless in this fight, yet, they believe that training will bring some transformation. Qualitative evidence revealed marked distrust of community members inclusive of family, non-family, and local leaders to confidentially manage cases or apprehend perpetrators involved in VAW cases reported to them. It was not surprising that over 90% of respondents trusted the law courts and the police to take necessary actions to prevent violence. It is obvious both from qualitative accounts and survey responses to experience of reporting VAW cases that survivors do not always get supported when they finally decide to report. The documented fear of family disintegration and widespread community criticism when cases are reported to state agencies present a huge challenge to reporting. Furthermore, the evidence that most of the women who experience violence are unable to support themselves and

their children financially in the absence of the perpetrator; forcing them to not report to the police and/or remain in violent relationships [9]. Thus, increased efforts to educate community members on the need to avoid stigmatization of survivors who report cases to formal institutions will be critical to any successes in improving state response. Meanwhile, this study also documented both state and local stakeholder challenges in responding to cases reported to them. While the local leaders inclusive of the chiefs, queen mothers and older community members would benefit from sensitization programmes to be conducted in their communities in terms of awareness and consequences of VAW, state agencies require more tangible support especially from Government. For more effective state agency response, there is the need to address their needs for training, staffing and other logistics for community outreaches and actual response (arresting or apprehending perpetrator, gathering solid evidence for use in prosecution, and support for victim).

4.2 CONCLUSIONS

VAWG and gender-inequitable norms are highly prevalent in the selected communities. These also occur in the context where available support for victims is lacking or inadequate. Potential effective prevention strategies will require a coordinated interplay of various actors (both state and non-state). Necessary actions should include an attempt to break the intergenerational cycle of VAWG, sensitization of community members on what constitutes violence especially in patriarchal societies such as this, improving gender attitudes and knowledge of applicable laws and law enforcement or apprehension of perpetrators. Prevention of VAWG in these communities must be supported by other social interventions such as female economic empowerment, promotion of child rights, promotion of general human rights, and social welfare systems for effectiveness.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings from the baseline study provide insights into the contextual issues surrounding VAWG in participating communities and highlight the need for a comprehensive system through violence prevention policies and programmes. The following recommendations are made based on

our study findings and the acknowledgement of the need to prevent VAWG through protection, support for victims, improvement of response services and justice:

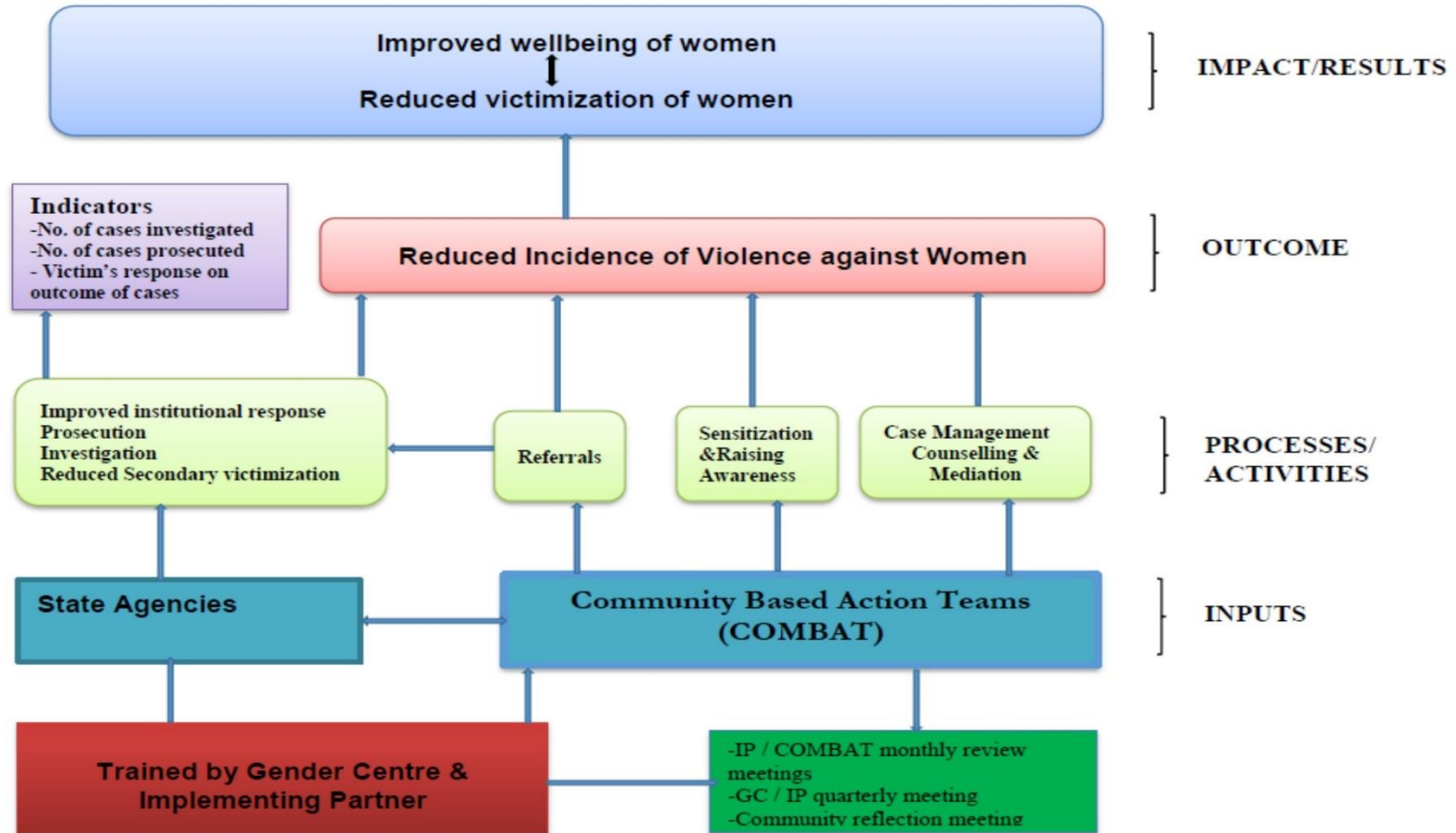
1. Change the prevailing social norms and gender-inequitable attitudes of individuals through general community-wide sensitizations and targeted engagements with traditional and religious leaders. Respondents in this study showed a very high level of trust in religious leaders but had relatively lower trust in community leaders in acting to prevent VAWG. Much more efforts may be required to change the gender-inequitable attitudes of the volunteer COMBATs.
2. The volunteer COMBATs should be given copies of applicable laws on violence and child protection for their reference in handling cases. This will also validate their work in the community especially within the community aversion and associated hostility towards victims who report to state agencies. It will give the community a sense of non-exclusion from state authority.
3. Reduce women's and girl's vulnerability to VAW due to low economic empowerment.
4. Improve the resources of state agencies to more effectively respond to reported cases of VAWG.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT THEORY OF CHANGE



APPENDIX 2 SURVEY CONSENT FORM

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Official Use only Protocol number

Ethics Committee for Humanities (ECH)

PROTOCOL CONSENT FORM - SURVEY

Section A- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
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Title of Study:	COMBAT: A Community Structure to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls
Principal Investigator:	Dr Deda Ogum Alangea
Certified Protocol Number	ECH 185/19-20

Section B- CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH
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General Information about Research

This study aims to assess whether the Gender Centre's Rural Response System intervention can help to reduce violence against women in Ghana. We plan to test this intervention in 10 communities located in the Agona East and Agona West Districts of the Central Region of Ghana. As part of testing this intervention, we will interview women between the ages of 15 to 49 and men age 18 years and above about their lives and experiences. We are asking you to participate in this study because you fall in this category. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be one of several women/men who will be sharing their experiences with us from the two districts mentioned above. As a participant in this study, you are likely to be interviewed twice over a period of nine months by a trained female/male researcher who will ask you about your background, your household, experiences as a woman/man, experiences of violence, and your relationship with your partner. The interview will last about 90 minutes and your responses recorded on a tablet. You will not write your name, therefore no one except the researcher will know what information you have given in the study. If it happens that you get interviewed again after 9 months from now, we will again ask for your permission to interview you.

Benefits/Risks of the study

There are no direct benefits to you in participating in this study. But, your participation in this study will provide useful information that may help in the future implementation of interventions to address violence against women in Ghana.

You might not be comfortable with some questions in the interview. If that happens, please feel free not to answer questions that you are not comfortable with. If you choose not to answer

questions you are not comfortable with or withdraw from the study, this will not affect you in any way as you will be able to continue with your participation in the main study and will not affect your relationship with the researchers. If during the interview you find information that disturbs you emotionally, please inform the researcher. With your permission, you will be referred to speak with a local Social Welfare Officer at no cost to you. All participants in this study will be given a list of Social Welfare Offices around the country upon request.

Confidentiality

All information received from you in this interview will be kept in strict confidence and used for research purposes only. All hard copies of data (information) including study material will be stored in locked cabinets at the project office located at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. All soft copies (electronic version) of data will be stored on third party cloud-servers and uploaded unto password protected computers in the project office at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. All data will be kept in secure storage for 15 years, thereafter it will be destroyed.

Participants will not be identified by name during data transcription, and therefore we will collect your information in an anonymous way, that is, without your identity. In this way we will ensure no one else apart from the researcher will know what information you have shared in the interview. Findings of this study will be published in professional journals in a way that will not be possible to identify you as a participant in this study.

Compensation

You will be compensated for the time you spend and the inconvenience you may have had in participating in the interview with GHS 10. This money will be given to you at the end of this interview as a show of our appreciation for your participation in this study.

Withdrawal from Study

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You can choose not to participate in this study at all, and this will not affect you in anyway. Also, you may agree to participate in this study and later decide to withdraw from the study at any point and there will be no negative consequences to you. However, you may be withdrawn from this study by investigators if you show visible signs of distress (e.g. uncontrollable crying or tearing) during the interview.

Contact for Additional Information

In case you have further questions regarding this study, please direct them to Dr Deda Ogum Alangea, School of Public Health, University of Ghana, on telephone number **0244 981024**; or on email: dogumalangea@ug.edu.gh.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant in this study you may contact the Administrator of the Ethics Committee for Humanities, ISSER, University of Ghana at ech@ug.edu.gh or 00233- 303-933-866.

Section C- PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

"I have read or have had someone read all of the above, asked questions, received answers regarding participation in this study, and am willing to give consent to participate in this study. I will not have waived any of my rights by signing this consent form. Upon signing this consent form, I will receive a copy for my personal records."

Name of Participant

Signature or mark of Participant

Date

If participant cannot read and or understand the form themselves, a witness must sign here:

I was present while the benefits, risks and procedures were read to the volunteer. All questions were answered and the volunteer has agreed to take part in the research.

Name of witness

Signature of witness / Mark

Date

I certify that the nature and purpose, the potential benefits, and possible risks associated with participating in this research have been explained to the above individual.

Name of Person who Obtained Consent

Signature of Person Who Obtained Consent

Date

APPENDIX 3 PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Official Use only
Protocol number

Ethics Committee for Humanities (ECH)

GUARDIAN /PARENTAL PROTOCOL CONSENT FORM

Section A- BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Title of Study:	COMBAT: A Community Structure to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls
Principal Investigator:	Dr Deda Ogum Alangea
Certified Protocol Number	ECH 185/19-20

Section B- CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

General Information about Research

This study aims to assess whether the use of Community Based action Teams (COMBATs) which is part of the Gender Centre's Rural Response System intervention can reduce violence against women in Ghana. We plan to test this intervention in 10 communities located in the Agona East and Agona West Districts of the Central Region of Ghana. As part of testing this intervention, we will interview women between the ages of 15 to 49 and men 18 years and above about their lives and experiences. You and your household have been selected to participate in this research study. We are requesting for your permission to allow your child/ward to participate in this study. If you agree for your child to participate in this study, she will be one of approximately 360 participants to be involved in this study.

As a participant in this study, your child is likely to be interviewed twice over a period of nine months by a trained female/male researcher who will ask her about her background, her household, experiences as an adolescent, and experiences of violence. The interview will last about 90 minutes and, with your child's permission, her answers to questions will be recorded using a digital recorder. We will not write her name, therefore no one except the researcher will know what information she has given in the study. If it happens that your child gets interviewed again after 9 months from now, we will again ask for your permission to interview her.

Benefits/Risks of the study

There are no direct benefits to your child in participating in this study. But, her participation in this study will provide useful information that may help in the future implementation of interventions to address violence against women and girls in Ghana.

Your child might be uncomfortable with some of the questions that will be asked since they are private and may not have discussed with other persons. Your child is free to not answer questions that she finds uncomfortable or stop their participation all together without any punishment. If during or after the interview she feels emotionally disturbed, she may inform the researcher so that she can be referred to speak with the local social worker free of charge.

Confidentiality

We will take care to ensure your child's anonymity and confidentiality of all her responses. Her name and contact information will not be entered with the data that is collected. Project staff and enumerators have been trained to maintain confidentiality and not to share any information to any people (e.g. other students, parents, teachers) except the researchers. This means we will not tell anybody about your child's answers to our questions. Her answers will be kept secret.

All information received from this interview will be kept in strict confidence and used for research purposes only. All hard copies of data (information) including study material will be stored in locked cabinets at the project office located at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. All soft copies (electronic version) of data will be stored on third party cloud-servers and uploaded unto password protected computers in the project office at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana. All data will be kept in secure storage for 15 years, thereafter it will be destroyed.

Compensation

Your child will be compensation for the time she spends and the inconvenience she may have had in participating in the interview with GHS 10. This money will be given to her at the end of this interview as a show of our appreciation for her participation in this study.

Withdrawal from Study

Your child's participation is voluntary, and she has the right to refuse to participate in the study at any time with no repercussions for you or your family. She does not have to participate because you (parents/elders) gave consent for her to participate. Also, she may agree to participate in this study and later decide to withdraw from the study at any point and there will be no negative consequences to you. If we realise during the interview that your child shows visible signs of distress such as crying, her participation in this study will be terminated. We assure you, your child's legal representative, will be informed in a timely manner if information becomes available that may be relevant to your child's willingness to continue participation or withdraw.

Contact for Additional Information

In case you have further questions regarding this study, please direct them to Dr Deda Ogum Alangea, School of Public Health, University of Ghana, on telephone number 0244 981024; or by email: dogumalangea@ug.edu.gh.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant in this study you may contact the Administrator of the Ethics Committee for Humanities, ISSER, University of Ghana at ech@ug.edu.gh or 00233- 303-933-866.

Section C- PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

"I have read or have had someone read all of the above, asked questions, received answers regarding participation in this study, and am willing to give consent for me, my child/ward to participate in this study. I will not have waived any of my rights by signing this consent form. Upon signing this consent form, I will receive a copy for my personal records."

Name of Participants

Signature or mark of participants

Date

If participants cannot read and or understand the form themselves, a witness must sign here:

I was present while the benefits, risks and procedures were read to the volunteer. All questions were answered and the volunteer has agreed to take part in the research.

Name of witness

Signature of witness /Mark

Date

I certify that the nature and purpose, the potential benefits, and possible risks associated with participating in this research have been explained to the above individual.

Name of Person who Obtained Consent

Signature of Person Who Obtained Consent

Date

APPENDIX 4 CHILD ASSENT FORM

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Official Use only
Protocol number

Ethics Committee for Humanities (ECH)

CHILD ASSESNT FORM

Section A- BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Title of Study:	COMBAT: A Community Structure to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls
Principal Investigator:	Dr Deda Ogum Alangea
Certified Protocol Number	ECH 185/19-20

Section B- CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

General Information about Research

This study aims to assess whether the use of Community Based action Teams (COMBATs) which is part of the Gender Centre's Rural Response System intervention is able to reduce violence against women in Ghana. We plan to test this intervention in 10 communities located in the Agona East and Agona West Districts of the Central Region of Ghana. As part of testing this intervention, we will interview women between the ages of 15 to 49 and men 18 years and above about their lives and experiences. You and your household have been selected to participate in this research study. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be one of approximately 360 participants to be involved in this study.

Your participation in this research involves:

- 1) An interview by a trained female researcher who will ask you about your background, your household, life experiences, experiences of violence, and your relationship with your husband or partner. The interview will last about 90 minutes and your answers to questions will be recorded using a computerised hand-held device called PDA. You will not write your name in the PDA as you will be given a unique code, therefore no one except the researcher will know what information you have given in the study.
If it happens that you get selected to be interviewed again after 9 months from now, we will again ask for your permission to interview you.

Benefits/Risks of the study

There are no direct benefits to you in participating in this study. But, your participation in this study will provide useful information that may help in the future implementation of interventions to address violence against women and girls in Ghana.

You might be uncomfortable with some of the questions that will be asked since they are things that are private and you may not have discussed with other persons. And, you are free to not

answer questions you find uncomfortable or stop your participation all together without any punishment. If during or after the interview you feel emotionally disturbed, please inform the researcher so that you can be referred to speak with the local social worker free of charge.

Confidentiality

We will take care to ensure your anonymity and confidentiality of all your responses. Your name and contact information will not be entered with the data that is collected. Project staff and enumerators have been trained to maintain confidentiality and not to share any information to any people (e.g. other students, parents, teachers) except the researchers. This means we will not tell anybody about your answers to our questions. Your answers will be kept secret and no one apart from the investigators will ever see the information you give us. All information will be kept in locked cabinets at the School of Public Health for 15 years after which it will be destroyed.

Compensation

You will be reimbursed for the time you spend and the inconvenience you may have had in completing the questionnaire with GHS 10. This money will be given to you at the end of this interview as a show of our appreciation for your participation in this study.

Withdrawal from Study

Your participation is voluntary and you have the right to refuse to participate in the study at any time with no repercussions for you or your family. You do not have to participate because your parents/elders gave consent for you to participate. However, if you show visible signs of distress (e.g. crying) during the interview, the investigators may end the interview and your parent/guardian will be informed.

Contact for Additional Information

In case you have further questions regarding this study, please direct them to Dr Deda Ogum Alangea, School of Public Health, University of Ghana, on telephone number 0244 981024; or by email: dogumalangea@ug.edu.gh.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant in this study you may contact the Administrator of the Ethics Committee for Humanities, ISSER, University of Ghana at ech@ug.edu.gh or 00233- 303-933-866.

Section C- PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

"I have read or have had someone read all of the above, asked questions, received answers regarding participation in this study, and am willing to give consent for me, my child/ward to participate in this study. I will not have waived any of my rights by signing this consent form. Upon signing this consent form, I will receive a copy for my personal records."

Name of Participants

Signature or mark of participants

Date

Name of Person who Obtained Consent

Signature of Person Who Obtained Consent

Date

APPENDIX 5 WOMEN'S QUESTIONNAIRE

COMBAT : A Community structure to prevent violence against Women and Girls

WOMEN'S QUESTIONNAIRE

BASELINE

HH ID number:

--	--	--	--

UNIQUE CODE:

--	--

DATE:

--	--	--	--	--	--

day / month / year

INTERVIEWER

--	--

NUMBER:



Gender Studies & Human Rights Documentation Centre

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND & WORK

The first questions are about yourself, your home and your work situation. Please try and relax, there are no right or wrong answers. Remember that everything you answer will be kept secret. If there is a question you do not want to answer please skip to the next question.

QUESTIONS AND FILTERS		CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
101	How old are you?	AGE (COMPLETED YEARS)	
102	Were you born in Ghana?	YES..... 1 NO..... 0	
103	How long have you lived in this community?	YEARS [] [] MONTHS..... [] [] IF < 30 DAYS ENTER 0 MONTHS..... [] []	
104	Have you ever moved or travelled to look for work?	YES..... 1 NO..... 0	
105	What is the highest grade you have completed at school?	PRIMARY1 JHS/MIDDLE SCHOOL.....2 SHS3 HND4 BACHELORS & ABOVE5	
106	Would you describe yourself as active in your church/religion?	YES.....1 NO0	
107	WORK		
108	Are you currently doing any work or business that brings in cash, additional food, or allows you to accumulate assets for your household? (Note: if the woman says no, probe if she does not engage in agriculture, petty trade, money lending, etc)	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>> Q115	SKIP TO 115
109	Whose decision was it to work to earn income?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = You and your partner 4 = Your parents 5 = Other family members 6 = Your parents and you 7 = Other family members and you 8 = Someone else, specify:_____	
110	In the past 12 months how often did you work?	EACH MONTH.....1 MOST MONTHS.....2 ONCE IN A WHILE.....3 NEVER WORKED.....4	
111	Have you earned money in the last 3 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0	
112	Have you received any remittances in the last 3 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0	
113	Considering all the money you earned from jobs or selling things, how much did you earn last month?	GH¢edis [][][][][] number (if no earnings mark 0)	
114	Who usually decides what to do with the money you earn?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = You and your partner 4 = Your parents 5 = Other family members 6 = Your parents and you 7 = Other family members and you	Skip to next section

		8 = Someone else, specify: _____	
115	If you are currently not working, why not?	1 = Partner / in-laws won't allow 2 = Parents do not allow 3 = Children do not allow 4 = Other family members do not allow 5 = Society doesn't like it 6 = I need to take care of children/household work >>>> SECTION 2 7 = I don't want to >>>> SECTION 2 8 = I don't need to >>>> SECTION 2 9 = I am unable to work >>>> SECTION 2 10 = Lack of demand for the work that I have skill to do >>>> SECTION 2 11 = Other, specify >>>> SECTION 2 98 = Don't know >>>> SECTION 2	
116	Why won't these people let you work?	1 = Believes women should not work to earn income 2 = Household has enough income 3 = Wants me to look after household work/children 4 = They don't want me to mingle with other men 5 = They are worried about my health 6 = Other, specify: _____ 98 = Don't know	
117	Would the people that are stopping you from working allow you to engage in a business or earn additional money from WORKING INSIDE YOUR HOME?	1 = Yes, 0 = No	

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS

The following questions are about you, your previous and current intimate relationships..

QUESTIONS AND FILTERS		CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
201	Are you currently in a relationship OR BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>> skip to Q206	
202	Have you ever been married or lived with a partner for 6 months or more?	1 = Yes 0 = No	IF NO SKIP TO 206
203	How many times have you ever been married or lived with a partner? (find total)	_____ times 99 = Have never been married or lived with a partner	IF 99 SKIP TO 206
204	How old were you when you first got married or lived with a partner?	_____ number	
205	Current relationship status?	MARRIED, LIVING TOGETHER.....1 MARRIED, NOT LIVING TOGETHER.....2 DIVORCED 3 SEPERATED 4 COHABITING5	

205	Which type of marriage have you had?	1 = Customary marriage in progress 2 = Customary marriage completed 3 = Mohammedan/Islamic 4 = Ordinance			
206	How many main partners have you had sex with in the past 12 months?	_____ number			
207	How many casual or one-off partners have you had sex with in the past 12 months?	_____ number			
208	How did you get to know your VERY first partner?	1 = Arranged meeting 2 = We are family (e.g. cousin) 3 = Friends/classmates/colleagues/neighbours 4 = Other			
209	Who chose your first partner for you? MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED	1 = Myself 2 = Parents 3 = Extended family 4 = Church/Mosque/cult/sect 5 = Other, specify _____			
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE IN RELATION TO YOUR CURRENT MAIN PARTNER					
210	How did you get to know your current partner?	1 = Arranged meeting 2 = We are family (e.g. cousin) 3 = Friends/classmates/colleagues/neighbours 4 = Other			
211	Who chose your current partner for you? MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED	1 = Myself 2 = Parents 3 = Extended family 4 = Church/Mosque/cult/sect 5 = Other, specify _____			
212	Does your partner have any wives in addition to your relationship?	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q215 98 = Don't know >>>>> Q215			
213	How many wives does your partner have?	_____ 98 = Don't know			
214	Are you the first, second, third wife?	RANK _____			
215	Does your partner have any partners/lovers in addition to yourself?	1= Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q217 98 = Don't know >>>>> Q217			
216	How many partners/lovers does your partner have?	_____ 98 = Don't know			
217	How likely do you think it is that your <u>current/most recent</u> husband/partner is/was having sex with someone else? Would you say definitely he was, probably he was, probably not or definitely not?	Definitely having sex with someone else...1 Probably having sex with someone else ...2 Probably not3 Definitely not.....4			
218	How old is your current/ most recent husband/partner?	AGE (COMPLETED YEARS) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr></table>			
219	Do/did you and he both have the same level of education or do you have more schooling or does he have more schooling?	SAME.....1 I AM MORE EDUCATED...2 HE IS MORE EDUCATED3			
220	What is/was the employment status of your current/most recent partner?	UNEMPLOYED.....1 FORMALLY EMPLOYED.....2 INFORMALLY EMPLOYED.....3 STUDENT.....4 RETIRED.....5			

221	Do/did you and he both earn the same amount of money or does/did he earn more money or do you earn more money?	SAME.....1 I EARN MORE2 HE EARNS MORE.....3	
222	Does your family own land for farming?	YES1 NO0 IF NO TO 336, GO TO → 339	
223	Who in your family has the final say about decisions involving how your family spends income from your farm lands?	YOURSELF.....1 HUSBAND/PARTNER.....2 BOTH EQUALLY.....3 OTHER MEMBER OF HOUSEHOLD...4	
224	Who decides how to spend money on the following items?	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
A	Decides how the earnings of the head of the household are used?	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
B	Food	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
C	Education for the children	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
D	Healthcare for the children	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
E	Healthcare for yourself	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
F	Clothing	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
G	Purchase for daily household needs	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
H	Major household purchases	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
225	In general, do you and your current partner discuss the following topics together:	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	a) Things that have happened to your partner during the day		
	b) Things that happen to you during the day	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	c) Your worries or feelings	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	d) your partner's worries or feelings	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	e) Fertility or how many children you should have	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
226	In your relationship with your current partner, how often would you say that you quarrelled?	1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day	

SOCIAL NORMS

SECTION 3 : ATTITUDES ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN
--

The next set of questions are about your views on life and particularly on relations between men and women in society. There are no right or wrong answers – we are just interested in what you think. For each of the following statements please say answer whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:

301	GEM SCALE:	STRONG AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family.	1	2	3	4
B	Men need sex more than women do.	1	2	3	4
C	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	1	2	3	4
D	It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	1	2	3	4
E	A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together.	1	2	3	4
F	If someone insults a man, he should defend his reputation, with force if he has to.	1	2	3	4
G	To be a man, a person needs to be tough	1	2	3	4
H	A man should have a final word about decisions in his home	1	2	3	4
302 A	I think that a woman should obey her husband	1	2	3	4
B	I think that a man should have the final say in all family matters	1	2	3	4
C	I think that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.	1	2	3	4
D	I think that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends.	1	2	3	4
E	I think that if a man beats you it shows that he loves you.	1	2	3	4
F	I think that if a woman works she should give her money to her husband	1	2	3	4
G	I think that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	1	2	3	4
H	I think that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her.	1	2	3	4
I	I think that if married, the man owns her.	1	2	3	4

Now I would like to ask your opinion on some statements on what you think your community believes about relations between men and women . Can you tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements						
303	GEM SCALE:	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NO OPINION	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	My community thinks that a woman should obey her husband	1	2	3	4	5
B	My community thinks that a man should have the final say in all family matters	1	2	3	4	5
C	My community thinks that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	1	2	3	4	5
D	My community thinks that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband	1	2	3	4	5
E	My community thinks that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends	1	2	3	4	5
F	My community thinks that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her	1	2	3	4	5
G	My community thinks that if a man has paid bride price for his wife, he owns her	1	2	3	4	5
H	My community thinks that a married man has a right to have sex with his wife	1	2	3	4	5
I	My community thinks that if a man beats you it shows that he loves you	1	2	3	4	5

CONTRACEPTIVE USE & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH			
			SKIP
401	Which of the following statements most closely describes your experiences the first time you had sex?	I was willing.....1 I was persuaded.....2 I was forced3 I was raped4 Never had sex.....5	
402	At what age did this happen?	 ABOVE 20 YEARS	
403	Who was this with?	BOYFRIEND.....1 HUSBAND.....2 FATHER OR FAMILY MEMBER.....3 TEACHER.....4 BOY FROM SCHOOL/AREA.....5 MAN FROM AREA.....6 STRANGER/UNKNOWN PERSON.....7 FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.....8 OTHER SPECIFY88	
404	Have you ever used a condom?	YES1 NO0	
405	Have you <i>in the past done</i> anything to avoid or delay getting pregnant?	YES1 NO.....0	
406	How old were you when you first used birth control?	AGE (YEARS) [] [] number	
407	Are you <i>currently doing</i> something to delay or avoid getting pregnant?	YES1 NO0	IF NO, ⇒ Skip to 409 IF YES, skip 409

408	Who made this decision?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = Self and partner 4 = Someone else (specify)	
409	IF NOT, Why are you and your partner not using birth control? (multiple response)	1 = Partner didn't allow 2 = Someone else did not allow 3 = Makes me feel weak / ill or other side effects 4 = Makes sex less pleasurable 5 = Didn't feel the need to 6 = Religious beliefs 7 = It is expensive 8 = I felt embarrassed 9 = It is not available 10 = We are trying to have children 11 = Me/partner post-menopausal 12 = Homosexual relationship 13 = Me/partner is infertile 14 = We don't have sex 15 = Other,	
410	What type of birth control methods are you <u>currently</u> using? Ask for all methods	Yes No 1. FEMALE STERILIZATION 2. PILL 3. IUD 4. INJECTABLES 5. IMPLANTS 6. MALE CONDOM 7. FEMALE CONDOM 8. LAM 9. DIAPHRAGM 10. RHYTHM 11. WITHDRAWAL 12. EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION OTHER SPECIFY88	
411	How often do you and your partner engage in sexual intercourse per week?	0 = Never 1 = Occasionally 2 = Several times a month 3 = Once a week 4 = Several times a week 5 = Every day	
412	Do you think this is adequate for you?	1 = Yes 2 = No, it should be more 3 = No, it should be less	
413	Has your partner ever refused to have sexual intercourse with you for long periods of time?	1 = Yes 0 = No	
414	Who makes decisions about how many children to have?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = Self and partner 4 = Someone else (specify) 5 = We have not discussed this	
415	Have you ever been pregnant?	YES 1 NO.....0	If NO, ⇒ 501
416	How many live births have you had?	YES1 NO 0	
417	How many living children do you have?	[] [] number	

SOCIAL VIOLENCE/ controlling behaviour

The next questions are about things that happen to many men and women. Please can you tell me if **ANYONE HAS EVER DONE** the following things to you:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your household, family, work colleagues...

501	HAS ANYONE	1. Yes 0. No	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q29	Who did this to you? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE RESPONSES	How often did this happen in the last 12 months? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day
	a) Tried to keep you from seeing your friends				
	b) Tried to restrict contact with your family of birth				

	c) Insisted on knowing where you are at all times				
	d) Ignored you and treated you indifferently				
	e) Called and texted you to a point where you felt uncomfortable				
	f) Gotten angry if you speak with another man/woman				
	g) Been suspicious that you are unfaithful				
	h) Forced you to quit your work.				
	i) Forced you to have an abortion against your will.				
	j) Controlled/checked your phones/texts/emails				
502	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO			
503	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			
503a	In your estimation, how do you think <u>the Covid-19 situation (since children started staying home away from school, lockdowns, etc)</u> has influenced your experiences of the above abuses? Would you say it is same, increased or reduced?				

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE/ controlling behaviour

The next questions are about things that happen to many men and women. Please can you tell me if anyone has ever done the following things to you:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your household, family, work colleagues...

504	HAS ANYONE	0. No 1. Yes	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>>Q29	Who did this to you? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE RESPONSES	How often did this happen in the last 12 months? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day
	a) Insulted you?				
	b) Belittled or humiliated you in private				
	c) Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?				
	d) Done things to scare or intimidate you on purpose (e.g., by the way he/she looked at you, by yelling and smashing things)?				
	e) Threatened to hurt you or someone you care about?				
505	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members			

		0. NO			
506	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

The next questions are about things that happen to many men and women. Please can you tell me if anyone has ever done the following things to you:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your household, family, work colleagues...

507	HAS ANYONE	0. No 1. Yes	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>>Q29	Who did this to you? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community	How often did this happen in the last 12 months? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day
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				13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE RESPONSES	
	a) Refused to give you enough chop money even though he/she has enough money to spend on other things?				
	b) Asked you about how you spend your money in detail?				
	c) Taken cash or withdrawn money from your account or credit/debit card without permission?				
	d) Controlled your own belongings?				
	e) Prohibited you from working?				
	f) Forced you to work against your will?				
508	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?		1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO		
509	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?		-----out of 10 99. Don't know		

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

The next questions are about things that happen to many men and women. Please can you tell me if anyone has ever done the following things to you:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your household, family, work colleagues...

510	HAS ANYONE	0. No 1. Yes	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>>Q29	Who did this to you? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE RESPONSES	How often did this happen in the last 12 months? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day
	a) Slapped you or thrown something at you that could hurt you?				
	b) Pushed you or shoved you?				
	c) Hit you with his/her fist or with something else that could hurt you?				
	d) Kicked you, dragged you or beaten you up?				
	e) Choked or strangled you on purpose?				

	f) Burnt you on purpose?				
	g) Threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon against you?				
	h) Poured hazardous chemicals or substances (e.g. acid) on you?				
511	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO			
512	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The next questions are about things that happen to many men and women. Please can you tell me if anyone has ever done the following things to you:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your household, family, work colleagues...

513	HAS ANYONE	1. Yes 0. No	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q29	Who did this to you? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this	How often did this happen in the last 12 months? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week
-----	------------------	-----------------	--	---	--

				household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE RESPONSES	5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day
	a) Physically forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?				
	b) Otherwise forced you (e.g. blackmail, threat) to have sexual intercourse you did not want because you were afraid of what s/he might do?				
	c) had sexual intercourse with you without your permission?				
	d) not used protection even after you asked?				
	e) Forced you to do something sexual that you did not want to do?				
514	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1.Yes, parents 2.Yes, Other members 0. NO			
515	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

INJURIES & HELP SEEKING			
	QUESTIONS & FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP TO
I would now like to learn more about the injuries that you experienced from (<u>any</u> of the acts of violence) that we have talked about. By injury, I mean any form of physical harm, including cuts, sprains, burns, broken bones or broken teeth, or other things like this.			
601	In the last 12 months, how many times were you injured by any of the acts of violence (physical/sexual) against you? Would you say never, once or twice, several times or many times?	NEVER.....1 ONCE/TWICE2 SEVERAL (3-5) TIMES3 MANY (MORE THAN 5) TIMES4	IF NEVER, ⇒ 608
602	In the last 12 months, did you have to stay in bed because of these injuries?	YES1 NO0	
603	In the last 12 months, did you take days off from income generating work because of these injuries?	YES1 NO0 NO PAID WORK.....3	
604	In the last 12 months, did you seek medical attention for these injuries?	YES1 NO0	IF NO, ⇒ 608
605	What form of treatment did you receive?	SURGERY.....1 ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL2 BROKEN BONES TREATED.....3 STITCHES.....4 DENTAL CARE.....5 PAINKILLERS.....6 BANDAGING/ OINTMENT.....7 TRADITIONAL HEALING.....8 OTHER.....9	
606	In the last 12 months, did you tell the health care worker about the cause of your injury?	YES1 NO0	IF YES, ⇒ 608
607	What was the main reason why you didn't tell them the cause of your injury?	IT'S A PRIVATE ISSUE.....1 SCARED OF PERPETRATOR.....2 THEY WERE NOT FRIENDLY.....3 ASHAMED/EMBARASSED.....4 THEY DID NOT ASK.....5 OTHER SPECIFY88	
608	In the last 12 months, have you reported any abuse or threats to the police?	YES1 NO0	IF NO, ⇒ 610
609	How did the police respond?	THEY OPENED A CASE1 THEY SENT ME AWAY 2 THEY TRIED TO MAKE PEACE BETWEEN MY HUSBAND/BOYFRIEND AND ME 3 OTHER SPECIFY88	
610	In the last 12 months, have you told anyone about these things you have experienced?	YES1 NO0	IF NO, ⇒ next section

611	Did you tell:	YES	NO	
	a) Female member of your family	1	0	
	b) Male member of your family	1	0	
	c) Female member of your in-laws	1	0	
	d) Male member of your in-laws	1	0	
	e) Your child/children	1	0	
	f) Community leaders	1	0	
	g) Religious leader	1	0	
	h) Friends	1	0	
	i) Neighbours	1	0	
	j) Police/DOVVSU	1	00	
	k) Social welfare officer	1	0	
	l) Other (specify)	1	0	
612	How did they respond? Did they do the following:	YES	NO	
	a) Blamed you for it	1	0	
	b) Supported you	1	0	
	c) Were indifferent	1	0	
	d) Told you to keep it quiet	1	0	
	e) Advised you to report to police	1	0	
	f) Advised you to leave the home			

SECTION 7: MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

We would now like to ask you some questions about your health and well-being.

The next questions we would like to ask are about how you have been feeling in the past week. Each question is a statement; please answer how many days you have had particular feelings or ideas or whether you have not had them at all. There are four options: rarely or never, some or a little of the time, a moderate amount of time, or most or all of the time.

701	CES-D SCALE:	RARELY OR NONE OF THE TIME	SOME OR A LITTLE OF THE TIME (1-2 DAYS)	MODERAT E AMOUNT OF TIME (3- 4 DAYS)	MOST OR ALL OF THE TIME (5-7 DAYS)
A	During the past week I was bothered by things that usually don't bother me	0	1	2	3
B	During the past week I did not feel like eating, my appetite was poor	0	1	2	3
C	During the past week I felt I could not cheer myself up even with the help of family and friends	0	1	2	3
D	During the past week I felt I was just as good as other people	0	1	2	3
E	During the past week I had trouble keeping my mind on what I was doing	0	1	2	3
F	During the past week I felt depressed	0	1	2	3
G	During the past week I felt that everything I did was an effort	0	1	2	3
H	During the past week I felt hopeful about the future	0	1	2	3
I	During the past week I thought my life had been a failure	0	1	2	3
J	During the past week I felt fearful	0	1	2	3
K	During the past week my sleep was restless	0	1	2	3
L	During the past week I was happy	0	1	2	3
M	During the past week I talked less than usual	0	1	2	3
N	During the past week I felt lonely	0	1	2	3
O	During the past week people were unfriendly	0	1	2	3
P	During the past week I enjoyed life	0	1	2	3
Q	During the past week I had crying spells	0	1	2	3
R	During the past week I felt sick	0	1	2	3
S	During the past week I felt that people dislike me	0	1	2	3
T	During the past week I could not get 'going'	0	1	2	3
702	Thank you for answering those questions. I now want you to think about your whole life experience. Have you ever thought about ending your life?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
703	Have you ever tried to take your life?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
704	In the past <u>four weeks</u> , has the thought of ending your life been in your mind?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
705	Have you ever had an HIV test?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
706	Have you had an HIV test in the past 12 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0			

ALCOHOL USE			
708	Have you drunk alcohol in the past 12 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0	IF NO, ⇒ 417
709	How often do you drink alcoholic beverages?	NEVER1 LESS THAN MONTHLY2 MONTHLY.....3 WEEKLY.....4 DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY.....5	
710	How worried are you about your alcohol use?	Not worried at all.....1 A bit worrying2 A lot worrying.....3 Definitely worrying.....4	
711	Has your partner drank alcohol in the past 12 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0 99 Don't know	If NO, skip to next section
712	How often does he drink?	NEVER1 LESS THAN MONTHLY2 MONTHLY.....3 WEEKLY.....4 DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY.....5	
713	How often has your partner come home drunk, gotten drunk at home or outside the home?	NEVER1 LESS THAN MONTHLY2 MONTHLY.....3 WEEKLY.....4 DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY.....5	
714	How worried are you about your partner's alcohol use?	Not worried at all.....1 A bit worrying2 A lot worrying.....3 Definitely worrying.....4	

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

800	How much do you generally trust the following TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS/ACTIONS TO PREVENT VAWG?	Complete trust 1	Somewhat trust 2	Somewhat distrust 3	Complete distrust 4	Never heard of them 5
	a Ghanaian political leaders					
	b Religious and spiritual leaders in your community					
	c Members of your immediate family					
	d Members of your extended family					
	e Members of the community					
	f Community leaders					
	g Neighbours					
	h Police					
	i Court/Court officials					
	j A group of TRAINED reputable persons in this community					

801	BODILY INTEGRITY	Responses: 1.strongly agree 2. Agree 3.neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
a)	You feel you have the right to decide when to have sex	
b)	You feel you have the right to safe, satisfying and pleasurable sex life	
c)	You feel you have the power to decide when to get pregnant	
d)	You feel you have the power to decide whether or not to keep a pregnancy	

e)	You feel you have the power to decide how many children to give birth to	
f)	You feel you have the power to keep your body in good health	
g)	You feel you have the power to associate with whoever you wish	
h)	You feel you have the power to decide how to dress or look	
i)	You feel you have the power to protect yourself from violence	
j)	You feel you have the power to seek redress when abused by an intimate partner	
k)	You feel you have the power to seek redress when abused by a family member	
l)	You feel you have the power to seek redress when abused by a non-family member	
m)	You feel you have control over how you express emotions	
n)	You feel you have the power to demand Sexual & reproductive health services	
o)	You feel you have the freedom to choose to be yourself irrespective of cultural expectations	
p)	You feel you have the freedom to take care of your body as a woman	

KNOWLEDE ON EXISTING LAWS

	QUESTIONS & FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES
901	Are there any laws in Ghana about violence against women?	YES.....1 NO.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
902	In Ghana, it is not a criminal offense for persons in a domestic relationship (married or cohabitating) to engage in domestic violence against their partner.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
903	A person in a domestic relationship who engages in domestic violence commits an offence, and if convicted, can spend up to two years in prison and also be fined.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
904	The Court in Ghana can make anyone who commits domestic violence to pay compensation to the victim as the Court may determine.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
905	If a cause for domestic violence complaint has arisen between persons in a domestic relationship and the two people do not live together , it is a criminal offense for either party to enter into the residence of the other person without that other person's permission.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
906	The use of violence of any kind (sexual, physical, and emotional) in a domestic relationship could be justified on the basis of consent.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
907	One single isolated act of domestic violence (of any kind) among a married couple or lovers is not a criminal offense in Ghana.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
908	In order for any act to be classified an act as domestic violence, there must have been number of similar previous acts that form a pattern of behaviour.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
909	According to the law, if a husband forces his wife to have sex against her will , be committing a criminal act (that is, the husband can be fined or put in jail)?	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
910_A	Are there any laws in Ghana about property inheritance?	YES.....1 NO.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99

910_B	PNDC law 111 addresses issues regarding the distribution of a deceased person's property	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_C	<i>It is a criminal offence</i> for anyone to possess or sell a deceased person's property without consulting the spouse, parents and children	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_D	It is <i>not an offence</i> for the extended family to take half of a deceased man's property once they give the other half to the wife	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_E	If a person dies without making a will, all of his property belongs to the wife and the children	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_F	If the property of a deceased person is shared unfairly, the wife <i>has the right to petition</i> the law courts	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_G	A wife <i>has no rights</i> to her late husband's property if he dies <i>without leaving a will</i>	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_H	It is not unlawful to evict the spouse or children of a late person <i>who dies interstate</i> from the matrimonial prior to the day of distribution according to the law.	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_I	It is <i>not a crime</i> for other family members to take possession of a deceased man's property once they <i>agree to take care of the children</i>	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_J	<i>Customarily, it is necessary</i> for a deceased person's property to be given to <i>a male relation</i> to ensure that it is properly kept	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
910_K	It is <i>not customarily proper</i> for daughters/girls to be allowed to inherit their late father's property such as farmlands, houses cannot be given to them.	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99

EXPOSURE TO INTERVENTION

911		YES	NO
A	In the past 12 months, have you heard of any campaigns or activities in your community or workplace that talk about preventing violence against women?		
B	In the past 12 months, have you heard information about violence against women on the radio, television, billboards, magazines or posters?	1	0
C	In the past 12 months, have you received any pamphlet or information about violence against women?	1	0
D	In the past 12 months, have you taken part in discussions about male-female relationships with friends or neighbours?	1	0
E	In the past 12 months, have you taken part in discussions about relationships at a church?	1	0
H	Have you ever heard of the word "COMBAT" before?	1	0
I	Have you ever lived in a community where people came round to give education on VAWG?	1	

APPENDIX 6 MEN'S QUESTIONNAIRE

COMBAT : A Community structure to prevent violence
against Women and Girls

(ENGLISH)

MEN'S QUESTIONNAIRE

BASELINE

HH ID number:

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UNIQUE CODE:

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DATE:

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day / month / year

INTERVIEWER

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NUMBER:



Gender Studies & Human Rights Documentation Centre

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND & WORK

The first questions are about yourself, your home and your work situation. Please try and relax, there are no right or wrong answers. Remember that everything you answer will be kept secret. If there is a question you do not want to answer please skip to the next question.

QUESTIONS AND FILTERS		CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
105	How old are you?	AGE (COMPLETED YEARS)	
106	Were you born in Ghana?	YES..... 1 NO..... 0	
107	How long have you lived in this community?	YEARS [] [] MONTHS..... [] [] IF < 30 DAYS ENTER 0 MONTHS..... [] []	
108	Have you ever moved or travelled to look for work?	YES..... 1 NO..... 0	
105	What is the highest grade you have completed at school?	PRIMARY1 JHS/MIDDLE SCHOOL.....2 SHS3 HND4 BACHELORS & ABOVE5	
106	Would you describe yourself as active in your church/religion?	YES.....1 NO0	
107	WORK		
108	Are you currently doing any work or business that brings in cash, additional food, or allows you to accumulate assets for your household? (Note: if the respondent says no, probe if he does not engage in agriculture, petty trade, money lending, etc)	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>> Q115	IF NO, SKIP TO 115
109	Whose decision was it to work to earn income?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = You and your partner 4 = Your parents 5 = Other family members 6 = Your parents and you 7 = Other family members and you 8 = Someone else, specify:_____	
110	In the past 12 months how often did you work?	EACH MONTH.....1 MOST MONTHS.....2 ONCE IN A WHILE.....3 NEVER WORKED.....4	
111	Have you earned money in the last 3 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0	
112	Have you received any remittances in the last 3 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0	
113	Considering all the money you earned from jobs or selling things, how much did you earn last month?	GHCedis [][][][][] number (if no earnings mark 0)	
114	Who usually decides what to do with the money you earn?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = You and your partner 4 = Your parents 5 = Other family members 6 = Your parents and you 7 = Other family members and you	

		8 = Someone else, specify: _____	
115	Is your partner currently (or was your most recent partner) doing any work or business that brings in cash, additional food, or allows you to accumulate assets for your household? <i>(Note: if respondent says no, probe if partner does not engage in agriculture, petty trade, money lending, etc)</i>	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q118	
116	Whose decision was it for your partner (or most recent partner) to work to earn income?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = You and your partner 4 = Your partner's parents 5 = Your partner's family members 6 = Your partner's parents and your partner 7 = Your partner's family members and your partner 8 = Someone else, specify: _____	
117	Who usually decides what to do with the money your partner earns?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = You and your partner 4 = Your partner's parents 5 = Your partner's family members 6 = Your partner's parents and your partner 7 = Your partner's family members and your partner 8 = Someone else, specify: _____	
118	Why won't you, your family, or society let your partner (or your most recent partner) work?	1 = Believes women should not work to earn income 2 = Household has enough income 3 = Wants partner to look after household work 4 = Doesn't want partner to mingle with other men 5 = We worry for her health 6 = Other, specify: _____ 98 = Don't know	
119	Would you or your family allow your partner (or your most recent partner) to engage in a business or earn additional money from working inside your home?	1 = Yes 0 = No	

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS

The following questions are about you, your previous and current intimate relationships..

QUESTIONS AND FILTERS		CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
201	Are you currently in a relationship OR BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>> skip to Q209	
202	Have you ever been married or lived with a partner for 6 months or more?	1 = Yes 0 = No	IF NO SKIP TO 209
203	How many times have you ever been married or lived with a partner? (find total)	_____ times 99 = Have never been married or lived with a partner	IF 99 SKIP TO 209
204	How old were you when you first got married or lived with a partner?	_____ number	

205	How did you get to know your VERY first partner?	1 = Arranged meeting 2 = We are family (e.g. cousin) 3 = Friends/classmates/colleagues/neighbours 4 = Other			
206	Who chose your first partner for you? MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED	1 = Myself 2 = Parents 3 = Extended family 4 = Church/Mosque/cult/sect 5 = Other, specify _____			
207	Current relationship status?	MARRIED, LIVING TOGETHER.....1 MARRIED, NOT LIVING TOGETHER.....2 DIVORCED 3 SEPERATED 4 COHABITING5			
208	Which type of marriage have you had?	1 = Customary marriage in progress 2 = Customary marriage completed 3 = Mohammedan/Islamic 4 = Ordinance			
209	How many main partners have you <u>had sex with</u> in the past 12 months?	_____ number			
210	How many casual or one-off partners have you <u>had sex with</u> in the past 12 months?	_____ number			
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE IN RELATION TO YOUR CURRENT MAIN PARTNER					
211	How did you get to know your current partner?	1 = Arranged meeting 2 = We are family (e.g. cousin) 3 = Friends/classmates/colleagues/neighbours 4 = Other			
212	Who chose your current partner for you? MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED	1 = Myself 2 = Parents 3 = Extended family 4 = Church/Mosque/cult/sect 5 = Other, specify _____			
213	Do you have any wives in addition to your current wife/main partner?	1 = Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q215 98 = Don't know >>>>> Q215			
213b	How many wives do you have?	_____ 98 = Don't know			
214	Do you have any partners/lovers in addition to your wife/main partner?	1= Yes 0 = No >>>>> Q217 98 = Don't know >>>>> Q217			
214b	How many partners/lovers do you have?	_____ 98 = Don't know			
215	How old is your current/ most recent wife/partner?	AGE (COMPLETED YEARS) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"><tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr></table>			
216	Do/did you and she both have the same level of education or do you have more schooling or does he have more schooling?	SAME.....1 I AM MORE EDUCATED...2 HE IS MORE EDUCATED3			
217	What is/was the employment status of your current/most recent partner?	UNEMPLOYED.....1 FORMALLY EMPLOYED.....2 INFORMALLY EMPLOYED.....3 STUDENT.....4 RETIRED.....5			

218	Do/did you and she both earn the same amount of money or does/did she earn more money or do you earn more money?	SAME.....1 I EARN MORE2 HE EARNS MORE.....3	
219	Does your family own land for farming?	YES1 NO0 IF NO TO 336, GO TO → 339	
220	Who in your family has the final say about decisions involving how your family spends income from your farm lands?	YOURSELF.....1 HUSBAND/PARTNER.....2 BOTH EQUALLY.....3 OTHER MEMBER OF HOUSEHOLD...4	
221	Who decides how to spend money on the following items?	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
A	Decides how the earnings of the head of the household are used?	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
B	Food	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
C	Education for the children	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
D	Healthcare for the children	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
E	Healthcare for yourself	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
F	Clothing	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
G	Purchase for daily household needs	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
H	Major household purchases	1.Both respondent & partner 2. Respondent only 3. Partner only 4. Other family member	
222	In general, do you and your current partner discuss the following topics together:	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	a) Things that have happened to your partner during the day		
	b) Things that happen to you during the day	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	c) Your worries or feelings	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	d) your partner's worries or feelings	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
	e) Fertility or how many children you should have	1. YES 0. NO 99 DON'T KNOW/DON'T WANT TO SAY	
223	In your relationship with your current partner, how often would you say that you quarrelled?	1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day	

SECTION 3 : ATTITUDES ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

The next set of questions are about your views on life and particularly on relations between men and women in society. There are no right or wrong answers – we are just interested in what you think. For each of the following statements please say answer whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:

301	GEM SCALE:	STRONG AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family.	1	2	3	4
B	Men need sex more than women do.	1	2	3	4
C	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	1	2	3	4
D	It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	1	2	3	4
E	A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together.	1	2	3	4
F	If someone insults a man, he should defend his reputation, with force if he has to.	1	2	3	4
G	To be a man, a person needs to be tough	1	2	3	4
H	A man should have a final word about decisions in his home	1	2	3	4
302 A	I think that a woman should obey her husband	1	2	3	4
B	I think that a man should have the final say in all family matters	1	2	3	4
C	I think that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.	1	2	3	4
D	I think that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends.	1	2	3	4
E	I think that if a man beats you it shows that he loves you.	1	2	3	4
F	I think that if a woman works she should give her money to her husband	1	2	3	4
G	I think that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	1	2	3	4
H	I think that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her.	1	2	3	4
I	I think that if married, the man owns her.	1	2	3	4

SOCIAL NORMS

Now I would like to ask your opinion on some statements on **what you think your community believes about relations between men and women**. Can you tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements

303	GEM SCALE:	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NO OPNION	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	My community thinks that a woman should obey her husband	1	2	3	4	5
B	My community thinks that a man should have the final say in all family matters	1	2	3	4	5
C	My community thinks that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	1	2	3	4	5
D	My community thinks that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband	1	2	3	4	5
E	My community thinks that there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends	1	2	3	4	5

F	My community thinks that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her	1	2	3	4	5
G	My community thinks that if a man has paid bride price for his wife, he owns her	1	2	3	4	5
H	My community thinks that a married man has a right to have sex with his wife	1	2	3	4	5
I	My community thinks that if a man beats you it shows that he loves you	1	2	3	4	5

CONTRACEPTIVE USE & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH			
			SKIP
401	Which of the following statements most closely describes your experiences the first time you had sex?	I was willing1 I was persuaded.....2 I was forced3 I was raped4 Never had sex.....5	
402	At what age did this happen?	 ABOVE 20 YEARS	
403	Who was this with?	GIRLFRIEND.....1 WIFE.....2 FAMILY MEMBER.....3 TEACHER.....4 GIRL FROM SCHOOL/AREA.....5 WOMAN FROM AREA.....6 STRANGER/UNKNOWN PERSON.....7 FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.....8 OTHER SPECIFY88	
404	Have you ever used a condom?	YES1 NO 0	
405	Have you <u>in the past done</u> anything to avoid or delay getting a woman pregnant?	YES 1 NO.....0	
406	How old were you when you first used birth control?	AGE (YEARS) [] [] number	
407	Are you and your partner <u>currently doing</u> something to delay or avoid her getting pregnant?	YES1 NO0	IF NO, ⇒ Skip to 409
408	Who made this decision?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = Self and partner 4 = Someone else (specify)	

409	IF NOT, Why are you and your partner not using birth control? (multiple response)	1 = Partner didn't allow 2 = Someone else did not allow 3 = Makes me feel weak / ill or other side effects 4 = Makes sex less pleasurable 5 = Didn't feel the need to 6 = Religious beliefs 7 = It is expensive 8 = I felt embarrassed 9 = It is not available 10 = We are trying to have children 11 = Me/partner post-menopausal 12 = Homosexual relationship 13 = Me/partner is infertile 14 = We don't have sex 15 = Other, specify: _____	skip IF YES to 407
410	What type of birth control methods are you and your partner <u>currently</u> using?	Yes No 13. FEMALE STERILIZATION 14. PILL 15. IUD 16. INJECTABLES 17. IMPLANTS 18. MALE CONDOM 19. FEMALE CONDOM 20. LAM 21. DIAPHRAGM 22. RHYTHM 23. WITHDRAWAL 24. EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION OTHER SPECIFY88	Skip if No to 407
411	How often do you and your partner engage in sexual intercourse per week?	0 = Never 1 = Occasionally 2 = Several times a month 3 = Once a week 4 = Several times a week 5 = Every day	
412	Do you think this is adequate for you?	1 = Yes 2 = No, it should be more 3 = No, it should be less	
413	Has your partner ever refused to have sexual intercourse with you for long periods of time?	1 = Yes 0 = No	
414	Who makes decisions about how many children to have?	1 = Yourself 2 = Your partner 3 = Self and partner 4 = Someone else (specify) 5 = We have not discussed this	
415	Have you ever made a woman pregnant?	YES 1 NO.....0	If NO, ⇒ 501
416	How many children have you had?	YES1 NO..... 0	

SOCIAL VIOLENCE/ CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR					
501	Please can you tell me if you have ever done the following things to someone else: Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your family, work colleagues...	Have you ever 2. Yes 2. No	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No	Over the last 12 months, how often has this happened? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day 99=N/A	WHO DID YOU DO THIS TO? Who did you do this to? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED
	a) Tried to keep someone from seeing his/her friends				
	b) Tried to restrict someone's contact with their family of birth				
	c) Insisted on knowing where someone is at all times				
	d) Called and texted to a point where you made someone feel uncomfortable				
	e) Ignored someone and treated them indifferently				
	f) Gotten angry if someone else spoke with another man/woman				
	g) Been suspicious of someone else that they were unfaithful				
	h) Forced someone to quit their work				
	i) Forced someone to have an abortion against their will				

	j) Controlled/checked someone's phones/texts/emails				
502	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1.Yes, parents 2.Yes, Other members 0. NO			
503	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

The next questions are about things that happen to many men and women. Please can you tell me if you have ever done the following things to someone else:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your family, work colleagues...

504	HAVE YOU EVER	Have you ever	Has this happened in the past 12 months?	Over the last 12 months, how often has this happened?	WHO DID YOU DO THIS TO? Who did you do this to?
		3. Yes 2. No	1 = Yes 0 = No	1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day 99=NA	1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED
	a) Insulted someone?				
	b) Belittled or humiliated someone in private?				

	c) Belittled or humiliated someone in front of other people?				
	d) Done things to scare or intimidate someone on purpose (e.g., by the way you looked at them, by yelling and smashing things)?				
	e) Threatened to hurt someone or someone they care about?				
505	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO			
506	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

Please can you tell me if you have ever done the following things to someone else:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your family, work colleagues...

507	HAVE YOU EVER	Have you ever 3. Yes 0. No	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No	Over the last 12 months, how often has this happened? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day	WHO DID YOU DO THIS TO? Who did you do this to? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives
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				99=N/A	9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED
	a) Refused to give you enough chop money even though he/she has enough money to spend on other things?				
	b) Asked you about how you spend your money in detail?				
	c) Taken cash or withdrawn money from your account or credit/debit card without permission?				
	d) Controlled your own belongings?				
	e) Prohibited you from working?				
	f) Forced you to work against your will?				
508	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?		1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO		
509	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?		-----out of 10 99. Don't know		

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Please can you tell me if you have ever done the following things to someone else:

Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your family, work colleagues...

510	HAVE YOU EVER	2. No 3. Yes	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No	Over the last 12 months, how often has this happened? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day 99.N/A	WHO DID YOU DO THIS TO? Who did you do this to? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED
	a) Slapped someone or thrown something at someone that could hurt them?				
	b) Pushed or shoved someone?				
	c) Hit someone with your fist or with something else that could hurt them?				
	d) Kicked, dragged or beaten someone else up?				
	e) Choked or strangled someone on purpose?				
	f) Burnt someone on purpose?				
	g) Threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon against someone?				
	h) Poured hazardous chemicals or substances (e.g. acid) on someone?				
	i) Kicked or pulled someone's external genitalia?				

511	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO			
512	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

SEXUAL VIOLENCE					
Please can you tell me if you have ever done the following things to someone else:					
Clarify: Anyone includes your partner, members of your family, work colleagues...					
513	HAVE YOU EVER	3. Yes 1. No	Has this happened in the past 12 months? 1 = Yes 0 = No	Over the last 12 months, how often has this happened? 1 = Less than once per month 2 = Once per month 3 = 2-3 times per month 4 = Once a week 5 = 2-3 times a week 6 = Almost every day 7 = Every day 99. NA	WHO DID YOU DO THIS TO? Who did you do this to? 1 = Partner 2 = Former partner 3 = In laws/partner's family 4 = Parents 5 = Sons, Daughters 6 = Uncles, aunts 7 = Grandparents 8 = Cousins, Niece, Nephews, other relatives 9 = Relatives who do not live in this household but in the community 10 = Relatives who live outside this community 11 = Work colleagues 12 = Other people in the community 13 = Other people outside the community MULTIPLE ANSWERS ALLOWED
	a) Physically forced someone to have sex when they did not want to?				

	b) Otherwise forced someone to have sex with you by making them afraid of what you might do (e.g. by blackmail or threat)?				
	c) Had sex with someone without his/her permission?				
	d) Not used a condom during sexual intercourse after your partner asked you to?				
	e) Forced someone to do something sexual that they did not want to do?				
514	When you were a child, did you ever observe this kind of behaviour between your parents or other members of your household?	1. Yes, parents 2. Yes, Other members 0. NO			
515	Think of 10 of your closest neighbours, how many of them do you know, or think, experienced this kind of behaviour over the last 12 months?	-----out of 10 99. Don't know			

SECTION 6: MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

We would now like to ask you some questions about your health and well-being.

The next questions we would like to ask are about how you have been feeling in the past week. Each question is a statement; please answer how many days you have had particular feelings or ideas or whether you have not had them at all. There are four options: rarely or never, some or a little of the time, a moderate amount of time, or most or all of the time.

601	CES-D SCALE:	RARELY OR NONE OF THE TIME	SOME OR A LITTLE OF THE TIME (1-2 DAYS)	MODERAT E AMOUNT OF TIME (3- 4 DAYS)	MOST OR ALL OF THE TIME (5-7 DAYS)
A	During the past week I was bothered by things that usually don't bother me	0	1	2	3
B	During the past week I did not feel like eating, my appetite was poor	0	1	2	3
C	During the past week I felt I could not cheer myself up even with the help of family and friends	0	1	2	3
D	During the past week I felt I was just as good as other people	0	1	2	3
E	During the past week I had trouble keeping my mind on what I was doing	0	1	2	3
F	During the past week I felt depressed	0	1	2	3
G	During the past week I felt that everything I did was an effort	0	1	2	3
H	During the past week I felt hopeful about the future	0	1	2	3
I	During the past week I thought my life had been a failure	0	1	2	3
J	During the past week I felt fearful	0	1	2	3
K	During the past week my sleep was restless	0	1	2	3
L	During the past week I was happy	0	1	2	3
M	During the past week I talked less than usual	0	1	2	3
N	During the past week I felt lonely	0	1	2	3
O	During the past week people were unfriendly	0	1	2	3
P	During the past week I enjoyed life	0	1	2	3
Q	During the past week I had crying spells	0	1	2	3
R	During the past week I felt sick	0	1	2	3
S	During the past week I felt that people dislike me	0	1	2	3
T	During the past week I could not get 'going'	0	1	2	3
602	Thank you for answering those questions. I now want you to think about your whole life experience. Have you ever thought about ending your life?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
603	Have you ever tried to take your life?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
604	In the past <u>four weeks</u> , has the thought of ending your life been in your mind?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
605	Have you ever had an HIV test?	YES.....1 NO.....0			
606	Have you had an HIV test in the past 12 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0			

ALCOHOL USE			
608	Have you drunk alcohol in the past 12 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0	IF NO, ⇒ 417
609	How often do you drink alcoholic beverages?	NEVER1 LESS THAN MONTHLY2 MONTHLY.....3 WEEKLY.....4 DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY.....5	
610	How often have you come home drunk, gotten drunk at home or outside the home?	NEVER1 LESS THAN MONTHLY2 MONTHLY.....3 WEEKLY.....4 DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY.....5	
611	Have you ever noticed or been told that you have acted aggressively toward your spouse/partner under the influence of alcohol?	0. No 1. Yes rarely/ occasionally 2. Yes, Sometimes 3. Yes, Most of the time 4. Yes, Everyday	
612	How worried are you about your alcohol use?	Not worried at all.....1 A bit worrying2 A lot worrying.....3 Definitely worrying.....4	
613	Has your partner drank alcohol in the past 12 months?	YES.....1 NO.....0 99 Don't know	If NO, skip to next section
614	How often does she drink?	NEVER1 LESS THAN MONTHLY2 MONTHLY.....3 WEEKLY.....4 DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY.....5	
615	Has your partner ever acted aggressively toward you under the influence of alcohol?	0. No 1. Yes rarely/ occasionally 2. Yes, Sometimes 3. Yes, Most of the time 4. Yes, Everyday	
616	How worried are you about your partner's alcohol use?	Not worried at all.....1 A bit worrying2 A lot worrying.....3 Definitely worrying.....4	

I would like to ask you a few questions about your involvement in your household

617	How often have you done each of the following over the past 6 months?	1 = Always (>5 days/wk) 2 = Often (4-5 days/wk) 3 = Sometimes (2-3 days/wk) 4 = Rarely 5 = Never 99 = Not applicable
q)	Helped with household chores such as fetching water, washing dishes or sweeping?	_____
r)	Cooked a meal for yourself or the family?	_____
s)	Washed your own clothes?	_____
t)	Took care of children at home when mother was away?	_____

u)	Escorted your spouse or kids to the hospital	_____
v)	Dressed up children for school or other social activity?	_____
w)	Walked or transported your children to school?	_____
x)	Run errands for the household e.g. go to shop from the market, bring food from the farm, etc.	_____
y)	How many hours do you spend with your school age children each day?	_____ 98 = Don't know 99 = Not applicable
z)	How many hours do you spend supervising your child during homework?	_____ 98 = Don't know 99 = Not applicable
aa)	How many hours does your child spend with other family members?	_____ 98 = Don't know 99 = Not applicable
bb)	Do you regularly attend Parent-Teacher-Association (PTA) meetings?	1 = Always 2 = Often 3 = Sometimes 4 = Rarely 5 = Never 99 = Not applicable
cc)	Does someone else from this household regularly attend PTA meetings?	0. No 1. Yes
dd)		

TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

700	How much do you generally trust the following TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS/ACTIONS TO PREVENT VAWG?	Complete trust 1	Somewhat trust 2	Somewhat distrust 3	Complete distrust 4	Never heard of them 5
a	Ghanaian political leaders					
b	Religious and spiritual leaders in your community					
c	Members of your immediate family					
d	Members of your extended family					
e	Members of the community					
f	Community leaders					
g	Neighbours					
h	Police					
i	Court/Court officials					
j	A group of TRAINED reputable persons in this community					

701	WOMEN'S BODILY INTEGRITY	Responses: 1.strongly agree 2. Agree 3.neutral 4. Disagree 5. Strongly disagree
a)	Women have the right to decide when to have sex	
b)	Women have the right to safe, satisfying and pleasurable sex life	
c)	Women have the right to decide when to get pregnant	
d)	Women have the right to decide whether or not to keep a pregnancy	
e)	Women have the right to decide how many children to give birth to	
f)	Women have the right to keep their bodies in good health	
g)	Women have the right to associate with whoever they wish	
h)	Women have the right to keep their bodies in good health	
i)	Women have the right to decide how to dress or look	
j)	Women have the right to protect themselves from violence	
k)	Women have the right to seek redress when abused by an intimate partner	
l)	Women have the right to seek redress when abused by a family member	
m)	Women have the right to seek redress when abused by a non-family member	
n)	Women have the right to express their emotions without fear	
o)	Women have the right to demand Sexual & reproductive health services	
p)	Women the right to be themselves irrespective of cultural expectations	
q)	Women have the right to take care of their bodies as women	

KNOWLEDE ON EXISTING LAWS

	QUESTIONS & FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES
801	Are there any laws in Ghana about violence against women?	YES.....1 NO.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
802	In Ghana, it is not a criminal offense for persons in a domestic relationship (married or cohabitating) to engage in domestic violence against their partner.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
803	A person in a domestic relationship who engages in domestic violence commits an offence, and if convicted, can spend up to two years in prison and also be fined.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
804	The Court in Ghana can make anyone who commits domestic violence to pay compensation to the victim as the Court may determine.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
805	If a cause for domestic violence complaint has arisen between persons in a domestic relationship and the two people do not live together , it is a criminal offense for either party to enter into the residence of the other person without that other person's permission.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
806	The use of violence of any kind (sexual, physical, and emotional) in a domestic relationship could be justified on the basis of consent.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
807	One single isolated act of domestic violence (of any kind) among a married couple or lovers is not a criminal offense in Ghana.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99

808	In order for any act to be classified an act as domestic violence, there must have been number of <u>similar previous acts that form a pattern of behaviour</u> .	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
809	According to the law, if a husband forces his wife to have <u>sex against her will</u> , be committing a criminal act (that is, the husband can be fined or put in jail)?	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
810	Are there any laws in Ghana about property inheritance?	YES.....1 NO.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99
811	PNDC law 111 addresses issues regarding the distribution of a deceased person's property	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
812	<u>It is a criminal offence</u> for anyone to possess or sell a deceased person's property without consulting the spouse, parents and children	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
813	It is <u>not an offence</u> for the extended family to take half of a deceased man's property once they give the other half to the wife	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
814	If a person dies without making a will, all of his property belongs to the wife and the children	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
815	If the property of a deceased person is shared unfairly, the wife <i>has the right to petition</i> the law courts	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
816	A wife <i>has no rights</i> to her late husband's property if he dies <i>without leaving a will</i>	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
817	It is not unlawful to evict the spouse or children of a late person who dies interstate from the matrimonial prior to the day of distribution according to the law.	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
818	It is <u>not a crime</u> for other family members to take possession of a deceased man's property once they <u>agree to take care of the children</u>	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
819	Customarily, it is necessary for a deceased person's property to be given to a male relation to ensure that it is properly kept	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99
820	It is <u>not customarily proper</u> for daughters/girls to be allowed to inherit their late father's property such as farmlands, houses cannot be given to them.	True.....1 False.....0 Don't Know.....99

EXPOSURE TO INTERVENTION

821		YES	NO
A	In the past 12 months, have you heard of any campaigns or activities in your community or workplace that talk about preventing violence against women?		

B	In the past 12 months, have you heard information about violence against women on the radio, television, billboards, magazines or posters?	1	0
C	In the past 12 months, have you received any pamphlet or information about violence against women?	1	0
D	In the past 12 months, have you taken part in discussions about relationships with friends or neighbours?	1	0
E	In the past 12 months, have you taken part in discussions about relationships at a church?	1	0
H	Have you ever heard of the word “COMBAT” before?	1	0
I	Have you ever lived in a community where people came round to give education on VAWG?	1	

APPENDIX 7 COMBAT QUESTIONNAIRE

COMBAT: A Community structure to prevent violence against Women and Girls

COMBAT SURVEY

BASELINE

HH ID number:

--	--	--	--

DISTRICT CODE:

--	--

DATE:

--	--	--	--	--	--

day / month / year

INTERVIEWER NUMBER:

--	--



Gender Studies & Human Rights Documentation Centre

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND & WORK

The first questions are about yourself, your home and your work situation. Please try and relax, there are no right or wrong answers. Remember that everything you answer will be kept confidential. If there is a question you do not want to answer, kindly skip to the next question.

QUESTIONS AND FILTERS		CODING CATEGORIES	SKIP
109	How old are you?	AGE (COMPLETED YEARS)	
110	Which District and community do you live in?	District name:----- Community name:_____	
111	How long have you lived in that community?	YEARS [] [] MONTHS..... [] [] IF < 30 DAYS ENTER 0 MONTHS..... [] []	
104	What is your highest educational level?	None0 Primary.....1 Middle School/ JHS.....2 SHS.....3 Post-Secondary/ HND4 Bachelors & Above.....5	
105	Are you currently working to earn income?	YES 1 NO.....0	
106	What is your current occupation?	Formal Sector (office work).....1 Informal2 Artisanal activities (baking, hairdressing, carpentry, etc.)3 Farming4 Trading5 Student6 None (not working)7	If Student or not working SKIP to 109a
107	How many days per week do you work?		
108	How many hours do you work on average on a typical day of work?	_____	
109a	Apart from your involvement in this project, are you a member of any clubs or groups or societies?	YES..... 1 NO.....0	IF NO, ⇒ 110
109b	Specify group name		
110	Current Marital status	Single1 Married,.....2 Cohabiting.....3 Divorced4 Separated 5 Widowed6	
111	If married, ever married or cohabiting, how long have/were you living together with your current or most recent partner?	AGE (YEARS) [] [] number	
112	How many children do you have?	[] [] number	

SECTION 2 : ATTITUDES ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

The next set of questions are about your views on life and particularly on attitudes about relations between men and women in society. There are no right or wrong answers – we are just interested in what you think. For each of the following statements please say answer whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:

201	GEM SCALE:	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family.	1	2	3	4
B	Men need sex more than women do.	1	2	3	4
C	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	1	2	3	4
D	It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	1	2	3	4
E	A woman should tolerate violence in order to keep her family together.	1	2	3	4
F	If someone insults a man, he should defend his reputation, with force if he has to.	1	2	3	4
G	To be a man, a person needs to be tough	1	2	3	4
H	A man should have a final word about decisions in his home	1	2	3	4

IDEAS ABOUT GENDER RELATIONS

Now I would like to ask your opinion on some statements on what you think about relations between men and women. Can you tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements

202	GEM SCALE:	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	I think that a woman should obey her husband	1	2	3	4
C	I think that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.	1	2	3	4
E	I think that if a man beats his partner it shows that he loves her.	1	2	3	4
F	I think that if a woman works she should give her money to her husband	1	2	3	4
G	I think that a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work	1	2	3	4
H	I think that if a wife does something wrong her husband has the right to punish her.	1	2	3	4
I	I think that if married, the man owns her.	1	2	3	4

SECTION 3 : ATTITUDES TOWARD VIOLENCE

The next set of questions are about your views on life and particularly on attitudes that men and women in society have towards violence. There are no right or wrong answers – we are just interested in what you think. For each of the following statements please say answer whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:

201	GEM SCALE:	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
A	When men are under a lot of “pressure” , they are more likely to perpetrate violence against women	1	2	3	4
B	In an ideal situation when there is no lack of resources , violence against women will stop	1	2	3	4
C	Men and women are not equal in any way; The man is superior and the woman is inferior	1	2	3	4
D	Women are incapable of making inputs when it comes to family decisions	1	2	3	4
E	If a woman displeases her husband at home, it’s okay for the husband to withhold housekeeping money to “teach her a lesson”	1	2	3	4
F	It’s okay for a man to have intercourse with a woman AGAINST HER WILL if she is living with him	1	2	3	4
G	It’s okay for a man to have intercourse with a woman AGAINST HER WILL if she is wearing suggestive clothing	1	2	3	4
H	It’s okay for a man to punish his wife so long as he does not beat her or cause physical harm	1	2	3	4
J	Every man must train his woman to suit him and his household even if it requires him to discipline her at times.	1	2	3	4
K	I think that domestic violence is a private matter and the two involved should be left to settle issues	1	2	3	4
I	When women report their husbands/ partners to the police, it means they want to disgrace him and his family	1	2	3	4

SECTION 4: DEFINING VIOLENCE

	QUESTIONS & FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	
Thank you for answering those questions. We are very grateful for your time and patience. There are just a few more questions to go through. I am going to read you some statements relating to domestic violence in Ghana and I want you to tell me if you think the statements are true or false. "Interviewer should READ OUT ALL OPTIONS EXCEPT DON'T KNOW"			
401	A man commits violence against women If he consistently reminds his partner of his power to have other women?	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
402	A man commits violence against women If he beats his wife or female partner	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
403	A man commits violence against women If he restrains his wife/ partner from engaging in income generating activities	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
404	A man commits violence against women If he threatens to harm his partner, her children or anyone she cares about	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
405	A man commits violence against women If he refuses financial responsibility of his children and home	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
406	A man commits violence against women If he yells at his wife/ partner	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
407	A man commits violence against women If he tells his wife/ partner she is not good enough/ she is good for nothing	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
408	A man commits violence against women If he prevents his wife/ partner from seeing/ relating with friends and family	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
409	A man commits violence against women If he forces his wife/ partner to be pregnant against her wishes	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
410	A man commits violence against women If he shares in household chores and care of children	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	
411	A man commits violence against women If he denies her the right to family resources	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON'T KNOW.....99	

SECTION 5: POLICIES & RELEVANT LAWS

	QUESTIONS & FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	
Thank you for answering those questions. We are almost finished now. This section will ask you about your knowledge of some laws and policies in Ghana. I am going to read you some statements relating to domestic violence in Ghana and I want you to tell me if you think the statements are true or false. “Interviewer should READ OUT ALL OPTIONS EXCEPT DON’T KNOW”			
501	Are there any laws in Ghana about violence against women?	YES.....1 NO.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
502	Are there any laws in Ghana about domestic violence?	YES.....1 NO.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
503	In Ghana, it is not a criminal offense for persons in a domestic relationship (married or cohabitating) to engage in domestic violence against their partner.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
504	A person in a domestic relationship who engages in domestic violence commits an offence, and if convicted, can spend up to <u>two years in prison and also be fined.</u>	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
505	The Court in Ghana can make anyone who commits domestic violence <u>to pay compensation to the victim</u> as the Court may determine.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
506	If a cause for domestic violence complaint has arisen between persons in a domestic relationship and the two people <u>do not live together</u> , it is a criminal offense for either party to enter into the residence of the other person without that other person's permission.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
507	The use of violence of any kind (sexual, physical, and emotional) in a domestic relationship could be <u>justified on the basis of consent.</u>	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
508	<u>One single isolated act of domestic violence</u> (of any kind) among a married couple or lovers is not a criminal offense in Ghana.	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
509	In order for any act to be classified an act as domestic violence, there must have been number of <u>similar previous acts that form a pattern of behaviour.</u>	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
510	According to the law, if a husband forces his wife to have <u>sex against her will</u> , be committing a criminal act (that is, the husband can be fined or put in jail)?	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	

SECTION 6: HANDLING CASES

	QUESTIONS & FILTERS	CODING CATEGORIES	
Thank you for answering those questions. These are the final questions in the survey. Thank you again for your patience. I am going to read you some statements relating to how domestic violence cases should be handled in the community and I want you to tell me if you think the statements are true or false. “Interviewer should READ OUT ALL OPTIONS EXCEPT DON’T KNOW”			
601	The first question you should ask any woman who reports violence by their partner is, “ What did you do? ”	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
602	When someone reports violence to you, you should listen to her talk about her feelings	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
603	When someone reports violence to you, you should let her understand that her safety and that of her children is of paramount importance	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
604	When someone reports violence to you, you should be clear that violence is never okay or justifiable	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
605	When someone reports violence to you, you should tell her what to do. E.g. when to leave or not to leave the relationship	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
606	When someone reports violence to you, you should tell her to go back to the situation and try a little harder	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
607	When someone reports violence to you, you should rescue her by finding quick solutions	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
608	When someone reports violence to you, you should encourage her to stay for the children’s sake	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
609	When someone reports violence to you, you must go and have a chat with the husband to straighten things out	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
610	When someone reports violence to you, you must do a complete assessment of her past, present and future orientation before you decide on the best intervention to offer	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
611	When someone reports violence to you, you must make it clear to her that she does not cause the abuse OR she is not to blame for her partners behaviour	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	
612	When someone reports violence to you, you talk to her about what she can do to plan for her and her children’s safety	TRUE.....1 FALSE.....0 DON’T KNOW.....99	

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF THE SURVEY!!

APPENDIX 8 QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW GUIDES

Focus Group Interview Guide for Community Members

Interviewer: _____

Town/community/District: _____

Date: _____

Time discussion started: _____

Time ended: _____

INTRODUCE INTERVIEWER, NOTE-TAKER:

INTRODUCE THE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP:

Let's go ahead and get started. My name is _____ and this is my colleague _____. We work for _____. We are very interested in learning about VAWG in this community. We will only share the information we learn today in a general way and in a way that does not reveal the identity of anyone in the group. We really want to hear what you have to say and want you to feel comfortable in answering questions however you want to. There are no right or wrong answers.

_____ is taking notes to make sure that we don't miss what you have to say. This will help us later when we go back and organize all the information that was shared today. This interview should last for [insert amount of time].

Does anyone have any questions before we begin?

ATTITUDES, AWARENESS, PERCEPTIONS, AND PRACTICES OF VAWG

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions specifically about VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls)

1. What kinds of VAW usually occur in this community? In what situations/circumstances does VAW occur? Describe. To what extent is VAW a problem in this /Local area?

PROBE: What about physical violence? Sexual Violence? Emotional Violence? Who is committing the violence? Boyfriends/Spouses? In what kinds of settings do violence occur? How often does it happen? What are the causes?

I would like to know more about how people sometimes relate to each other and your thoughts about it. We have prepared 3 short stories and would like to know your reaction. Please keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers.

S1. After a marital dispute the wife refused to talk to her husband, and would refuse to make his dinner or any other household chores. The husband hit his wife, but without leaving a mark.

- a. How acceptable do you think the behaviour of the husband is?
- b. Do you think it is the woman's fault?

S2. After a marital dispute the wife refused to talk to her husband, and would refuse to make his dinner or any other household chores. The husband hit his wife, but without leaving a mark. The local priest/imam said that it was the woman's fault because she didn't fulfil her duties.

- c. How acceptable do you think the behaviour of the husband is?
- d. Do you think it is the woman's fault?
- e. How likely do you think your local clergy would react to this?

S3. Suppose a man in your community makes lewd comments to his niece and sometimes touches her inappropriately. This man is a community leader, and talks about the girl inappropriately in front of other people, making comments about her revealing clothes and body. The girl's mother asks her to cover up whenever the uncle visits but does nothing further. What do you think of this situation?

- f. What do you think the girl should do?
- g. What do you think the mother should do?

2. Do women have power over their bodies? How does that power manifest?

PROBE: Under what circumstances are women allowed to refuse sex? Is it ok for a woman to refuse her partner sex? Under what circumstances can a woman refuse sex?

Do women have the power to decide to uptake family planning without the husband's/families consent?

Is it appropriate to be forced/pressured to get pregnant or abort a pregnancy? Why? Why not? Is this something that happens in this community?

3. How is inheritance managed in this community when a woman's husband dies intestate? What do you think about how women are treated when their husbands die intestate? How is inheritance managed in this community when an unmarried woman's partner dies? What do you think about how unmarried women are treated after the death of their husbands?

4. How would you describe women/girls who experience VAW? How will you describe homes that experience VAW?

PROBE: How do they appear? Physically? Emotionally? Psychologically? How are these homes like? Describe.

5. What do you think are the consequences of violence against women/girls?

PROBE: Are there any consequences? Why? Why not? Economic? Physical? Psychological? Emotional?

6. Personally how do you feel about the occurrence of VAWG in this community?

PROBE: It is something that you endorse? Why? How do you think VAWG issues must be addressed in this community?

SUPPORT FOR VAWG VICTIMS

7. Generally, in this community, if a woman/girl experiences VAWG what can she do? What do women do when they experience violence? Do women go for support? Why? Why not?

PROBE: Where do women usually go for support? What about DOVVSU/Police? Health facility? CHRAJ? Family member? Friends? Neighbour? Social welfare? Probe for all sources and kinds of support given.

PROBE: How do VAWG victims find out about places that they can go for support?

PROBE: What kinds of support are given to VAWG victims?

Now imagine that you or a friend has just experienced VAW. Your friend goes for help. Afterwards when you see her, your friend tells you that getting that support was a really wonderful experience.

8. What types of things do you think would make the support received a good experience for her?

PROBE: What kind of support will be given? What would they say? What would the setting be like?

9. What types of things would make getting support for VAW a bad experience for her?

PROBE: What kind of support will be given? What would they say? What would the setting be like?

Now think about an ideal situation in which anything is possible. In this ideal situation, there are plenty of resources and anything you want to happen can happen.

10. In this ideal situation, how will men relate to women? How will VAWG be addressed when it occurs?

In-Depth Interview Guide (Victims)

Interviewer: _____

Town/community/District: _____

Date: _____

Time discussion started: _____

Time ended: _____

INTRODUCE THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW:

Let's go ahead and get started. My name is _____ and I work for _____ . We are very interested in learning about VAWG in this community. We will only share the information we learn today in a general way and in a way that does not reveal the identity of anyone in the group. We really want to hear what you have to say and want you to feel comfortable in answering questions however you want to. There are no right or wrong answers. This interview should last between 45minutes to 1 hour.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

AWARENESS, PERCEPTIONS, AND PRACTICES OF VAWG

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions specifically about VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls).

1. What kinds of VAWG usually occur in this community? In what situations/circumstances does VAWG occur?

PROBE: Describe. To what extent is VAWG a problem in this /Local area? Who is committing the violence? Boyfriends/Spouses? In what kinds of settings and circumstances did the violence occur?

2. Have you experienced any VAWG in the last 12 months?

PROBE: Describe? When did this happen? How did this start? Why did it happen? Who was involved? How often do you experience this?

3. How will you describe the effects of VAWG on you? On your family?

PROBE: How did you feel after experiencing the violence? Physically? Emotionally? Psychologically? Describe.

4. What about physical violence? Sexual Violence? Emotional Violence? How often does it happen? What were the causes of the violence you experienced?

PROBE: How did these different forms of violence affect you? Your family?

5. How has the COVID-19 situation influenced the occurrence (frequency & severity) of the violence in your home?

SUPPORT FOR VAWG VICTIMS

5. When you experienced VAWG what actions did you take? Did you go for support? Where? Why? Why not? (*probe for every source of support accessed*)

PROBE: Where else could you have gone for support after experiencing violence? What about DOVVSU/Police? Health facility? CHRAJ? Family member? Neighbour? Social welfare? Probe for all sources and kinds of support given. Did you go to any of these institutions for support?

PROBE: How did you find out about places that you can go for support?

PROBE: What kinds of support were given to you when you went? Were you satisfied with the support given to you? Why? Why not?

Now imagine that you or a friend has just experienced VAW. Your friend goes for help. Afterwards when you see her, your friend tells you that getting that support was a really wonderful experience.

6. What types of things do you think would make the support received a good experience for her?

PROBE: What kind of support will be given? What would they say? What would the setting be like?

7. What types of things would make getting support for VAW a bad experience for her?

PROBE: PROBE: What kind of support will be given? What would they say? What would the setting be like?

8. Personally how do you feel about the occurrence of VAWG in this community? Is it something that the community tolerates/allow? Why?

9. How do you think VAWG issues must be addressed in this community?

PROBE: How confident are you that eminent persons selected from this community who are trained to manage cases of VAWG can help prevent VAWG?

Now think about an ideal situation in which anything is possible. In this ideal situation, there are plenty of resources and anything you want to happen can happen.

9. In this ideal situation, how will men relate to women? How will VAW be addressed when it occurs?

Focus Group Discussion Guide (COMBAT Members)

Focus group discussion facilitator: _____

Note taker (if applicable): _____

own/community/District: _____

Date: _____

Time discussion started: _____

Time ended: _____

of Women/Men Participating in Focus Group: _____

INTRODUCE MODERATOR, NOTE-TAKER:

INTRODUCE THE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP:

Let's go ahead and get started. My name is _____ and this is my colleague _____ . We work for _____. We are very interested in learning about VAWG in this community. We will only share the information we learn today in a general way and in a way that does not reveal the identity of anyone in the group. It's important that the information shared in this group does not leave this group, so we ask everyone to not share who was here or what was said in the group with others outside the group when you leave here. We really want to hear what you have to say and want you to feel comfortable in answering questions however you want to. There are no right or wrong answers.

_____ is taking notes to make sure that we don't miss what you have to say. This will help us later when we go back and organize all the information that was shared today. The group should last for [insert amount of time].

Does anyone have any questions before we begin?

AWARENESS, PERCEPTIONS, AND PRACTICES OF VAWG

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions specifically about VAWG (Violence Against Women).

1. What kinds of VAWG usually occur in this community? In what situations/circumstances does VAWG occur? Describe. To what extent is VAWG a problem in this /Local area? Have you or someone close to you ever experienced VAWG?

PROBE: What about physical violence? Sexual Violence? Emotional Violence? Who is committing the violence? Boyfriends/Spouses? In what kinds of settings does violence occur? How often does it happen? What are the causes?

2. How would you describe women who experience VAWG? How will you describe homes that experience VAWG?

PROBE: How do they appear? Physically? Emotionally? Psychologically? How are the homes like?

3. Personally how do you feel about the occurrence of VAWG in this community?

PROBE: It is something that you endorse? Why? In your view how should VAWG issues be addressed in this community?

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR VAWG VICTIMS

4. Have you ever provided counseling or support to a VAWG victim or perpetrator in this community?

PROBE: if yes, describe the circumstance. Who was involved? The victim/perpetrator? What triggered the violence? How did you get involved? What specific role did you play? How was the situation resolved?

5. Currently, do you feel competent to provide support to VAWG victims?

PROBE: If yes why? If no, why not? Ever received training in counseling? Where?

6. Generally in this community, if VAWG occurs what do women do? Do they go for support? Why? Why not?

PROBE: Where do women usually go for support? What about DOVVSU/Police? Health facility? CHRAJ? Family member? Social welfare? Probe for all sources and kinds of support given.

PROBE: How VAWG victims find out about places that they can go for support

PROBE: Kinds of support are given to VAWG victims?

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN INTERVENTION

Now I would like to ask you questions on your expectations of your participation in the intervention.

7. What do you hope to learn from the training programme? What skills do you hope to acquire at the end of the training programme and how are you going to apply it?

8. How do you think the intervention would impact on VAWG in this community? Do you think the intervention would reduce VAWG? Why? Why not?

Key Informant Interview Guide (Institutions/Agencies)

Informant Name: _____

Informant Title: _____

Length of time Informant has worked with the organization/institution_____

Interview Date: _____

Interviewer Name: _____

INTRODUCE INTERVIEWER, NOTE-TAKER:

INTRODUCE THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW:

Let's go ahead and get started. My name is _____ and this is my colleague _____. We work for _____. We are very interested in learning about VAW in this community. We will only share the information we learn today in a general way and in a way that does not reveal the identity of anyone. We really want to hear what you have to say and want you to feel comfortable in answering questions however you want to. There are no right or wrong answers.

_____ is taking notes to make sure that we don't miss what you have to say. This will help us later when we go back and organize all the information that was shared today. The interview should last for [insert amount of time].

Does anyone have any questions before we begin?

Awareness, Perceptions and Practices of VAW

Now I'm going to ask you a few questions specifically about VAW (Violence Against Women).

1. What kinds of VAW usually occur in this community? In what situations/circumstances does VAW occur?

PROBE: Describe. To what extent is VAW a problem in this /Local area?

PROBE: What about physical violence? Sexual Violence? Emotional Violence? Who is committing the violence? Boyfriends/Spouses? In what kinds of settings/circumstances did the violence occur? How often does it happen? What are the causes?

2. Personally how do you feel about the occurrence of VAW in this community?

PROBE: It is something that you tolerate/allow? Why? How do you think VAW issues must be addressed in this community?

Reporting of VAW Cases

3. When women experience VAW what actions do they take? Do they report to your department/institution? Why? Why not?

PROBE: Where do they usually report cases? Why or Why not? What about DOVVSU/Police? Health facility? CHRAJ? Family member? Neighbour? Social welfare? Others?

4. Have there been increased reporting of VAW cases to your outfit in the past years/months? Why or Why not?

5. What are some of the protocols for reporting VAW cases at your outfit?

PROBE: Completion of forms. Hospital reports. Witness.

6. Describe the response mechanism your department/outfit has for VAW cases.

PROBE: Promptness. Who is involved in the response? Resource availability? Deployment. Investigation. Follow-up. Are there reported VAW cases that your department did not respond to?

PROBE: Are there any policies/protocols that guide the responses to VAW cases?

7. What kind of support to VAW victims does your outfit/department provide, if any?

PROBE: Material, physical, psychological, Economic, Social, etc.

8. Describe how VAW cases reported to your outfit are usually settled/resolved?

PROBE: Investigation, prosecution, security.

Assessment of Institutional Responses to VAW

9. Generally how will you assess the response mechanism for VAW cases in this community? Why or why not?

10. What are some of the weaknesses or gaps in the response mechanisms for VAW?

11. Kindly share with us any other comment regarding how weaknesses and gaps in response mechanisms can be addressed in this community.

12. Are you aware of previous interventions in your District aimed at improving your response to cases of VAW?

Probe: What was the aim? How did it influence case management? Was the effect a lasting one? General impressions about the intervention.

Key Informant Interview Guide (Traditional leaders)

Informant Name: _____

Informant Title: _____

Length of time Informant has worked with the organization/institution _____

Interview Date: _____

Interviewer Name: _____

INTRODUCE THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERVIEW:

Let's go ahead and get started. My name is _____ and I work for _____. We are very interested in learning about VAW in this community. We will only share the information we learn today in a general way and in a way that does not reveal the identity of anyone. We really want to hear what you have to say and want you to feel comfortable in answering questions however you want to. There are no right or wrong answers.

I will be recording the conversation to make sure that we don't miss what you have to say. This will help us later when we go back and organize all the information that was shared today. The interview should last for 45 minutes. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Awareness, Perceptions and Practices of VAW

Now I am going to ask you a few questions specifically about VAW (Violence Against Women & Girls).

1. What kinds of VAW usually occur in this community? In what situations/circumstances does VAW occur?

PROBE: Describe. To what extent is VAW a problem in this /Local area?

PROBE: What about physical violence? Sexual Violence? Emotional Violence? Who is committing the violence? Boyfriends/Spouses?

2. As a traditional leader, how do you feel about the occurrence of VAW in this community?
3. Have you ever been invited to mediate/resolve any VAWG in this community as a leader?
PROBE: What was it about? How was it resolved? Were there any sanctions for the perpetrator?
Do you consider this deterrent enough?
4. How do you think VAW issues must be addressed in this community to reduce its occurrence?
PROBE Severe physical violence, Rape, defilement?

Reporting of VAW Cases

5. When women experience VAW what actions do they take? Do they report to the community leaders (chief's palace, Assembly men/women)? Why? Why not?

PROBE: Where do they usually report cases? Why or Why not? What about DOVVSU/Police? Health facility? CHRAJ? Family member? Neighbour? Social welfare? Religious leaders? Others?

6. Has there been increased reporting of VAW cases to your outfit since the COVID-19 pandemic? Why or Why not?

7. What are the procedures for reporting VAW cases at your outfit?

PROBE: Time of day, Drinks, Witness, other requirements?

8. Are there customary provisions for handling VAW cases? Give examples of customs for specific examples of violence

PROBE: customs for the following Wife beating, interstate Inheritance, Widowhood rights, rape, defilement, child neglect,

9. What kind of support to victims do you provide as traditional leaders?

PROBE: Material, physical, psychological, Economic, Social, etc.

10. Describe how VAW cases reported to your outfit are usually settled/resolved?

PROBE: Investigation, sanctions, security to survivors.

11. Do you consider the response by Traditional leaders as adequate? Why? Why not?

12. What are your thoughts regarding the use of COMBATs to prevent VAWG in this community?

Probe: What are your expectations? How will they influence case management? Do you fore-see a clash between traditional directive and that of the COMBAT?

APPENDIX 9: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS

Characteristics of KIIs—Community Leaders					
<u>Respondent #</u>	<u>Organisation/Town</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Marital Status</u>	<u># Children</u>
R1	Amponsahkrom	Chief	53	M/L	10
R2	Amponsahkrom	Chief Imam	50	M/L	8
R3	Otwekrom	Dwantoahene	54	M/L	6
R4	Otwekrom	Head of Christian Council	62	M/L	7
R5	Otwekrom	Leader of Muslims	62	M/L	6
R6	Suromanya	Tufohene	43	M/L	6
R7	Suromanya	Odikro	45	M/L	5
R8	Ahamadonko	Ebusuapanyin	72	M/L	10
R9	Ahamadonko	Leader of Muslims	52	M/L	3
R10	Nkum	Chief Imam	65	M/L	7
R11	Otwekrom	Queen mother*			
R12	Aponsahkrom	Queen mother*			
*Did not want to provide details					

Characteristics of Victims

<u>Respondent #</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>#Child ren</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Town</u>
R1	30	Single	2	Trader	Otwekrom
R2	32	Cohabiting	4	Trader	Ampnsahkrom
R3	39	Cohabiting	6	Unemployed	Nkum
R4	40	Separated	5	Trader	Nkum
R5	15	Cohabiting	1	Unemployed	Ahamadonko
R6	22	Cohabiting	2	Trader	Suromanya
R7	42	Cohabiting	5	Trader	Amponsahkrom
R8		Cohabiting	3	Unemployed	Amponsahkrom

Characteristics of KIIs-State Agencies

<u>Participant#</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>District</u>
R1	Social Welfare	Director	Ag. East
R2	Social Welfare	Director	Ag. West
R3	CHRAJ	Director	Ag. West/East
R4	Agona West Municipal Assembly	Gender Desk Officer	Ag. West
R5	DOVVSU	Head of DOVVSU	Ag. West/East

Characteristics of Participants--FGD						
Agona Kwaman: 15-19 Yrs. Old						
#	Age	Marital Status	Education	# Children	Occupation	
R1	17	Single (no boyfriend)	SHS1	0	Student	
R2	17	Single (no boyfriend)	SHS2	0	Student	
R3	16	Single (no boyfriend)	JHS3	0	Student	
R4	19	Single (boyfriend)	JHS3	0	Seamstress	
R5	18	Cohabiting	JHS3	0	Seamstress/apprentice	
R6	19	Single	SHS3	0	Student	
R7	19	Single	SHS3	0	Student	
R8	19	Single	SHS3	0	Student	
R9	19	Single	SHS3	0	Student	
GYASIKROM: 35-59 YR OLDS						
R1	45	Divorced	P 3	4	Trader	
R2	45	Cohabiting	JHS 3	3	Trader	
R3	42	Cohabiting	P 3	6	Trader	
R4	35	Cohabiting	JHS 3	4	Trader	
R5	45	Divorced	JHS 3	5	Trader	
R6	44	Divorced	None	6	Trader	
R7	39	Single	P 3	7	Caterer	
R8	49	Married (customary)	P 6	3	Unemployed	
GYASIKROM: 20-34 YR OLDS						
R1	25	Married	JHS 3	4	Trader	
R2	20	Married	JHS 3	2	Trader	
R3	20	Single (no boyfriend)	SHS 2	0	Student	
R4	25	Single (no boyfriend)	JHS 3	1	Unemployed	
R5	23	Single (no boyfriend)	JHS 3	0	Apprentice	
R6	24	Single (no boyfriend)	JHS 3	1	Trader	
R7	22	Married	JHS 3	2	Trader	