

# Mapping Violence Against Women



A tool to map  
the prevalence of the various forms  
of violence against women  
and the interventions addressing it

Mapping Violence against women, a tool to map the prevalence of violence against women and the interventions addressing it

The tool has been developed by Aim for human rights / Rights4Change, with financial support of Cordaid.

Text: Margreet de Boer

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# Introduction: Purpose and use of this tool

## Why and by whom was this tool created?

Violence against women or gender based violence is a worldwide problem. In all countries of the world many women experience domestic violence, sexual violence or are being harassed at work. In a lot of countries women and girls suffer from so called harmful traditional practices like honour related violence or female genital mutilation.

In the last decades, both the international community, governments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) stressed the necessity to address violence against women, and developed and adopted interventions to do so. Nowadays, all kinds of programs and projects are being conducted to address various forms of violence against women worldwide. With all those forms of Violence, all the interventions and the great number of organisations involved, it can become difficult to get an overview of the whole picture: what are the main problems, who is doing what and what are the blind spots. This mapping tool is developed to enable NGOs to create that overview.

On request of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aim for human rights developed a manual for embassies to report on their activities and results in the field of violence against women. This manual was published in 2008, and also presented to Dutch donor organisations. Donors emphasised that a similar tool might be useful for them and their partners as well, but stated that it should be more on the mapping of prevalence and interventions (and less on the results of projects and programs). The fact that the manual for the embassies used the UN-categories to structure the field of violence against women was very much welcomed.

Responding to this suggestions, Aim for human rights / Rights4Change developed this mapping tool for NGOs, with a strong focus on the mapping of the prevalence of the various forms of VAW and the interventions addressing it. For both the forms and the interventions the mapping tool uses the categories as defined by the UN Secretary General in his in depth study on violence against women.

During a workshop in December 2010, representatives of NGOs from Indonesia, Sierra Leone, China and the Netherlands discussed a draft of the tool, and provided valuable feedback on it.

The development of the mapping tool has been funded by Cordaid.

This is an unedited version of the tool, which is only available in PDF. Although the tool has been discussed with potential users, it has not been tested yet. We most welcome organisations and researchers to use this tool, and send feedback to us at [info@rights4change.org](mailto:info@rights4change.org). We will collect feedback up to April 2012. After that we will adjust the tool where necessary, edit it, give it a nice lay out and print it.

## Why mapping and for what purposes?

The field of violence against women is a very broad field. It covers various forms of violence, from domestic violence to forced sterilization; from rape to early marriages, and so on. Also the ways in which violence against women is addressed are numerous: laws, criminal charges, support of victims, awareness-rising. And many organisations a role in addressing VAW: government, police, NGOs. This wide range of topics and activities means that there is a lot of information on violence against women. Information on the prevalence (what forms are existing and how often does it occur), on the interventions (what is being done to address it), and the actors (who is doing what).

NGOs which work on violence against women do make use of this kind of information. For reporting, for strategic planning and for advocacy. However, it is not always easy to collect and structure the information in a way that is most useful.

The question is to find the kind and amount of information that is necessary, without doing time consuming in-depth research. That is where mapping can be useful. By mapping information, you are not doing your own (in-depth-research), but make an inventory of the information that is available, by listing the sources of information, and structure the main findings.

This mapping tool will help the users to make this list and structure the information, and by doing so to get an overview of both the nature and scale of the prevalence of violence against women in its various forms, and the existing and lacking interventions to address it.

The results of the mapping - the overview- can be used for several purposes, like reporting, strategic choice of focus on a topic or an intervention, but also for setting an agenda for further research or for topics to be addressed.

### ***Reporting***

The tool can be used to gather and structure information to present in a report. This can be a report which is aimed at advocacy, such as a report to the government; a (shadow-)report to international bodies like CEDAW. But it can also help you to structure the reporting of the results of an organisation, project or program.

### ***Strategic Planning***

The overview you make by using the mapping tool can be seen as a context analysis, which shows the main problems, and what is done to address these problems. It also shows the blind spots: which topics are not covered, which relevant groups are being overlooked, which interventions are lacking. Both NGOs and donors can use this information to make an informed decision about topics they want to address and interventions and groups they want to work on. Moreover, groups of actors can use it to make sure their work does not overlap, and blind spots are covered.

### ***Advocacy and Agenda setting***

By using the tool, you will discover gaps and blind spots. First of all, the mapping will show on which topics (forms of violence, affected groups) information is not available, or not sufficient. This might be used to plan or propose the gathering of data and statistics, or more in-depth research. Where information is available, the mapping can also make clear what the gaps are in addressing violence against women: forms of VAW that do exist but are not being addressed, interventions that are missing or not implemented, groups that are not covered by the existing interventions.

## **Who can use the tool, and how the mapping is done?**

The Mapping VAW tool is designed for NGOs, in particular women's organisations, organisations working on violence against women, and human rights organisations. But also donor-organisations, governmental bodies, researchers and expert institutes can use the tool.

The mapping can be conducted as a desk-study by one or more persons. However, it might be very helpful to have some brainstorm sessions with people of different backgrounds and expertise, and to ask people with knowledge on specific topics or interventions to participate in the various steps of the tool. Within the different steps of the tool, suggestions will be given on how this input could be organised.

You can map violence against women in a country, but also in other entities: cities for example, or provinces. For the sake of language, the tool speaks of 'country'. If you choose another entity for your mapping, you should read that entity where country is mentioned.

The mapping tool is a manual to structure information. The actual mapping is done in several steps: mapping the sources of information; mapping the prevalence of the various forms of VAW; mapping the interventions and mapping the actors. In each step questions will invite you to collect and present the information that is relevant to get an overview.

Of course, the tool also provides information. Background information on violence against women and the ways to address it according human rights standards. But also practical information that helps to answer the questions.

## **How much time does the mapping take?**

It is difficult to say how much time the mapping will take. It depends on the availability of information, the knowledge and expertise of the persons doing the inventory and analysis, the degree of detail you want to achieve, and whether you do a whole mapping or select topics. The mapping tool is meant to be a 'light' instrument. Mapping means making an inventory; not to do an in depth research. This means you should be able to do the mapping within a limited period of time. Roughly we would say that for someone who has some basic knowledge on violence against women, answering each list of questions will take between a half and a full day. After answering the questions in the first step of the tool, you should be able to make a planning of the time you will need.

## **The structure of the Mapping Tool**

The Mapping VAW tool is structured as follows:

**Chapter 1** gives some background information on violence against women and human rights

**Chapter 2** is the heart of the mapping tool; it provides the questions and information for your inventory. The mapping process is divided into 6 steps:

**Step 1:** preliminary questions: why and how are you mapping?

**Step 2:** mapping the sources of information

**Step 3:** mapping the prevalence of the various forms of VAW

**Step 4:** mapping the interventions to address VAW

**Step 5:** mapping the actors

**Step 6:** using the results of the mapping

In the **annex** you find some information on Rights4Change and its human rights impact assessment tools which you might use for further analysis: HeRWAI (the Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument), the Right Guide (a tool to assess the human rights impacts of anti-trafficking policies), and DOVA (The Human Rights Assessment Instrument on Domestic Violence).

# 1. Background: Violence against women and human rights

This chapter gives a definition of violence against women, and describes the various forms of violence against women worldwide. It also explains why violence against women should be seen in a human rights context, and describes the international standards on state obligations to address violence against women.

In this chapter the categories used by the UN to structure the field of violence against women are presented and explained. The mapping tool uses these categories to structure the information. Therefore, reading this chapter will help you to better understand the questions in Chapter 2.

## 1.1. violence against women

Violence against women takes many forms - physical, sexual, psychological and economic. They are interrelated and affect women from before birth to old age. As societies change, patterns of violence alter and new forms emerge. Some forms of violence, such as trafficking, cross national boundaries. Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished. Violence against women harms families across generations, as well as communities and reinforces other violence throughout societies. Violence against women also impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations. It lowers economic productivity, drains resources from public services and employers, and reduces human capital formation. Violence against women is complex and diverse in its manifestations, with far-reaching and long-lasting consequences and costs. Its elimination requires a comprehensive, systematic and determined response.

Since the early 1990s, after intensive lobbying by the women's movement, violence against women was declared a special kind of human rights violation. It was argued that violence against women was global, systemic and rooted in power imbalances and structural inequalities between men and women<sup>1</sup>. The acknowledgement of violence against women as violation of human rights was the starting point of the international community caring about and addressing violence against women. What followed were all kind of human rights declarations, resolutions, conventions and recommendations, which not only label VAW as human rights violation, but also obliged states to take measures to combat it. See further paragraph 1.3 and 1.4.

### Terminology

#### *Violence Against Women or Gender Based Violence?*

This tool is developed to be used by NGOs working on violence against women and/or Gender based violence. Although some of the the NGOs also work for male victims of violence (for example domestic violence or sexual violence), the majority focusses on women and girls, and even more important, find it important to stress the gender based nature of the violence, and the fact that far more women than men are victims of this kind of violence.

**Gender** refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a women or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age.<sup>2</sup>

1 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 9.

2 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

Within the international community, both the terminology "Violence Against Women" and "Gender Based Violence" is used. The scope of 'Gender Based Violence' is broader than that of 'violence against women'. Gender Based Violence also includes violence against men because they are men (for example because they do not stick to the male gender role) and violence against transgenders. Both the UN Secretary General use the concept of gender based violence, but limit it explicitly to violence against women.

**Definition**

Gender-based violence against women is violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman, or violence that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. CEDAW, General Recommendation 19.

This is the kind of violence this tool is about, and the kind of violence we mean when using the terminology violence against women<sup>3</sup>. For those who also want to map gender based violence that is not violence against women, we did add the category men/boys-victims of gender based violence to the check-list of vulnerable groups.

***Victim or survivor of violence against women?***

The use of the term victim in relation to a person who has suffered Violence against Women is controversial, as the term might suggest "weakness" and/or "passivity" and does not recognize the strength of the women. Many therefore prefer the use of the term survivor of violence. In the mapping tool we will follow the Secretary General's report and use the term "victim" in the criminal justice context and the term "survivor" in the context of advocacy. At other points the term "victim/survivor" is used<sup>4</sup>.

**Vulnerable groups**

All women can become victim/survivor of violence against women: rich or poor, old or young, white or black, healthy or ill, modern or traditional, living in the city or in a rural area. Nevertheless, some women are more likely to experience VAW, suffer more from it, or are less able to escape from violence than others. For example because of their position within the family or society, their lack of economic resources or the lack of access to services.

In society, women do not only face discrimination based on their gender. If they belong to a group (also) facing discrimination based on other grounds (multiple discrimination) they become even more vulnerable to violence. "Factors such as a woman's race, ethnicity, caste, migrant or refugee status, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or HIV status will influence what forms of violence they suffer, their ability to seek shelter or redress and how they experience the violence".<sup>5</sup> When looking at the issue of violence against women it is important not to overlook groups who have specific vulnerabilities. People in these groups often face multiple discrimination and tend to have less knowledge and access to the justice system and services. The list below describes women that fall within special vulnerable groups. It is important to pay attention to women from these vulnerable groups as sometimes they are not only overlooked by the government but also by service providers and even by women's rights organisations.

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3 We think 'gender based violence against women' is far too long to use. We choose for violence against women over gender based violence because possibly not all (grassroot) organisations are familiar with the concept of 'gender', and 'violence against women' is understood by everyone.

4 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 12

5 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 46



**Examples of vulnerable groups**

(list is not exhaustive)

- Women from ethnic minorities
- Women from certain religious groups
- Women in rural areas
- Girls
- Elderly women
- Widows
- Lesbian and bi-sexual women
- Transgenders
- Disabled women
- HIV infected women
- Sexworkers
- Migrant- and refugee women
- Domestic workers
- Vulnerable groups of men and boys (relevant when you want to map gender based violence instead of VAW)
- .....

## 1.2. The various forms of violence against women

The In Depth Study on all forms of violence against women by the UN Secretary-General<sup>6</sup> gives an overview of violence against women worldwide; the context, the causes and the various forms.

These forms are:

1. Violence in the family
  - intimate partner violence
  - harmful traditional practices
2. Violence against women in the community
  - Femicide: the gender based murder of women
  - Sexual violence by non-partners
  - Sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, educational institutions and in sport
  - Trafficking in women
3. Violence against women perpetrated or condoned by the State
  - Custodial violence against women
  - Forced sterilization
4. Violence against women in armed conflict

In this mapping tool we follow the classification by the United Nations. To avoid overlooking forms of harmful traditional practices, we do mention the most common practices as specific form of VAW.

Some forms of VAW are defined by the acts that are committed, some forms by the relation between perpetrator and victims, some forms by the reason behind the violence, and some forms by a combination of this. This means that the various forms of violence women might overlap. For example: sexual violence by soldiers of a state falls within the scope of sexual violence by non-partners, custodial violence and violence against women in armed conflict. And to force a woman to marry her rapist falls within the scope of forced marriage and that of honour related crimes.

Moreover, some forms of violence against women may not fit in any of the categories. For example: where to list violence against lesbian women by non-partners? For the forms of violence that do not fit in the existing categories, we added 'other forms of violence against women'.

The following paragraphs describe the various forms of violence against women as referred to in this tool. We give definitions or short descriptions as given in the UN SG report, or on the website of UN-women. We added some points of attention.

### Intimate partner violence / domestic violence

#### **The UN Secretary General on Intimate Partner Violence<sup>7</sup>:**

Intimate partner violence includes a range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against adult and adolescent women by a current or former intimate partner, without her consent. Physical violence involves intentionally using physical force, strength or a weapon to harm or injure the woman. Sexual violence includes abusive sexual contact, making a woman engage in a sexual act without her consent, and attempted or completed sex acts with a woman who is ill, disabled, under pressure or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Psychological violence includes controlling or isolating the woman, and humiliating or embarrassing her. Economic violence includes denying a woman access to and control over basic resources.

In a lot of countries, and also on international level, the wording 'domestic violence' is used instead of, or besides 'intimate partner violence', as used in this definition.

Sometimes it does mean the same, but sometimes it does not.

Domestic violence may or may not include

- child abuse and abuse of the elderly
- violence against men
- psychological violence
- economic violence

<sup>6</sup> Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006

<sup>7</sup> Ibidem, p. 37

## Harmful traditional practices

### **The UN Secretary General on Harmful traditional practices<sup>8</sup>:**

Female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, early marriage, dowry -related violence, female genital mutilation/cutting, crimes against women committed in the name of “honour”, and maltreatment of widows, including inciting widows to commit suicide, are forms of violence against women that are considered harmful traditional practices, and may involve both family and community. While data has been gathered on some of these forms, this is not a comprehensive list of such practices. Others (...) include the dedication of young girls to temples, restrictions on a second daughter’s right to marry, dietary restrictions for pregnant women, forced feeding and nutritional taboos, marriage to a deceased husband’s brother and witch hunts.

In this mapping tool we do mention certain forms of harmful traditional practices explicitly. Other forms (as mentioned in the description by the UN SG or otherwise) will be mapped under the umbrella of 'other harmful practices', and are not further described in this chapter.

### **UN-Women on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)<sup>9</sup>**

FGM refers to several types of deeply-rooted traditional cutting operations performed on women and girls. Often part of fertility or coming-of-age rituals, FGM is sometimes justified as a way to ensure chastity and genital “purity.” It is estimated that more than 130 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM, mainly in Africa and some Middle Eastern countries, and two million girls a year are at risk of mutilation. Cases of FGM have been reported in Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, and it is thought to be performed among some indigenous groups in Central and South America. FGM is also being practised among immigrant communities in Europe, North America and Australia.

### **UN Secretary General on early and forced marriages<sup>10</sup>**

Early marriages involve the marriage of a child, i.e. a person below the age of 18. (...) Such marriages take place all over the world, but are most common in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where more than 30 per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 are married. (...)

A forced marriage is one lacking the free and valid consent of at least one of the parties. In its most extreme form, forced marriage can involve threatening behaviour, abduction, imprisonment, physical violence, rape and, in some cases, murder. There has been little research on this form of violence.

### **UN Secretary General and UN-Women on dowry related violence**

Violence related to demands for dowry – which is the payment of cash or goods by the bride’s family to the groom’s family – may lead to women being killed in dowry-related femicide<sup>11</sup>. Dowry murder is a brutal practice involving a woman being killed by her husband or in-laws because her family is unable to meet their demands for her dowry – a payment made to a woman’s in-laws upon her engagement or marriage as a gift to her new family. It is not uncommon for dowries to exceed a family’s annual income. While cultures throughout the world have dowries or similar payments, dowry murder occurs predominantly in South Asia.<sup>12</sup>

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8 Ibidem, p. 39

9 [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.php?page=4](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php?page=4)

10 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 39-40

11 Ibidem, p. 40

### **Honour related crimes**

Quite some UN documents describe honour related crimes<sup>13 14</sup>. We combined some of that definitions and descriptions to give the following, which includes both honour related killing as other forms of honour related crimes.

In many societies, rape victims, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex, and women accused of adultery experience honour related violence by their relatives. This stems from the deeply-rooted social belief that family members and, in particular male family members, should control the sexuality and/or protect the reputation of women in their families, in order to protect the family "honour." According to this belief, the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an affront to the family's honour. If the chastity of women has been violated (or is seen as being violated), they should be disciplined, have their movements and life choices constrained, or be harmed or killed.

### **UN-expert group on acid attacks and stove burning<sup>15</sup>**

In recent years there has been a growing occurrence of attacks against women using acid. The main reasons for these acts of violence have reportedly been dowries, refusal of marriage, love, or sexual proposals, or land disputes. While such attacks have been most common in South Asia, they have been reported in a range of geographical locations, including Africa and Europe.

In some countries, particularly in South East Asia, there has been a growing number of incidences in which families harm a woman by burning her and then portray the incident as an accident in order to avoid punishment. While these acts of violence may be inflicted in the name of "honour" or in relation to dowry disputes, they may also be associated with other forms of violence, such as domestic violence, and discrimination against women more generally, such as anger at a woman for failing to give birth to a son.

## **Femicide**

### **UN Secretary General on Femicide<sup>16</sup>:**

Femicide is the gender-based murder of a woman. Femicide occurs everywhere, but the scale of some cases of femicide within community contexts – for example, in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and Guatemala – has drawn attention to this aspect of violence against women. (...)

## **Sexual Violence by non-partners**

### **UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence by non partners<sup>17</sup>**

Sexual violence by non-partners refers to violence by a relative, friend, acquaintance, neighbour, work colleague or stranger. Estimates of the prevalence of sexual violence by non-partners are difficult to establish, because in many societies, sexual violence remains an issue of deep shame for women and often for their families. Statistics on rape extracted from police records, for example, are notoriously unreliable because of significant underreporting. (...)

Forced sexual initiation constitutes a significant sub-field of violence perpetrated by non-partners, but may also occur in the context of an intimate relationship. (...)

Dating violence is another form of sexual violence by non-partners experienced by young women.

Note that not only rape is sexual violence, but also sexual assault, and sexual abuse by various perpetrators as parents, caretakers, social workers and health workers.

12 [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.php?page=4](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php?page=4)

13 Good practices in legislation on "harmful practices" against women, Report of the Expert group meeting organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26 to 29 May 2009, p. 17

14 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 40

15 Good practices in legislation on "harmful practices" against women, Report of the Expert group meeting organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 26 to 29 May 2009, p. 21-22

16 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 41

17 Ibidem, p. 41-42

## Sexual harassment

### **UN-women and UN Secretary General on sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, educational institutions and in sport**

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. While typically involving a pattern of behaviour, it can take the form of a single incident<sup>18</sup>.

The phenomenon of harassment and violence in the workplace is receiving increasing attention, especially in the context of women's rising rates of participation in the labour force and enhanced legal and regulatory provisions. European surveys have shown significant rates of sexual harassment in the workplace, with between 40 and 50 per cent of women in the European Union reporting some form of sexual harassment or unwanted sexual behaviour in the workplace. Sexual harassment and violence against girls and young women in educational institutions is also the subject of increased research. Studies show that the extent of violence in schools may be significant. A study in the United States found that 83 per cent of girls in grades 8 through 11 in public schools experienced some form of sexual harassment. Women and girls who engage in sport may face the risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and harassment, from other athletes, spectators, coaches, managers and family or community members.<sup>19</sup>

## Trafficking in Women

### **The UN Secretary General on Trafficking in women**

Trafficking is a form of violence against women that takes place in multiple settings and usually involves many different actors including families, local brokers, international criminal networks and immigration authorities. Trafficking in human beings takes place both between and within countries. The majority of the victims of human trafficking are women and children, and many are trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation.

A definition of trafficking is provided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: "*Trafficking in persons* shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs"<sup>20</sup>

The definition of trafficking is not without complications. It is important to note that the Protocol only addresses the exploitation of prostitution when one of the coercive or deceptive means listed is used. It does not require States to criminalise sex work. A fundamental feature of the Protocol is its focus on the way people arrive in a situation of exploitation, i.e. through trafficking, rather than on the exploitation itself. However, from a human rights perspective, the primary concern is to stop the exploitation of human beings under forced labour or slavery-like conditions, no matter how people arrive in that situation. More information on trafficking and its definition(s) can be found in the Right Guide, another tool of Rights4Change (see annex).

18 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/fpsexualharassment.htm>

19 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 42

20 Ibidem, p 42-43

## Custodial violence against women and other violence by state officers

### **The UN Secretary General on Custodial violence against women**

Custodial violence against women in police cells, prisons, social welfare institutions, immigration detention centres and other State institutions constitutes violence perpetrated by the State. Sexual violence, including rape, perpetrated against women in detention is considered a particularly egregious violation of the inherent dignity and the right to physical integrity of human beings and accordingly may constitute torture.<sup>143</sup> Other forms of violence against women in custody that have been documented by various sources include: inappropriate surveillance during showers or undressing; strip searches conducted by or in the presence of men; and verbal sexual harassment. The control wielded by correctional officers over women's daily lives may also result in violence through demands for sexual acts in exchange for privileges, goods or basic necessities. Although instances of custodial violence against women are reported in countries all around the world, there is little quantitative data to establish the prevalence of such violence across countries.<sup>21</sup>

The definition of custodial violence is violence against women in custody and state institutions. As not all violence against women by state officers does take place in custodial situations we added 'and other violence by state officers'. You can think of sexual violence by governmental youth workers, sexual assault of women of vulnerable groups by police and other state officers on the streets of in their homes, unlawful arrests of women.

## Forced sterilisation

### **The UN Secretary General on Forced sterilisation**

The use of sterilization to control the reproductive behaviour of the female population or a particular subgroup, constitutes violence against women. While there are no systematic quantitative studies, the practice of forced sterilization has been confirmed and condemned in regional and national courts. Cases of forced or coerced sterilizations of certain populations such as Roma women and girls in Europe and indigenous women in the United States and Canada have been reported<sup>22</sup>.

## Violence against women in armed conflict

### **The UN Secretary General on Violence against women in armed conflict**

During armed conflict, women experience all forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated by both State and non-State actors. These forms include murder, unlawful killings, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, abductions, maiming and mutilation, forced recruitment of women combatants, rape, sexual slavery, sexual exploitation, involuntary disappearance, arbitrary detention, forced marriage, forced prostitution, forced abortion, forced pregnancy and forced sterilization.. Sexual violence has been used during armed conflict for many different reasons, including as a form of torture, to inflict injury, to extract information, to degrade and intimidate and to destroy communities. Rape of women has been used to humiliate opponents, to drive communities and groups off land and to wilfully spread HIV. Women have been forced to perform sexual and domestic slave labour. Women have also been abducted and then forced to serve as "wives" to reward fighters<sup>23</sup>.

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21 Ibidem, p. 44

22 Ibidem, p. 44

23 Ibidem, p. 44

## 1.3. Human rights

Human rights are the rights possessed by all human beings, because they are human beings. Human rights are universal. This means that every human being is entitled to human rights, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, citizenship, disability or other status. Human rights are laid down in human rights treaties or conventions. These are international agreements between States. Since the end of world war two, the international community has been building up a human rights framework by drafting and adopting a number of international human rights treaties. The main international human rights treaties were drafted and adopted through the United Nations.

### Human rights and violence against women

As said, it is only since the early 1990s, that violence against women was declared a special kind of human rights violation. The identification of the link between violence against women and discrimination was key. Violence against women is gender based; it is no coincidence that women are victims. This is what makes violence against women discriminatory. The link was made very clear in the definition in General Recommendation 19 of CEDAW.

GR 19 also links violence against women to other human rights:

“Gender based violence, which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under human rights conventions, is discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention. These rights and freedoms include: (a) The right to life; (b) The right not to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; (c) The right to equal protection according to humanitarian norms in time of international or internal armed conflict; (d) The right to liberty and security of person; (e) The right to equal protection under the law; (f) The right to equality in the family; (g) The right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health; (h) The right to just and favourable conditions of work.”

The universal character is stressed by the fact that also regional human rights mechanisms have endorsed that violence against women should be considered as a human rights violation, such as the Protocol by the African Union<sup>24</sup>.

### State obligations

Human Rights should not only be respected by States; States also have a positive obligation to protect and fulfil human rights. These obligations are laid down in or derive from international conventions and other human rights documents.

Regarding violence against women the State obligations have been translated into a list of interventions: measures to address VAW that every State should take. These are the interventions that will be mapped with this tool.

#### **State obligations**

A human rights treaty is a legally binding obligation between the States that have ratified the treaty. States have a legal responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights laid down in the treaties they have signed and ratified for all persons within their jurisdiction.

**Respect:** The obligation to respect means that the State should not breach or undermine directly or indirectly the enjoyment of any rights.

**Protect:** The obligation to protect requires the State to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses and to take measures to prevent human rights violations. This includes measures to prevent third parties from violating the rights.

**Fulfil:** The obligation to fulfil requires the State to adopt appropriate measures to guarantee the full enjoyment of all human rights.

Besides human rights treaties / conventions, there are a lot of other international documents on human rights. Resolutions en declarations for example. These 'consensus documents' or 'policy-

<sup>24</sup> Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2003)

documents' often describe in more detail the measures States should take concerning certain human rights. Although these documents are not as legally binding as conventions, the obligations they contain can be seen as elaboration on the basic obligations as laid down in the human rights treaties. Also general recommendations, views and comments of Treaty Bodies<sup>25</sup> contain recommendations on the measures States should take, which can be seen as interpretations of the obligations in the treaties.

### ***State obligations to address violence against women***

The State obligations to address violence against women should be aimed at the following general objectives<sup>26</sup>:

- To prevent violence against women
- To protect women against violence
- To prosecute perpetrators
- To offer redress.

In several documents, these general objectives are translated into more detailed state obligations. Important documents defining State obligations are General Recommendation 19 of CEDAW (1991), Resolution 2003/45 of the UN Commission on Human rights, and the Beijing Platform for Action. But also views of the CEDAW Committee in individual cases<sup>27</sup> contain instructions.

The strategic interventions to address violence against women as presented by the Secretary General are based upon these state obligations. See for a description of the interventions paragraph 3.4.

### ***Due diligence***

A challenging matter concerning state obligations is the fact that not all violations of human rights are committed by the state itself. However, human rights law knows the concept of the *due diligence obligation*, which holds States responsible for violations of human rights by private persons if the State has failed to adequately protect the victims. "The State has the legal duty to take reasonable steps to prevent the human rights violation and use the means at its disposal to carry out a serious investigation of violations committed within its jurisdiction, to identify those responsible, impose the appropriate punishment and ensure the victim adequate compensation."<sup>28</sup>

## **1.4. Interventions to address VAW**

In his 'In depth study on all forms of violence against women' the Secretary General of the UN gives an overview of the responsibilities of the States to address violence against women, and of the measures States should take: "States' obligations to respect, protect, fulfil and promote human rights with regard to violence against women encompass the responsibility to prevent, investigate and prosecute all forms of, and protect women from, such violence and to hold perpetrators accountable. (...) States are responsible under international law for human rights violations and acts of violence against women perpetrated by the State or any of its agents. Such responsibility arises not only from State actions, but also from omissions and failure to take positive measures to protect and promote rights. They also have a duty to prevent human rights violations by non-State actors, investigate allegations of violations, punish wrongdoers and provide effective remedies to victims. States are accountable for the actions of non- State actors if they fail to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate or punish such acts and provide an effective remedy"<sup>29</sup>.

"The international legal and policy frameworks provide a set of standards for action by States to prevent and eliminate violence against women. Different contexts, circumstances and constraints, including availability of resources, will affect the type of action to be taken"<sup>30</sup>.

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25 Committees of independent experts that monitor the implementation of the international human rights treaties

26 UN Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women (DEVAW, A/Res/48/104, 19 December 1993)

27 e.g. CEDAW 2/2003 (AT vs. Hungary); CEDAW 5/2005 (Şahide Goekce (deceased) v. Austria); CEDAW 6/2005 (Fatma Yildirim (deceased) v. Austria); CEDAW 10/2005 (N.S.F. v. UK); CEDAW 18/2008 (Karen Tayag Vertido v. Philippines)

28 Definition from the Velasquez Rodriguez case of the Inter-American court of Human Rights

29 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 89

30 Ibidem, p. 90-91



The Secretary General gives a useful overview of the intervention strategies states should use to combat violence against women:

1. Legal and policy framework, including adherence to CEDAW and other relevant international treaties; equality for men and women in the constitution; national action plans on combating violence against women; the allocation of an adequate budget; legislation covering all forms of VAW.
2. Criminal justice system, including investigation (with respect for victims), prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.
3. Remedies for victims of violence against women, including access to justice, reparation for harm suffered, guarantees of non-repetition and prevention (protection / restraining orders).
4. Support services, including access to shelters, medical, psychological and other support, legal aid.
5. Modifying attitudes and behaviour, including national campaigns on zero tolerance modify social and cultural patterns of conduct of women and men; and eliminate stereotypes that legitimize, exacerbate or tolerate violence against women.
6. Capacity building and training of all those who respond to violence against women, such as law enforcement officers, immigration, judicial and medical personnel and social workers.
7. Data and statistics, including promoting research, collecting data and compiling statistics.

These required intervention strategies can be used as a framework for formulating strategic goals within a human rights based approach on combating violence against women. They can also be used to categorise and structure the measures that are being taken to address violence against women. These categories we use in this mapping tool.

## 2. Mapping Violence Against Women

Chapter 2 is the heart of the mapping tool, as it lays out the questions and information that will guide your mapping. The process of data collection and mapping is divided into 6 steps. Each of these steps starts with an introduction describing the purpose of the step. Next you will find a number of questions to guide the mapping. Explanations, examples and check-lists help you to answer the questions. In the last step you will summarize the most important findings.

## Step 1: preparation of the mapping

In this step you will ask yourself the question whether you really want to map violence against women, and if so, to prepare the mapping process.

You will ask yourself for what purposes you want to use the results of the mapping. You will also prepare the actual mapping, which is done in the next steps. The preparation consists of asking yourself questions on who should do the mapping, what the scope of the mapping will be and how the mapping will be organised.

The questions in this first step should (also) be answered by people on decision-making level of the organisation or organisations who will conduct the mapping; these questions are setting the framework for the mapping process.

After answering the questions in this first step, you will decide on the mapping: will you do it, and if so: how.

### ***Question 1: For what purpose(s) do you want to use the results of the mapping tool?***

The result of the mapping process will be an overview of the prevalence of the various forms of violence against women, and the interventions to address it. Mapping is useful if you can use such an overview in your work.

To see whether mapping is useful for you, you should determine what you want to do with the results of the mapping. Besides that, a clear picture of your purpose will help you later on to make choices within the mapping process (what to focus on for example).

The overview which will be the result of the mapping process can be used for various purposes, such as reporting, strategic planning and advocacy/agenda-setting.

### ***Reporting***

The tool can be used to gather and structure information to present in a report. This can be a report that gives a broad overview of the situation regarding violence against women in your country or region. It can also be a report that focuses on certain forms of VAW, or on certain ways to address it. This might have consequences for the scope of your mapping (see later on).

Reporting in itself has a purpose too. For example, it can be done just to provide information; it can be used for evaluation, it can provide the context for strategic planning (by yourself or others), and it can be aimed at agenda setting and advocacy.

Many reports will be a combination of providing information and agenda setting or advocacy. For example: when you write a shadow report for CEDAW, you want to present information to CEDAW, but you also want to indicate where action is needed.

### ***Strategic Planning***

The overview you make by using the mapping tool can be seen as a context analysis, which shows the main problems in the field of VAW, and who is doing what to address these problems. It also shows the blind spots: which topics are not covered, which relevant groups are being overlooked, which interventions are lacking. Both NGOs and donors can use this information to make an informed decision about topics they want to address, interventions and groups they want to work on. It can also be used to determine whether you are still doing the right things.

Moreover, groups of actors can use it to make sure their work does not overlap, and blind spots are covered.

### ***Advocacy/Agenda-setting***

By using the tool, you can get a clearer view which topics or problems should be addressed.

In the first place, the mapping will show on what topics (forms of violence, affected groups) information is not available, or not sufficient. This might be used to plan or propose the gathering of -disaggregated- data or statistics, or more in-depth research on that issue.

The mapping can also make clear what the shortcomings are in addressing violence against women: forms of VAW that do exist but are not being addressed, interventions that are missing or not fully implemented, groups that are not covered by the existing interventions.

### ***Other use of the overview***

You might want to use the overview resulting from the mapping for other purposes, of which we did not think of, and therefore are not (yet) included in this manual. Please let us know.....

### ***A combination***

It is very well possible to combine some (or all) of the above mentioned purposes.

### ***When mapping is not useful***

If an overview of the broad field of VAW is not useful for your work, mapping might not be the most adequate method for you. For example, if you want to do an in depth research on Female Genital Mutilation., or if you want to lobby for more shelters for victims of domestic violence, mapping everything else is not very useful. In that case, you can decide not to use this tool, or only use very specific questions.

### ***Question 2: What region do you want to map?***

You can map the situation in a country, but also in a city, a province or any other area. Although the tool speaks of 'country' you can ask the very same questions if you choose another area.

It is important to choose the region you want to map on forehand, because that is the region you will collect your information on.

### ***Question 3: Do you want to map the whole field of VAW, or only parts of it?***

The tool is designed to do the full mapping, so you will have a complete overview of the main problems regarding VAW and the ways it is addressed.

We recommend not to narrow the scope of your mapping too easily. In particular when you want to use the results of the mapping for strategic planning or agenda setting, you also want to detect gaps. We suggest not to skip steps or questions on forehand, just because you think it is not relevant for your country/region. If you would do that, you could maintain possible blind spots.

Naturally, if you are absolutely sure you do not want to address a certain form of VAW, you can skip that list of questions when mapping the prevalence; and when you are absolutely sure you do not want to address a certain intervention you do the same with that set of questions. However, we would recommend: if you hesitate if it is relevant: try to answer the questions. In particular we strongly recommend not to skip the questions on the vulnerable or affected groups.

You can go through the questions in step 3 (prevalence) and 4 (interventions), and cross out the questions you know you certainly do not want to answer.

Mapping the actors (step 5) can be very useful, not only for strategic planning and agenda setting, but also for reporting. We recommend not to skip this step.

### ***Question 4: who will do the mapping?***

The mapping itself can be conducted as a desk-study by one or more persons (with input from others, see step 2). To perform the mapping process, several skills are needed. For example, collecting information from different sources, writing reports, and probably also organizing meetings or doing interviews.

Moreover, the mapping team should have at least a basic knowledge on violence against women in its various forms, on the way it is addressed and on the main actors in the field. All this skills and knowledge can be combined within one person, but more likely it is better to have a team doing the mapping.

On the other hand we want to emphasise that the mapping tool is meant as a 'light' tool, so do not make your team too big. Two or three persons should do, especially when you make sure you collect input from others (see next step).

### ***Question 5: how much time and money do you need?***

Doing a VAW mapping will require an investment of time, effort and resources. To estimate the time that is needed for the mapping, have a quick look at the questions in the next steps and identify which activities you will have to undertake for each step, the amount of work that will be required from each member of the team and how much time this will take. We estimate<sup>31</sup> that someone who has some basic

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31 As this tool has not been tested yet, this is an estimation. Please, let us know how much time each step took.

knowledge will need a half to a full day work to fill in most of the lists of questions. Mapping the resources may cost some more time. As soon as you know which forms of VAW you want to map, you can make an estimation of the time you will need.

Besides the mapping, you will have to plan and budget the activities you will undertake after the mapping: writing a report, developing a strategic plan, advocacy.

**Example for a timeplanning of a full mapping:**

Step 1: preparation: 1 day, including discussion within organisation

Step 2: mapping the sources of information: 2 days

Step 3: mapping the prevalence: 10 days (we estimate that mapping domestic violence, sexual violence, honour related violence and FGM will take 1 day each, and mapping the other forms (on which we think less information is available) will take 0,5 day each, and drawing conclusions will take 1 day (including a brainstorm with some stakeholders).

Step 4: mapping the interventions: 4 days (we estimate most interventions can be mapped in half a day, plus half a day for the conclusion.)

Step 5: mapping the actors: 0,5 day

Step 6: wrapping up: 0,5 day

Total time: 18 days

If you have a team performing the mapping, you can divide the tasks and days between the team members, but you might need some extra time for discussion.

In developing the budget you need for the mapping, try to take into account the time you expect members of the mapping team and possibly volunteers to spent on the mapping, the amount of outside-help you will need and any advice or support you may need. Think also of the costs of organizing meetings or doing interviews, if you choose to do so.

**Question 6: Conclusion: Will you do the mapping, and how will you organise it?**

From the answers to the previous questions, you can draw the conclusion whether to do the mapping, for what purpose(s) and with what scope. You can also make a working plan and budget.

## Step 2. Mapping the sources of information

To map the situation regarding violence against Women, you need information. In this step you will make an inventory of the information that is available. The questions will ask you to explore several sources of information. After completing this step you will have a list of the sources of information you can use in the further steps.

In the introduction to the step some remarks are made on the kind of information to collect, qualitative and quantitative data, the reliability of information, how to limit your search, the meaning of lack of information and the question whether you should read all the information you collect. We also give some suggestions on where to find information and how to structure it.

### Introduction

#### ***The kind of information to collect: prevalence, interventions and actors***

Our goal is to map prevalence, interventions and actors; not to do an in depth study on violence against women. Keep this goal in mind, and know your limits. Focus on the information on the prevalence of (the various forms of) VAW, on the interventions that are used to address it, and on the actors involved in addressing. Research on the background and causes of VAW is very interesting, but for this mapping process less relevant.

#### ***Qualitative and quantitative data***

Information can be divided in quantitative and qualitative information. Quantitative information is information which is quantified by the use of numerical values: numbers, percentages or indexes. Information which is not 'measured' is called qualitative information. Qualitative information is also useful information. Even when no numbers are available, stories can indicate whether a form of VAW is prevalent, and whether it is a structural issue or merely incidents. Moreover it provides an other kind of information, for example on how victims/survivors experience the seriousness of violence, or the way they are treated by the police.

When it comes to prevalence, quantitative data can be very useful; but to get a good picture, we definitely also need qualitative information.

In the next step (on mapping the prevalence) some more remarks on quantitative data (and its limitations) will be made.

#### ***Dark numbers***

One of the big problems with data on the prevalence of violence against women is the great dark numbers: the number of women that experience violence is far bigger than the number of women reporting it. Most women do not report the violence to authorities, and even when questioned for a survey they might not dare to break the silence. This means you always have to wonder which percentage of the real prevalence is represented in the information you collect.

#### ***Reliability of data***

Apart from the problem of the dark number, there can be other reasons for data being not reliable, Information can be outdated. Not all research is done properly.

It also can be that the provider of the information wants to give a certain picture of the situation or its own efforts, and therefore is selective in the information it presents. This might be the case for government-information, but also for information provided by NGOs or service providers, and for information provided by the media.

So always ask yourself the question whether you have -educated - doubts on the reliability of the information you collect, and make a note of these doubts.

#### ***How to limit your search?***

As said, the goal of mapping is to make an overview of the current situation regarding VAW, not to perform an in depth-study. This means you have to limit your search for information. By focussing on information that clearly is about prevalence, and on practical information on interventions and actors. For the mapping, theoretical studies on the causes or consequences of VAW are of less

importance.

As you are mapping the current situation, we advise you to start with looking for recent information, and go only that far back as needed to get a rather good picture of the situation. If you have statistical information on the prevalence of the last three years, there is no need to list that of the years before (unless you also want to focus on trends; see step 2). If you found an overview of the interventions in a national action plan of this year, you do not have to study the national action plan of six years ago.

It may be that on some topics, an overview of the situation has already been made. For example, when a - reliable- research is done on the prevalence of domestic violence, you can use that research, and only check whether more recent information is available in addition to that research. Only when a first superficial search does not provide any information on a certain form of VAW, certain groups or certain interventions, you could try a little deeper, and go further back in time.

Note: in this step you make a first list of the sources of information that you will use in the next steps. During the mapping process, the list can be extended.

### ***No information is also information***

When you can not (easily) find any information on certain forms of violence, vulnerable groups or interventions, or when all the information is very old, this is relevant in itself. It can mean that there is no problem, but it can also mean that forms of violence are being overlooked, or not being taken seriously; that some vulnerable groups are being ignored or maybe even discriminated; that some interventions are not used. In the next steps you will be asked to evaluate the lack of information for its possible meaning.

### ***Should you read all the information you collect?***

In this step you will merely list the sources of information; you don't need to analyse it. You don't even need to read it all: indexes and summaries usually do give a good impression whether documents contain the information you are looking for (on prevalence, interventions and actors). In the next steps you will use the information, and read the relevant parts.

### ***Where to find information***

#### ***Within your organisation and in libraries***

As organisation working on, or wanting to work on violence against women, you probably have a lot of information. In your library, on your bookshelves and in drawers, on your computer. This is a good starting point. But keep in mind: information might be outdated, so check whether more recent reports of the same kind are available. You can also find information in the library of research institutes.

#### ***On the internet***

Of course you can find a lot of information on the internet. You can search on the internet in different ways. First you can look on specific websites on which you expect to find information: websites of international bodies and organisations; of your government and national institutions, of NGOs and service providers. Specific suggestions will be given with the questions. You also can look for information by using a search engine like google, and entering key words. This might provide some extra information. In order not to overlook information, make sure you use different key words, and combinations of keywords. You can look very specific for information on the various forms of VAW (use the local wording!), specific groups and various interventions.

#### ***International sources***

On the internet you can find a lot of information on violence against women in all of the countries in the world, collected by international organisations:

- UN database on VAW: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action>
- CEDAW: governmental reports, shadow reports, Concluding Observations and Views of CEDAW: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/sessions.htm>
- UPR: governmental reports and reports of the sessions:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx>  
- an overview of all UN-reports per country:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/Pages/HumanRightsintheWorld.aspx>  
- an overview of reports of all country visits by Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the UN:  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countryvisitsa-e.htm>  
- WHO-Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women:  
[http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who\\_multicountry\\_study/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html)  
- the virtual knowledge centre to end violence against women, with information on prevalence and consequences; international frameworks; main challenges; main strategies for prevention and response; and a full module on monitoring and evaluation: <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/>  
- Information on human rights impact assessments you can find on the HRIA Resource Centre:  
<http://www.humanrightsimpact.org>

### *References in books and reports*

Most reports and researches present a list of references / publications at the end. Such lists can also be used to find more information. But be careful: by using this, you go back in time, with the risk of using outdated information.

### *People*

And, last but not least, you can ask people for information. This can be very useful, in particular for those topics on which you can not easily find information. You can probably find experts on specific groups, or forms of VAW. We suggest you use the list of forms of VAW, the list of vulnerable groups and the list of interventions as presented on this page to make a list of possible experts (persons or organisations) you can ask for information. You might as well take the people as a starting point for the collection of information: they probably will know what information is available, and where you can find it.

### *More on the collection of information*

The in depth study of the UN Secretary General on violence against women has a Chapter on collecting information<sup>32</sup>. It describes Population-based surveys, service-based data, qualitative data and evaluation, and pays attention to the gaps and challenges of each type of information.

The chapter on datacollection has a paragraph on forms of violence that are under documented: femicide, sexual violence in armed conflict en post conflict situations, trafficking in women and girls, sexual harassment and violence in workplaces and at schools and violence in institutional settings and correctional facilities.

### *How to structure the information*

You can use the table at the end of this step to make a list of your sources of information, and indicate whether it is information on prevalence, on certain groups, on certain interventions or on actors addressing VAW. This can help you to find the information you need in the next steps more quickly.

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32 Ending Violence against women, from words to action. Study of the Secretary General, United Nations, 2006, p. 56-70



## Step 2: list of questions

### Question 1: What relevant information on VAW in your country is collected by international organisations?

Since 2008, the UN is setting up a VAW database with country information on both the prevalence and the interventions: <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action>.

The database is filled with information provided by the government. This database might be a good start for your search for information.

Besides that, several international organisations (such as WHO, UN-WOMEN, UN-special rapporteurs) do collect and publish information. See for some suggestions the box international sources. Embassies and international donors often make 'context analysis', which also can be useful.

### Question 2: What are the relevant sources of official statistics on (forms) of VAW in your country?

Look for statistics on VAW in general, and on domestic violence, femicide, sexual violence, assault, trafficking, early marriages, FGM etc. (all forms of VAW).

You can find this kind of information in governmental reports, at the website or reports of the national bureau of statistics and in police or court data.

### Question 3: What are the recent governmental reports on (forms of) VAW?

Governmental reports can be reports to parliament, but also reports to international bodies like CEDAW or the Beijing Platform for Action (see box international sources). Check whether specific information is provided for the various forms of VAW, and for vulnerable groups.

### Question 4: What (draft) laws and policy-papers are addressing the various forms of VAW?

This question is about the law and policy papers itself. Note which interventions are included in the laws/policies, and whether they are specified for various forms of VAW and / or vulnerable groups.

### Question 5: What recent studies, research and surveys are carried out on (forms of) VAW?

In this question we ask you to list relevant research. Relevant means recent research on prevalence, interventions and / or actors addressing VAW. Research can be carried out on VAW in general, or on specific forms of VAW, on specific groups (and their problems), or on specific interventions. Research can be done by NGOs, by universities or research institutes, and also by governmental research departments. You can find this information in Libraries of universities and NGOs, and often you come upon them through a list of publications in other studies or reports.

Note that information on specific groups may not only be found in research on VAW, but can also be found in more general research on (the situation of) a particular group.

### Question 6: What information of NGOs and service-delivering organisations can be used?

Also in reports on activities of NGOs and service providers (f.e. shelters, help lines) information can be found on the prevalence of forms of VAW, on the needs and problems of specific groups and on interventions. Moreover, they provide a lot of information on the actors addressing VAW (for example themselves). You can find this information in annual reports, project reports, in shadow reports to international bodies (see box international sources) and in advocacy papers. We suggest you only list the the most recent information, and do not bother to list all the old (annual) reports.

### Question 7: What has been in the media on VAW?

In particular where other data are not available, media coverage can provide an indication whether forms of VAW are prevalent, and whether it is about incidents, or more wide-spread problems. Sometimes media

provide also 'figures', but mostly it is about cases; stories.

Media coverage can also be on instruments: laws adopted, services opened, campaigns, leaders making a statement.

As media coverage is mostly additional information, we suggest not to spend much time looking for it on those topics on which you have other information.

**Question 8: Which people / organisations can provide information on specific forms, groups or interventions?**

Where other information is lacking, or poor, you can try to collect information from experts and people who work directly with victims/survivors or with perpetrators. This can be people within your own organisation, but also others. In this question you will not gather the information itself, but make a list of the people and organisations who can provide it.

We suggest to pay special attention to people / organisations working on the 'less common' forms of VAW, and with specific groups.

**Conclusion of this step:**

**List of sources**

Source (title, where to find, year of publication)	Info on prevalence of forms of VAW? (which?)	Info on specific groups? (which?)	Info on Interventions? (which?)	Info on Organisations? (which?)

- extend the list if necessary -

## Step 3. Mapping the prevalence

In this step you will map the information on the prevalence of the various forms of violence against women in your country (or region or city): does it happen, and how often. You will use the resources you found in the previous step.

After finishing this step, you will have an overview of the forms of Violence of Women that are prevalent in your country (and to what extent) and whether specific groups are struck (more) by it. This overview allows you to determine what are the most relevant forms and/ or groups to address.

### Introduction

#### Why are you mapping the prevalence?

Of course, violence against women is a serious problem in all the countries of the world.

However, the seriousness of the various forms of violence against women, and with that the urgency to address a problem with priority, can differ from country to country.

The goal of this mapping is to deduct which topics within the broad field of violence against women are prevalent in your country, and if possible how often they do occur. Some forms of violence against women are less widespread than others. Governments and NGOs tend to focus on some forms of VAW, for example because they are more widespread than others, or because the international community is asking them to act on these topics. A focus on some forms bears the risk to overlook other forms. In this step you are asked to look at the prevalence of all the forms.

Moreover, you are asked to pay attention to specific groups: are some groups affected more, or more severely by violence?

At the end of the step you can draw conclusions on the forms of VAW that are relevant to address, and specific groups that should be paid attention to.

This information can be used for reporting, for strategic planning and for agenda-setting.

#### Some remarks on definitions and scope

As you could see in chapter 2, wordings and definitions used for the various forms of Violence against Women can differ. Moreover, the scope of the issue on which information is collected and presented will differ. From country to country, but also within countries. When mapping, it is important to know what you are mapping exactly. Therefore the first question on the prevalence will be on the definition used. But even knowing the common definition in your country, you will have to look at information you use: does it use the common definition? Note that not all data is gender specific (see also the next remarks on quantitative data).

#### Some (more) remarks on quantitative information

In step 2 we already mentioned the difference between quantitative and qualitative data. In this step on prevalence, we ask you to provide quantitative information (numbers or percentages) where available.

Make sure it is clear what kind of information you present.

- *Numbers or proportion* (percentages)? For international comparison it is better to present proportions: the percentages of women that experienced (a form of) violence against women. When population surveys are held, proportions may be available. If you have to rely on other sources, you might have to work with numbers.
- It is important to make clear on which *population* the information is. For example: is it covering all females, including girls, or only adult women?
- Does the population which is used for the data collection represent the whole *area* / country, or just a part of it?
- *Period*: indicate the period of time the figures are about. Most surveys are about violence experienced in a period of one year, or about the violence experienced 'ever' (in the lifetime of the victim).
- *Scope and definitions*: make clear what definition is used. For example: does domestic violence include child abuse, or only intimate partner violence? And are data gender specific?

And remember: not all information is reliable, think for example of the dark number (see step 2)

Note that not all statistics are gender-aggregated. This does not mean gender neutral statistics can not be used, but you have to argue how reliable they are in measuring violence against women. Sometimes, statistics are gathered on specific groups, for example girls, or ethnic minorities. Use these statistics as well.

### **Some remarks on trends**

In the list of questions you will find some questions on trends: how did the situation (prevalence) develop over time? This information can be very useful: it makes it can indicate whether efforts to decrease violence are successful. To discover trends, you have to compare more recent information to older information.

Reporting on trends, and drawing conclusions from the figures, is not easy. To be able to compare between figures, you have to be sure the figures measure the same thing: did they use the same definitions of the problem, the same resources of data, the same population, etcetera. Moreover: you should be careful with your conclusions on trends. Because violence against women is a taboo-topic; many women don't talk about it. Campaigns and interventions to combat VAW are often aimed at increased reporting. When these campaigns are successful, the numbers of the cases of VAW that are reported to the police will increase. This does not necessarily mean the prevalence is increasing; it might even be the case that the prevalence is decreasing. Something similar goes for prosecution rates: when more cases of VAW are prosecuted by the prosecution office, this might very well mean that this kind of cases were not taken seriously before, and are (to some extent) now.

If you want to include information on trend in your mapping, we suggest you take note of this considerations, and address them in your conclusions.

If your main focus is on mapping the current situation, you might decide to skip the questions on trends.

### Step 3.1 - 3.15 lists of questions

On the next page, you find the list of questions of this step. The questions ask you to describe information you have on the prevalence of the various forms of Violence Against women. The questions are about quantitative data (numbers), trends, qualitative data (stories, cases) and on specific groups.

#### One list of questions to be used 15 times

To map the prevalence of all forms of VAW, you will have to answer the questions separately for each form of VAW. We recommend to make a copy (either on paper or digital) of the list of questions for each form of VAW you will map, and literally use a new list for each form of VAW.

If you want to map the whole situation in your country regarding violence against women, you should do the mapping for all the forms. One of the objectives of the mapping is to discover possible blind spots, and to make sure you do not overlook relevant topics. Doing the whole mapping is also relevant to draw conclusions on which forms are the most relevant to address,

If you only want to map the situation on one or more specific forms of VAW, you can choose to map only that form(s)

#### What forms of violence against women are mapped?

1. Domestic violence / intimate partner violence
2. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
3. Early or forced marriages
4. Dowry related violence
5. Honour related violence
6. Acid throwing and stove burning
7. Other harmful traditional practices
8. Femicide
9. Sexual Violence by non-partners
10. Sexual harassment in the workplace, educational institutions and in sport
11. Trafficking in women and sexual exploitation
12. Custodial violence against women and other violence by state officers
13. Forced sterilisation
14. Violence against women in armed conflict
15. Other forms of violence against women

A description of the forms of VAW has been given in Chapter 2.

The list of questions is followed by a form you can use to fill in the main findings on each form of VAW, and to draw conclusions (paragraph 3.3).

**Mapping the prevalence of .....(fill in form of VAW)**

**Question 1: What is the common definition of ..... (this form of VAW) in your country?**

Common definitions often can be found in governmental action plans or policy papers. If you can not find a common definition, if different definitions are used, or if the governmental definition is criticised by NGOs, you can make a note of that.

**Question 2: What quantitative data do you have on the prevalence of ..... (this form of VAW) in your country?**

When you have *quantitative* data (statistics, numbers, percentages), describe shortly the prevalence of this form of VAW, with references to the quantitative data you found. Make sure to mention the kind of data (numbers/percentages), the population (all women, adults, girls; area), the period the data are about and the definition that is used (see also remarks on quantitative data).

**Question 3: Which trends or developments do you see, based on the data available?**

If you have quantitative information on different years, maybe you can say something on trends in the prevalence. But only when the information is comparable (same definitions, population etcetera; see also the remarks on trends). Of course you can use other reports which do mention trends and developments. Describe the developments shortly.

**Question 4: What other information (stories, reports) do you have about cases of ..... (this form of VAW), and what can you conclude from it regarding prevalence?**

Please describe whether you found stories or reports of cases of ..... (this form of VAW). Refer to the sources. If you can, make clear whether the problem is wide-spread, or that it only occurs by exception, and mention why you came to this conclusion (for example the number of documented cases/stories, people/organisations do say so). Try to answer this question in half a page.

**Question 5: What did you find about the impact that ..... (this form of VAW) has on women's lives?**

The seriousness of a problem is not only determined by the prevalence (how often does it occur), but also by the impact on women's lives: the degree of suffering; the way it effects their daily lives; their freedom and possibilities to live the life they want. It is impossible to score the impact on a 'scale of suffering', but it is possible to say something on it. For example the degree of suffering and impact of a circumcision (most radical form of FGM) is very high: it is very painful, causes a lot of health problems, and affects the well-being of a woman during her entire life.

The impact of certain forms of VAW can differ from country to country. For example: in countries where women can ask for a divorce and receive financial support after a divorce, the impact of intimate partner violence is not the same as it is in a country where women should stay with their husband and are left without any money or support if they don't.

Try to describe the impact of this form of VAW on women's life, based upon the information you found. You can use examples from your sources to illustrate.

**Question 6: Do you have information - quantitative and qualitative -that certain groups are affected more frequently, more severe or in an other manner than other women by ..... (this form of VAW)?**

Describe the information you have on specific groups, and refer to the sources. Note that it can also be interesting to mention lack of information on certain groups. You can use the check-list:

<b>Check-list vulnerable groups</b>	
<i>Group</i>	<i>Information available on the prevalence and/ or impact of this form of VAW regarding this group? If yes: give description ; f no: what is (in your opinion) the reason for the lack of information (no problem, not researched, big taboo, suppressed group, ....)</i>
specific ethnic / religious groups	
women in rural areas	
girls	
elderly women /widows	
lesbians and transgenders	
disabled women	
HIV infected women	
sex workers	
migrant- refugee women	
domestic workers	
if you map Gender Based Violence (instead of VAW): vulnerable groups of men and boys	
other (.....)	

**Question 7 (only to be answered when you did not find any information at all on this form of VAW):** What is the reason there is no information on ..... (this form of VAW) in your country, and what does this say about the prevalence?

No information can mean that this form of VAW does not exist in your country. But it can also mean that it does exist, but is not seen or acknowledged. It can be a taboo. It can be so common that it is not seen as violence and not reported for. You know your country. Describe in a few sentences what you *think* can be concluded from the fact no information is available. You can also ask input from others to answer this question.

**Question 8: Summarize your findings: what is your overall impression regarding the prevalence and impact of ..... (this form of VAW) in your country?**

Try to summarize the information in a few sentences, describing whether this form of VAW is prevalent in your country and on which scale, what the impact is on women. Indicate also whether specific groups are affected in particular.

**Next step:** If you want to map another form of violence against women, answer the questions of this step again. If you answered the questions for all the forms you want to map, you can go to the next paragraph: wrapping up the conclusions on the prevalence (3.3)

### Step 3.16 Wrapping up the conclusions on the prevalence

So far, you made an inventory of the prevalence of the various forms of Violence against women, by answering questions and summarising your findings. For each form, you also paid attention to the impact on the lives of women, and to vulnerable groups.

In this paragraph, we ask you to list your findings, to compare them, and to evaluate them: which forms of violence against women should be addressed, and which vulnerable groups need special attention? This will lead to a priority list: issues that are urgent; issues that are present, but not as urgent as other issues, and issues that need no attention. With issues we mean forms of VAW in general, or forms of VAW for a particular group. Later on, this priority list will help you to assess what issues should be addressed, by you (if you use the results of the mapping for strategic planning), or by others (if you use the results for advocacy/agenda-setting).

The question how urgent or serious an issue is, is not easy to answer. Each case of violence against women is one case too many, and should be taken very seriously. However, in order to use the results of the mapping for strategic choices or for agenda setting and advocacy, you should be able to argue whether the problem is that serious that it is relevant to address, and whether a problem is more urgent to address than another.

Elements which can help you to assess the seriousness of a problem are the prevalence (the number of women experiencing) and the impact of the violence on women's lives.

You summarised your findings on prevalence and impact on the various forms before (question 8 of 3.2); together with your findings on specific groups. Here you are asked to present this findings in a table, and to indicate which problems are relevant to address, and with what urgency.

First you evaluate the prevalence and the impact, by filling in whether it is high, mediate, low, absent or unknown.

Then you indicate the urgency to address the problem, by using three colours:

- **Red** if it is a serious problem, and urgent to address
- **Orange** if it is a problem, and therefore relevant to address, but less urgent to address than other problems
- **Green** when you came to the conclusion that the problem is not existing, or not so little serious that there is no need to address it.
- **Blue** when you have no sufficient information to say whether it is a serious problem that is relevant to address.

You are asked to fill in the form both for women in general, and for specific groups. The seriousness of a problem can very well differ for those two categories. For example, you might conclude that in general, a form of VAW is not a serious problem, because only a very small percentage of the women suffer from it, but that for a certain group it is serious, because the percentage within that group is much higher and the impact on the victims if very high.

And also the relevance to address might differ: for some problems it can be more relevant to address it for all women, and for other problems it is better to focus on particular groups.

We first give you an example how a (partly) filled in table may look; after that we present the actual table to fill in.



Example:

Conclusions: What forms of VAW are relevant to address, in general and for specific groups			
Form of VAW	for women in general	for specific groups	If problem for specific groups: list the groups
Domestic Violence/ Intimate Partner Violence	high prevalence; high impact	prevalence and impact for specific groups not known	
Sexual harassment	mediate prevalence, mediate impact	prevalence and impact more or less the same for all groups	
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	low prevalence, high impact	mediate prevalence, high impact	refugees from African countries

**Workshop / brainstorm**

The drawing of conclusion on which problems are relevant to address goes beyond collecting and structuring information.

You have to evaluate the information, and to weigh what is more and what is less important. In general, the quality of such an assessment is higher when it is not made by one person, but discussed within a broader group. Also your conclusions will be more powerful when they are shared by more people and organisations.

Therefore we suggest you organise a workshop / brainstorm session in which you discuss the findings from paragraph 3.2, and jointly fill in the table on the next page.

The more diversity in the group involved in this assessment, the stronger your conclusion will be. So try to involve people working on different forms of VAW, and working with different vulnerable groups in your workshop.

**Form to fill in / colour:**

<b>Conclusions: What forms of VAW are relevant to address, in general and for specific groups</b>			
<b>Form of VAW</b>	<b>for women in general</b>	<b>for specific groups</b>	<b>If problem for specific groups: list the groups</b>
Domestic Violence/ Intimate Partner Violence			
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)			
Early or forced marriages			
Dowry related violence			
Honour related violence			
Acid throwing			
Other Harmful traditional practices (specify!)			
Femicide			
Sexual Violence by non-partners			
Sexual Harassment			
Trafficking in women and Sexual exploitation			
Custodial Violence and other violence by state officers			
Forced Sterilisation			
Violence against Women in armed conflict			
Other forms of violence against women (specify)			

## Step 4 Mapping the interventions

In the previous step, you mapped the prevalence of violence against women in your country. In your conclusions on the prevalence, you indicated which forms of violence against women should be addressed.

In this step you will map what is already done in addressing violence against women. And, even if important, what is not done, or not sufficiently implemented.

To be able to conclude which interventions are lacking, or not implemented well, you need a standard; a list of interventions that should be there. This list is made by the Secretary General of the UN, who categorised the requested interventions in seven intervention strategies. The list is based upon state obligation to address violence against women as laid down in several human rights treaties and documents (see chapter 1.3).

After finishing this step you will have an overview of the interventions that are in place, and of the gaps and shortcomings. This information can be used for reporting, strategic planning, strategic planning and advocacy.

### The intervention strategies that are mapped are:

- a. Legal and policy framework
- b. Criminal justice system
- c. Remedies for victims
- d. Support services
- e. Modifying attitudes and behaviour
- f. Capacity building and training
- g. Data and statistics

## Introduction

### UN indicators and UN questionnaire

On the next pages you will find lists of questions for each intervention. Most questions are based upon two UN-documents: the UN list of indicators on VAW<sup>33</sup> and the VAW database questionnaire of the UN<sup>34</sup>. We did this for several reasons. When you use information from the UN database for your mapping, it is very helpful if that information is structured in the same way. But it is also good for others. When all information on VAW and the ways it is addressed is collected along the same lines, different information, including your findings, can easily be used by other researchers and databases. And moreover: using the same categories and questions makes it possible to compare data, and thus the situation, in different countries.

### Reliability of information

As mentioned in step 2, you have to question yourself whether the information that you collect is reliable.

If your government replied to the UN questionnaire, you will find the answers to the questions on the UN-database-website. You have to be aware that the information in the UN database is not information as collected by (independent) UN bodies, but is information that is provided by your government. With the possibility that it is more or less 'coloured'. We all know that most governments, when reporting to international bodies, tend to focus on their good practices, and to minimize their shortcomings. In particular when it comes to implementation, the information of governments is not always adequate. So be critical when you use governmental information, and try to find other sources as well.

### All forms and all groups?

Most indicators and questions in the UN questionnaire do not ask for a specification for the various

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33 Human Rights Council: Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk: Indicators on violence against women and State response, A/HRC/7/6, 29 January 2008

34 United Nations Secretary-General's coordinated database on violence against women, Questionnaire to Member States

forms of Violence Against women or for specific or vulnerable groups.

In order to map VAW and its interventions, it is important to assess whether all forms of Violence are addressed, and whether groups are overlooked or excluded. Therefore we added questions on the inclusion of all forms and all groups (both on paper and in practice).

Of course, there is no need that interventions address forms of VAW that are not prevalent in the country, or pay special attention to groups that do not need it. Therefore the questions will ask you to assess whether the *relevant* forms of VAW and groups are addressed. Relevant are those forms and groups you concluded to be relevant in step 3.3.

### **Existing interventions or shortcomings**

The questions in this step are both on the existing interventions and on gaps or possible shortcomings.

Where to focus on in your mapping is your choice. When your main goal is to report on the existing situation, you will probably focus on what is there. When you want to use the results of the mapping tool (also) for strategic planning or agenda setting, you also want to know what is NOT there.

You can find gaps and shortcomings on different levels: it can be that interventions are totally absent; it can be they exist on paper, but are not, or not sufficiently implemented, or it can be that they do not include certain forms of VAW or certain vulnerable groups. This not including can also be on paper or in practice.

### **7 interventions, 7 lists of questions**

On the next pages, you will find a separate list of questions for each intervention strategy. So you just go through all the questions to map the interventions.

#### **International conventions relevant for VAW**

##### **Human Rights Conventions:**

- ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- CERD, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
- CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
- CAT, Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading treatment or punishment
- CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ICRMW, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their families
- CED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

##### **Other UN- Conventions:**

- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

##### **Conventions of the ILO (International Labour Organisation)**

- Forced Labour Convention and Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention
- ILO Convention on Migrant Workers

##### **Regional Treaties:**

- The European Convention on Human Rights
- The American Convention on Human Rights
- The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, punishment, and eradication of Violence against Women, Belem do para.

## Step 4.1. list of questions on the legal and policy framework

Here you are asked to answer questions on the existing legal and policy framework in your country. Within the interventions as listed by the UN Secretary General, the legal and policy framework is seen very broad: it is not only about violence against women as such, but also on a gender- and equality framework. It includes adherence to CEDAW and other relevant international treaties and equality for men and women in the constitution.

The legal and policy framework is also about national action plans on combating violence against women and legislation covering all forms of VAW

The questions in this step merely focus on laws and policies on paper; and on the conditions for an efficient implementation. Questions on the implementation in practice of (parts of) the laws and policies will not be asked here, but at the other interventions.

### Question 1: Did your country ratify CEDAW, its Optional Protocol and other relevant international treaties?

Explanation: CEDAW is the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination of Women. Other relevant treaties might be regional treaties on human rights, regional treaties on violence against women, and international treaties on specific forms of VAW, such as trafficking. But also the Convention Against Torturing, the Chiles Convention and conventions on migrant workers might be relevant. See the box on the previous page for a list of possible relevant conventions.

Information on ratifications can be found on <http://treaties.un.org>

### Question 2: Does your country have a national action plan, or a national strategy on violence against women, and is an effective implementation of this plan secured?

To answer this question, you might use the following sub-questions:

- does the action plan covers all relevant forms of violence against women? (relevant forms: the forms you identified as relevant in step 3.3.)
- does the plan pay attention to specific groups which need special attention? (in step 3.3 you concluded which groups might need special attention)
- does the plan place VAW within an explicit gender-analysis?
- does the plan has sufficient resources (financial and human) to secure implementation?
- is there a ministry which is responsible for the implementation of the action plan?
- is the implementation of the plan monitored? By whom? Is this an independent external body (like a national observatory on VAW, or a national human rights institution)?
- does the plan have clear time frames and targets?
- Do you have signals on shortcomings regarding the national action plan or its implementation?

Explanation: A good national action plan is an Umbrella for all measures addressing VAW. Therefore it should cover all forms and all groups.

When your country does not have one action plan for all forms of VAW, but one or more separate action plans, you can answer the sub-questions for each action plan. And of course note for which forms of VAW no action plan exists.

### Question 3: Is the legal framework regarding VAW in the country sufficient in order to provide an adequate response to VAW?

To answer this question, you can answer the following sub-questions:

- Is violence against women addressed in the constitution of the country?
- Does the country have a specific law on violence against women in general?
- Does the country have specific laws on the specific forms on VAW? For what forms of VAW?

*Examples of specific laws might be a Domestic Violence Act; an Anti-trafficking Law.*

- Is violence against women / are forms of VAW addressed in more general laws?

*For example in the civil code, in laws on legal aid, in laws on health services.*

*The question on the inclusion in the Criminal Code will be asked more in detail in the next paragraph (the criminal justice system)*

- Do you have signals that the legal framework does hamper an adequate response to VAW in general / to that forms of VAW? If so, describe shortly.

Explanation: Shortcomings in the legal framework can hamper addressing VAW adequately. A good law on VAW can be a great help in addressing it . But to address VAW in an accurate way, specific legislation on VAW is not always necessary; this can also be achieved by interpreting general legislation in such a way that it fully covers VAW. So, although it is important to assess whether specific legislation is in place, you will also have to look at the scope of more general legislation.

We advise you not to research the whole legislation of your country; that would go beyond mapping. We suggest you rely on your sources: what relevant legislation do they mention, and what shortcomings do they observe.

**Question 4: What conclusions can you draw on the legal and policy framework addressing VAW?**

In the previous questions you described the legal and policy framework and noted the shortcomings you came across in the mapping. You are now asked to draw conclusions.

You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'.

You can use the table below to do so.

First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table

*Example (not complete)*

Intervention: Legal and policy framework		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering
Country ratified most relevant Conventions	Convention on rights of migrant workers is not ratified	
National action plan on Domestic Violence	No action plan(s) on other forms of VAW;	responsibility for action plan domestic violence lies with 3 ministries; frustrates implementation

etc.

**Fill in**

Intervention: Legal and policy framework		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering

to be extended if necessary

## **Step 4.2 List of questions on the criminal justice system**

The questions on the criminal justice system are both about the criminal law and the laws on criminal proceedings, and on the ways these laws are implemented in practice. Where possible you are asked to specify your answers for the various forms of VAW, and for specific groups.

### **Question 1: Are all forms of violence against women criminalized?**

In most countries, rape and assault are a crime. But in a lot of countries, not all forms of violence against women are being criminalized.

Forms of VAW can be criminalized as such, or as 'regular' offences like abuse or assault.

Describe for all the relevant forms (see 3.3) whether it is criminalized as such, whether it is included in a broader offence or whether it is not criminalized.

Remember that some forms of VAW have sub-forms. For example intimate partner violence is not only about assault, but also about stalking, marital rape, sexual abuse within the family, psychological violence and economic oppression. Also sexual violence has many forms, for example rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse by various groups as parents, caretakers, social workers and health workers. For trafficking it is relevant to assess whether all forms of trafficking are criminalized, so not only for sexual exploitation but also for domestic servitude.

### **Question 2: Are all forms of violence against women seen as serious offences in the law?**

Criminalization as a serious crime means that the act should be a crime, and not a misdemeanour; and that the punishment should be imprisonment, and not just a fine.

We suggest you make a list of the criminalized forms of VAW (see question 5), and write down how it is punished according to the law.

### **Question 3: How are the various forms of violence against women handled by the police and the prosecution?**

Sub-questions that might help you to answer this question are:

- a. Are there protocols or guidelines for the police/prosecution how to process cases of VAW? For all relevant forms?
- b. Are the protocols / guidelines actual followed by the police/prosecution, or do you have signals of shortcomings?
- c. Does your country have Specialized stations/desks/officers within the police force / prosecution office to deal with violence against women? For all relevant forms?
- d. Do you have signals that victims who want to report VAW with the police are being send away, or treated badly? In general / for specific forms / particular groups?

We advise you not to start a research on this issue; that would go beyond mapping. We suggest you rely on your sources: what do they mention on the handling of VAW cases by police and prosecution.

Besides that, you might use some figures from your mapping of the prevalence: the trends in reporting rates and the trends in prosecution rates. In general you can say that an increase in the number cases of VAW reported to the police indicates that the willingness of victims to report to the police is increased. This can be related to a better handling of cases by the police. The prosecution rate is the percentage of reported cases that leads to a prosecution of the offender. In general, you can say that an increase in the prosecution rates indicates an increased effort of the prosecution to address VAW, and take it seriously. Note that the prosecution rates might differ for the various forms of VAW, and for different groups of victims. This might indicate that some forms / groups are taken more seriously by the prosecution than others. But it might also mean that some forms of VAW are more difficult to prove than others.

### **Question 4: Are victims of VAW supported and protected during and after the court process?**

Measures to protect en support victims include:

- The availability of independent support person(s) to accompany victims;

- The availability of (free) legal aid
- The possibility of providing testimony via video or video-link
- Physical separation of the victim/survivor and perpetrator in courtrooms (e.g. by installation of screens)
- Separate entrances to court rooms

Describe whether these measures are implemented in your country, and if other measures to support and protect victims during and after the court process are taken.

Write down the shortcomings that are observed in your sources

**Question 5: Conclusion: What conclusions can you draw on the criminal justice system?**

In the previous questions you described the criminal justice system and noted the shortcomings you came across in the mapping. You are now asked to draw conclusions.

You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'.

You can use the table below to do so.

First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table

*Example (not complete)*

Intervention: Criminal justice system		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering
All relevant forms of VAW are criminalized as a serious crime, except..... (see missing)	psychological and economic violence is not criminalized	
There are police guidelines on how to handle cases of domestic violence and cases of sexual violence	No specialized police officers and prosecutors for VAW cases	Sex workers who want to report sexual violence are treated very badly by the police; reporting is often refused; in some cases sex workers were sexually harassed by the police
	We could find no information on the support of victims of VAW during the criminal proceedings	

etc.

**Fill in**

Intervention: Criminal justice system		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering

to be extended if necessary



### **Step 4.3. List of questions on the remedies for victims/survivors**

Remedies for victims/survivors are those measures aimed at restoring justice and guarantees of non-repetition and prevention. This means also measures to secure the rights and safety of victims/survivors are categorized as remedies.

It might well be that you do not have all the information to answer all the questions on remedies in detail. You are not asked to do an in depth research. List the provisions that you found in the information you collected, and mention the signals of possible gaps or shortcomings. Where no information is available, say so. Note also whether provisions are accessible for all victims/survivors (victims of all forms of VAW; vulnerable groups).

#### **Question 1: Do victims/survivors of VAW have access (both by law and in practice) to legal proceedings to claim compensation for harm suffered?**

To answer this question you might answer some sub-questions:

- a. in what kind of procedures compensation can be asked for: criminal proceedings, civil proceedings and/or administrative proceedings?
- b. Who can ask for compensation?
- c. Who has to pay the compensation: the perpetrator, the state, a fund, other? (and if the perpetrator has to pay: does the government guarantee payment in cases the perpetrator has no money? )
- d. Do victims/survivors have sufficient possibilities to effect legal decisions in which their claim has been granted?
- e. What kind of compensation can be asked for: only compensation of costs, or also immaterial damages?
- f. What are the amounts that can be asked for / are granted?
- g. Are the possibilities to claim compensation known to victims?
- h. Do you have signals of shortcomings regarding compensation?

#### **Question 2: What measures does the State take to secure the safety of victims/survivors of VAW? Do you have signals on any shortcomings regarding the protection by the state?**

States have the positive obligation to protect individuals against human rights abuses and to take measures to prevent human rights violations; they have to do this with due diligence (see 2.3). This means the State has to protect victims of VAW, whether it is against the former perpetrator, or against violence (or other human rights violations) by others.

The measures that States can take to protect victims/survivors are numerous, and can differ for forms of violence and groups of victims. Also the laws and practices that can hamper the protection are many. Therefore we do not give you a check-list of possible measures and possible shortcomings. We suggest to use the list of relevant forms of VAW and relevant groups to address, and use your sources to list which measures are being taken and which shortcomings are being reported for each form / group. (questions on shelters are asked in the next list, on support services)

#### **Question 3: Do victims/survivors of VAW have access (both by law and in practice) to legal proceedings to ask for protection- or restraining orders? Do you have signals on any shortcomings regarding protection- or restraining orders?**

Describe the possibilities, and remarks on shortcomings you found.  
Are the possibilities to ask for protection- or restraining orders known to victims?

#### **Question 4: Are the rights and interests of victims/survivors of VAW sufficiently acknowledged and protected by family law (both by law and in practice)? Do you have signals on shortcomings regarding family law?**

Sub-questions that might help to answer this question:

Try to answer this question for all relevant forms of VAW. Question a-d will probably be relevant for intimate partner violence, but can also be so for early/forced marriages; honour related crimes, etcetera.

- a. Are there legal obstacles for women who experienced violence by their husband to ask for a divorce (for example: accessibility of proceedings, legal grounds for divorce, burden of proof, right to alimony and

child support, derision of property)?

b. What are the practical obstacles for women who experienced violence by their husband to ask for a divorce (for example: lack of money, lack of housing, social exclusion, ...)?

c. Are the legal rights of women regarding custody and visiting secured, also in cases where the woman starts the divorce proceedings?

d. And in practice: are the interests of victims/survivors of violence (for example their safety) acknowledged in cases about custody and visiting rights?

e. Does the family law (in the books and in practice) protect women who have become victims of violence by others than her husband? For example: in some countries, women who are raped by someone else are labelled as adulterers, and can be abandoned by their husbands.

**Question 5: Conclusion: What conclusions can you draw on the remedies for victims?**

In the previous questions you described the remedies for victims and noted the shortcomings you came across in the mapping. You are now asked to draw conclusions.

You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'.

You can use the table below to do so.

First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table

*Example (not complete)*

Intervention: Remedies for Victims		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering
Women can get a divorce on equal grounds as men		Family judges judge that intimate partner violence is not relevant in cases on custody and visiting rights
		victims of trafficking do not get a residence permit, which makes them vulnerable for (further) violence
According to the law, victims can claim compensation in civil proceedings	Victims are not informed about the possibilities to claim compensation; no legal aid is available to do so	

etc.

**Fill in**

Intervention: Remedies for Victims		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering

to be extended if necessary

#### **Step 4.4. List of questions on the support services for victims/survivors**

Here you are asked to answer questions whether certain provisions which provide support and help for victims/survivors are present in your country. You are also asked whether they are accessible for all victims/survivors.

Sometimes the accessibility is limited by physical factors (for example a shelter with stairs is not accessible for disabled women); sometimes groups are excluded by the criteria of the service providing organisation (for example women without a residence permit, addicted women, sex-workers, women with HIV/aids, girls), sometimes provisions are not accessible for certain groups because they are not adjusted to their needs (girls, women who do not speak a certain language), and sometimes groups of women are (just) discriminated.

But also other factors influence the accessibility.

##### **Factors that can influence the accessibility (non exhaustive list)**

- the capacity: how many women can be helped; how is this related to the need for help/support?
- the geographical spread across both regions and urban/rural populations
- waiting time / lists
- financial obstacles: costs to make use of the service
- lack of information: if women don't know a provision exists they can not use it
- confidence: if women have to be afraid them asking for support and their stories will not be kept secret, they might decide not to make use of provisions
- the accessibility for victims of all the forms of VAW
- the accessibility for all (vulnerable) groups
- specific factors regarding specific provisions

You can use the sources you mapped in step 2 to answer the questions in this step. Signals of inaccessibility can probably be found directly in reports of NGOs reporting on it. But you can also draw your own conclusions here: if the accessibility of a certain provision is limited to a certain group of victims/survivors, this means others are excluded.

If you can not find the answers to the questions in the sources you identified in step 2, we advice you not to start a full resarch; that would be beyond the scope of mapping. However, you might consider to send this specific list of questions to one or more experts in the field of support services, and ask them for their input.

#### **Question 1: Are free emergency hotline available 24 hours to provide advice to women victims/survivors of violence? Do this hotline response timely? Are the accessible for all victims/survivors of VAW?**

Emergency hotlines can be run by the government or state institutions, or by NGO. Specific issues regarding accessibility can be the question whether all women have access to the use of telephones, and whether the existence of the hotlines is known to all women.

#### **Question 2: Are free shelters for women victims/survivors of violence and their children available, and are those shelters accessible for all victims/survivors?**

Describe the number of shelters and who is running them, and provide information on the geographical spread and capacity. Regarding shelters, accessibility often is a big problem. Not only in terms of capacity and geographical spread, but also in terms of exclusion of certain groups of victims/survivors.

#### **Question 3: Is counselling and psychological care available for victims/survivors of VAW, and**

### **is this accessible for all victims?**

Counselling and psychological care can be provided by state institutions, NGOs or private professionals. Describe the nature of the care that is available, and its limitations/ the accessibility.

### **Question 4: Are free health services available to victims/survivors of VAW, and are they accessible for all victims?**

Also health services care can be provided by state institutions, NGOs or private institutions/professionals. Describe the nature of the care that is available, and its limitations/ the accessibility. If health services are not free, indicate the costs and its consequences for accessibility

### **Question 5. Is free legal advice available for victims/survivors of VAW, and is this accessible for all victims/survivors?**

Legal advice can be provided by State institutions, NGOs or (private) lawyers. Describe what legal advice is available, and its limitations/ the accessibility. If legal advices is not free, indicate the costs and its consequences for accessibility.

### **Question 6. Are rehabilitation/empowerment programmes available for victims/survivors of VAW, such as education and training programmes, and are these accessible for all victims/survivors?**

### **Question 7. What housing assistance is available for victims/survivors of VAW, and is this accessible for all victims?**

Housing assistance can be public housing, but also rental assistance. Describe what assistance is available, by whom it is provided, and what the limitations are.

### **Question 8. What financial assistance is provided for victims of VAW? Is this financial assistance accessible for all victims?**

Financial assistance can be social benefits, but also readily accessible loans. Describe what assistance is available, by whom it is provided, and what the limitations are.

### **Question 9. What policy guidelines or protocols are developed for various sectors that provide support to victims/survivors of violence against women, and do they actually guarantee a high quality of service?**

To answer this question, you can use the following sub-questions:

- a. Are there protocols for all relevant sectors, such as Health professionals, Social workers, Education professionals?
- b. Do the protocols cover all relevant forms of VAW? (Relevant forms: the forms which you identified as relevant in step 3.15)
- c. Do the protocols pay attention to specific groups which need special attention?
- d. Is the content of the guidelines criticised by NGOs or experts?
- e. Are there signals that the protocols are not sufficiently being implemented; that professionals do not actual act in line with the guidelines?

### **Question 10: Conclusion: What conclusions can you draw on the support services for victims/survivors?**

In the previous questions you described the availability and accessibility of support services, and noted the shortcomings you came across. You are now asked to draw conclusions.

You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'. You can use the table below to do so.

First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table

Example (not complete)

Intervention: support services for victims/survivors		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering
A free telephone hotline on VAW is available 24/7 in the whole country	Most women do not know the hotline; the only information on it was a poster campaign in the capital	
8 shelters; at least one shelter in each part of the country	Housing advice / support	because women have nowhere to go when they leave the shelter, they stay too long, which causes limits the accessibility for other victims

etc.

Fill in

Intervention: support services for victims/survivors		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering

to be extended if necessary

#### **Step 4.5 List of questions on modifying attitudes and behaviour**

Modifying attitudes and behaviour is about prevention of VAW. It includes education and campaigns, but also activities aimed at men and boys. Men and boys in general, but also perpetrators. Some questions ask for recent activities. We suggest you take a period of two years as 'recent'. The first question in this list is not on an intervention, but asks you to describe the existing attitude towards violence against women.

##### **Question 1: What is the existing attitude towards (the various forms of) violence against women, and what are the changes over the last years?**

Use your sources to give a short answer to this question. Mention results of research (if any), and observations of NGOs and experts.

##### **Question 2: Did governmental / political / religious leadership in your country recently make any public statements addressing violence against women?**

To modify attitude in society, statements of opinion leaders are of great importance. If they openly condemn (certain forms of) VAW, that can be very helpful. On the other hand, when they trivialize it, or even excuse it, it can make things worse.

Describe if there were public statements, on what forms of VAW, and whether the statements were condemning the violence or excusing it.

Note which relevant forms of VAW (your conclusion in step 2.15) were not addressed, and whether relevant groups (also your conclusion in step 2.15) were addressed or overlooked.

##### **Question 3: What awareness raising campaigns on VAW were conducted or commissioned recently, and what was the scope of these campaigns?**

You can use the sources you collected in step 2, and list the campaigns you found.

If there have been no campaigns, you can simply say so.

If there have been campaigns, you have to see whether the campaigning did cover everything that should be covered. To detect possible shortcomings in the campaigning, you can ask yourself sub-questions like:

- a. Did the campaigns cover all relevant forms of VAW; which forms were not addressed?
- b. At whom the campaigns were targeted?
- c. Did the campaign pay attention to groups that are in particular affected by or vulnerable for (that form of) VAW?
- d. Did the campaigns reach all the people in the country? Not reaching all people can be caused by (inter alia) the campaign only running in one part of the country, or by using a medium that does not reach all people (for example newspapers, internet)
- e. Have campaigns been criticised by NGOs or experts, and if so: for what reason?

##### **Question 4: Is information on the issue of violence against women included in educational curricula? What are possible shortcomings?**

Describe the information you found on VAW in educational programmes. If you did not find any information, that can mean there is no information in educational curricula, or your sources did not mention it.

If you find information, we suggest you pay attention to the following sub-questions:

- a. In the curriculum of what education/schools was the information included?
- b. Is it used in all school of that kind?
- c. Does the information cover all relevant forms of VAW; which forms are not addressed?
- d. Does the information pay attention to groups that are in particular affected by or vulnerable for (that form of) VAW?
- e. Has information in curricula been criticised by NGOs or experts, and if so: for what reason?

It might well be possible you can not answer all sub-questions in detail. But writing down what you do know probably gives a good indication on the inclusion of information on VAW in educational curricula and the possible shortcomings.

**Question 5: What initiatives have been undertaken recently to engage also men and boys in addressing violence against women?**

Use the information you have, and shortly describe the initiatives you found. And as usual, note whether all relevant forms of VAW and all relevant groups are included.

**Question 6: What programmes are in place to rehabilitate perpetrators of violence against women and prevent recidivism in such perpetrators? Are these programs accessible to all perpetrators?**

You can shortly describe the programmes you found. Accessibility here means that the programme is accessible for all perpetrators. To assess the accessibility, you can use the box with relevant factors in step 4.4. If you come across criticism of NGOs or experts regarding the programmes for perpetrators, you can make a note of that as well.

**Question 7: Conclusion: What conclusions can you draw on modifying attitudes and behaviour?**

In the previous questions you described the activities on modifying attitudes and behaviour, and noted the shortcomings you came across. You are now asked to draw conclusions.

You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'.

You can use the table below to do so.

First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table.

*Example (not complete)*

Intervention: Modifying Attitudes and Behaviour		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering
An important religious leader stated that men are not allowed to beat their wives	Politicians are silent on VAW	A well known judge stated that prostitutes can not be raped
In the capital there is a program for perpetrators	No programmes for perpetrators are available in other cities	Perpetrators who have an alcohol problem are excluded from the program

etc.

**Fill in**

Intervention: Modifying Attitudes and Behaviour		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering

to be extended if necessary

#### Step 4.6 List of questions on capacity building and training

One of the interventions to address violence against women is the capacity building and training of all professionals who work on violence against women, or work with victims/survivors or perpetrators of VAW. They should have knowledge on the causes and consequences of VAW, be able to handle cases in an adequate way, and trained to treat victims/survivors well. Gender sensitivity should be included in the training

#### Question 1: Do all relevant professionals receive specific training on violence against women and gender-sensitivity?

Filling in the following table might help you to answer this question. If you do not have certain information, just put a question mark.

professional	receive training?	gender sensitive?	On all relevant forms of VAW? (which and which not)	Remarks (for example signals of shortcomings)
Local government officials				
Police				
Prosecutors				
Judges				
Lawyers				
Correction officials				
Immigration officials				
Military personnel				
Health professionals				
Social workers				
Education professionals				
Community leaders				
Religious leaders				
Other:				

#### Question 2: Conclusion: What conclusions can you draw on capacity building and training?

You are now asked to draw conclusions on capacity building and training. You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'. You can use the table below to do so. First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table



*Example (not complete)*

Intervention: Capacity building and training		
<b>What is good</b>	<b>What is missing</b>	<b>What is hampering</b>
Police officers, prosecutors and judges training receive training on Domestic violence, sexual violence and trafficking	- No training on other relevant forms, in particular honour related crimes - training has no attention for gender issues	For judges the training is not compulsory

etc.

**Fill in**

Intervention: Capacity building and training		
<b>What is good</b>	<b>What is missing</b>	<b>What is hampering</b>

to be extended if necessary

#### step 4.7. List of questions on data and statistics

According international standards, it is a state obligation to make sure that data and statistics on Violence against Women are collected. Note: if the State dis meet all the requirements, you had a rather easy job on some steps of the mapping!

#### Question 1: Are all required data and statistics on VAW collected?

Filling in the following table might help you to answer this question.

If you do not have certain information, just put a question mark.

In the table only the data as mentioned in the report of the UN Secretary General is mentioned. You can add other data and statistics you think valuable.

Data and statistics on	collected and if so: whom?	Year of recent report / overview of data	On all relevant forms of VAW? (which and which not)	Remarks (for example signals of shortcomings)
Reported criminal cases, legal processing and outcomes for all forms of VAW				
Protection orders: the numbers and types issued for forms of violence against women, and the proportion that were breached				
Capacity-building through training and new administrative systems				
Extent, geographical distribution, use and unmet demand for support services: helplines, shelters, counselling services, advocacy and one-stop shop provisions				
Other:				

**Question 2: is the government conducting, promoting and facilitating research on the various forms of violence against women, its causes, and its consequences for the relevant groups?**

In step 2 (mapping information) you answered a question (q. 5) on research. You can use that answer to describe the research that has been done. While mapping the prevalence, you will have come across gaps in the information available. You can use this to make a list of the issues where research is lacking.

**Question 3: Conclusion: What conclusions can you draw on collecting data and statistics?**

You are now asked to draw conclusions on the collection of data and statistics. You can do this by dividing your findings in 'what is good', 'what is missing' and 'what is hampering'. You can use the table below to do so.

First, we give an example of how you could present some findings in the table

*Example (not complete)*

Intervention: Data and statistics		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering
Reported cases and prosecution rates are available for most forms of VAW, <u>but.....</u>	No separate data are available on domestic violence, because the registration is on the specific crime (assault or rape for example)	The data are not gender aggregated, so it measures violence in general, and not VAW.

etc.

**Fill in**

Intervention: Data and statistics		
What is good	What is missing	What is hampering

to be extended if necessary

## Step 4.8 Conclusions on interventions addressing VAW

At the end of step 4.1 - 4.7 you listed your conclusions on the interventions in the seven intervention strategies: what is good, what is missing, and what is hampering an effective response to violence against women.

Now you make an overview of these conclusions, and value them:

- **Red** if the shortcoming you found is urgent to address
- **Orange** if it is a problem, and therefore relevant to address, but less urgent to address than other problems
- **Green** for required interventions which are in place.
- **Blue** when you have no sufficient information on the issue

If you want to concentrate on shortcomings, you can decide not to list everything that is in place, and leave out the issues that you value 'green'. You also can decide not to list all the green issues, but only the real good practices.

In the conclusions in step 4.1 - 4.7 you already mentioned whether an issue was relevant for certain forms of VAW or for certain groups. You can include that in the table below.

### Example

Intervention strategy	Issue (mention if in particular relevance for certain forms and/ or certain groups)
Criminal justice system	psychological and economic violence is not criminalized
	There are police guidelines on how to handle cases of domestic violence and cases of sexual violence
	No specialized police officers and prosecutors for VAW cases
	Sex workers who want to report sexual violence are treated very badly by the police; reporting is often refused; in some cases sex workers were sexually harassed by the police
	We could find no information on the support of victims of VAW during the criminal proceedings
	add rows if necessary

### Workshop / brainstorm

The drawing of conclusion on which how to value the findings and to decide which issues should be addressed with what urgency goes beyond collecting and structuring information.

You have to evaluate the information, and to weigh what is more and what is less important.

In general, the quality of such an assessment is higher when it is not made by one person, but discussed within a broader group. Also your conclusions will be more powerful when they are shared by more people and organisations.

Therefore we suggest you organise a workshop / brainstormsession in which you discuss the findings in step 4, and jointly fill in the table on the next page.

The more diversity in the group involved in this assessment, the stronger your conclusion will be. So try to involve people working on different intervention strategies, different forms of VAW, and working with different vulnerable groups in your workshop.

**Fill in:**

Intervention strategy	Issue (mention if in particular relevance for certain forms and/ or certain groups)
Legal and policy framework	
	add rows if necessary
Criminal justice system	
	add rows if necessary
Remedies for victims / survivors	
	add rows if necessary
Support services for victims / survivors	
	add rows if necessary
Modifying attitudes and behaviour	
	add rows if necessary
Capacity building and training	
	add rows if necessary
Collecting data and statistics	
	add rows if necessary

## Step 5. Mapping the actors

In the previous steps you mapped the prevalence of the various forms of violence against women and the interventions addressing it.

After finishing this step, you will have an overview of the main organisation working on the various forms of VAW, working with specific groups of women and working on specific interventions.

This overview can be helpful in to discover gaps: on what relevant issues no or almost no organisations are active. It also can make it more easy to find partners / allies.

You can use the information you collected in step 2 to answer the questions. It can also help to have a short brainstorm on this step with some people with different backgrounds

### Question 1: What governmental bodies and state institutions are working on Violence Against women issues?

Think of ministries, police, local governments

You can use use the table to list the organisations:

Organisation	working on specific forms of VAW?	working on specific intervention-strategies?	working on/ with specific groups?

extend list if necessary

### Question 2: What institutions are working on Violence Against women issues?

You may think of universities and research institutes, a human rights institute, etcetera.

You can use use the table to list the organisations:

Organisation	working on specific forms of VAW?	working on specific intervention strategies?	working on/ with specific groups?

extend list if necessary

### Question 3: What service providing organisations are working on Violence Against women issues?

Think of health centers, social workers, shelters, lawyers and other serviceproviders.

You can use use the table to list the organisations:

Organisation	working on specific forms of VAW?	working on specific intervention-strategies?	working on/ with specific groups?

extend list if necessary

#### Question 4: What Non-governmental organisations are working on Violence Against women issues?

Think of women's NGOs, human rights NGOs, NGOs representing or working for a specific group. Also Unions might work on VAW. You can use the table to list the organisations:

Organisation	working on specific forms of VAW?	working on specific intervention-strategies?	working on/ with specific groups?

extend list if necessary

#### Question 5: What international (donor) organisations are working on Violence Against women issues in your country?

Think of UN-Women, UNDP/UNFPA, bigger and smaller donor-organisations, embassies. You can use the table to list the organisations:

Organisation	working on specific forms of VAW?	working on specific intervention-strategies?	working on/ with specific groups?

extend list if necessary

#### Question 6: Which issues are covered by the actors, and which are not?

In the previous questions you mapped the actors, and indicated whether they are working on specific forms, intervention strategies and/or groups. In this question, we start with the issues (forms, interventions, groups), and list which organisations are working on that.

This might help to discover possible gaps, but also to find possible allies /partners.

Note that this list is one-dimensional: it is not about the combination of forms, interventions and to groups. This means that not all gaps will show at once. For example: if there is an organisation working on sexual violence by non partners, and there is an organisation working on lesbian women, does not necessarily mean there is an organisation working on sexual violence against lesbian women. A list which combines forms, interventions groups and actors would be too complicated to fill in and to use. In step 6 we give some suggestions as how to combine all findings.

Issue <sup>35</sup>	Governmental organisations / Institutions (q. 1 and 2)	Service providing organisations, NGOs and international organisations (q. 3, 4 and 5)
Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence		
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)		
Early or forced marriages		
Dowry related violence		
Honour related violence		
Acid throwing		
Other Harmful traditional practices		
Femicide		
Sexual Violence by non-partners		
Sexual Harassment		
Trafficking in women and Sexual exploitation		
Custodial Violence		
Forced Sterilisation		
Violence against Women in armed conflict		
Other forms of violence against women		
Legal and policy framework		
Criminal justice system		
Remedies for victims / survivors		
Support services for victims / survivors		
Modifying attitudes and behaviour		
Capacity building and training		
Collecting data and statistics		
specific ethnic / religious groups		
women in rural areas		
girls		
elderly women /widows		
lesbians and transgenders		
disabled women		
HIV infected women		
sex workers		
migrant- refugee women		
domestic workers		
(vulnerable groups of men and boys)		
other specific groups(.....)		

<sup>35</sup> If an issue is irrelevant for you country, you can cross it out.



## Step 6 Using the results of the mapping

In the conclusions of the previous steps, you made overviews of forms of VAW that need to be addressed, and of shortcomings regarding the intervention strategies. You also mapped the organisations working on VAW.

In order to use the conclusions, you possibly want to summarize your findings even further. However, we found it impossible to design a standard form for this, without making it too difficult to fill in and to understand in one view. Moreover, the way you summarize and present your findings, depends on what you want to do with it.

So, no ultimate form of table. Instead, we give some suggestions as how to wrap up the previous steps, and to use it for your further work.

First, you have to decide where to start the wrapping up. Where to start will depend on what you want to do with the results of the mapping. You already answered this question in step 1.

If you want to use the results of the mapping for *reporting* on violence against women in general, you can follow the order of the tool: start with the forms, and go on with the interventions and the actors, mentioning specific groups where relevant. You can use the conclusions from the previous steps, and will probably not need to summarize or focus it much further.

If you also want to report on whether or not certain issues are addressed by various organisations in your country, you have to go one step further than the one-dimensional table in step 5. You have to find out whether organisations are addressing the *combinations* of forms, groups and interventions that you concluded to be relevant. To do so, you can list the relevant issues from the conclusions on step 3 and 4, and use step 5 to consider whether there are organisations which work on this topic, or whether there is a 'gap' for that issue.

You can also use the results for specific reports. On certain forms of violence, on certain groups, a specific intervention,..... In that case, you use your specific topic as a starting point, and go through the conclusions of all the steps to look for findings on that subject.

If you want to use the results for *strategic planning*, you might start with the conclusions on the organisations: what are the issues that are not covered by any organisation, or only by a few. This might be an issue your organisation can pick up and address.

But most strategic planning is not done from zero. It is about expanding the line of work, about new target groups, a new intervention strategy. Therefore it probably is more useful to build on the work your organisation is already doing and work further on the expertise the organisations already has. To do this strategic planning, we suggest you go through the findings of step 3 and 4, and for each 'issue to address' ask yourself the question 'is this something our organisation might work on? List the issues you might work on, and then use the findings of step 5 to see whether it is something on which your organisation actually might add something to the actors already working on it (if there are any).

If you want to use the results of the mapping for *agenda-setting or advocacy* there are many possible starting points.

A first possible step might be to make a priority-list: what issues are the most urgent to advocate for? You can use the findings of step 3 and 4 to make the list.

The findings of step 5 (organisations) can be used to determine who should be the target of your advocacy (this can be organisations which are working on an issue, but also organisations which are not working on an issue, but should). The findings of step 5 can also be used to see which organisations can be your partners in your advocacy.

So far, some suggestions how to use the results of your mapping.

Of course, a lot more can be said about reporting, strategic planning and advocacy. That goes beyond the scope of this mapping tool. We are sure all organisations have their ways to do this, and their sources to find the information that is most convenient for them. If you are looking for information

on reporting to the CEDAW Committee, you can find it here: [http://www.iwraw-ap.org/using\\_cedaw/sr\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.iwraw-ap.org/using_cedaw/sr_guidelines.htm)>

Information on various tools to advocate for ending VAW can be found at <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/>, the virtual knowledge centre to end all violence against women and girls, UN-Women.

## Annex: Rights for Change and its other tools

At the beginning of 2011, a new initiative has been launched: Rights for Change (R4C). Within R4C several experts on human rights work together. R4C builds on the work of *Aim for human rights*, which was closed in the beginning of 2011.

### Mission and Vision

The mission of R4C is captured in its name: we want to achieve change by using human rights. The change we aim for is the improvement of the lives of people, in particular of vulnerable groups. R4C works to actively advance human rights and gender justice, in order to achieve this change. We do this by enabling organisations, institutions and individuals to use human rights in practice and strategically integrate human rights into their current work. We strive to create and support sustainable initiatives, work according to not-for-profit principles and engage with partners through participatory and interactive processes.

### How do we use rights to achieve change?

- we provide knowledge on human rights, in particular women's rights, to organisations, institutions and individuals in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders
- we spread and facilitate the use of the human rights impact assessment tools developed by *Aim for human rights* on health rights of women (HeRWAI), domestic violence (DOVA) and trafficking in human beings (The Right Guide)
- we promote knowledge on and use of human rights impact assessment methodologies, among others through our Resource Center: [www.humanrightsimpact.org](http://www.humanrightsimpact.org)
- we (help) develop new human rights impact assessment methodologies in other areas

### Consultancy and projects

R4C can be hired to provide trainings and workshops on Human Rights Impact Assessments in general or on one of our tools in particular. We also offer general trainings on human rights and the use of human rights in practice. R4C also offers tailor-made consultancies: to coach organisations in doing an assessment, to develop the methodology to assess human rights impacts in a different area, and to advice on ways to use the outcomes of an assessment to advocate change.

Next to consultancies, R4C carries out its own projects to actively disseminate and implement the existing tools, develop new ones, organise exchange of experiences between users of the various tools, and train organisations in (international) human rights advocacy. In our projects we work together with the foundation Projects for Change, as well with other organisations.

### The human rights impact assessment tools of R4C

R4C inherited the human rights impact assessment tools of aim for human rights, and has taken over the dissemination and implementation of these tools. The tools are:

#### HeRWAI: Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument

Women's health rights are violated worldwide. The Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument (HeRWAI) provides NGOs with step-by-step guidance to analyse a policy to find out its impact. With the results NGOs can formulate powerful rights-based arguments and concrete recommendations to lobby governments for improvement of the situation of women. HeRWAI has been used by organisations all over the world and is available in many languages, including French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese. More information you can find at

[www.humanrightsimpact.org/themes/womens-human-rights/herwai/herwai-home/](http://www.humanrightsimpact.org/themes/womens-human-rights/herwai/herwai-home/)

#### The RightT guide, a tool to assess the human rights impact of anti-trafficking policies

The RightT guide has been developed in response to increasing concerns of anti-trafficking, sex workers rights and migrant workers rights organisations that many anti-trafficking measures not only fail to protect the rights of trafficked persons, but actually do harm by undermining or negatively affect-

ing the human rights of the people affected by those policies, including trafficked persons, sex workers and migrant workers.

The RightT guide presents a step-by-step method that helps NGOs and other civil society groups to investigate and analyse the effects of anti-trafficking policies on the rights of the groups affected by those policies. The policy and its impact are measured against the human rights obligations of a State. The outcomes can be used to advocate for policy reforms that respect human rights of all affected groups. The tool is available in English and French. You will find a short introduction movie on the tool at [www.humanrightsimpact.org/trafficking](http://www.humanrightsimpact.org/trafficking).

#### **DOVA, Human Rights Compliance Instrument on Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is violence committed by a person in the private circle of the victim. It occurs all over the world, in all social classes and within all cultures. Domestic violence affects women disproportionately and is an abuse of women's human rights. *Aim for human rights*, together with an international group of partner organisations, developed DOVA, the Human Rights Compliance Instrument on Domestic Violence. The instrument facilitates step-by-step identification of a country's international human rights responsibilities on this issue. The tool enables NGOs and governments to work towards more effective national policy and legislation to stop domestic violence.

#### **Training on the tools**

R4C assists organisations in using the HRIA tools we have developed through the provision of introductory workshops, Training of Trainer programs, and workshops in which the participants carry out an HRIA assessment on the spot. We have carried out these activities worldwide and with very different participant groups, ranging from grass roots organisations to human rights experts.

#### **Information and contact**

For more information: [www.rights4change.org](http://www.rights4change.org)

Contact us at [info@rights4change.org](mailto:info@rights4change.org)



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