

GBV

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN NAMIBIA BRIEF 2020



33%

women have experienced
physical or sexual violence

Namibia's population is estimated at 2.3 million with a projected annual growth of 1.9%. 66% of the population is below the age of 30 years. Young people below the age of 25 constitute 58% and adolescents (10-24 years) constitute 33% of the total population.

DEFINITION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence is defined by the United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database, as physical, mental or social abuse (including sexual violence) that is attempted or threatened, with some type of force (such as violence, threats, coercion, manipulation, deception, cultural expectations, weapons or economic circumstances) and is directed against a person because of his or her gender roles and expectations in a society or culture. In

circumstances of GBV, a person has no choice to refuse or pursue other options without severe social, physical, or psychological consequences. Forms of GBV include sexual violence, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, early marriage or forced marriage, gender discrimination, denial (such as education, food, freedom) and female genital mutilation". GBV is rooted in structural inequality in power relations between women and men.

KEY GBV RELATED INDICATORS



**OVER 1000 PERSONS ARE RAPE
EACH YEAR ; 90% ARE WOMEN**



**GIRLS MARRIED BY AGE OF 18
18.4%**



**WOMEN REPORTED EXPERIENCING
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY
6%**



TEENAGE PREGNANCY
National: **19%**
Kunene: **38.9%**



**GBV SURVIVORS NEVER
SEEKING SUPPORT SERVICES
15%**



HIV PREVALENCE (15-49)
16.9%
new infections AYP:
43%



**WOMEN WHO DO NOT ACCESS HEALTH
SERVICES DUE TO NOT GETTING
PERMISSION
6%**



SCHOOL COMPLETION SECONDARY (GIRLS)
42%

ADOLESCENTS JUSTIFY BEATING AS ACCEPTABLE



**GIRLS
28%**

**BOYS
29.5%**



**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
43.9%**

CONSEQUENCES OF GBV

Violence against women and girls has devastating short and long-term consequences on their health and wellbeing. These include physical injuries, depression, anxiety disorders, and even death. It is linked to negative outcomes in sexual and reproductive health, including unintended pregnancies, increase risks of miscarriage, unsafe

abortions, stillbirth and increased vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. It places significant demand on the health, social, justice system and economic sector. The cost of inaction on VAWG has negative impact on families, communities and societies at large.

BENEFIT OF INVESTMENT

Although there are local studies on the cost of inaction, according to the 2016 report of the World Bank, “the annual cost of GBV against women to the global economy are estimated to be \$12 trillion”. For South Africa alone,

GBV cost between N\$28.4 billion and N\$42.4 billion per year. Elimination of GBV results:

- Women, men, girl’s full participation in social, economic, civil, and political spheres and enjoying of human rights
- A GBV free society will pros gender equality and equity

CALL TO ACTION

- 1. Strengthen national legislative and policy frameworks in line with human rights standards and harmonized with other laws and policies to be gender equitable.**
- 2. Strengthen national institutions’ capacity to deliver comprehensive and integrated quality essential services: health, social protection, policing and justice.**
- 3. Support data generation of quality, disaggregated, comparable data to inform policies and programmes on GBV preventions and response.**
- 4. Intensify prevention efforts to address social norms, attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate inequalities and gender based violence.**
- 5. Strengthen MoGECW coordination mechanism to address bottlenecks to allow transformation of institutions; develop and fully finance national action plan on GBV**

SOURCE

1. 2013. MoHSS. *Namibia Demographic Health Survey.*
2. 2010. UNFPA. *Addressing Violence Against Women And Girls In Sexual And Reproductive Health Services: A Review Of Knowledge Assets.* <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/addressing-violence-against-women-and-girls-sexual-and-reproductive-health-services>
3. 2014. KPMG Human and Social Services. *Too costly to ignore – the economic impact of gender-based violence in South Africa*
4. 2016. 2016 World Bank report.

