

# **The Psychosocial Drivers of Gender Based Violence in Matabeleland South: Zimbabwe**

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**Abstract:** As documented by Ndamba, Lunga and Musarurwa, (2013) gender based violence (GBV) is one of the key drivers of HIV, high mortality rate, crime and other non-conforming behaviours. The purpose of the study was to investigate the psychosocial drivers of GBV in Matabeleland South. The study employed both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The quantitative aspects included questionnaires that were administered to women of child bearing age, whilst the qualitative aspect involved secondary data review, interviews of key informants and focus group discussions. The population of man, women, and youths was used to make reasonable inferences on the issues fuelling GBV in Matabeleland South. Purposive and random sampling techniques were used to identify the ideal participants for the survey. The key findings were that: Cases of GBV were actually understated by documented statistics, so were their causes and outcomes. The term Gender Based Violence was noted a value-laden word and as a result, different stakeholders had their operational definitions, with some associating it with Feminism. Recommendations made include - development of strategies that ensure maximum freedom and entitlements; policies that ensure attainment of human rights including the basic living rights by communities; strategic and systematic rehabilitation of victims of abuse; revival of recreational centres; and enforcement of some laws that involve human rights so as to ensure that the communities (as bio-psychosocial beings) leave peacefully with each other.

**Key words:** Gender Based Violence, Matabeleland South, Psychosocial, drivers.

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## **I. Introduction**

GBV has ceased to be a social issue, not that countries have managed to bring it under control but because it has progressed in a drastic manner and has become a human rights issue. GBV has been identified as one of the key drivers of HIV (Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey, 2010-11). Therefore, addressing GBV challenges means, addressing poverty, perceptions, policies, demography and systems that govern human rights among others. It also means addressing legislations, incurring high costs of debates and policy development, dealing with increased country burden of orphaned children, over flowing prisons, increased taxes, *inter alia*.

The Zimbabwean Minister of Gender and Women's Affairs, Olivia Muchena in the UNFPA report (2011) highlighted that, cases of violence had alarmingly increased from 1 200 reported in 2010 to 2 500 recorded from January to April 2012. According to the Herald (2012), in Zimbabwe domestic violence had been increasing steadily since 2008, which had about 1 940 cases reported. In 2011, a total of 10 351 cases were reported while in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012, 3 141 cases were reported. However, GBV is a global disease and cuts across borders and is intertwined with various crimes such as sex work, drugs and women trafficking (Kira, 2004). Various theorists have tried to analyse GBV, with the psychoanalysts, cognitivists and driver theorists coming up with conflicting facts regarding its causes, nature and consequences.

Matabeleland South lies on ecological region 4 and 5. The region is extremely dry with erratic rainfall and spurts of draughts. The area has a higher unemployment rate due to closure of industries. As a coping strategy people have resorted to gold panning, which is largely men-dominated due to the nature of the job. The region has 7 borders leading to South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana. There is intense mobility due to cross border trading. The province has a high prevalence of GBV, sex work as well as STI and HIV rates.

### **1.2 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following questions:

- How prevalent is GBV in Matabeleland South Province?
- What are the psychosocial drivers of GBV?
- What are the perceptions of men and women in regard to GBV?
- Which coping strategies do survivors of GBV use to maintain serenity?

## **II. Review of related literature**

Recently, stories that make most headlines in the Zimbabwean media (Herald online, 2012) have statements such as this:

**A man tortured his young wife with a red-hot iron, stuffed salt and hot curry powder into her sensitive and intimate body parts and proceeded to rape her... In another case, a woman was savagely hacked with an axe by her husband...**

According to unorthodox reports, 1 in 3 women in Zimbabwe are in an abusive marriage and over 60 percent of murder cases in the country are linked to domestic violence. Of late, men are also victims of abuse. According to the Herald (2012), several men have been killed while others have been maimed after being attacked by their spouses in longstanding domestic disputes. Some men have had boiling water or cooking oil poured onto their bodies while fast asleep, while others had the boiling substances poured into their ears. According to Mananavire (2011) a woman severed her husband's private parts with a bread knife, doused him with paraffin before setting him ablaze in a spine-chilling case of domestic violence. There have been numerous headlines in various media (Chronicle, Herald, Morning Mirror and Daily News) such as these:

**A woman struck her husband of five years with a brick on the head after he called her "a whore".... A 66-year-old woman was reported to have teamed up with her daughter aged 30 and pounded her husband to death with a hammer before chopping off his head and burying him in a pit. The husband was reported to have had a misunderstanding with his wife a day before and slapped her *once* on the cheek.**

According to the Freudian Theory, neurosis and negative behaviours are symptoms of psychic disorientation presenting as a defense mechanism masking the real problem. Taylor, Peplau, and Sear (1997) and Loeber and Hay (1997) in Mwatengahama and Mataruse (2003) give a distinction between violence and aggression. They define the former as those acts that cause serious harm such as rape, murder, assault, and homicide while the latter as those acts that inflict bodily and mental harm on others. Instinct theorists as stated by Mwatengahama and Mataruse (2003), view aggression as an inborn state; they state that human beings are naturally programmed to be aggressive. In support of the foregoing the psychoanalytic theorists view aggressive behaviour as driven by death's instinct that is inherent in everybody. The proponents of the social learning theory (Franzoi, 2008; Baron, Byrne, and Branscombe, 2007), indicate that aggressive behaviour is attributed to external conditions; hence the psychology of law talks about extenuating factors when evaluating the intent of a crime. The cognitive theorists highlight that one's mood or affect also determine whether one will act in an aggressive manner or not (Anderson and Bushman, 2002). The behaviourists however, contend that aggression is like any other behaviour, it is learned. They argue that aggression is not instinctual, but rather acquired from human beings' interaction with everyday experiences (Rogers, 2003).

Literature tends to indicate that there are differences in degrees of aggression between males and females, with males being more aggressive (Franzoi, 2008). According to Baron and Byrne (1997), there are various ways of aggression and violence and these are described according to the type and place. The types of aggressive behaviour include verbal aggression (passive - indirect and direct; active - indirect and direct), physical (passive, active, direct and indirect) and emotional aggression. These are driven by motive. The place aggression can be workplace, home, public place or community. They further state that, aggression is also classified according to degree. Driver aggression refers to extreme drivers like murder, suicide, wilful and malicious, physical and psychological assaults. According to the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (2012), in Zimbabwe there is urgent need to deal decisively with this vicious cycle of violence, as the violence manifesting itself in the political arena mirrors the inner turmoil existing within individuals and families.

### **III. Research Methodology**

The survey employed both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. Quantitative research was in the form of questionnaires administered to the girls and women of child-bearing age. Qualitative research involved use of in-depth interviews with key informants and Focus Group Discussions targeting younger women, women, men and younger men. The survey consisted of a cross-sectional survey in view of the culture similarities, a district household survey and community survey and fielded in Matabeleland South between April and May 2012. The facility survey covered recreational places, water sources, police stations in terms of access and distance: and was surveyed at the same time as, and using the sites for the community surveys. The community survey assessed the profile of the villages and wards, including infrastructure, social services, security, social organizations, and social climate. The respondents for this qualitative methodology were the 7 traditional leaders, 31 men and 54 women and some key informants (7 members of different ministries). Data analysis was an ongoing process. The qualitative data was analysed using thematic content analysis and the quantitative data was analysed using Predictable Analysis Soft Ware (PASW version 18). The study targeted communities (families - youth, women and men) from Matabeleland South. This included men and women of child bearing age. Traditional leaders and key stakeholders were also part of the key informants. Document analysis was done. The documents analysed included the records from the police stations and the statistics of assaulted men and women from local clinics and village leaders.

### 3.1 Sampling Techniques

Both Purposive and Random Sampling were employed. Purposive sampling was used for selecting the wards to be covered which consisted of communities that were residing in the rural homes, the peri-urban homes and the resettlement areas. It was also used for FGDs and in-depth interviews looking at the different stakeholders whose mandate involves working with communities in one way or another. The participants were segmented into five segments according to their age-group and gender. The categories were; younger women and older women, younger men and older men, community leaders and service providers who formed the key informants for the qualitative methodologies. In-depth interviews focused mainly on causes of GBV, their causes and prevalence; national strategies in place for the province/districts; access to and availability of support services; basic needs and safety nets as well as synergy of activities within stakeholders.

8 Focus Group Discussions were held with older women and younger women; older men and younger men separately. Each group had +/-12 people in total. Due to the tense atmosphere between younger women (portrayed to be daughters in law) and older women (meant to be mothers in law), the two age groups had to be separated. Men were also separated due to the diversity of the issues confronting the different age groups. In view of the sensitivity of the issues between men and women, in 7 out of 8 groups, men and women were put separately except in one group where they requested to be put together. The group was therefore separated for 1 ½ hours and combined during the last 45 minutes of the discussion. However, the researcher became the mediator to avoid direct confrontation between the men and women. For the quantitative method, a simple random sampling technique was used to select women of child bearing age to ensure that all participants had an equal chance of being selected. This was achieved by identifying women from every other 3<sup>rd</sup> homestead.

*...You people have over empowered women, they are hard headed and as I speak now, I don't know how many court orders have been filed. You have destroyed a lot of marriages and women get away with it. They are now stubborn...*

### 3.2 Data entry and analysis, report production

Data generated from the investigation was analysed and segmented by district, category and data collecting technique. The quantitative data was entered and analysed using PASW 18 which elicited descriptive data of key variables and cross-varied data. Qualitative data was transcribed, coded and analysed using thematic content analysis. Report writing was ongoing and it started during data collection, entry and analysis.

## IV. Research Findings

The demographic information focused on the age, ethnicity, marital status, employment status and whom the respondent stayed with. These variables were key in eliciting data that were relevant to the drivers of GBV in relation to marital status, level of education (spousal dependency) and cultural practises that subject women to a lot of disadvantages and abuse. Of the respondents, 51.7% women went up to primary schools, with 46.6% completing O' level and 1.7% going up to tertiary education. 77.6% women were married, with 5.2% single, 6.9% divorced, 10.3% were widowed. 27 out of 31 men (87.09%) in the survey were unemployed, except a few that were working in the city and had visited their homes for various reasons. For the male participants, the age range was between 26 to 67 years. All males interviewed were married and all traditional leaders were men.

### 4.1 The prevalence of GBV in Matabeleland South Province

Cases of GBV were alarming and the term GBV seemed to be a value laden term. Different stakeholders and respondents had put a lot of emotions on the word, which to some extent showed the attached meaning to each of their interpretation. Secondly, it may seem this word has or is being interchangeably used with 'Feminism', which compromised extraction of findings pertaining to causes of abuse, types and how they have been handled. Police felt women have been corrupted by activists and NGOs who teach them vain rights that have destroyed a lot of marriages and their minds as they indicated more 1000 cases every quarter in 2 districts only.

It was also noted that there is a reasonable number of abusers that feel/think they are victims. For every abused woman, the man thinks she deserves it. Men justify and attribute their behaviour to the nag and un-reasonability of women as they had termed it. Most men complained that women are over empowered. They state that their wives are misinterpreting equal rights to mean; men ought to do chores traditionally believed to be women's area of expertise. Men feel women lose or have lost the zeal to keep the marriage enjoyable

especially if they start having children. They state that, women are verbally aggressive, rude and they speak 15 000 words for every 3 words or a single action a man speaks or does respectively.

On the contrary, women could not describe the amount of abuse and trauma men put them through. They also highlighted that they have been portrayed as aggressive and abusive by their children because of the stress that brings monsters out of them, as highlighted in the table.

**Table 1. Types of Abuse portrayed in the past twelve months**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Screamed or hurled insults when you were angry?	16	29.6	29.6	29.6
	Clapped, beat or caned a child?	38	70.4	70.4	100.0
	Total	54	100.0	100.0	

## 4.2 The psychosocial drivers of GBV

### 4.2.1 The Causes of GBV

The women attributed the abuse they suffer from their spouses to a lot of extenuating factors such as the culture, poverty, demography of the communities, glut drinking spots for men, gold panning which has seen an influx of sex-workers. There were a lot of issues that came out during the FGDs. Women indicated that men don't want to be confronted by their spouses, no matter how and when they tried to engage with them in a discussion. One of the participants remarked:

**...Men don't want to be tested for HIV and they don't want to use condoms, if you force them on condoms, they go to a woman who does not demand a condom... they beat us up with knobkerries, fists and any weapon they feel like using.... at times when you are ploughing and the beast gallops or misbehaves, instead of hitting it, he hits me with a sjambock....**

#### 4.2.1.1 The Violent Nature of Men versus Culture

As women indicated; men are defensive, ego-centric and have serious inferiority complex. It was also gathered that men don't want to be confronted, they are said to come home geared for fights. The moment they are asked where they would have been after 4 days or if asked for money they beat up their wives and unfortunately society does not expect women to report, fight back nor do anything as indicated on the table below. Men are said to be ruthless, controlling and selfish. One of the women remarked: *...They don't want us to use family planning; at times you end up hiding pills in a pack of mealie-meal so that he does see.*

**Table 2. Culture determines how women respond to issues or people around them**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	54	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### 4.2.1.2 The Social Causes of GBV

Younger women were also bitter on the way their spouses treat them and how culture expects them to be dormant and submissive. In general, there were also intense conflicts between mothers in-law and their daughters in-law which were stated to be also fuelling the marital wars between spouses. They stated that their mothers in law were witches and selfish and were the reason young marriages were breaking. The mothers in law were said to be greedy and wanting everything that their sons buy. They were said to demand even the facial lotions and sometimes try new clothes meant for their daughters in law as long as they were bought by their sons.

On the contrary, an elderly man supported the mothers in law in response to a probe about the relationship between mothers and daughters in law. He started that daughters in law are selfish, greedy and careless. They waste food, they give their relative food and other asserts and most of them have boyfriends as their husbands are either in the city or out of the country.

He went on to say, *“What we see here because of the girls our sons marry is appalling; he brings home a clumsy woman, a retired sex worker, in disguise of a good woman.... When they are tired of playing innocent, their true colours come out....*

*“Culture deprives, culture is nonsense...my mother in law demands even my face lotion... they have given us nick names because they think we hide food in the bedroom and eat privately at night).”*

*“... You find them trying our clothes, one day I found her trying my skin tights and holding my pant and then you expect their sons to be normal.”*

However, it was not evident what diagnostic tools the old man uses to come to a conclusion that: This is a retired sex worker.

#### 4.2.1.3 Poverty

The women also mentioned that poverty is the most cause of violence and men don't want to be asked or reminded of their responsibilities. There is gross unemployment in Matabeleland south, most men were retrenched from the closed down factories/industries. They are now full time housemen which also intimidates their ego and statuses as well as undermining their role and what society expects of them. Men are said to be so irresponsible to an extent that they just eat whatever women bring home without asking where they get it from.

*...Do you know it's possible for children to grow up and get married without hearing or knowing how their father laughs? But you find him laughing and playing with a neighbour's child...*

*...We go for workshops and we are trained to demonstrate love and try to be romantic, when you try it at home, he shouts at you, but with a girlfriend you find them playing and he will be carrying her on his back like children.*

#### 4.2.1.4 Extra Marital Affairs

Men have girlfriends and many times the girl friends are treated better than their spouses. The women are said to be working very hard to provide food, till the land and make the children go to school. Sometimes men do not want to have sex with their wives. In a bid to frustrate their wives a man will have sex with his wife for barely 5 minutes and once after 4-5 months:

**..my child, at times I invite my husband for a journey (sex) and I will be thinking we are going to Bulawayo, but before we get to Mbalabala (from Filabusi), he tells me we have arrived. I will be clear that, no, no this is just 26 kilometres and he tells me he has travelled more than 200 km... To make matters worse that would be after 4 months because he is reserving his energy for his girl friend...**

To support the sentiments, another woman responded:

**Men do not give us money but they spent it with girl friends, we are dirty, looking old and drained not because of age but worry. We look wasted and worn-out because of abuse, emotionally and psychologically... how can I be happy when I live under such conditions?**

According to the general consensus among women, about 1 in every 2 women is abused. The men were said to be controlling beings that would prefer their wives to behave in a certain way, talk to people that the husband chooses for them and in a way that the husband approves.

**Table 3. Women behaviours are imposed by their partners**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	39	63.7	63.7	63.7
	No	15	36.3	36.3	100.0
Total		54	100.0	100.0	

On the other hand men think women need to be put under lock and key. They need to be leashed least they get too excited and wonder away.

**Women don't talk to us, they prefer talking to male strangers and at times to our friends about private issues, and they talk about sex to our friends... What kind of behaviour is that...? A woman needs to know her place and that's it....**

On the issue of family planning, younger men (88.23%) said they do not want their wives to use tablets because they have many side effects that affect their children causing deformities.

#### 4.2.1.5 Gold Panning

The summary of findings showed that Matabeleland is a place with a lot of opportunities and gold. There is money from gold panning; however the problem is how to use it. The money from gold panning is rarely used for a worthy cause. Men spend all the money on sex workers or beer which offset their profits and will only come back home when there is nothing as it was lent from women groups.

#### **4.2.1.6 Glut Drinking Spots**

In one of the districts, the survey revealed that in 1 ward there are 7 pubs including a brothel that has been termed a 'lodge' or vice versa and there are only 2 schools (1 primary and 1 secondary schools). One woman had this to say:

**...Even if we can dream, think or speak of development, how can we even imagine if those that control policies allocate a village, 2 schools and 8 pubs? How can people value education in such a set-up? ...In our village men are having sex with men because they say women have HIV. They say having sex with a man is safe because the HIV virus stays in the womanhood...They go to that brothel and there is beer, food and sex. What can a man come back home for?**

#### **4.3 The types of abuses inflicted on women**

This question was asked across all ages and positions, to which the identified forms of abuses were:

- Physical: Fist fights and battering (with any tool/weapon); Caning, Slapping, Bashing with knobkerries;
- Psychological: Insulting, Controlling, Isolation; and
- Emotional Abuse: Men abandoning their marital homes, Extramarital affairs, Refusing to have sex for a long time, Refusing to buy food, Lack of financial support.

#### **4.4 Perceptions of men and women towards GBV**

##### **4.4.1 Men's views on Gender Based Violence**

Men exclaimed the high degree of infidelity by women. They stated that women are now brave enough to have boyfriends and the surprising thing is that women will invite their boyfriends purported to be relatives to their homes. The husband will spend the whole day respecting and entertaining these strangers thinking it's an uncle. Women are also said to be misunderstanding the equal rights issues which makes them fail to submit to their husband.

**Women are jealous people, they don't appreciate what men do for them, they like competing with other families... women do not appreciate the efforts of their male spouses, they are not grateful.... That's what causes them to have boyfriends.**

On the contrary, a community leader differed from his male counterparts. He highlighted that men are greedy and selfish. They spend a lot of money with friends and girlfriends in pubs and braai. He stated that, they hardly bring anything to their homes. Children and wives eat vegetables, milk and other indigenous food while men eat meat, chicken and all nice foods.

**I was surprised one day when I went to a restaurant and found men eating and drinking. I tell you, each man had a dish of sadza and about 3-4 plates of different relishes. This other guy had 1 plate with meat, the other with offals, the other with milk and a small portion of mopane worms for desserts... I asked myself if these guys had homes or they were bachelors. I tell you,... older men...with big stomachs... imagine what happens to these men when they get home, do they eat or do they worry what their wives/children ate?**

However, some men were very adamant that women/wives do not treat them as nice as their girl friends treated them. They also indicated that women are careless; they waste resources and materials including food that men buy or source through tooth and nail. At times they give some of the items to their relatives. Asked if that can be worth a battering or fist fight, men said they beat their women to show them authority and to let them know that they should observe 'protocol' in all things pertinent to their family.

Younger men also pointed out that women are always tired when men demand sex. Asked if sex has to be demanded or has to be an enjoyable, consented act which God blesses for couples; younger men said women are not supposed to be allowed to explore and know all the benefits of sex, except to fulfil the husband's desire and make children otherwise they will join the commercial sex industry.

#### **4.5 Copying strategies that are employed by survivors of GBV to maintain serenity**

Women felt there is no point in reporting men because they come out scot free. They highlighted that if they had their husbands arrested, at times, 3 minutes later they are out and they are walking on the street and verbally abusing their wives even more. Women had no copying mechanisms or strategies what so ever.

There were two cases that came out from the FGDs where by 2 known members of the community sexually abused their children. One of the men has been reported to have impregnated 3 of his daughters and sired with each one of them a child, whilst the wife did nothing. Asked why he is not being arrested, it came out that, if he gets arrested in the morning, by end of day he would be walking in his homestead. The man is reported to be physically abusing his wife so severely that she looks mentally challenged. When the researcher asked the group further about how the family (victims) could be rescued, it came to light that he abuses the family in front of the chief, councillor, village heads, kraal heads, and police. Women have learned helplessness and they thought the situation can never be changed and they have become complacent.

In an interview with one of the stakeholders dealing with women on issues fuelling GBV, he supported the perceptions of women. The participant attributed a lot of gaps to the structure of service provision, the systems and/or lack of them.

**...We have strategies and policies as well as Acts that govern our operational framework. However, we have a structural problem. The first point (port of call) for abused women is the police department, which currently has no capacity of dealing with women. They don't have a victim friendly unit (VFU); they don't share their reports with us... There is an interface of VFU, Justice, and Women Affairs....**

**...They both don't bring the women issues to the Ministry which is the custodian and has a mandate of the Domestic Violence Act ... the victim is made by police to move from one point to the other in their state especially when they seek court order... .That department does not counsel the victims, stating it is the responsibility of our Ministry. However, it is cumbersome for the Ministry staff and it promotes bias as the same person who handles the case, assist the victim with the protection orders and affidavits is made to counsel the same client as well.**

*...Reporting is a waste of time; police do nothing to these men. At times you have him arrested and 30 minutes later he is out. Sometimes before you leave the police station he is out and if he walks faster he arrives home earlier than you.*

*..He laughs at me, and asks me what I gained.*

*...You think people care, the community is dead... I tell you, there is a known man who has impregnated 3 of his daughters and he never spends 2 hours in police custody... He does it in front of the elders, the chief, the councillor, the village heads, the police... how much more of physical abuse... we don't report its waste of time...*

#### 4.6 Plans to reduce Gender Based Violence

Men brain stormed on the ways to curb domestic violence as they termed it. Their suggestions were all directional; only women needed help because there was nothing wrong with them (men).

- Men felt women are supposed to submit as culture expects them to and they clearly advocated to a **NO** to equal rights and indicated that, if such issues are observed there won't be any violence.
- Men advocated for more workshops to educate women on how to handle their relationships.
- Men suggested that NGOs should have workshops for couples to discuss gender issues.
- They also pointed out that, women should be allowed to go to churches so that they are able to discuss with other women and learn from each other about keeping their homes/families.

For women, there were many systems and policies that needed overhaul, including sentences that needed revision so that we don't have a country (law) that 'slaps' men with 6 months in prison for rape and more than 18 years in prison for stock theft. This was translated as: A country that worries about cattle than women.

## V. Interpretation of Findings

### 5.1 Incidences

- The cases of gender based violence were alarming especially the unreported cases.
- 83.7% of women who responded to the questionnaire were in an abusive relationship.
- Of the abused women, 98.1% are abused by their spouses/living in partners.
- Men are the perpetrators of violence.
- Women do not get the protection/help they require and the justice system is corrupt.

## **5.2 Causes**

- Psychological problems: Aggressive nature of men; Men are said to be egocentric, have innate tendencies of defending their vulnerable ego. Women are vulnerable, they respond to the conditioning that is imposed by their environment.
- Perceptual Consequences: Men's failure to balance emotions and environmental demands as well as failure to balance demand and ability.
- Personality issues: Extra marital affairs versus women's emotional and aggressive behaviours.
- Social norms: Cultural boundaries and ethos that look high on men and order women to be submissive. Also, there were conflicts between gender roles and the environmental demands.
- Economic challenges: Poverty and lack of employment.
- Demographic challenges: Too many drinking places and entertainment, influx of sex workers.
- Communications Problems: Women did not know what their partners wanted and on the other hand the men did not know what their partners were expecting from them.

## **5.3 Consequences**

- Women have no safety nets; they do not get the necessary support in terms of security, coping and rehabilitation hence, they do not report cases of GBV.
- There are loopholes within our laws enforcements strategies.
- Women have lost confidence in the society in terms of law and law enforcement. They are not sure anymore who the poacher is and who is the gate keeper (law enforcers and community leaders are perpetrators too).
- Men get scot free regardless of the crimes they commit on women.
- Poverty to a larger extent is the main root cause of GBV, and GBV causes vulnerability to children.
- The community is complacent to and on the issues confronting women.
- Development is not need based in relation to schools, pubs and recreation centres.

## **VI. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The statistics highlighted by the previous teams that conducted different surveys in the province on cases of GBV holds true. There are various psychological and social causes of GBV. There are various levels where GBV was handled, however at every level, there were cases of negligence and omission of duty coupled with apathy. The findings from the survey may be used for midterm assessment of the country strategic period, programme mapping, realigning of objectives, needs assessments, annual plans and to guide the whole strategic direction. A healthy population is essential for sustainable economic development and eradication of poverty. Consequently, a gender perspective in all policies and programmes is critical to the achievement of the country goals. There is great chance of informing focus and strategic direction of NGOs and Ministries using such findings.

The survey therefore recommended the following;

### **6.1 Strategic interventions**

- An overhaul of some policies, strategies and linkages that do not serve their purpose.
- Development of strategies and programme packages that promote male involvement and their meaningful participation.
- Collaboration between stakeholders so as to bridge the gap between all relevant ministries, implementers, local leadership, programmers, and above all communities.
- Reinforcement of community structures to ensure that the community retains its status and roles.

### **6.2 Community level interventions**

- Development of programmes that are sensitive to the community needs for example gender programmes that are sensitive to culture; health programmes that are sensitive to demography; and livelihood programmes that are ecologically sensitive.
- Revival of recreational and social clubs for young people and adults to ensure skills transfer, interaction and strong support systems across all ages.
- Training of services providers such as police, hospitals, clinics and legal justice systems to avoid moralisation of services to reduce the barriers from access to services.

### 6.3 Advocacy

High level advocacy on issues of;

- Law revisiting on human rights, including basic living rights, freedom and entitlements as well as law enforcement.
- Victim friendly services (It is essential and recommended that there MUST be an equal number of female to male officers in police stations to ensure gender sensitivity and reduce barriers to communication.)
- Advocacy and lobby for exchange prosecution processes (if there is conflict of interest between the magistrate and offenders) so that different magistrates come to trial the offenders or in turn the offenders are trailed elsewhere.
- Psychosocial support for victims of GBV.

### 6.4 Further research

Further research is hence recommended with a larger sample to ensure validity, reliability and generalisability of the findings.

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