



# Malawi Violence Against Women and Girls Prevention and Response Programme

National Advocacy Strategy on Violence Against  
Women and Girls Prevention and Response

January 2021 – December 2025

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## Acronyms

<b>ADC</b>	Area Development Committee
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>CTWG</b>	Child Technical Working Group
<b>CVSU</b>	Community Victim Support Units
<b>DGTWG</b>	District Gender Technical Working Group
<b>FCDO</b>	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GEA</b>	Gender Equality Act
<b>HTPs</b>	Harmful Traditional Practices
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>MDHS</b>	Malawi Demographic Health Survey
<b>MHRC</b>	Malawi Human Rights Commission
<b>MoGCDSW</b>	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
<b>MPS</b>	Malawi Police Service
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>NGO CCR</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition on Child Rights
<b>NGO GCN</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation Gender Coordination Network
<b>NGTWG</b>	National Gender Technical Working Group
<b>NLGFC</b>	National Local Government Finance Committee
<b>OSC</b>	One Stop Centre
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group

## NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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**UDHR** Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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**VAC** Violence Against Children

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**VAWG** Violence Against Women and Girls

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**VDC** Village Development Committee

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**VSU** Victim Support Unit

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**WRO** Women's Rights Organisations

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## Acknowledgements

This National Advocacy Strategy has been developed with the dedicated participation of different stakeholders. The strategy development process commenced with a one-day national stakeholders' dialogue workshop to identify priority advocacy issues on violence against women and girls' (VAWG) prevention and response in Malawi, held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The workshop involved a diverse group of stakeholders from parliament, traditional leadership, non-governmental organisations, academia, and government officials. Sincere gratitude is extended to all those that contributed to the process of identifying the priority issues, designing the operational framework, and developing the national action plan on the issues; all of which results in this advocacy strategy. Special recognition is due to Associate Professor Ngeyi Kanyongolo and Dr Henry Chingaipe who ably facilitated the national stakeholders' workshop.

Special thanks also go to the members of the national taskforce. This group worked on the analysis of the priority advocacy issues to inform the design of the specific programmatic VAWG prevention and response strategies to address the systemic and structural issues identified. The strategies are expected to spur national level influencing work for accessible, responsive and accountable services for VAWG survivors. The members of the taskforce were drawn from the following institutions: Ministry of Gender, Community Services and Social Welfare; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Population; Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, Malawi Police Service, Malawi Human Rights Commission, Malawi Law Commission, NGO GCN, NGO CR, National CSOs Advocacy Platform/Citizen Alliance Malawi, Corruption and Rights Watch, Women Lawyers Association, the Spotlight Initiative, Plan International Malawi, Standing Voices, FEDOMA and Women's Manifesto Movement. Your invaluable insights, feedback and guidance in the process of developing this strategy is greatly appreciated.

Finally, the technical and financial support provided by the *Tithetse Nkhanza* Programme - funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - towards the development of this National Advocacy Strategy is specially recognised.

## Foreword

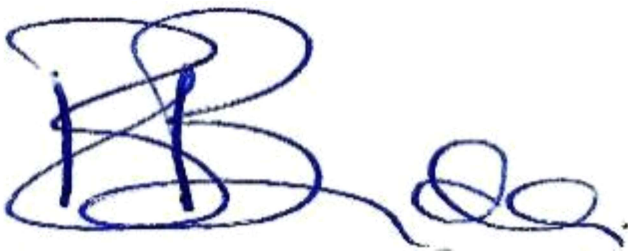
The severity and high prevalence of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Malawi is one of the factors contributing to inequality between men, women, girls and boys, as well as slow progress towards the attainment of sustainable development. VAWG is a serious violation of women and girls' rights and undermines the country's development with increasing costs at individual, family, community and national levels. The economic costs of VAWG include the reduced economic earning power of women and girls and increased costs of providing services for survivors of violence.

While a lot of investments, programmes, law and policies continue to be directed at efforts for combating gender-based violence, there still remain critical structural and systemic gaps in the prevention and response interventions. This makes it imperative for stakeholders in the gender sector, especially non-governmental organisations to intensify interventions on systems advocacy aimed at: increasing community awareness and mobilisation on gender-based violence and legal literacy on applicable laws to empower communities to take appropriate action and demand accountability from duty bearers; influencing law and policy making and effective implementation; and improving the government's, response (as the primary duty bearer), to violence against women.

While the Government of Malawi's commitment to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) is demonstrated through a relatively strong legal and policy framework on VAWG, as well as implementation of several programmes on combating this vice, we need a strong and empowered civil society to complement the Government's efforts, including influencing processes of resource allocation, as well as effective enforcement of the laws and policies. Key among the challenges in mounting an effective response to VAWG is the lack of or limited coordination among the service providers and a lack of or limited accountability on the part of the service providers. Further, while women and girls face significant barriers to accessing justice and other services on VAWG issues, even if they are able to access the appropriate institutions, the quality of service they receive is often not always responsive to their particular needs, i.e. it is not survivor-centred.

This advocacy strategy is therefore a critical tool for addressing the challenges, most of which are of a structural nature. We need to prioritise and sustain advocacy aimed at all decision-makers and duty bearers to influence strategic priorities for programming and funding on gender-based violence programmes. As the NGO sector working on gender-based violence issues, we welcome the work of developing an advocacy strategy on VAWG prevention and response. This is an intervention that will improve our coordination and effectiveness in working on influencing and demanding accountability interventions from relevant duty bearers. It is my appeal to all of us in the sector to fully support and get involved in the implementation of this advocacy strategy. If everyone responds as required, together we shall enhance VAWG prevention and response services and help survivors to access appropriate services, as well as ensuring effective enforcement of applicable laws and policies.

I would like to thank the *Tithetse Nkhanza* Programme, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, for the financial and technical support in developing this advocacy strategy.



Mrs Barbra Banda

**Chairperson, NGO GCN**

## PREFACE

The attainment of gender equality across all sectors is critical to national development and economic growth. This is one of the clear goals in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as a legal obligation stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi as well as the Gender Equality Act, 2013. The severity and high prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Malawi is one of the factors contributing to inequality between men, women, girls and boys, as well as slow progress towards the attainment of sustainable development. The economic costs of VAWG include the reduced economic earning power of women and girls and increased costs of providing services for survivors of violence. While Malawi continues to make various achievements towards the attainment of gender equality demonstrated through legislative and policy reforms as well as various programmatic activities, the high prevalence of VAWG, exemplified through: high incidences of domestic violence, intimate partner violence; the rampant sexual abuse of women and girls and rampant harmful cultural practices; as well as high rates of child marriages and early or forced marriages; among other things, continue to erode the gains Malawi is making on attainment of gender equality.

Clearly, there are still many advocacy and public policy interventions such as: ensuring increased resource allocation towards VAWG prevention and response services and the effective and efficient use of such resources; ensuring effective women's participation and representation in leadership and decision making structures; improving the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG prevention and response; and intensifying the effective implementation of the relevant laws and policies, that need to be undertaken to compliment other initiatives in order to ensure that Malawi's fight against VAWG is effective. Thus, engaging decision-makers and key influencers at the level of the primary duty bearers on the promotion and protection of women's rights through advocacy is an important strategy towards the elimination of VAWG.

In view of the above, the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, (the Ministry) welcomes the initiative of the development and implementation of this national Advocacy Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls. The Ministry is pleased to note that a number of Government and Civil Society Organisations in the gender sector came together to develop this advocacy strategy with support from Tithetse Nkhanza. The Ministry further commends the approach put in place for the implementation of the advocacy strategy which will be steered through a CSO-led process in order to ensure enhanced CSO accountability engagement with government and other key duty bearers where the issues of coordination, policy leadership, resource allocation and utilisation; enforcement of laws and policies as well as effective programme implementation on VAWG is concerned.

The overall goal of this strategy is to coordinate, harmonise and create a common platform and approach by a cross-section of stakeholders for influencing duty bearers' accountability on the effective and efficient implementation of VAWG prevention and response-related laws, policies, programmes and decision making on resource allocation and utilization. Over a span of five years, the Strategy will focus on seven thematic areas namely: Budget allocations and tracking for both VAWG prevention and response services; duty bearer institutions and coordination; the legal framework and implementation; delivery of VAWG prevention; service delivery for VAWG response; Civil Society Organisations and coordination and donor and development partners' coordination on VAWG work.

It is the Ministry's expectation that the implementation of this Advocacy Strategy will lead to promotion of government accountability on policies and programming for addressing the high and persistent trend

of VAWG in Malawi. Despite significant investment in this sector, VAWG has remained a serious, prevalent, and deeply entrenched problem, and when subjected to VAWG, women and girls continue to face significant barriers to accessing justice and other relevant services. In instances where the women and girls are able to access the appropriate institutions, the quality of service they receive often falls short of the expected standards. The Ministry expects that the implementation of this Advocacy Strategy is one key contributing turn-around factor for this status quo.

The Ministry hopes that civil society organisations steering this process forward will utilize the platform that has been created to responsibly and constructively engage government on the critical issues outlined in this strategy that continue to derail the fight against VAWG. The Ministry also urges the CSOs to ensure that while working on holding government accountable, they too should be guided by the same principles of accountability and transparency in their work.

The Ministry acknowledges the technical and financial support the Tithetse Nkhanza Programme has provided towards this process with funding from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).



Isaac Katopola

PS ADMINISTRATION

**For: SECRETARY FOR GENDER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE**



# Executive Summary

This National Advocacy Strategy for the period January 2021 to December 2025 was initiated following the realisation that there is need for critical mass around influencing and advocacy to change policies and programming for addressing the high and persistent trend of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Malawi. The strategy specifies what VAWG actors want to achieve through advocacy and how this will be done through detailed strategies defined for each objective.

The overall goal of this strategy is to coordinate, harmonise and create a common platform and approach by a cross-section of stakeholders for influencing duty bearers' accountability on the effective and efficient implementation of VAWG prevention and response-related laws, policies, programmes and decision making on resource allocation and utilisation.

The advocacy objectives are:

1. Government of Malawi increases central resource allocation to VAWG prevention and response and commits to establishing an effective VAWG budget monitoring system by December 2025.
2. Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to improve the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG prevention and response work by December 2022.
3. Government of Malawi ensures the drafting and adoption of regulations and sentencing guidelines for gender and child rights related laws by December 2023.
4. Government of Malawi effectively provides oversight and quality assurance on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions and overall coordination of VAWG prevention programmes by December 2023.
5. Government of Malawi improves the essential services for survivors of VAWG such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred by December 2025.
6. Civil society effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of holding the Government of Malawi accountable for VAWG prevention and the delivery of VAWG response services.
7. Donors and development partners coordinate and collaborate to effectively and efficiently support the Government of Malawi to achieve objectives 1-5 and provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming, in-line with the long-term objective of reducing the prevalence of VAWG in Malawi.

This national advocacy strategy has been developed through the collaborative efforts of an all-inclusive-stakeholder consultative process which began in October 2019. This was continued by the national taskforce that was constituted and overseen by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare. The strategy targets relevant government ministries, the judiciary, independent national institutions, different VAWG structures set up by government, civil society, cooperating partners and donors. It seeks to leverage the influence of all key stakeholders by building on opportunities for collaboration through advocacy.

Finally, the national action plan outlines specific actions that relevant stakeholders will undertake to achieve the strategy's objectives. These actions include:

- Mainstream VAWG prevention and response issues into formulation and review of national planning processes and documents.
- Revise and increase budget ceilings for District Councils and City Assemblies for implementation of VAWG programmes at district and community levels.
- Prepare briefing and position papers on budget gaps and lobby for increased budgetary allocations for Ministries and agencies that deliver VAWG prevention initiatives and VAWG response services.
- Relevant government ministries and departments prioritise VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual workplan and budget.
- Review and strengthen guidelines for various coordination actors for VAWG services.

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- Support the lead Ministry (MoGCDSW) with both technical and financial support for strengthening coordination mechanisms.
- Integrate aspects of VAWG prevention and response delivery in the annual planning processes of institutions at community level by July 2022.
- Lobby for speedy progressive harmonisation of gender and child rights related laws and monitor enforcement of existing gender and child rights related laws.
- Finalise the sentencing guidelines bill for the implementation of gender and child rights related laws.
- Develop/strengthen, validate and launch the essential package tool for VAWG services in Malawi.
- Roll out the standard VAWG packages for women and girl survivors of violence across the country.
- Disseminate the adopted referral pathway guidelines for VAWG services in Malawi across the country.
- Develop inclusion guidelines for VAWG services that, among others, ensures that the rights and needs of survivors with disability are respected.
- Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the allocation and expenditure of budget for VAWG prevention work and response services.
- Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the quality of VAWG prevention work and VAWG response services.
- Donors and development partners should review coordination mechanisms to increase collaboration efforts in supporting VAWG prevention and response work.

Given the changing operational environment in Malawi, this advocacy strategy will be reviewed and adapted as necessary on yearly basis.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Background

Malawi continues to record a high prevalence of violence against women and girls (VAWG), with adverse effects on the attainment of gender equality and the country's development. The latest statistics show that 34% of Malawian women have experienced physical violence and 20% have experienced sexual violence. 23% experienced emotional violence within the 12 months prior to the survey by the National Statistical Office (Malawi DHS 2015/16). There is also high prevalence of harmful cultural practices such as child marriages, with 47% of girls married below the age of 18, and high trends of economic violence.

It is widely recognised that VAWG contravenes women and girls' rights and undermines the country's development with increasing evidence of the costs of gender-based violence (GBV) at individual, family, community and national levels. The economic costs of VAWG include the reduced economic earning power of women and girls and increased costs of providing services for survivors of violence.

The Government of Malawi's commitment to ending VAWG is demonstrated through a relatively strong legal and policy framework on VAWG, as well as implementation of several programmes on combating this issue. The Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW, the Ministry) is working alongside a number of partners and stakeholders from the community to national level on prevention of VAWG, as well as enacting measures for an effective response mechanism to address VAWG. However, in spite of these efforts, VAWG remains a serious, prevalent and deeply entrenched problem. Women and girls face significant barriers to accessing justice and other services on VAWG issues, and where they are able to access the appropriate institutions, the quality of service they receive is often not always responsive to their particular needs, i.e. it is not survivor-centred.

The impediments to effective prevention and response of VAWG are numerous. These include various critical policy issues on VAWG on both the prevention and response side that need to be addressed using critical mass around advocacy. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen alliance building and collaboration to capitalise on synergies in responding to priority VAWG issues for advocacy in Malawi. There is also limited coordination among service providers and a lack of or limited accountability on the part of the service providers.

It is against this background that stakeholders working on VAWG issues in Malawi developed this strategy to guide actions around strategic and intensive advocacy with relevant duty bearers. Such duty bearers include Government Ministries and Departments, policymakers and donors to ensure that effective VAWG prevention and response services are established or maintained and implemented in accordance with relevant protocols, laws and policies. Working around selected themes, stakeholders will champion the key objectives outlined in this advocacy strategy to push for greater accountability and responsiveness in service provision across the VAWG prevention to response continuum. The strategy is also intended to bring about the strengthening of network and alliance building in order to achieve synergies among like-minded institutions working on VAWG prevention and response, and thereby achieving strategic objectives with optimal use of resources.

## 1.2. Situation analysis

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains a serious problem in Malawi with evidence showing that 34% of Malawian women have experienced physical violence and 20% have experienced sexual violence by any perpetrator (Malawi DHS 2015/16). VAWG in Malawi takes different forms, with emotional violence appearing to be the most common, followed by physical and then sexual violence. 30% of women report having experienced emotional Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), 20% report experiencing physical IPV and 19% of women report experiencing sexual IPV (MDHS, 2016). For girls and boys, physical violence is the most common, followed by emotional and sexual violence. 42.4% of girls and 64.5% of boys experience physical violence before they turn 18 (Malawi VAC survey, 2014). The proportion of women having experienced physical and emotional IPV appears to have increased between 2010-2015/16, from 28% in 2010 to 34% in 2015-16 (MDHS 2015-16).

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Furthermore, there are a range of harmful traditional practices (HTPs) in Malawi, particularly affecting girls. These include early and forced marriages, with 47% of girls married before they turned 18 (MDHS, 2016). Other harmful practices include initiation rites, which comprise harmful elements such as forced labial pulling<sup>1</sup> and sexual cleansing practices (Perceptions Study on Social Norms around Violence against Women and Girls, UN Women Malawi, 2018). *Tithetse Nkhanza's* formative and baseline research in its three impacts districts of Karonga, Lilongwe and Mangochi confirms that VAWG remains endemic in Malawi, with widespread and long-term consequences for women and girls as well as for society as a whole. Harmful traditional practices (HTPs)<sup>2</sup> are widespread across all the three districts. The practices vary in nature and prevalence, reflecting Malawi's diverse ethnic composition with different customary practices that affect mainly women and girls. 93% of adult women, 81% of out-of-school girls and 67% of in-school girls experienced any of the HTPs examined by this research, and 31% of women and 21% of out-of-school girls were married before age 18. Adolescent girls are also at high risk of sexual harassment, abuse or exploitation, with 75% of adolescent girls having experienced at least one type of this in the past year.

VAWG has a myriad of negative consequences on women and children's mental and physical health, educational attainment, and cost to the economy. Whilst 34% of women who experience physical or sexual violence sustain some form of injury, almost half (49%) of women who have ever experienced these types of violence have never sought help or told anyone about it. The woman's own family is the most common source of help (MDH 2015/16). The economic costs of violence include the reduced economic earning power of women and girls and increased costs of providing services for survivors of violence.<sup>3</sup> A recent study found high costs of violence, specifically IPV (the direct economic cost of handling physical IPV cases in 2013 was an estimated MK 877 million (US\$2,698,462)).<sup>4</sup> However, this only accounts for the costs of providing services to survivors and does not cover the wider economic and social costs.

In the context of COVID-19, the rate of VAWG has also increased. For instance, there was an 11% increase in teenage pregnancies from January to August 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. In nominal figures, there were 40,000 cases of teenage pregnancies and 13,000 cases of child marriages over the period. This has been largely attributed to the closure of schools coupled with limited household economic resources during the COVID-19 period (Rapid assessment of the situation of child marriages and teenage pregnancies, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, September 2020).

Furthermore, limited personal protective equipment (PPE) poses a barrier to VAWG response. Public health policies related to the COVID-19 response, which require individuals and frontline workers wear PPE such as masks when accessing or providing VAWG prevention and response services, pose a barrier to access for survivors. Limited access to PPE for frontline workers limits the services they can provide, while the requirement that those using these services wear masks risks excluding those without the financial capacity to buy one (*Tithetse Nkhanza* GIPP Research Report June–September 2020).

Although there have been many prevention programmes implemented in the country, research conducted by *Tithetse Nkhanza* shows that there are still entrenched patriarchal attitudes and beliefs on VAWG in communities and service providers. The culture of silence particularly on IPV is encouraged. Additionally, there are some HTPs that expose girls, boys and women to violence.

Furthermore, evidence shows that there are some institutional gaps in the coordination and oversight by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare on VAWG prevention programming across the country. From the key informant interviews conducted by *Tithetse Nkhanza* with the ministry's Department of Social Welfare and Department of Gender, it was clear that there is a limited budget for the ministry to provide oversight and quality assurance, and there is a heavy reliance on donors.

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<sup>1</sup> The World Health Organization categorises labia pulling as type 4 of Female Genital Mutilation. In the context of Malawi, this is harmful when it is forced on a woman or when it is attached to patriarchal connotations, such as being a requirement for a woman to sexually fulfil a man in marriage.

<sup>2</sup> Malawi's Gender Equality Act of 2013 defines 'harmful practice' as "a social, cultural, or religious practice which, on account of sex, gender or marital status, does or is likely to a) undermine the dignity, health or liberty of any person; or b) result in physical, emotional, or psychological harm to any person". There are multiple harmful practices in Malawi that are carried out as traditional rites and that disproportionately affect women and girls. The harmful traditional practices measured by the baseline and formative research comprised sexual practice as a traditional rite of passage, sexual instruction as a traditional rite, wife inheritance and child marriage.

<sup>3</sup> UN (2005) *The Economic Costs of Violence Against Women: An Evaluation of the Literature*

<sup>4</sup> UN Women and UNECA (2013) *Socio-Economic Cost of Violence in Malawi*

## NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Malawi is a State Party to various international instruments that promote and protect rights for women and children, including persons with disabilities, among others. Some of the key human rights instruments Malawi has ratified include the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Protocol to the Africa Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, and the African Charter on Child Rights, among others, and relevant Southern African Development Community (SADC) treaties such as the SADC Gender protocol.

Malawi has adopted some provisions of these international instruments into some of its national laws, although it continues to make reservations on other crucial provisions such as some elements of article 14(2)<sup>5</sup> of the Maputo Protocol and others. Through the Gender Equality Act (GEA), some aspects of article 14(2) of the Protocol were adopted, e.g. family planning and women's choice on the number of children, and other provisions. The GEA also criminalises harmful practices and sets out obligations for the realisation of gender equality.

Malawi also has commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 5 of which provides for *achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls* and recognises the elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, as a key priority. Goal 16, *promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*, also calls for a significant reduction of all forms of VAWG.

In addition to the Constitution, over time Malawi has promulgated several gender related laws that address GBV issues as civil or criminal matters. The laws have established several institutions that handle GBV cases, among others. Formal and informal justice structures are in place in various locations around the country which address matters of violence against women and children among other things. There are presently no specialised courts to deal with VAWG, or specific GBV or sexual offences. Some of the key statutes include: the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006), the Gender Equality Act (2013), the Child Care Protection and Justice Act (2010), the Penal Code, the Employment Act, the Disability Act, the Family Relations (Marriage and Divorce) Act, the Deceased Estates (Wills and Inheritance Act), the Trafficking in Persons Act, and the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Management) Act.

It is therefore clear that Malawi has a relatively strong legal framework which, if implemented/enforced effectively, should improve the situation of women and girls, including increased protection from violence. However, enforcement of the laws remains a serious challenge which requires more resource allocation and optimal utilisation, improved coordination among the relevant duty bearers, and mechanisms for demanding accountability from duty bearers. Recently, the multisectoral VAWG national referral pathways document for both informal and formal response systems was launched by the Ministry of Gender. It is envisaged that the effective roll out/operationalisation of the referral pathways will contribute to an improvement in the different service providers at both the local and national levels. However, there is still a great deal of advocacy work that is required to ensure that the referral pathways are effectively operationalised.

Furthermore, the otherwise progressive legal framework is marred with critical knowledge and skills gaps on the part of duty bearers to effectively enforce the laws. For example, some players in the justice sector are not yet well acquainted with the contents of the new gender related laws such the provisions in Gender Equality Act and HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Management) Act which prohibit harmful cultural practices, sexual offences in the Penal Code (main criminal law Code) and in other gender related Acts, domestic violence in the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and in the Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection) Act and also the Child Care Justice and Protection Act. Furthermore, the effective handling of GBV-related sexual offences is also greatly impeded by the lack of harmonisation of various provisions relating to these crimes across several statutes.

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<sup>5</sup> Article 14 (2) (c) of the Maputo Protocol calls upon State Parties to take all appropriate measures to "protect the reproductive rights of women by authorizing medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother ..."

## 2. Goal and Objectives of the Advocacy Strategy

### 2.1. Goal

The goal of this strategy is to coordinate, harmonise and create a common platform and approach by a cross-section of stakeholders for influencing duty bearers' accountability and responsiveness on the effective and efficient implementation of VAWG prevention and response-related laws, policies, programmes, and decision making on resource allocation and utilisation.

The strategy identifies key priority action areas and the specific advocacy interventions required for a more holistic and coordinated approach to combating gender-based violence through advocacy efforts. The specific objectives of this strategy are as outlined below.

### 2.2. Advocacy objectives

**Objective 1: Government of Malawi increases central resource allocation to VAWG prevention and response and commits to establishing an effective VAWG budget monitoring system by December 2025.**

- 1.1 National Planning Commission should ensure that VAWG prevention and response issues are mainstreamed into formulation and review of national planning processes and documents and budgeted for accordingly.
- 1.2 By March 2021, the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare commits to deliver a VAWG budget analysis in Malawi.
- 1.3 District Councils prioritises VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual workplans and budget for delivery by the Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health within their districts by July 2022.
- 1.4 Ministry of Gender should prioritise VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual plans and budgets, particularly to the Department of Gender Affairs which is responsible for oversight, quality assurance and coordination on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions.
- 1.5 Malawi Police Service prioritises VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual workplan and budget.
- 1.6 Judiciary prioritises VAWG justice services within their annual workplan and budget.
- 1.7 Ministry of Finance increases central budget allocation to Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Local Government, Malawi Police Service (MPS) and the Judiciary for VAWG work.
- 1.8 By May 2021, Parliament agrees to establish an effective VAWG budget monitoring system.

**Objective 2: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to improve the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG prevention and response work by December 2022.**

- 2.1 Ministry of Gender strengthens the role of Gender Technical Working Groups to ensure shared learning between informal and formal duty bearers and civil society on what works and what does not work for VAWG prevention by December 2022.
- 2.2 Area Development Committees (ADCs) collaborate with Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) to integrate aspects of VAWG prevention and response in their annual planning processes by July 2022.
- 2.3 District level annual planning processes are participatory, include WROs, and build on the ADC plans to integrate aspects on VAWG prevention and response in line with what is articulated in sub-objective 2.2

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- 2.4 By July 2022, plans should provide clarity on who is responsible for undertaking a VAWG prevention and response activity and specify where within the district.

### **Objective 3: Government of Malawi ensures the drafting and adoption of regulations and sentencing guidelines for gender and child rights related laws by December 2023.**

- 3.1 Ministry of Justice in conjunction with Ministry of Gender and the Law Commission to finalise harmonisation of gender and child related laws.
- 3.2 Law Commission to finalise review of gender related laws in partnership with line ministries.
- 3.3 Malawi Human Rights Commission fully establish the Gender Equality Commission so that it is fully functional as provided for the Gender Equality Act.
- 3.4 Malawi Human Rights Commission enforces the Gender Equality Act as provided for under that law.
- 3.5 Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security ensures that the Human Trafficking Board is fully functional as provided for in Trafficking in Persons Act.
- 3.6 Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in collaboration with relevant line ministries, draft and/or finalise (as relevant) the regulations for the implementation of gender and child related laws.
- 3.7 Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs finalises the sentencing guidelines bill for the implementation of gender and child related laws.

### **Objective 4: Government of Malawi effectively provides oversight and quality assurance on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions and overall coordination of VAWG prevention programmes by December 2023.**

- 4.1 Ministry of Gender, particularly the Department of Gender Affairs, enforces minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes and ably monitors adherence.
- 4.2 Department of Gender Affairs ensures coordinated efforts in VAWG prevention programmes delivery through the Gender Technical Working Groups, and GBV-Sub Technical Working Group, the Women's Economic Empowerment Technical Working Group and the Women in Decision Making Technical Working Group.

### **Objective 5: Government of Malawi improves the essential services for survivors of VAWG such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred by December 2025.**

- 5.1 Ministry of Health improves medical services for VAWG survivors such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.
- 5.2 Malawi Police Service improves policing services for VAWG survivors such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.
- 5.3 Malawi Judiciary improves justice delivery for VAWG survivors such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.
- 5.4 Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare improves social welfare services for VAWG survivors so they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.

### **Objective 6: Civil society effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of holding the Government of Malawi accountable for VAWG prevention and the delivery of VAWG response services.**

- 6.1 Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the allocation and expenditure of budget for VAWG prevention work and response services.
- 6.2 Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the quality of VAWG prevention work and VAWG response services.

- 6.3 Coordinate and collaborate for effective and efficient delivery of their role in holding Government of Malawi accountable for objectives 1-5.

**Objective 7: Donors and development partners coordinate and collaborate to effectively and efficiently support the Government of Malawi to achieve objectives 1-5 and provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming, in-line with the long-term objective of reducing the prevalence of VAWG in Malawi.**

## 2.3. Guiding principles for the Strategy

The Advocacy Strategy is premised on several key principles to ensure that not only should the interventions aim to reduce the prevalence of violence and improving the response system, but most importantly contribute to the advancement of women's rights in Malawi. These principles are outlined below:

- **Approaches to change social norms:** Models or methodologies that will contribute towards achieving lasting transformation by preventing VAWG through addressing the societal norms which underpin violence against women and girls.
- **Gender transformative:** From the prevention perspective, this entails tackling the attitudes, behaviours and norms that underpin gender inequality at all levels, from the individual to institutional levels. From the VAWG response perspective, this means empowering women and girls to make their own choices about how and when to access support if they experience violence.
- **Survivor-centred:** Empowering women and girls by expanding and improving the response services available to them, and enabling them to decide themselves how to engage with support services.
- **Engagement of men and boys:** Working with men and boys as leaders, community members, husbands, fathers and brothers, to advance gender equality, reduce violence and promote women's rights.
- **Leave no one behind:** Consider intersectionality and identify opportunities to work with the most marginalised such as persons with disabilities, girls living with HIV and sex workers.
- **Prioritisation of sustainable prevention and response initiatives:** Recognise actions that will transfer key methodologies, coordination structures and responsibilities such as exit plans with communities, and efforts to build linkages between local organisations at all levels, particularly women's rights organisations that engage in prevention and response initiatives.

## 2.4. Strategy thematic areas

There are seven key thematic areas that have been identified by the strategy which are crucial to reducing the level of violence against women and girls in the country. This section provides an overview of these seven thematic areas and their respective objectives. The themes are:

- Budget allocations and tracking for both VAWG prevention and response services
- Duty bearer institutions and coordination
- The legal framework and implementation
- Delivery of VAWG prevention
- Service delivery for VAWG response
- Civil Society Organisations and coordination
- Donor and development partners' coordination on VAWG work



### 2.4.1. Advocacy Objectives

#### **Objective 1: Government of Malawi increases central resource allocation to VAWG prevention and response, and commits to establishing an effective VAWG budget monitoring system by December 2025**

A fundamental issue under this thematic area is that key government institutions with a mandate to deliver VAWG prevention initiatives that tackle root causes of GBV, and others that provide VAWG response services to respond to immediate needs of survivors of GBV, are underfunded. This therefore affects the delivery of prevention initiatives, as well as VAWG response services. Furthermore, lack of resources, capacity and accountability is impeding enforcement of laws in the country. Another challenge is the limited monitoring of budgetary allocations for prevention and response programming, to ensure that both are adequately funded, and resources are used for intended purposes. Additionally, there is inadequate integration of VAWG issues in local development plans and structures, partly due to the limited participation of women and girls in the development of said plans.

#### **Power holder**

Ministry of Finance is mandated to formulate economic and fiscal policies that seek to manage government financial and material resources, and provide strategic guidance on economic and development planning, as well as the mandate to oversee accountability of the resources allocated to various ministries and agencies. Based on this mandate, the Ministry of Finance has the potential to increase budgetary allocations for VAWG prevention and resource programming, as well as ensuring accountability of those allocated resources. National Planning Commission is also another power holder that uses its mandate in ensuring that VAWG prevention and response issues are mainstreamed in the formulation and review of national planning processes and documents.

Additional power holders include the National Local Government Finance Committee and District Councils that oversee the allocation of resources to relevant departments at district level that are responsible for both the implementation of prevention programmes and delivery of VAWG response services.

#### **Allies**

Allies include Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, the Malawi Police Services, Judiciary and Parliament that are partly mandated to initiate proposals for increases in budgetary allocations for their respective institutions. These should collaborate with relevant NGOs under the leadership of the NGO GCN to continuously lobby Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission to do the needful with respect to meeting the objective under discussion here.

Additional allies are NGO GCN, relevant NGOs, Tithetse Nkhanza, Spotlight, the media and others that among others should lobby Parliament, Ministry of Finance and NLGFC to increasingly combine programme-based budgeting with output-based budgeting for VAWG services

#### **Objective 2: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to improve the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG prevention and response work by December 2022**

Key challenges under this thematic area are institutional gaps in the coordination and oversight by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare on VAWG prevention and response programming across the country. This is partly attributed to limited budget for the Ministry to adequately provide oversight and quality assurance. Also, the key structures to support national-level coordination such as the National Gender Technical Working Group and National GBV Sub-Working Group are inactive as both groups suffer from resourcing constraints.

#### **Power holder**

Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare is mandated to provide coordination and oversight on VAWG prevention and response programming in the country but needs the requisite technical and financial support, among others, to increase collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers for improved implementation of VAWG prevention programmes and delivery of response work.

**Allies**

These include GBV Sub Technical Working Group, District Gender Technical Working Groups, Child Protection Technical Working Group and Community Victim Support Units that should support the coordination work being done by Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare.

**Objective 3: Government of Malawi ensures the drafting and adoption of regulations and sentencing guidelines for the gender and child rights related laws by December 2023**

Key issues in this thematic area include the slow implementation of reviewed gender related laws and the delayed finalisation of harmonised gender and child rights related laws. Coupled to this has been delayed enactment of the sentencing guidelines bill. Notwithstanding the fact that Malawi has progressive laws in relation to addressing VAWG, implementation has been a challenge. Many cases are withdrawn, delayed or justice is denied for one reason or another. This is partly due to the delayed development of regulations to facilitate implementation of recent gender related laws such as the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act, Gender Equality Act of 2013 and the Child Care, Protection and Justice Act of 2010.

**Power holders**

Ministry of Justice is mandated to draft legislation and provide legal advice to various ministries, including supporting drafting of regulations to support implementation of gender and child rights related laws. The Law Commission is also partly mandated to initiate drafting of other legislation where there are gaps or reviewing the same as such, it can capitalise on its mandate to initiate drafting of any other additional gender or child rights related laws.

Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee has the mandate to promote accountability of institutions responsible for enhancing access to justice and reviews bills before they are considered by the entire house. There is need for this parliamentary committee to particularly promote accountability of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Law Commission on the expected delivery of their mandates.

**Allies**

The Malawi Human Rights Commission can work collaboratively with the Law Commission to accomplish the desired changes under this thematic area as illustrated in the operational framework in section 3 of this document. NGO GCN, Tithetse Nkhanza, the Spotlight Initiative and other relevant NGOs should join hands with these human rights national institutions in lobbying for the drafting and adoption of the expected regulations and sentencing guidelines for gender and child rights related laws.

**Objective 4: Government of Malawi effectively provides oversight and quality assurance on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions and overall coordination of VAWG prevention programmes by December 2023.**

The outstanding issues under this thematic area include lack of defined minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes by various players on the ground and limited coordinated efforts on delivery of the same.

**Power Holder**

The Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare particularly through the Department of Gender Affairs has the overall mandate of overseeing both VAWG prevention and response programmes, and as such is supposed to take the leading role in championing the development of minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes.

**Allies**

Allies under this initiative will include the Gender Technical working groups, GBV-Sub Technical Working Group, the Women's Economic Empowerment Technical Working Group and the Women in Decision Making Technical Working Group.

**Objective 5: Government of Malawi improves the essential services for survivors of VAWG such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred by December 2025**

The key issues under this thematic area include limited access to comprehensive essential packages for VAWG survivors and negative attitudes of service providers, as well as their limited technical and resource capacity. The essential services package is a guidance tool that identifies the essential services to be provided to all women and girls who have experienced GBV, including services that should be provided by health and social services, police and justice sectors. This package also provides guidelines for the coordination of these services. This comprehensive tool needs strengthening and adoption by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, and should be rolled out across the country.

Additionally, although many officers across VAWG government service providers, such as those in the police victim support units, police general services and Judiciary, have received ad hoc training on how to handle cases of violence using child-friendly, gender-sensitive and survivor-centred approaches, their attitudes and behaviours when dealing with cases still leaves much to be desired. There is need to advocate for a roll out of gender transformative packages that have strong emphasis on addressing attitudes and behaviours that underpin and perpetuate violence against women and girls.

**Power holders**

Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare has the overall mandate to provide leadership and coordination of both VAWG prevention initiatives and response services in the country. The Ministry needs to expedite finalisation and adoption of the essential services tool and roll it out across the country.

The Judiciary (among others) is mandated to deliver justice and interpret the law for women and girls that have experienced GBV. The Chief Justice is expected from time to time to issue practice directions for courts to reasonably deal with cases of women and girls that have experienced violence. Malawian courts at all levels should prioritise hearing and concluding on cases for women and girls that have experienced GBV. Internal accountability mechanisms within the Judiciary to address delays and weak sentences in VAWG cases need to be prioritised. Mechanisms for fast tracking VAWG cases should be institutionalised. Additional power holders in the provision of needed VAWG services include the Ministry of Health and Malawi Police Service.

**Allies**

Allies include the Community Victim Support Units, One Stop Centres, community leaders, and relevant CSOs/NGOs. These actors should work in partnership through collaboration and strategic engagement to advocate for the desired changes under this thematic area as illustrated in the operational framework table in section 3 of this document.

**Objective 6: Civil society effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of holding the Government of Malawi accountable for VAWG prevention and the delivery of VAWG response services**

There is limited technical and financial capacities within the civil society in Malawi to effectively hold government accountable for VAWG prevention implementation and the delivery of VAWG response services.

**Power holder**

NGO GCN is mandated to coordinate activities of NGOs dealing with gender related and women's rights issues in Malawi. It is the only network dealing with gender issues in Malawi and has diversity in its members and in the issues it addresses.

**Allies**

NGO Coalition on Child Rights (NGO CCR) is mandated to coordinate the actions of NGOs working on child protection and child rights including the advancement of girls' rights. It is an important ally that could support the work of NGO GCN in holding government accountable on both VAWG prevention implementation and the delivery of VAWG response services.

**Objective 7: Donors and development partners coordinate and collaborate to effectively and efficiently support the Government of Malawi to achieve objectives 1-5 and provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming, in-line with the long-term objective of reducing the prevalence of VAWG in Malawi**

The key challenge that arises regarding donors supporting VAWG work is that donors can be competitive in their approaches which can negatively impact the delivery of VAWG work in Malawi.

**Power holder**

All donors that support the implementation of VAWG prevention initiatives and the delivery of VAWG response services in Malawi.

**Allies**

All relevant development partners that support the implementation of VAWG prevention initiatives and the delivery of VAWG response services in the country, should work collaboratively by ensuring they avoid duplications and capitalise on complimentary roles amongst them.

### 3. Operational Framework of the Advocacy Strategy

This section provides an overview of the strategies that will be used to reach the advocacy objectives.

**Objective 1: Government of Malawi increases central resource allocation to VAWG prevention and response, and commits to establishing an effective VAWG budget monitoring system by December 2025**

Table 1 showing operational framework for objective 1

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
VAWG issues are currently not prioritised in national planning processes	National Planning Commission	Power holder	Dialogue and strategic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Planning Commission is mandated to coordinate development of long and medium term national development plans of Malawi and to oversee their implementation.</li> <li>It should take deliberate efforts to ensure that VAWG prevention and response issues are integrated in national development plans both in the medium and long terms.</li> </ul>
	Ministry of Finance	Power holder	Dialogue and strategic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an under-funding of key government institutions with a mandate to deliver VAWG prevention and response services but previous lobbying during budget consultation meetings has not resulted in many changes.</li> <li>Article IV of the CRC and the UN General Comment number 19, to which Malawi is a party, calls upon governments to allocate budgets for social services like VAWG services <b>'to the maximum extent of its available resources'</b>. The Ministry of Finance therefore must meaningfully engage with all relevant ministries that deliver VAWG prevention and response services to understand their needs and gender responsive budgeting requirements.</li> <li>Ministry of Finance should increase budgetary allocations to Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Health, Malawi Police Services and Judiciary for VAWG work.</li> <li>Ministry of Finance should also undertake budget tracking or monitoring once the annual budget allocations have been passed so that the increased resources for VAWG activities are not diverted for other purposes.</li> </ul>
Inadequate funding for VAWG related programmes and lack of prioritisation of VAWG work	MoGCDSW	Ally	Lobbying and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key departments within MoGCDSW with a mandate to provide leadership in VAWG prevention and response initiatives and services are underfunded. This negatively affects their service delivery.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGCDSW should do comprehensive analysis of the annual budgets based on genuine available data and prepare their annual budget estimate requirements for discussions with Ministry of Finance before the annual budget ceilings are determined. In this regard, by March 2021, Ministry of Gender should commit to deliver a VAWG budget analysis.</li> <li>MoGCDSW should prioritise prevention work and response services in their annual plans and budgets particularly for the Department of Gender Affairs which is responsible for oversight, quality assurance and coordination on VAWG prevention programmes.</li> <li>The budget requirements should also include budget estimates that the Ministry could provide to Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) across the country for their effective operations.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Health	Ally	Lobbying and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health hosts the One Stop Centres (OSCs) and provides medical services to survivors of VAWG, among other functions. However, government hospitals and health centres often have inadequate medical supplies to meet the needs of survivors due to low budgetary allocations.</li> <li>In annual budget preparations, the Ministry of Health should consider allocating enough resources for the operations of the OSCs and other essential services for VAWG survivors, then express these needs to the Ministry of Finance and other relevant institutions.</li> </ul>
Malawi Police Service	Ally	Lobbying, engagement and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Malawi Police houses the Victim Support Unit (VSU) that is responsible for response services for VAWG survivors. They are inadequately funded.</li> <li>In annual budget and plan preparations, the Police should allocate enough resources for the operations of the VSUs, then express these needs to the Ministry of Finance and other relevant institutions.</li> </ul>
Parliament	Power holder	Lobbying, engagement and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National budget analysis shows limited budget allocation for VAWG related programmes.</li> <li>Relevant parliamentary committees (Social and Community Affairs, Local Authorities, Budget and Finance) should lobby for increased budget allocations across all relevant ministries by supporting the proposed increased allocations for VAWG prevention and response programming when the respective annual budgets are presented for Parliament's consideration.</li> <li>By May 2021, Parliament should agree to establish an effective VAWG budget monitoring system.</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NLGFC is a constitutional body mandated to receive and examine all budget estimates from the local authority councils, among others. National budget analysis shows minimal resources for VAWG activities at Council or Assembly level.</li> <li>The NLGFC should revise and increase budget ceilings for District Councils and City Assemblies for implementation of VAWG programs at district and community levels.</li> <li>Support respective Ministries that have budgetary allocations for VAWG services by consistently lobbying with the respective power holders on the proposed increased allocations.</li> <li>Support respective Ministries that have budget estimates for VAWG services by consistently lobbying with the respective power holders on the proposed increased budgets estimates for VAWG services.</li> <li>NLGFC should encourage local councils to integrate VAWG issues into local development plans so that they are subsequently considered for funding.</li> <li>There is need to provide spaces for the participation of women and girls in setting local government priorities.</li> <li>MoGCDSW, through its district offices, should collaborate with local councils to include activities related to VAWG in district development plans and budgets</li> <li>The Ministry of Local Government should fast track amendments and enforce implementation of the Local Government Act and policy.</li> <li>Encourage Councils to make deliberate efforts to integrate activities for addressing VAWG in district development plans.</li> <li>These councils should be encouraged to make deliberate efforts to integrate activities that address VAWG issues in district development plans.</li> <li>NGOs/CSOs must lobby Councils to integrate activities that address VAWG into district development plans and budgets.</li> <li>Parliament should undertake greater activism in the budget process by demanding more information about the government's performance in managing public resources for VAWG services with a view of generating greater transparency and accountability.</li> <li>Ministry of Finance to improve the budget process for VAWG services by combining programme-based budgeting with performance-based budgeting in</li> </ul>
National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC)	Power holder	Lobbying, engagement and strategic partnerships		
CSOs/NGOs	Ally	Lobbying, engagement and strategic partnerships		
Media	Ally	Dialogue and strategic engagement		
NLGFC	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships		
MoGCDSW	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships		
Ministry of Local Government	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships		
Local Councils	Powerholder	Coordination and Strategic engagements		
CSOs/NGOs	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships		
Parliament	Power holder	Lobbying and strategic partnership		
Ministry of Finance	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships		
Inadequate integration of VAWG issues in local development plans/structures				
Inadequate monitoring and tracking of budgetary allocation and expenditure for gender and child				

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related programmes				order to promote transparency and accountability of resource management in the VAWG sector.
	MoGCDSW	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGCDSW should have internal mechanisms of monitoring and tracking its expenditure on VAWG services.</li> </ul>
	Local Councils	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Councils should have internal mechanisms of monitoring and tracking expenditure on VAWG services.</li> </ul>
	NLGFC	Power holder	Dialogue and strategic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLGFC should undertake oversight of resource management on VAWG services.</li> </ul>
	CSOs/NGOs	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSOs/NGOs must lobby Parliament, Ministry of Finance and NLGFC to increasingly combine programme-based budgeting with performance-based budgeting for VAWG services.</li> </ul>
	Media	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The media should, among others, lobby Parliament, Ministry of Finance and NLGFC to increasingly combine programme-based budgeting with output-based budgeting for VAWG services.</li> </ul>



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**Objective 2: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to improve the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG prevention and response work by December 2022**

Table 2 showing operational framework for objective 2

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
Weak stakeholder coordination on VAWG programming	MoGCDSW	Power holder	Strategic partnership and coordination with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence shows that there are some institutional gaps in the coordination and oversight by MoGCDSW on VAWG prevention and response programming. This is partly attributed to limited budget to provide adequate oversight and quality assurance.</li> <li>The Ministry should use its existing coordination and implementation structures - such as the Gender, Children, Youth and Sports Sector Working Group - to lead coordination and implementation of VAWG interventions, and collaborate with others to lobby for increased resources to enhance stakeholder coordination.</li> <li>The National Gender Technical Working Group (NGTWG) was established by MoGCDSW in collaboration with other ministries and institutions in order to strengthen stakeholder coordination, integration and supervision. NGTWG is, however, not currently functioning effectively; it rarely meets and is heavily dependent on donor funding for its activities.</li> <li>MoGCDSW should revamp and strengthen the roles of NGTWG and support them in their operations to provide leadership and coordination in the national GBV response.</li> <li>Through the NGTWG, MoGCDSW should also review guidelines for stakeholder coordination and adopt effective Gender Coordination mechanisms that will decisively respond to the worsening GBV situation.</li> <li>Recognising the need for more and better data to inform evidence-based programming on VAWG, the Ministry should endeavour to coordinate and improve its gender-based violence information management systems.</li> </ul>
	District Councils	Power holders	Strategic partnership and coordination with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area Development Committees (ADCs) should collaborate with Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) to integrate aspects of VAWG prevention and response in their annual planning processes.</li> <li>District Council annual planning processes should be participatory in nature by among others including WROs in the development of the plans.</li> </ul>

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	The Presidential Taskforce on Ending GBV	Power holder	Lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution of a Presidential Taskforce on Ending GBV in Malawi in 2020 shows the commitment to gender and GBV from the highest office. The taskforce needs to drive the presidential response with speed.</li> <li>• The taskforce needs clear Terms of Reference (TORs) and should publicise their reports so the public can hold it to account.</li> <li>• The taskforce should lobby the President and government departments to plan and fund gender and GBV interventions with the utmost priority.</li> </ul>
	The GBV Sub-Technical Working Groups	Ally	Collaboration and strategic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NGTWG established a GBV Sub-Technical Working Group to consolidate efforts to eliminate VAWG, however this has largely been dormant and unable to provide leadership and strengthened coordination on ending VAWG. This is causing lack of coordination on GBV response at national and district levels.</li> <li>• The GBV Sub-Technical Committee should lobby for increased funding and coordinate the GBV response in collaboration with the national and district coordination structures.</li> </ul>
	The District Gender Technical Working Group (DGTWG)	Ally	Collaboration, strategic partnership and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DGTWG is a key coordination structures that is intended to guide on policy, champion gender mainstreaming and monitoring at district level. It is responsible for championing the inclusion of GBV in local government structures, local development plans and implementing actors. However, they are often not functional or supported in carrying out their mandate.</li> <li>• DGTWGs should be supported to conduct meetings, engage council structures, supervise the GBV response and build the capacity of structures including the VSUs, OSCs, CVSUs, ADCs and Village Development Committees (VDCs).</li> <li>• District Councils should increase funding for the DGTWG's GBV coordination activities.</li> <li>• DGTWGs should receive specialised training on integration, monitoring and GBV case and data management</li> </ul>
	Child Protection Technical Working Group (CTWG)	Ally	Collaboration and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTWG is an important coordination structure at national and district levels and is increasingly important in a context of rising incidences of violence against children; however, these structures are largely dormant and too weak to coordinate effective responses.</li> <li>• CTWGs should be revamped at national and district levels and their coordination with the GTWGs should be strengthened</li> </ul>

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	Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs)	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CVSUs were established to coordinate and respond to cases of violence against women and children. They operate at TA level under the ADCs but are often unable to reach the entire TA with their services. They often also lack specialised training in case management and funding to support their operations and are inadequately equipped to carry out their mandates.</li> <li>To strengthen their role, CVSUs should be decentralised to VDC level and ensure they are owned and supported by community systems. They should also operate as sub-committees of the both ADCs and VDCs.</li> <li>The Ministry of Gender should speed up the review of CVSU guidelines and allocate enough resources for their operations.</li> </ul>
	One Stop Centres (OSCs)	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSCs (Chikwane-kwanes) are aimed at providing consolidated GBV services at district level. However, most districts do not have functional OSCs and the model is largely inaccessible by survivors in remote areas.</li> <li>The Ministry of Gender needs to review the Standard Operating Procedures for OSCs and align the model to existing community systems for responding to GBV.</li> <li>Services from OSCs should be decentralised to ensure they are accessible at the point of need rather than just at the OSCs situated at the district health offices.</li> </ul>
	Police Victim Support Units (VSU)	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The VSUs of the Malawi Police Service (MPS) are an important response structure for GBV which provide an opportunity to push for accountability to women and girls and create opportunities to hear their priorities and feedback on service providers. They have an extensive network due to the presence of police units across the country. However, most VSUs do not have sub-committees involving community leaders and structures. This affects their operations.</li> <li>The VSU needs to revamp the sub-committees and strengthen community-based security systems towards GBV.</li> </ul>
	ADCs and VDCs	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADCs and VDCs are local government structures with a mandate to initiative and supervise development projects at community level. They are therefore central to the integration of GBV response in local government structures and development plans, however, most do not consider gender and GBV as development issues and therefore do not include relevant initiatives in Village Action Plans (VAPs) or subsequent District Development Plans.</li> <li>ADCs present an opportunity to push for accountability to women and girls and create opportunities to hear their priorities and feedback on service providers. However, there is a lack of coordination with community level structures and actors on GBV.</li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to strengthen the coordination role of ADCs and VDCs in GBV response. The committees need specialised training on GBV prevention and response.</li> </ul>
Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC)	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MHRC should lobby for the operationalisation of the National Children’s Commission to address weak coordination related to issues of gender-based violence faced by girls and children.</li> </ul>

**Objective 3: Government of Malawi ensures the drafting and adoption of regulations and sentencing guidelines for the gender and child rights related laws by December 2023**

Table 3 showing operational framework for objective 3

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
Slow implementation of reviewed gender related laws and delayed finalisation and harmonisation of gender and child related laws	Ministry of Justice	Power holder	Strategic partnership and coordination with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malawi has carried out progressive harmonisation of some of its gender related laws in tandem with provisions of various treaties to which Malawi is a party. Despite these progressive laws, implementation has been a challenge. Many cases are withdrawn, delayed or justice is denied.</li> <li>The Ministry of Justice should prioritise the development of the expected regulations to guide implementation.</li> <li>There remain issues in different statutory laws which require harmonisation in order to guide implementation approaches. Harmonisation will ensure the use of best possible routes to ensure access to justice for VAWG survivors.</li> <li>The Ministry of Justice in partnership with the Law Commission and other line ministries such as Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare should expedite the harmonisation of all gender and child related laws, such as finalising alignment of statutes with the age of the child that was recently reviewed in the Constitution of Malawi.</li> <li>A study by MoGCDSW has revealed gaps in laws related to sexual offences and has recommended the adoption of one Act on all sexual offences. The Ministry of Justice should champion preparation of this bill. It should also undertake to translate and popularise existing gender and child related laws.</li> </ul>

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

	Human Rights Commission	Powerholder	Lobbying and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Gender Equality Act provides for the Human Rights Commission to facilitate establishment of the Gender Equality Commission that should be functional. The Commission should be proactive in establishing the said structure.</li> <li>Malawi Human Rights Commission should enforce the Gender Equality Act as provided for under that law.</li> </ul>
	Ministry of Internal Security and Homeland	Power Holder	Lobbying and strategic engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Trafficking in Persons Act provides for the Ministry of Internal Security and Homeland to facilitate establishment of a functional Trafficking Board.</li> <li>The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security should be seen to take steps to establish the Human Trafficking Board as provided for in the Act in question.</li> </ul>
	Judiciary	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnership with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage judicial officers to exercise judicial activism in VAWG issues.</li> <li>Lobby for inclusion of Committal procedure in the CPEC.</li> </ul>
	Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnership with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee has the mandate to promote accountability of institutions responsible for enhancing access to Justice, and reviewing bills before they are considered by the entire house.</li> <li>This parliamentary committee should enhance implementation of its functionality on promotion of accountability of institutions such as Ministry of Justice, Judiciary and Law Commission whose work touches on access to justice.</li> </ul>
	Parliamentary Women Caucus Committee	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnership with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby for speedy progressive harmonisation of gender and child rights related laws and monitor enforcement of existing gender and child related laws.</li> </ul>
	Parliamentary Committee on Social Welfare	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby for speedy progressive harmonisation of gender and child related laws and monitor enforcement of existing gender and child related laws.</li> </ul>
	MHRC	Power Holder	Collaboration with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MHRC is mandated to promote human rights, particularly those of vulnerable groups. They also study the status and effect of legislation, judicial decisions and administrative provisions for the protection and promotion of human rights and prepare reports and recommendations or observations for the relevant authorities.</li> <li>The Commission is asked to prioritise reviews of judgements of GBV cases by the High Court over the lower jurisdictions and make recommendations that will promote the rights of women and girls' survivors.</li> </ul>

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

	Law Commission	Power holder	Strategic engagement with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend the laws that contain offensive languages against disabilities such as Penal S. 139, 155.</li> <li>Rule of law essential for ending VAWG</li> </ul>
	Ministry of Justice	Power holder	Strategic partnership and coordination with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs should finalise the sentencing guidelines bill for the implementation of gender and child related laws.</li> </ul>
	Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnership and coordination with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support legislation of sentencing guidelines when it comes to the attention of Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee.</li> </ul>
Delayed enactment of sentencing guidelines bill	Parliamentary Women Caucus Committee	Power holder	Collaboration, strategic partnership and coordination with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popularise sentencing guidelines on gender and child rights related laws when passed.</li> </ul>
	Parliamentary Committee on Social Welfare	Power holder	Collaboration, strategic partnership and coordination with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate sentencing guidelines on gender and child rights related laws.</li> </ul>
	CSOs focussing on Gender	Ally	Collaboration with relevant stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby with relevant powerholders the finalisation processes of drafting the above cited regulations and lobby them to be passed by Parliament.</li> </ul>

**Objective 4: Government of Malawi effectively provides oversight and quality assurance on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions and overall coordination of VAWG prevention programmes by December 2023.**

Table 4 showing operational framework for objective 4

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
Limited quality assurance on	Ministry of Gender, Community	Power holder	Strategic engagement with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare should develop minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes.</li> </ul>

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

VAWG prevention programmes	Development and Social Welfare			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGCDSW should roll out and enforce minimum standards for delivery of VAWG prevention programme across all districts in the country.</li> <li>Department of Gender Affairs ensures coordinated efforts in VAWG prevention programmes delivery through the Gender Technical Working Groups, and GBV-Sub Technical Working Group, the Women's Economic Empowerment Technical Working Group and the Women in Decision Making Technical Working Group.</li> <li>Provide technical support to Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare in coming up with minimum standards for the delivery of prevention work in Malawi.</li> <li>Lobby Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to enforce minimum standards for delivery of VAWG prevention programme across all the districts in the country.</li> </ul>
	Department of Gender Affairs	Power holder	Strategic engagement with relevant key stakeholders	
	NGO GCN, Spotlight, Tithetse Nkhanza and other like minded institutions	Allies	Lobbying and advocacy	

**Objective 5: Government of Malawi improves the essential services for survivors of VAWG such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred by December 2025**

Table 5 showing operational framework for objective 5

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
Limited access to comprehensive essential packages for VAWG survivors	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare	Power holder	Strategic engagement with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The essential services package is a guidance tool that identifies the essential services to be provided to all women and girls who have experienced GBV. It also provides guidelines for the coordination of these services. It is yet to be finalised and adopted by MoGCDSW and rolled out across the country. This should be expedited by the Ministry.</li> <li>The Ministry's Social Welfare department should provide psycho-social support to women, girls and children that have been subjected to violence.</li> <li>The Ministry should ensure provision of standard VAWG packages to survivors that should include relevant medical and information resources.</li> </ul>
	Ministry of Health	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The health sector is mandated to provide the health needs of women and girls that have experienced GBV, but in most cases government hospitals and health centres have inadequate medical supplies to meet their needs.</li> <li>The Ministry of Health should ensure that government hospitals and health centres have sufficient medical supplies to meet the needs of survivors.</li> </ul>

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry should collaborate with other duty-bearers to ensure that essential packages for VAWG survivors are consistently available.</li> <li>The Judiciary has a mandate to deliver justice and interpret the law for women and girls that have experienced GTV. The Chief Justice is expected to periodically issue practice directions for courts to reasonably deal with cases VAWG.</li> <li>Malawian courts at all levels should prioritise hearing and concluding VAWG cases. Mechanisms for fast tracking VAWG cases should be institutionalised.</li> <li>Perpetrators of violence should be met with appropriate punishments and internal accountability mechanisms to address delays and weak sentences in VAWG cases should be prioritised.</li> </ul>
Judiciary	Power holder	Lobbying, collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Police should ensure that their frontline officers identify and refer GBV cases to appropriate institutions without delays, and that any public health messaging produced by the police includes information for women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of violence on how to seek safety and support.</li> </ul>
Police	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CVSUs should ensure that assessment and referral of GBV cases is done in a timely manner. Sensitisation messages at community level should include information for women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of violence on how to seek support safety and support.</li> </ul>
CVSUs	Ally	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CVSUs should ensure that assessment and referral of GBV cases is done in a timely manner. Sensitisation messages at community level should include information for women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of violence on how to seek support safety and support.</li> </ul>
One Stop Centres	Ally	Collaboration and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institutionalise and support OSCs by ensuring every district has relevant personnel to respond to VAWG cases, including medical, police, psychosocial support and social welfare services.</li> </ul>
Community Leaders	Ally	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community leaders should not preside over any physical and sexual violence cases but refer them in a timely manner to appropriate institutions. They should seek support from CVSUs or WROs and other GBV service providers to appropriately refer VAWG cases.</li> <li>Sensitisation messages should also include information on how women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of violence would seek safety and support.</li> </ul>
MoGCDSW	Power holder	Coordination and Strategic engagement with relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoGCDSW should ensure that all its frontline staff are trained on the gender transformative curriculum.</li> <li>The Ministry should also ensure that the gender transformative curriculum is rolled out to all service providers in this sector.</li> </ul>
Judiciary	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most frontline Judiciary staff have not been trained on gender sensitive or survivor-centred approaches. This has resulted in reports of negative attitudes towards VAWG survivors.</li> </ul>
Limited technical and resource capacity and negative attitudes of service providers			



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Judiciary should collaborate with MoGCDSW in the rollout of the gender transformative curriculum to frontline Judiciary staff, and orient magistrates and judges on survivor-centred approaches.</li> <li>Encourage judicial officers to exercise judicial activism in VAWG issues</li> </ul>
Police	Power Holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While some Police VSU officers have been trained to handle VAWG cases in a child-friendly, gender-sensitive manner with survivor-centred approaches, most frontline officers have not yet received such training.</li> <li>The Inspector General of Police should ensure that all its frontline staff, particularly those in VSUs, are trained on the gender transformative curriculum and are seen to be responsive to the needs of the survivors.</li> </ul>
Ministry of Health	Power Holder	Collaboration and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most health personnel, including those that handle cases of sexual and physical violence, have not been trained on gender sensitive or survivor-centred approaches. This has resulted in reports of negative attitudes towards VAWG survivors.</li> <li>The Ministry of Health should collaborate with MoGCDSW in the rollout of the gender transformative curriculum to frontline staff.</li> </ul>
CSOs/NGOs	Allies	Lobbying, engagement and strategic partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While some CSOs and NGOs handle cases of VAWG survivors, some staff have not been trained in survivor-centred approaches.</li> <li>CSOs/NGOs should collaborate with MoGCDSW and other like-minded institutions to ensure their staff receive trainings and refresher orientations on survivor-centred approaches.</li> </ul>

**Objective 6: Civil society effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of holding the Government of Malawi accountable for VAWG prevention and the delivery of VAWG response services**

Table 6 showing operational framework for objective 6

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
Weak coordination mechanisms	Non-Governmental Organisation Gender Coordination Network (NGO GCN)	Power holder	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NGO GCN is mandated to coordinate activities of NGOs dealing with gender and women's rights issues in Malawi. Its mission statement underlines that it is a network that exists to promote gender equality and equity in Malawi through coordination, lobbying, advocacy, information sharing and capacity building of its members. However, their coordination role faces challenges including capacity gaps and financial resource constraints.</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is need for NGO GCN to strengthen their coordination roles.</li> <li>Need for NGO CCR to collaborate with NGO GCN on issues of gender and child rights with a view of promoting their synergies for the promotion of VAWG work in Malawi.</li> </ul>
Non-Governmental Organisation Coalition on Child Rights (NGO CCR)	Ally		Collaboration and partnership	

**Objective 7: Donors and development partners coordinate and collaborate to effectively and efficiently support the Government of Malawi to achieve objectives 1-5 and provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming, in-line with the long-term objective of reducing the prevalence of VAWG in Malawi**

Table 7 showing operational framework for objective 7

Key Issue	Target	Power holder/ally/opponent	Approach to apply	Rationale for engagement and key messages
Competitive approaches by donors and development partners	Donors	Power holders	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is limited coordination among donor and development partners for VAWG work, and in some cases it appears competitive. There is need to increase synergy approaches and eliminate duplications in supporting duty bearers to implement VAWG prevention and response work in Malawi.</li> <li>Donors and development partners should review coordination mechanisms to increase collaboration efforts in supporting VAWG prevention and response work.</li> </ul>
	Development partners	Allies	Collaboration and strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant development partners on VAWG work should work hand in hand with all donors supporting both implementation of VAWG prevention and delivery of VAWG response services.</li> </ul>

## 4. National Action Plan

Table 8 showing National Action Plan

No.	Objective	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
1	Government of Malawi increases central resource allocation to VAWG prevention and response and commits to establishing an effective VAWG budget monitoring system by December 2025.	<p>Mainstream VAWG prevention and response issues into formulation and review of national planning processes and documents.</p> <p>Commit to conduct budget analysis for Ministry of Gender and other ministries that deliver VAWG programming in Malawi.</p> <p>Prepare briefing and position papers on budget gaps and lobby on increased budgetary allocations for Ministries and agencies that deliver VAWG prevention and response programming.</p> <p>Revise and increase budget ceilings for District Councils and City Assemblies for implementation of VAWG programs at district and community levels.</p> <p>Provide technical and financial support to the lead Ministry (MoGCDSW).</p> <p>Relevant government ministries and departments prioritise VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual workplan and budget.</p> <p>Parliament agrees to establish an effective VAWG budget monitoring system.</p> <p>Develop and implement user-friendly tools for tracking budget expenditure for VAWG services.</p>	<p>National Planning Commission</p> <p>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare</p> <p>Relevant CSOs and NGOs on VAWG work</p> <p>National Local Government Finance Committee</p> <p>Donors and development partners</p> <p>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Malawi Police, Judiciary, Ministry of Health</p> <p>Parliament</p> <p>Relevant CSOs/NGOs on VAWG</p>	<p>2023</p> <p>March 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>May 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to improve the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG	<p>Review and strengthen guidelines for various coordination actors for VAWG services.</p> <p>Allies to support the lead Ministry (MoGCDSW) with technical and financial support for strengthening coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>Conduct advocacy among donors to provide technical and financial support to the relevant TWGs.</p> <p>Conduct capacity buildings for TWGs and monitor their performance including budget tracking on GBV and inclusion of GBV in DIPs.</p>	<p>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare</p> <p>Development partners</p> <p>NGO GCN</p> <p>CSOs/NGOs on VAWG work</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

<p>prevention and response work by December 2022.</p>	<p>Integrate aspects of VAWG prevention and response delivery in the annual planning processes of institutions at community level by July 2022.</p>	<p>Area Development Committees and Women rights organisations</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p><b>3</b> Government of Malawi ensures the drafting and adoption of regulations and sentencing guidelines for the gender and child rights related laws by December 2023.</p>	<p>Operationalise the National Children’s Commission to address weak coordination related to issues of GBV faced by girls and children. Finalise harmonisation of gender and child rights related laws. Establish the Gender Equality Commission so that it is fully functional as provided for in the Gender Equality Act. Enforce the provisions of Gender Equality Act. Ensure that the Human Trafficking Board is fully functional as provided for in the Trafficking in Persons Act. Finalise the sentencing guidelines bill for the implementation of gender and child rights related laws. Adopt the regulations and sentencing guidelines for the gender and child rights related laws.</p>	<p>Malawi Human Rights Commission Ministry of Justice &amp; Constitutional Affairs in partnership with Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare and Law Commission Malawi Human Rights Commission Malawi Human Rights Commission Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Relevant line Ministries</p>	<p>2022 2023 2023 Ongoing 2023 2022 2022</p>
<p><b>4</b> Government of Malawi effectively provides oversight and quality assurance on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions and overall coordination of VAWG prevention programmes by December 2023.</p>	<p>Develop and enforce minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes which ably monitors adherence. Promote coordinated efforts in VAWG prevention programme delivery through the relevant technical working groups.</p>	<p>Department of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare Department of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare</p>	<p>2023 Ongoing</p>
<p><b>5</b> Government of Malawi improves the essential services for survivors of VAWG such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred by December 2025.</p>	<p>Develop/strengthen, validate and launch the essential package tool for VAWG services in Malawi. Roll out the standard VAWG packages for women and girl survivors of violence across the country. Disseminate the adopted referral pathway guidelines for VAWG services in Malawi.</p>	<p>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare Ministry of Gender, relevant Ministries and NGOs Ministry of Gender, Tithetse Nkhanza, International NGOs and other like-minded institutions</p>	<p>2022 2022 Ongoing</p>

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	<p>Support the lead Ministry (MoGCDSW) with both technical and financial support for quality VAWG services that are accessible, responsive and accountable.</p> <p>Develop guidelines that will ensure that medical supplies in hospitals and health centres are consistently available for VAWG survivors.</p> <p>Develop inclusion guidelines for VAWG services that ensure the rights and needs of survivors with disabilities are met.</p> <p>Roll out the inclusion guidelines for VAWG services.</p> <p>Develop internal accountability mechanisms within the Judiciary to address delays and weak sentences on VAWG cases. (Perpetrators of violence should be met with appropriate punishments. Mechanisms for fast tracking VAWG cases should be institutionalised).</p> <p>Roll out gender transformative curriculum to personnel in the health sector, police, Judiciary, MoGCDSW and other actors on VAWG.</p>	<p>Tithetse Nkhanza, Spotlight Initiative, International NGOs and other like-minded institutions</p> <p>Ministry of Health</p> <p>MoGCDSW through the Department of the Elderly and Disability</p> <p>MoGCDSW and other like-minded institutions</p> <p>Judiciary</p> <p>Ministry of Gender, Tithetse Nkhanza, Spotlight Initiative, International NGOs and other like-minded institutions</p> <p>NGO GCN/relevant NGOs</p> <p>NGO GCN/relevant NGOs</p> <p>NGO GCN/relevant NGOs</p> <p>NGO GCN and NGO CCR</p> <p>Donors and development partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2022-2023</p> <p>2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<b>6</b>	<p>Civil society effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of holding the Government of Malawi accountable for VAWG prevention and the delivery of VAWG response services</p>	<p>Undertake assessment of key challenges to government accountability and the development of the accountability policies and systems.</p> <p>Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the allocation and expenditure of budget for VAWG prevention work and response services.</p> <p>Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the quality of VAWG prevention work and VAWG response services.</p> <p>Coordinate and collaborate for effective and efficient delivery of their role in holding Government of Malawi accountable.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<b>7</b>	<p>Donors and development partners coordinate and collaborate to effectively and efficiently support the</p>	<p>Provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

<p>Government of Malawi to achieve objectives 1-5 and provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming, in-line with the long-term objective of reducing the prevalence of VAWG in Malawi.</p>	<p>Improve coordination and collaboration among donors and development partners on VAWG programming in Malawi.</p>	<p>Donors and development partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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## 5. Coordination, Monitoring, Learning, and Adaptation

### 5.1. Coordination

In recognition of the prevailing situation on the ground, that NGO GCN is mandated to coordinate activities of NGOs dealing with women and girls' rights issues in Malawi and it is the only NGO network dealing directly with gender issues, this document envisages that NGO GCN will lead work on influencing and demanding interventions from relevant duty bearers with technical and financial support from development partners. As such, the implementation of this strategy will be coordinated by NGO GCN. Regular coordination meetings will be convened by NGO GCN complemented by the work of the NGO Coalition on Child Rights (NGO CCR).

### 5.2. Monitoring, learning, adaptation and evaluation

The National Advocacy Strategy on VAWG Prevention and Response will be monitored through a combination of process and objective monitoring. On finalisation of the strategy through validation from key stakeholders, the National Advocacy Taskforce will agree upon key indicators and monitoring processes to gather information which will enable the progress tracking, learning, and adaptation. These are outlined in table 10.

The Guiding Principles of the Monitoring, Learning, and Adaptation plan of the National Advocacy Strategy are built on core values held by Taskforce members. Table 9 below outlines these principles.

Table 9 Guiding principle of the *Monitoring, Learning, and Adaptation plan*

Principle	Implication for National Advocacy Taskforce
<b>Learning-focused</b>	Learning will emerge in the implementation of this strategy, and situations will change. All elements of the Advocacy Strategy's MLA plan, therefore, are focussed on learning what works, and what does not work, to support the adaptation of plans, strategies and objectives in line with lessons generated.
<b>Flexibility</b>	The National Advocacy Strategy MLA plan aims to provide information relating to what is being achieved, rather than prescribing what these objectives should be or how they should be achieved.
<b>Transparency</b>	The National Advocacy Strategy MLA plan allows for accountability to the women and girls of Malawi, in whose name the Strategy has been drawn, as well as institutions from which the Taskforce members are drawn and their various funding sources, including donors.
<b>Collaborative and inclusive</b>	All organisations that are involved in delivering the strategy have a role in gathering and analysing data and information.
<b>Evidence-based</b>	Reporting and analysis are based on high quality data gathered in the most accurate way possible.
<b>Survivor-centred and respect</b>	Monitoring, learning and adaptation processes will respect the autonomy and rights of the women and girls from whom information and data is gathered. The agency and rights of women and girls will be prioritised over the need for information, and data collection tools and processes will be designed in accordance with the informed wishes of women and girls.

## NATIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY ON VAWG PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

### Operationalising the MLA plan

Table 10 will outline the key indicators, tools and processes that will be utilised in monitoring the progress and achievements of the National Advocacy Strategy work plan.

Table 10 Key indicators, tools and processes to monitor progress and achievements of the National Advocacy Strategy work plan

Objective and sub-objective/s	Means of Verification	Data source	Data collection methodology	Lead responsible	Frequency of reporting
<b>Objective 1: Government of Malawi increases central resource allocation to VAWG prevention and response and commits to establishing an effective VAWG budget monitoring system by December 2025</b>					
1.1 National Planning Commission should ensure that VAWG prevention and response issues are mainstreamed into the formulation and review of national planning processes and documents and budgeted for accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and quality of sessions focussed on VAWG included in national strategy review processes</li> <li>Number of national strategy documents<sup>6</sup> which include adequate reference to VAWG prevention and response</li> </ul>	National Planning Commission documents and review process agendas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presence in national strategy review processes that are open to development partners and civil society organisations</li> <li>Requests for information relating to meeting minutes</li> <li>Requests for information relating to national strategy documents</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of meeting minutes and documents</li> </ul>	Tithitse Nkhanza	Bi-annually
1.2 By March 2021, the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare commits to deliver a VAWG budget analysis in Malawi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written or verbal statement given by Permanent Secretary (PS)/Director/Minister committing support to VAWG budget analysis process</li> <li>Communique signed between CSO reps and MoG to work together to deliver the VAWG budget analysis</li> <li>Development of ToR for the analysis adopted by Ministry (adopted by PS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting minutes from meeting with MoG</li> <li>ToR developed by leading agency</li> <li>Development partner financial commitments on supporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for information relating to meeting minutes</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of meeting minutes and documents</li> </ul>	Tithitse Nkhanza	Quarterly

<sup>6</sup> Examples of national strategy documents may include Vision 2063 strategy, Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, 3 year economic plan and others



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	Budget commitment secured from a development partner to undertake the analysis	budget analysis		
1.3 District Councils prioritises VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual workplans and budget for delivery by the Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health within their districts by July 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Local Government Finance Committee provides budgetary framework to district councils</li> <li>Director of Planning and Development (DPD) and District Director of Finance (DDF) oriented on VAWG sensitive budget</li> <li>VAWG activities incorporated in Village Action Plans (VAPS) and District Development Plans (DDPs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Local Government Finance Committee</li> <li>Respective Local Council documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for information relating to budgetary framework for district councils</li> <li>Requests for information relating to district council annual budgets</li> <li>Comparative budget analysis</li> </ul>	TBC Bi-annually
1.4 Ministry of Gender should prioritise VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual plans and budgets particularly for the Department of Gender Affairs which is responsible for oversight, quality assurance and coordination on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VAWG prevention and response work adequately included in MoG annual plans</li> <li>Percentage of increase in resources for VAWG prevention and response activities</li> <li>Number of quarterly technical working groups meetings at both National and Council Level.</li> </ul>	Department of Gender Affairs documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for information relating to annual plans and budgets</li> <li>Requests for information relating to quarterly technical working group minutes</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of meeting minutes and annual plans</li> <li>Comparative budget analysis</li> </ul>	TBC Quarterly
1.5 Malawi Police Service prioritises VAWG prevention work and response services within their annual workplan and budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage increase of resources at Victim Support Unit</li> <li>Number of planned prevention activities in the workplan</li> </ul>	Malawi Police Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for information relating to annual plans and budgets</li> <li>Comparative budget analysis</li> </ul>	TBC Quarterly

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<p>1.6 Judiciary prioritises VAWG justice services within their annual workplan and budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage increase of resources at Judiciary allocated to VAWG justice services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judicial Service Commission documents</li> <li>Judiciary Documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to annual plans and budgets</li> <li>Comparative budget analysis</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p>1.7 Ministry of Finance increases central budget allocation to Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Local Government, Malawi Police Service (MPS) and the Judiciary for VAWG work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of increase of the annual central budget allocation to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoG</li> <li>MoLG</li> <li>MPS</li> <li>Judiciary</li> </ul> </li> <li>In line with allocations as per above sub-objectives</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to and budgets</li> <li>Comparative budget analysis</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Annually</p>
<p>1.8 By May 2021, Parliament agrees to establish an effective VAWG budget monitoring system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written statement by Chair of the Social and Community Affairs Parliamentary Committee on development of budget monitoring system</li> <li>Developed TORs for Social and Community Affairs Committee supported by Women Caucus on VAWG budget monitoring</li> <li>Committed resources for VAWG budget monitoring</li> </ul>	<p>Parliament documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to statement on budget monitoring system, Terms of Reference, etc.</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Bi-annually</p>
<p><b>Objective 2: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare to improve the coordination and collaboration among and between the informal and formal duty bearers and civil society for the effective and efficient delivery of VAWG prevention and response work by December 2022</b></p>					
<p>2.1 Ministry of Gender strengthens the role of Gender Technical Working Groups to ensure shared learning between informal and formal duty bearers and civil society on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and quality of review technical meetings</li> <li>Number and quality of studies on VAWG prevention and Response</li> <li>Number and quality of joint monitoring visits on VAWG</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare minutes and reports on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to technical meeting minutes.</li> <li>Request for information relating to VAWG study reports</li> <li>Request for information relating to monitoring visit and exchange visit reports</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>

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what works and what does not work for VAWG prevention by December 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and quality of exchange visits on sharing of VAWG prevention and response best practices</li> </ul>	Gender technical working groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>		
2.2 Area Development Committees (ADCs) collaborate with Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) to integrate aspects of VAWG prevention and response in their annual planning processes by July 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VAWG prevention and response incorporated in Annual plans of ADCs &amp; WROs</li> <li>Number of MoUs between ADCs and WRO</li> </ul>	Respective Local District Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to ACD annual plans and MoUs</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	TBC	Quarterly
2.3 District level annual planning processes are participatory, include WROs, and build on the ADC plans to integrate aspects on VAWG prevention and response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of women's organisations meaningfully engaged in planning meetings of VAWG interventions</li> <li>Number of women led VAWG prevention and response activities included in the district annual workplan</li> </ul>	District Council and WROs reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from Women's Rights Organisations on their engagement in district level annual planning processes</li> </ul>	TBC	Quarterly
2.4 By July 2022, plans should provide clarity on who is responsible for undertaking a VAWG prevention and response activity and specify where within the district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of women led VAWG prevention and response activities in the district annual workplan</li> </ul>	District Council and WROs reports and minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback from district level planning processes and coordination</li> </ul>		Annually
<b>Objective 3: Government of Malawi ensures the drafting and adoption of regulations and sentencing guidelines for gender and child rights related laws by December 2023</b>					
3.1 Ministry of Justice in conjunction with Ministry of Gender and the Law Commission to finalise harmonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of additional harmonised gender and child rights related laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Justice documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Law Commission reports</li> <li>Review of Ministry of Justice reports and work plans</li> </ul>	Tithetse Nkhanza	Bi-annually

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of gender and child related laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harmonised gender and child rights related laws gazetted</li> <li>Implementation framework for the harmonised laws developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law Commission Documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of state party reports</li> </ul>		
3.2 Law Commission to finalise review of gender related laws in partnership with line ministries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to 3.1 (Needs to be revisited)</li> </ul>	Law Commission documents (reports and publications)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Law Commission reports</li> <li>Review of Ministry of Justice reports and work plans</li> <li>Review of state party reports</li> </ul>	Tithetse Nkhanza	Bi-annually
3.3 Malawi Human Rights Commission fully establish the Gender Equality Commission so that it is fully functional as provided for in the Gender Equality Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed legal and policy framework for the Gender Equality Commission, in particular regulations</li> <li>Budget allocated by Parliament to Malawi Human Rights Commission for establishment of Gender Equality Commission</li> <li>Developed strategy for Gender Equality Commission</li> <li>List of appointed Commissioners for the Gender Equality Commission</li> </ul>	Malawi Human Rights Commission reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of MHRC reports and workplans</li> <li>Review of Ministry of Justice reports and work plans</li> <li>Review of state party reports</li> </ul>	Tithetse Nkhanza	Annually
3.4 Malawi Human Rights Commission enforces the Gender Equality Act as provided for under that law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Availability of budget allocated to Malawi Human Rights Commission for enforcement of Gender Equality Commission</li> </ul>	Malawi Human Rights Commission Budget provision by Parliament.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of MHRC reports and workplans</li> <li>Review of national budget documents</li> </ul>		
3.5 Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security ensures that the Human Trafficking Board is fully functional as provided for in Trafficking in Persons Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of meetings conducted by the Board of Directors for Human Trafficking Board</li> </ul>	Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security report</li> </ul>	Tithetse Nkhanza	Quarterly
3.6 Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed Terms of Reference for the drafting of the regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Justice and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of reports from the line ministries</li> </ul>	Tithetse Nkhanza	Annually

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<p>collaboration with relevant line ministries, draft and/or finalise (as relevant) the regulations for the implementation of gender and child related laws.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft regulations for gender and child rights related laws</li> </ul>	<p>Constitutional Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare</li> </ul>		
<p>3.7 Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs finalises the sentencing guidelines bill for the implementation of gender and child rights related laws.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved cabinet paper for consideration of the draft sentencing regulations</li> <li>Gazetted sentencing guidelines</li> <li>Launched and disseminated meetings for courts users on sentencing guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of reports</li> </ul>	<p>Tithetse Nkhanza</p> <p>Annually</p>
<p><b>Objective 4: Government of Malawi effectively provides oversight and quality assurance on VAWG prevention programmes and interventions and overall coordination of VAWG prevention programmes by December 2023</b></p>				
<p>4.1 Ministry of Gender particularly the Department of Gender Affairs enforces minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes and ably monitors adherence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention interventions</li> <li>Number of functional GBV and VAWG management information meetings</li> <li>Number of monitoring visits by the Ministry of Gender conducted on minimum standards for the delivery of VAWG prevention programmes</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Gender (Check availability of adopted minimum standards for delivery of VAWG prevention interventions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to minimum standards for VAWG prevention interventions, meeting minutes and visit reports</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p> <p>Quarterly</p>
<p>4.2 Department of Gender Affairs ensures coordinated efforts in VAWG prevention programmes delivery through the Gender Technical Working</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Gender TWGs and subcommittee meetings at the National and District levels</li> <li>Number of Functional Technical Working Groups, and GBV-Sub Technical Working Group, the Women's Economic Empowerment Technical</li> </ul>	<p>Ministry of Gender minutes and meeting reports for GTW groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to meeting minutes</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

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Groups, and GBV-Sub Technical Working Group, the Women's Economic Empowerment Technical Working Group and the Women in Decision Making Technical Working Group.	Working Group and the Women in Decision Making Technical Working Group able to coordinate				
<b>Objective 5: Government of Malawi improves the essential services for survivors of VAWG such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred by December 2025</b>					
5.1 Ministry of Health improves medical services for VAWG survivors such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of health services meeting the Essential Services Package (ESP) quality standard</li> <li>Number of VAWG survivors who report to have accessed quality medical services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Health</li> <li>Annual assessment reports</li> <li>Survivor satisfaction survey reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-assessment and independent assessment of health services using Essential Services Package quality standards</li> <li>Feedback from survivors on their experience of health services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> <li>Tithetse Nkhanza Survivor Satisfaction Survey</li> </ul>	Annually
5.2 Malawi Police Service improves policing services for VAWG survivors such that they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of VAWG survivors who report to have accessed quality policing services (initial contact and investigations)</li> <li>Number of policing services meeting the ESP quality standards</li> <li>Number of VSUs meeting specialised care services standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survivor satisfaction survey reports in the Malawi police service or any other interested parties.</li> <li>Annual assessment report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-assessment and independent assessment of police services using ESP quality standards</li> <li>Feedback from survivors on their experience of police services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> <li>Tithetse Nkhanza Survivor Satisfaction Survey</li> </ul>	Annually
5.3 Malawi Judiciary improves justice delivery for VAWG survivors such that they are accessible,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Judicial services meeting the ESP quality standards</li> <li>Number of VAWG survivors who report to have accessed quality Judicial services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual assessment report in the Malawi Judiciary or any other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-assessment and independent assessment of judiciary services using ESP quality standards</li> <li>Feedback from survivors on their experience of judiciary services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> <li>Tithetse Nkhanza Survivor</li> </ul>	Annually

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responsive and survivor-centred.		interested parties	Survivor satisfaction survey reports	Satisfaction Survey	Annually
5.4 Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare improves social welfare services for VAWG survivors so they are accessible, responsive and survivor-centred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of Social Welfare Services meeting the ESP quality standards for VAWG survivors</li> <li>Number of VAWG survivors who report to have accessed quality social welfare services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual assessment report in the Ministry of Gender or any other interested parties</li> <li>Survivor satisfaction survey reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-assessment and independent assessment of social welfare services using Essential Services Package quality standards</li> <li>Feedback from survivors on their experience of social welfare services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> <li>Tithetse Nkhanza Survivor Satisfaction Survey</li> </ul>	Annually
<b>Objective 6: Civil society effectively and efficiently deliver their mandate of holding the Government of Malawi accountable for VAWG prevention and the delivery of VAWG response services</b>					
6.1 Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the allocation and expenditure of budget for VAWG prevention work and response services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of public budget and expenditure reviews conducted</li> <li>Number of high level engagements on budget allocation and utilisation conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant CSOs' review reports and position papers on budget accountability</li> <li>High level engagement reports related to the subject matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to budget and expenditure reviews and meeting minutes</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	TBC	Bi-annually
6.2 Hold Government of Malawi accountable for the quality of VAWG prevention work and VAWG response services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and quality of high level engagements on quality of VAWG prevention and response services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant CSO monitoring reports and assessment reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request for information relating to engagement</li> <li>Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	TBC	Bi-annually

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<p>6.3 Coordinate and collaborate for effective and efficient delivery of their role in holding Government of Malawi accountable for objectives 1-5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of coordination meetings for NGO and CSO VAWG actors conducted</li> <li>• Joint work plans on VAWG developed</li> <li>• Number of joint monitoring visits by NGO and CSO VAWG Actors conducted</li> <li>• Shared coordination roles and plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level engagement meetings reports</li> <li>• Minutes and meeting reports</li> <li>• NGO VAWG actors Joint work plans</li> <li>• Monitoring visit reports</li> <li>• NGO VAWG actors' coordination roles and plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for information relating to meeting minutes, workplans, monitoring visits</li> <li>• Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p><b>Objective 7: Donors and development partners coordinate and collaborate to effectively and efficiently support the Government of Malawi to achieve objectives 1-5 and provide consistent and sustained support for VAWG prevention and response programming, in-line with the long-term objective of reducing the prevalence of VAWG in Malawi</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of collaboration sessions between or amongst development partners focussing specifically on VAWG</li> <li>• Number of collaboration sessions between or amongst donors focussing specifically on VAWG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VAWG development partners' collaboration session reports</li> <li>• Donors VAWG collaboration session reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for information relating to meeting minutes</li> <li>• Qualitative content analysis of documentation</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Bi-annually</p>