

## **MALAWI IRISH CONSORTIUM ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (MICGBV)**

### **CONCEPT NOTE FOR FORMULATION OF MICGBV SECRETARIAT**

Submitted to the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi

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#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This is a concept note developed by the Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (MICGBV) as part of an initiative towards proposed formulation of a Secretariat under the Malawi Consortium. The initial period will be 12 months with a proposed budget of Euro 165,000.

#### **II. BACKGROUND OF MICGBV**

The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence (ICGBV) was born from an Irish based alliance of international human rights, humanitarian and development organisations who are leaders in the sector in terms of GBV prevention and response. Members include Action Aid Ireland, Concern Worldwide, Plan Ireland, World Vision Ireland, Trócaire, GOAL, Irish Red Cross, Christian Aid Ireland, Oxfam Ireland, Self Help Africa, Irish Aid and Irish Defence Forces.

The Irish Consortium was established in 2005 as a response to reports of ongoing and systematic sexual violence against women and girls in the Darfur Region of Sudan. The ICGBV works together to increase knowledge and understanding of violence against women and girls, and to ensure high quality programming and policy responses, in both humanitarian and development settings. Collaboration between members at country level has been strongly encouraged to promote the following: shared learning and best practices; joint programming on preventing and responding to GBV; collaborative advocacy or research projects. In 2014/2015 the Irish Consortium opened a call to provide match funding for collaborative projects on addressing Gender Based Violence in four countries, Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Great Syrian region.

In Malawi, in 2014, Concern Worldwide, GOAL, Self-Help Africa and Trócaire, in collaboration with the Irish Embassy organized a photographic exhibition during the 16 Days of Activism which coincided with a State visit from Irish President Michael D Higgins. While no funding came from the ICGBV, the exhibition was brought to Ireland for the 16 Days commemoration in Dublin. Building on the success of the 2014 event in Dublin, the ICGBV members in Malawi successfully applied for ICGBV matched funding to hold 16 Days of Activism activities at national level in consecutive years from 2015 up to and including 2019. Over the years, other organizations joined the group and it is currently comprised of 7 members, with UN Women working with the group as a coordinating UN agency on 16 days of activism campaign.

Since 2014, the Consortium has been coming together to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against GBV and beyond that the Consortium works together with the Government of Malawi and other like-

mindful institutions in responding to GBV and promotion of gender equality. The Consortium aims to promote evidence-based programming on gender equality and GBV and support the work that the Government of Malawi is doing through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare.

### III OBJECTIVES OF THE MICGBV

Overall, the Malawi Irish Consortium aims to promote evidence-based programming on gender equality and GBV and support relevant work of the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare. Furthermore, it seeks to work together beyond the 16 days of activism activities through:

- i. Sharing learning and best practices grounded in evidence among the members and externally with relevant stakeholders.
- ii. Identifying and exploring opportunities to work collaboratively to conduct research, to develop programme approaches and implement initiatives to promote gender equality and respond to gender-based violence.
- iii. Joint advocacy: becoming a credible voice with a significant influence on policy and practice in relation to GBV and other gender issues, based on high-quality evidence / research and learning from the work of its members at field level. Further strengthen the Consortium's advocacy capabilities to complement the work of existing national gender coordinating groups (e.g. Gender Coordination Network) and local CSOs and thereby demonstrating how the Consortium complements and enhances efforts of national actors by using the international reach of our organisations.
- iv. Coordination and linkages: establishing linkages with other GBV/gender platforms for joint advocacy purposes and local capacity building, as relevant, of the same.

### IV ADDED VALUE OF EACH MEMBER

The Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence membership is diverse, representing humanitarian, development, human rights, advocacy and gender focused organisations including donor agencies. Currently the Malawi Consortium comprises of 7 member organizations which are ActionAid Malawi, Concern Worldwide, GOAL, Irish Rule of Law, Oxfam in Malawi, Self-Help Africa and Trócaire with support from the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi. Currently, in 2021, Trócaire is the Chair of the Consortium, while is the Vice Chair organization.

- **ActionAid Malawi:** Apart from supporting local coordination in Mzimba, Nsanje, Machinga, Ntchisi and Phalombe, Action Aid has a strong focus on building GBV response capacity by conducting training of women on protection; safe referrals and confidentiality in humanitarian situations; carrying out the identification and furnishing of safe spaces for women and organizing community orientations on Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- **Concern Worldwide:** Concern works in Lilongwe, Mangochi, Phalombe, Nsanje and Mulanje districts. Concern has a strong emphasis in gender equality and GBV prevention in all its programmes in Malawi. Concern implemented prevention of school related GBV programmes in order to protect children's rights and improve attendance as well as achievement at school. Concern has experience in working on GBV in emergencies and during COVID response, produced gender transformative messages encouraging men to get involved in prevention and messages on GBV and use of referral pathways (IEC written materials).
- **GOAL:** Conducting community awareness around GBV prevention in southern districts of Blantyre, Machinga, Chikwawa and Nsanje, working with GBV service providers to strengthen

GBV services in the district including awareness raising to community leaders and youth networks and logistical support to different line ministries. Furthermore, GOAL also has experience in working on GBV in emergencies.

- **Irish Rule of Law:** works on improving access to justice for the most vulnerable within the central region by building the capacity of the key criminal justice institutions. IRLI provides direct legal support to vulnerable female prisoners including survivors of GBV and women who have been accused of infanticide following miscarriage, still birth or unsafe abortion. IRLI also facilitates training and development of guidelines on ensuring due process rights of women, children and vulnerable groups are protected and promoted.
- **Oxfam in Malawi:** Works in districts of Nsanje, Phalombe, Balaka, Zomba, Machinga, Mulanje, Thyolo, Kasungu, Mchinji, Dowa, Nkhatabay, Lilongwe, Karonga and Mzimba with local partner organizations in each district providing support to the district protection teams in monitoring GBV and in scaling up public hygiene messaging and awareness raising whilst integrating gender and anti-GBV messages. Oxfam has recently undertaken interrelated activities in gender and public health through distribution of hygiene kits, PPEs and hygiene promotion campaigns in Machinga, Balaka, Mulanje, Thyolo and Nkhatabay to support partners and communities to better manage and respond to GBV. Oxfam has also undertaken responses in Lilongwe, Kasungu, Phalombe, Karonga Districts.
- **Self Help Africa (SHA):** SHA uses the Family Life Model to integrate gender in all of its programmes. SHA creates awareness among all its beneficiaries on the need to stop GBV, report GBV cases and protect survivors of GBV. Awareness creation is done through meetings, training and workshops. We use Gender Champions who are selected among the beneficiaries to help address GBV and we work with local and district level structures. Also, Under the BETTER project SHA use the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) to challenge harmful gender norms.
- **Trócaire:** Works exclusively through partnership with local NGOs and civil society organizations. Currently Trocaire works in Machinga, Salima, Ntcheu, Balaka and Zomba with programming on GBV prevention and response. Trócaire co-created the innovative community engagement gender transformative methodology SASA! Faith, developed in 2016 jointly with Raising Voices Uganda, as an adaptation of the original SASA! methodology. Since 2016, Trócaire has been delivering successful SASA! Faith interventions across five countries, namely Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Myanmar, in development and humanitarian contexts. Trócaire also supports a national GBV Helpline operated by YONECO, which has been registering increased numbers of cases related to GBV and COVID.

## V. FORMULATION OF A SECRETARIAT

The Malawi Consortium came together to respond to GBV amidst COVID-19 and submitted a proposal to the Irish Embassy. After internal discussion and considerations, the Embassy expressed an interest to consider supporting the Malawi Consortium in setting up a Secretariat. It is envisioned that a Senior Programme person housed in one of the Member offices would ground the Consortium, external surfacing of the Consortium and general programme management and development.

## VI. VALUE ADDITION OF THE SECRETARIAT

With a formal Secretariat, the Consortium can be a stronger Malawi actor on GBV prevention and response, influencing policy and legislation; strengthening existing protection systems and GBV services;

better advocating for change, while also linking up and strengthening local actors on ending GBV. The Secretariat will add value through a dedicated staff member to manage the Consortium's joint interventions on a day-to-day basis, rather than on a periodic basis as it usually happens where the Consortium would only come together during intensified intervals towards the period of preparation of the 16 days of activities. As such, we envisage having:

- i. **Stronger and more robust holistic GBV prevention, response activities and advocacy on GBV** issues that the consortium will identify in line with the group's objectives
- ii. **Enhanced Coordination:** Since different agencies in the consortium have different areas of focus/specialization i.e. some agencies are human rights, advocacy and gender focused, while others are specialized humanitarian responses. Thus, the secretariat will strengthen coordination of the diverse membership of the consortium to address issues of GBV beyond the 16 days of activism against GBV. The secretariat will also **strengthen learning/knowledge sharing** of best practices for the consortium members and beyond based on individual members strengths and areas of improvement including field visits to partner cities as necessary-it will also be the responsibility of the secretariat to identify external facilitators for such initiatives.
- iii. Facilitating an independent accountability mechanism: while the consortium has been implementing different activities for over five years now, monitoring and evaluation of the groups' effort has not been done. Therefore, the secretariat will lead in ensuring that activity outcomes/impacts are well documented for the improvement of the consortium work, serving the vulnerable populations better including sharing with other stakeholders on key lessons, challenges and best practices

Based on successful implementation of GBV initiatives during the 16 days of activism against GBV in the past five years, the consortium will bring together its member agency expertise in order to achieve results at scale. For example, having human rights, advocacy and gender focused agencies will help support communities better by bringing together individual agencies' capacities, knowledge and expertise to address GBV at local and national level through this Secretariat. During the programme review sessions to be organized by the Secretariat, different agencies will have a role to play in order to strengthen GBV response in the districts based on their area of expertise. This has been discussed in detail between members of the Consortium and there is strong consensus on the approach and distribution of risk and responsibility. Therefore, formulation of this Secretariat would be a good opportunity to perfect the Consortium approach. During the first year, the performance of the Secretariat will be monitored closely, evaluated and reflected upon with a view to lesson learning.

## VII. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SECRETARIAT

While details of the Secretariat will be agreed upon, some of these proposed ways of working include recruitment of a dedicated professional staff member who will lead the Secretariat under direct line management of the Chair Agency of the Consortium.

The size and composition of the Secretariat and the relevant conditions of service will be formulated by the Management Board.

The Management Group, which will be composed of the CDs/Eds of the seven member organisations, shall be the advisory body of the Consortium's Secretariat, while the Secretariat's Coordinator, managed by the Chairing Organisation, shall undertake the day-to-day management of the Consortium's agreed interventions. The Consortium's Secretariat Coordinator will liaise very closely with the technical Women's Empowerment/GBV Leads of each member agency in carrying out its work. The Management Group shall meet at least once per quarter (and on an ad hoc basis as necessary) during which the Secretariat's Coordinator will provide updates on progress of work as per the workplan.

### **VIII. DUTIES & FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT**

Guided by the objectives of the Consortium, the Secretariat shall perform the following duties,:

- i. Coordinate information dissemination between the Consortium and the Embassy as relevant,
- ii. Lead in advocacy and other services as may be agreed from time to time by the Management Board
- iii. Facilitate effective collaboration between Consortium members, the Embassy, Government of Malawi, development partners, and international organizations
- iv. Lead in fund raising activities for the achievement of the objectives of the Consortium
- v. Manage resources provided by the Embassy and Consortium members according to agreed proposals and budgets which will assist in the achievement of Consortium's strategic objectives
- vi. Advise the Consortium technical members and the Management Board in respect of policy and practice as required
- vii. Establish partnerships with other like-minded organizations at national and international level
- viii. Coordinate information dissemination, advocacy and other services as may be agreed or needed from time to time by the Management Group
- ix. Responsible for day to day duties including monitoring, developing and tracking of work plans, etc.
- x. Any other reasonable duties as assigned by the Management Group and technical members

#### **Functions of the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall be responsible for the management of day-to-day activities of the Malawi Consortium. The Secretariat's coordinator shall be a staff member of the Consortium's Chair, as such will report and be line managed by the Consortium's Chair. The Secretariat's Coordinator will provide progress reports on workplan execution and budget expenditures to the Consortium's Management Group on a quarterly basis. . Reports of these meetings, and any other progress reports as relevant, shall be shared with the Irish Embassy in Malawi.

### **IX. KEY PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT**

- i. Lead on conducting of a mapping of all Consortium members' GBV related interventions to identify synergies, gaps, etc.;
- ii. Based on the mapping, prepare an annual work plan, including a calendar of events in line with the Consortium's goals and objectives;
- iii. Lead on the preparation of an annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in order to measure progress on the Consortium agreed interventions
- iv. iv. Lead in the development of a 'rolling' multi-annual research plan. This may include proposed collaboration to conduct joint research with relevant academic institutions (in Malawi



and Ireland) in particular to address gaps in evidence on various fields relevant to the MICGBV. Support the development of a communications/visibility strategy for the Consortium in order to raise visibility for its joint work on ending GBV

- v. Lead in the planning for the 16 days of activism against GBV, International Women's Day, International Day of the Girl Child and any other relevant commemorations towards addressing GBV
- vi. Liaise with key stakeholders such as Development Partners, Donors, Key Ministries and other like-minded organizations and Consortiums in close collaboration with the Chair and Co-chairs
- vii. Conduct Gender/GBV advocacy and influencing activities as will be outlined in the work plan, including working with local actors on ending GBV.

#### **X. FINANCES / FUNDING OF THE SECRETARIAT AND MANAGEMENT**

Initial start-up funding of the Secretariat proposed to be covered by the Irish Embassy for a period of one year. Guided by the Management Group, the Secretariat shall also perform duties such as;

- i. Source funding from individual organizations to implement the grouping activities. Member organizations are encouraged to have a budget line to go towards supporting activities of the Malawi Irish Consortium on GBV. The management Group will explore whether members will contribute to the Secretariat's annual budget for specific activities;
- ii. Explore funding opportunities with ICGBV in Ireland where appropriate
- iii. Fundraise from other development partners and/or donors
- iv. Be accountable to Management Group, members, donors and the Government of Malawi in respect of finances entrusted to its care
- v. The secretariat shall have a financial policy to guide in all its financial dealings.
- vi. The secretariat shall produce regular financial reports for donors and key stakeholders as necessary

#### **XI. BUDGET:**

Proposed allocation is for Euro 165,000 for the first twelve months. Please refer to Annex II. for the budget.

## **Annex I: Current way of working of the MICGBV, without a dedicated Secretariat (as of 2020)**

### **ROLES OF THE MEMBERS**

The roles of the members under the Malawi Consortium include;

- i. All Consortium members are expected to fully participate in the operations and other activities of the consortium including meetings Carry out their tasks diligently
- ii. Support the Chair organization in implementing the country level activities /plans
- iii. Support the Chair organization in delivering the upcoming events/meetings
- iv. Participate in raising funds for the consortium activities
- v. Provide relevant technical expertise;
- vi. Represent the consortium in conferences, workshops or meetings at local, or international level as determined by the consortium

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP**

- i. Members shall be INGOs registered in Malawi with roots from Ireland (Irish based NGOs) working in the field of gender/GBV
- ii. Other interested organisations could app for membership to the chairing organization through the secretariat
- iii. OR should there be need, the secretariat can reach out to other Irish based INGOs to inform them about the grouping and invite them to join (if the secretariat has a view that there is an added value in having them as new members)

### **LEADERSHIP**

The Malawi Irish Consortium on GBV is led by the Chair (chairing organization) who shall be nominated by the members on a yearly basis. The chairing organization is assisted by the Vice-chair organization which is also nominated on an annual basis and automatically assumes the Chairing role in the subsequent year.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAIR**

- i. Call for meetings- the meeting dates (schedule) shall ideally be agreed by the members. The chair shall circulate an email a week before reminding other agencies of the scheduled meeting. Ad hoc meetings may be called as necessary depending on the requirements at that time.
- ii. Lead meetings and discussions
- iii. Ensure delegation of responsibilities are done accordingly and deadlines met
- iv. Be the point of contact between the Malawi Irish Consortium on GBV and the ICGBV in Ireland
- v. Provide relevant updates including reports to ICGBV in Ireland and other relevant structures /stakeholders
- vi. Application, reception and administration of funds towards the initiative while keeping track of spend by the consortium
- vii. Coordinate joint proposal development for consortium activities & submission to the donor(s)