Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19
Actions, Gaps and the Way Forward
DO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) NUMBERS MATTER?

Emerging data on GBV and COVID-19 often show a **sharp increase in violence against women and girls (VAWG)**. However, evidence suggests that in some contexts fewer cases are reported.

SNAPSHOT OF COVID-19 AND GBV DATA

The information below was gathered in April and May 2020 through a country snapshot analysis by the East and Southern Africa (ESA) UNFPA Regional Office:

1. **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC):**
   - **sharp INCREASE IN CHILD MARRIAGE CASES** from 11 - 15 PER CENT (Kasai Central) and 4 - 28 PER CENT (Kasai) between January and March.

2. **KENYA:**
   - from January to February, Shining Hope for Community (SHOFCO) GBV/CHILD PROTECTION CASES registered an **AVERAGE OF 150 CASES** across four sites. In March, 355 CASES were handled across all four sites.

3. **UGANDA:**
   - The National Child Helpline reported over 256 **GBV/VAC (VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN) CASES** in the span of two weeks during March. These were received through phone calls to the Uganda National Child Helpline (UCHL).

4. **ZAMBIA:**
   - Data from call centres show a sharp increase of VAC and VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) through March and April. There was a **27 PER CENT INCREASE** in cases of **VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS** and a **38 PER CENT INCREASE** in cases of **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**.

5. **ZIMBABWE:**
   - An **INCREASE OF OVER 90 PER CENT** in **GBV CALLS** was recorded by the Zimbabwe National GBV Hotline since the beginning of the lockdown from March 30 to May 5.

UNFPA’S LATEST PROJECTIONS

GLOBALLY, THERE HAS BEEN A **30% INCREASE IN GBV REPORTED CASES**

**31 MILLION ADDITIONAL CASES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE** can be expected to occur if the **LOCKDOWN** continues for at least **6 MONTHS**

- **2 MILLION FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION CASES**
- **13 MILLION CHILD MARRIAGES**
- **TAKING PLACE** between 2020 and 2030 that could have otherwise been averted.

A **SHIFT IN REPORTING MECHANISMS** FOR GBV CASES from HOTLINES to different SOCIAL MEDIA such as WHATSAPP, SKYPE AND CHATBOX.

2 MILLION FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION CASES

13 MILLION CHILD MARRIAGES TAKING PLACE between 2020 AND 2030 that could have otherwise been averted.