



**THE ACCELERATOR
FOR GBV PREVENTION**

Consultations with Feminist/Women's Rights Organisations: Building Collective Power for a Shared Advocacy Agenda on GBV Prevention



Introduction

The Accelerator for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, a newly-established initiative, was created to support and coordinate joint advocacy efforts for more and better money for evidence-based and practice-informed policies and programs to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), and to support the work of the GBV Prevention community which includes donors, governments, policymakers, researchers and feminist organisations. The Accelerator, brings together the GBV prevention movement to set ambitious, game-changing goals outlined under the Shared Advocacy Agenda (SAA), formalised as a collective commitment with the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Action Coalition on GBV.

These goals include:

- Increased direct investment in evidence-based programs and policies by private donors, governments, bilaterals, and multilateral for the prevention of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity by at least \$500 million of new money by 2026 in low and middle-income countries.
- 50% of all national governments commit to funding, in addition to or outside of international assistance, by including one or more specific budget lines for the prevention of GBV against women and girls in all their diversity (in many cases, outlined by their own 'Action Plans'), by 2026.



The Consultations

We recognize that feminist movements are key stakeholders in the work toward ending GBV and therefore should be at the forefront in advocating for more and better resources for prevention. During our first year, it was important for us to consult and hear from feminist/women's rights organisations and activists who have been holding this work in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In partnership with our regional partners and advisory group members from the three regions, we held informal consultations which allowed us to create awareness about the Shared Advocacy Agenda. The sessions also provided an opportunity to deeply listen to the needs and concerns of feminist movements and women's rights organisations to better inform our collective advocacy approaches for better and more funding for GBV prevention.

This report presents a summary of these conversations and highlights some of the key takeaways from our conversations that are useful in informing the future work on building collective power for the Shared Advocacy Agenda.



AFRICA

The Accelerator for GBV Prevention and Raising Voice (Uganda) organised a consultation with women's rights organisations from English-speaking West, East, and Southern Africa on 8 June 2022 including Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Malawi, Tanzania, Namibia, and Zambia.

Top three top priorities identified for increased funding in the region:

- Investment in core, long-term and flexible funding for women's rights organisations that takes into consideration the 'cost' doing GBV prevention including; security risks, hiring skilled staff, training, and adopting organisational sustainability measures to support the growth of their organisations.
- Funding for convening and creating safe spaces for movement actors to connect, plan, and strategies on GBV prevention approaches in their context.
- More investment in innovation and testing of new approaches to GBV Prevention, especially taking into consideration different contexts and moving away from the 'one-size-fits-all' approach towards GBV prevention.

Top 3 advocacy targets identified:

- Private philanthropy in Africa e.g. Dangote, and other high net worth individuals.
- Engage with the African Union (AU) and its regional mechanisms
- Engage with regional women's rights organisations who engage in the AU policy space and build on the work that has been done and strengthen advocacy efforts.

While participants identified National Governments as a key advocacy target, they also re-emphasized that they have a responsibility to protect women from violence under national and international human rights law, governments are duty bearers and therefore the strategy should take a human rights approach.



LATIN AMERICA & The CARIBBEAN (LAC)

The Accelerator together with the Global Women Institute at George Washington University DC held a Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean on 22 June 2022. The consultation brought together women's rights organisations and activists from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the United States.


Top three top priorities identified for increased funding in the regions:

- The importance of core, long term and flexible funding for women's rights organisations and movements.
- More investment in locally-led innovation and testing of new approaches to GBV Prevention.
- More funding for local adaptation of successful GBV prevention interventions.

Top 3 advocacy targets identified:

- National Government as a key target and stated they have the responsibility in investing in GBV prevention. Participants also raised their desire to collectively recognize that governments in low- and middle-income countries have begun to invest in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. It is not enough of course, but it is useful to recognize that they have started to invest.
- Philanthropic organisations/foundations: Participants felt these were an advocacy target and could use their funds to support GBV prevention work in the region.
- Bilateral agencies/ Donor Governments to increase long-term and flexible funding for GBV prevention.

Participants highlighted the role of Women's Funds, in the region, women's funds have played a key role, because of their flexible, general support and multi-year funds. Participants also shared the importance of working with social justice movements not only with governments, because many times governments are not interested in providing support and may not take an intersectional approach toward GBV prevention.





ASIA

The Accelerator together with Breakthrough India organised the Asia consultation on 7 September 2022. The Consultation brought together women's rights and feminist organisations from South Asia; Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka. At the onset, participants emphasised the importance of holding an intersectional approach to GBV prevention funding.

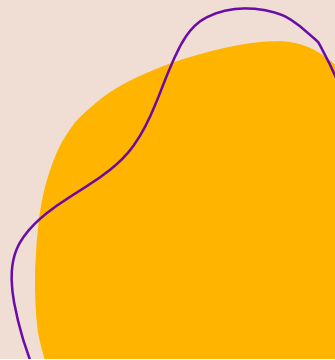
Top three top priorities identified for increased funding in the regions:


- Investment in core, long-term and sustainable funding, especially for smaller grassroots organisations. Some smaller organisations struggle to show the results simply because of a lack of funding. In addition, participants shared that GBV prevention work is also about behavioural and systemic change which needs long-term funding.
- Fund scale-up of what works, but do it in a way that remains locally led and context-specific.
- Fund feminist movements building initiatives to create opportunities for sharing, learning, and collective advocacy for GBV prevention and create a strong GBV prevention advocacy movement in Asia.

Top 3 advocacy targets identified:

- Multilateral Institutions - participants felt it was important to engage through multilateral institutions due to the political climate in the region and the challenges with the reduction of civic space and security concerns for activists and organisations, etc.
- National Governments as the key duty bearers.
- Philanthropic foundations to support movement building in the region.

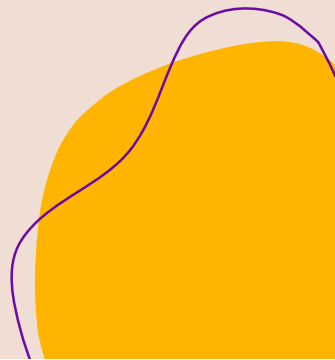
Participants also highlighted the need to engage with private sector actors to support work on GBV prevention especially as interlinked with other areas of work like climate etc.





Top three areas where the Accelerator can support organisations to advance the Shared Advocacy Agenda

In all the consultations, women's rights organisations identified three top areas where the Accelerator can be supportive of their work to prevent GBV and advance the Shared Advocacy Agenda.

1. **Shared Resources:** Support partners with advocacy tools to help develop their advocacy strategies for advocating for more and better funding for GBV in the region.
 2. **Collaboration:** Convene regular meetings for feminist/women's rights organisations to co-create collective advocacy strategies and advance the Shared Advocacy Agenda.
 3. **Partnership Building:** Facilitate relationships and connections between feminist organisations, researchers as well as donors/funders.
- 

Conclusion

These Consultations provided an opportunity for the Accelerator to share its work and the Shared Advocacy Agenda and better understand some of the needs and priorities across the different regions. While these consultations did not engage all countries and regions, it was a first step towards building relationships and encouraging collective ownership of the Shared Advocacy Agenda.

We heard loud and clear that the Shared Advocacy Agenda was relevant and needed across the board, and that organisations were interested in moving this agenda forward using strategies that were fit for their contexts and regions. We noted that across the regions, there was a desire to create spaces for the co-creation of advocacy strategies and tactics and support with advocacy tools and materials. These recommendations will inform the Accelerator for GBV Prevention plans for 2023 and beyond and present clear pathways for future engagement with these partners to advance the Shared Advocacy Agenda.

A special thanks to our advisory group members and their teams: Lori Michau and the Raising Voices team especially Lucky Kobugabe in Uganda; Mary Ellsberg and the team at GWI including Carme Clavel Arcas; Sohini Bhattacharya and the Breakthrough team especially Urvashi Gandhi & Pritha Chatterjee. We want to acknowledge the foundational work done by the Equality Institute which formed the basis for these consultations. Lastly, we would like to thank all the amazing feminist organisations for their time, warmth, support, and generosity, we do not take that for granted.

