

CSO NETWORKS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON ADVOCACY TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND CHILD MARRIAGE IN GHANA

MIKLIN HOTEL EAST LAGON | 1ST – 3RD SEPTEMBER, 2021



Introduction

With support from the Ford Foundation West Africa Office, the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) in Nigeria and in partnership with the ProHumane Afrique International in Ghana organized a 3-day CSO networks capacity building workshop on advocacy to end Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and child marriage from the 1st – 3rd September, 2021 in Ghana. The training gathered high profiled executive directors of esteemed CSOs and CSO networks, from Liberia, Senegal, Gambia, Nigeria and Ghana, working to end gender-based violence and child marriage across West Africa countries.

Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the training are as follows:

- Increase knowledge, awareness and understanding of new and emerging factors putting girls and women at risk of GBV and child marriage, as well as emerging opportunities to end these practices.
- Identify advocacy issues to end child marriage, develop messaging, identify targets and plan for conducting advocacy visit.
- Strengthen the capacity and efficacy of CSOs and CSO networks to design and conduct evidence informed advocacy to government officials on how to accelerate action to end GBV and child marriage.

Participants' profile

An integral part of the project was intended to empower CSOs and CSO networks so as to gain advocacy skills and competences that will enable them to conduct evidence-based advocacy to end gender-based violence in West African states. The CSOs and CSO networks gathered in the workshop were identified

through a rigorous process. These high performing and most committed groups working to end gender-based violence and child marriage in West Africa are briefly profiled below:

- **Savannah Women Integrated Development Agency (SWIDA) - Ghana**

SWIDA is a women empowerment Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that aims to enhance the protection of women and young girls against violence through mobilization and establishment of capacity building and advocacy platforms. The NGO is involved in having dialogues with religious and traditional authorities on social norms that impede women and girls' empowerment with a view to finding lasting solutions to such issues.

- The People's Hope Foundation Africa - Ghana

The mission of this organization is to ensure inclusive and equitable education for children from the poorest households in Africa. The foundation has reported that in Africa about 65% of children are from poor households, thus causing majority of them to drop out of school. In order to ameliorate this situation, the foundation helps in the provision of logistics that will motivate a child from poor household to attend school and support appropriate and sustainable educational infrastructure and efficient use of public resources to make the world a better place.

- Muslim Family Counselling Services/Girls Not Brides Ghana Partnership - Ghana

The Muslim Family Counseling Services (MFCS) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1990 to provide information and services on population, reproductive health, water and sanitation, gender-based violence and prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and income generating activities within deprived communities in Ghana. For the past 24 years, MFCS has been advocating for sexual and reproductive health, culture, and against gender-based violence.

- Nigerian Women Trust Fund - Nigeria

The Nigerian Women Trust's Fund (WF) was created in 2011 to increase the presentation of women in Nigerian governance at all levels and address the growing concerns about gender-based violence and imbalance in elective and appointive positions. The organization's programme areas include gender advocacy, research and information, democracy, leadership and governance.

- BraveHeart Initiative for Youth & Women - Nigeria

BHI is a youth-focused organization in Nigeria dedicated to developing and empowering young people through information and skills training so as to make informed choices and grow into self-actualized adults capable of contributing to a better society. In October 2009, it registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission. Between 2019 and June 2021, BHI has intervened in about 129 cases of SGBV. The organisation is currently intervening in 39 cases of GBV, with 28 of these cases related to sexual violence. While 14 cases are still being investigated, five perpetrators had been convicted of their crimes in 2021.

- Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized Women & Girls (ADWANGA) - Liberia

ADWANGA is a CSO based in Tappita, Nimba County. It was established in 2005 after the civil war to cater for mainly teenage girls in Liberia after survey showed that many teenage girls were becoming victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Since then, it has helped to raise the standard of young girls and taken them from vulnerability to income generators. The organization has also sponsored disadvantaged and traumatized women and girls in both vocations and academics in more than seven schools in Ganta and Tappita.

- Chrissy Foundation - Ghana

Chrissy Foundation is a non-profit organization that is committed to empowering orphans and widows in making sure they receive some sort of gifts with vocational skills each year. In supporting the orphans, it

strives to get a budget for the year's event with the support of some individuals and organizations. The foundation visits the home of the orphanages and organizes events in order to motivate them and to make them realized that they have people who think about their wellbeing. The foundation has fed and clothed over 200 orphans in 2019, set-up businesses for 100 widows with startup capitals and educated 20 of the orphanage children in 2020.

- Women, Media and Change (WOMECE) – Ghana

Women, Media and Change (WOMECE) is a national organization registered in 2000 under the laws of the Republic of Ghana. WOMECE recognises that women's issues are multi-dimensional and are influenced by various factors including access to education, health, housing, food, shelter, land rights as well as other human rights issues. WOMECE is committed to promoting gender equality and equity.

- Hope for Future Generations – Ghana and Convener for SDG5 Platform in Ghana

Hope for Future Generations is a Ghanaian national community – based non-for-profit organization that works to improve the educational, health, gender & socioeconomic status of women, children and young people, including persons with disabilities. Since its inception, HFFG through partnerships has positively influenced thousands of lives in over 3,800 communities.

Methodology

The workshop adopted the interactive, question and answer learning method. The approach includes facilitating, problem-solving, participatory engagement, presentations, group discussion, plenary sessions, reflection on learning, supervisory exercise and case studies with individuals and groups. A pre-workshop questionnaire and a post evaluation tool were used in gathering data and in measuring the training outcome. Below is the overview of the workshop.

Overview of activities

Day 01

Session 1: Opening ceremony

Present at the opening ceremony of the workshop were the Ghanaian Minister of Gender, Women and Social Protection, Honorable Sarah Adwoa Sarfo, represented by Rejoice Anku of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection (MOGCSP); others include the UNFPA Technical Specialist on Gender, Dr. Ishmed Ndifuna, Executive Director of Goal 5 Convener – SDG CSO Network Platform – Mrs. Cecilia Senoo, and Vice President of the Girls Not Brides Ghana CSO Network – Mr. Muhammed Bid.

The Minister of Gender, Women and Social Protection expressed the readiness of the government of Ghana to work with CSO networks to reduce GBV and child marriage in West Africa. The UNFPA technical specialist stated that Africa has had high rates of child marriage and gender-based violence, hence the need for women's CSO network coalition to end this menace. The head of the SDG CSO Network Platform identified the need for collective actions among CSO groups to end child marriage and gender-based violence as it is a target component for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.

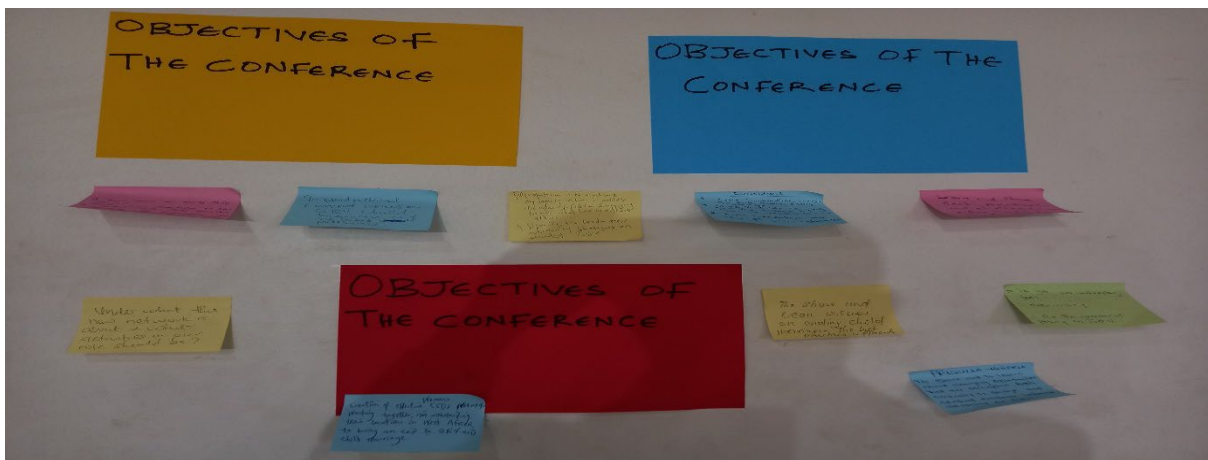




Opening ceremony keynote address session

Session 2: Expectation from the workshop – Panel Coordinator – Baptista S. Gebu (Executive Director, ProHumane Afrique International)

Participants in this session listed their expectations from the workshop. Their expectations include creation of effective women’s CSO networks across West Africa, sharing of ideas on the best approach and practices required in ending child marriage, learning the emerging strategies to conduct evidence based informed advocacy, understanding government policies on GBV and child marriage, acquiring best practices to overcome challenges affecting advocacy and new techniques in fostering enforcement of laws on GBV and child marriage in West Africa.



Session 3: Pre-workshop questionnaire administration –Baptista S. Gebu (Executive Director, ProHumane Afrique International) and Dr. Turnwait Michael (dRPC)

In this session, copies of a semi structured questionnaire designed for the workshop was administered to participants. The content includes NGOs networks contribution for putting an end to child marriage and gender base violence in West Africa, the factors contributing to the success of NGO networks working on GBV and child marriage, the undermining issues confronting the effectiveness of NGO networks, dominant type of networks working on GBV and child marriage, and the areas of capacity building needed to improve CSO network effectiveness.

Session 4: Participants’ Introductions – List out activities and achievements on GBV and the ending of child marriage – Facilitator, Mrs. Dorcas Coker-Appiah, Steering Committee Member of NETRIGHT

In this session, the participants mentioned the achievements made in the struggle against gender base violence and child marriage in West Africa. Some of the actions mentioned include the availability of policy required in putting an end to child marriage in some West African countries and the increasing awareness

of gender inequality hindering women and girls from attending their full potentials. The participants emphasized that more advocacy action is needed as the menace of gender-based violence and child marriage persist in the sub-region.



Session 5: Group work to map new and emerging risks and risk settings for GBV and child marriage as well as emerging opportunities to address risk factors – Facilitator: Baptista S. Gebu

In this session, the participants mapped emerging risks associated with gender-based violence and child marriage. The emerging risks identified by participants include gender-based violence occasioned by the onset of COVID-19, fear of approaching hospital for care due to COVID-infection, and unfriendly nature of security personnel towards victims of abuse. The participants also identified the increasing poverty level among low- and middle-income families, especially during COVID-19 period as a factor contributing to early marriage and GBV. The emerging risk settings identified by participants include conflicted communities, mining industries, internally displaced camps and school environment. To address these challenges, the participants mentioned that there is need for adequate advocacy CSO networks for timely formulation and full implementation of end child marriage policy, as well as continual sensitization of individuals, families and communities on the need to end gender-based violence and, forced and early child marriage across West and Central Africa.

Session 6: Presentation of technical analysis of GBV and child marriage trends in Ghana – Facilitator: Dr. Turnwait Michael, DRPC

In this session, the participants learnt that, globally 12 million girls marry before age 18 each year, one girl every 2 seconds, and the rate of child marriage is very high in West and Central Africa, with nearly 4 in 10 women marrying before the age of 18. The interactive session revealed that 37% of women aged 20 to 24 married before age 18 in West and Central Africa compared to 34% and 19% in Sub-Saharan Africa and the world, respectively. One out of four girls in Ghana is married before age 18 (34.1% nationally). Also, child marriage remains high in Ghana, especially among women and girls with no formal education, the poorest households, and those who live in Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions. Over 65% of child marriage occurs in rural settings alone. The participants highlighted that poverty, lack of education, harmful cultural norms, teenage pregnancy, gender inequality and inadequate enforcement of laws against GBV and child marriage are the main causes of GBV and child marriage in West Africa. The session was concluded with CSOs groups calling for an urgent end to gender-based violence and child marriage across West Africa through evidence-based advocacies for adequate and rapid enforcement of laws and policies.

DAY 02

Day 2 started with a recap of day 1 and ground rules reminder.

Session 1: Role of CSOs and CSO coalitions on ending child marriage: service delivery; awareness creation and advocacy roles – Panel session was chaired by Priscilla Usiobaifo.

In this session, the participants identified the role of CSOs and CSO coalition in ending child marriage in three ways (service delivery, awareness creation and advocacy roles). The participants emphasized that CSOs and CSO networks play significant roles in ending child marriage through the following service delivery areas: medical, legal, psychological and socio-economic service deliveries. The participants mentioned that awareness creation could be created through the use of community dialogue, focus group discussion, media (radio, television, social media, folktales, town crier, school club, artisan meeting, and market women and leaders meeting). The advocacy roles identified by participants include strategizing effective techniques for policy formulation, implementation and review for functionality.



Session 2: Introducing policy advocacy (defining the advocacy issues, the advocacy cycle and advocacy strategic planning – Panel session was chaired by Hajja Alima Sagito-Seed, and co-chaired by Amalia M. Cooper and Muhammed Bid.

In this session, the participants provided clarifications of the key concepts, and identified advocacy issues, advocacy cycle and advocacy strategic planning. The advocacy issues identified by the participants include the ending of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, timely released of funding for policy implementation, availability of evidenced based data for action, unbiased implementation of policy issues, empowerment of girl child, and gender response planning. The advocacy cycle and strategic planning identified by the participants include the following:

- Identifying the key issue causing child marriage and gender-based violence,
- Assessing environmental factors promoting the harmful practices,
- Setting measurable and achievable goals/objectives and time frame,
- Identifying target audience and influencers,
- Developing effective advocacy messages,
- Utilizing the available and effective communication channels,
- Mobilizing for resources (material, human and financial resources),
- Implementing the advocacy plan, and
- Reanalyzing and reviewing the advocacy action for better planning and implementation.



Session 3: Strength and weaknesses of CSOs and CSO coalitions carrying out advocacy roles to end GBV/child marriage – Facilitator: Hajia Alima Sagito-Seed

In this session, the participants identified the strength and weaknesses of CSOs and CSO coalitions involved in advocacy to end gender-based violence and child marriage in West Africa. The strengths of CSOs and CSO networks mentioned by the participants are as follows:

- Experienced personnel,
- Policy framework supporting ending child marriage and GBV,
- The legal and registered status of advocates' organizations,
- Support of international laws and bodies on ending child marriage and GBV,
- Collectivity and solidarity among CSOs networks,
- Common goals and objectives, and
- Government support.

The weaknesses of CSOs and CSO coalition regarding advocacy for ending child marriage and gender-based violence in West Africa identified by the participants are as follows:

- Poor collectivity and spirit of solidarity among CSOs and CSO networks,
- Lack of effective leadership among CSOs working around ending child marriage and GBV,
- Inadequate funding of CSOs for effective advocacy tasks in ending child marriage and GBV,
- Distrusted attitude and mindsets of some CSOs and CSO networks working around ending child marriage and GBV,
- Negative and destructive competitions among CSOs and CSO networks,
- Inadequate use of evidenced based data for advocacy,
- Poor drafting of advocacy message, and
- Inadequate monitoring and evaluation of advocacy message and implementation.

Session 4: Assessing government policies and programs in a bid to end child marriage – Facilitators: Kpachin Ibrahim and Christiana Asiedua-Asiedu

In this session, the participants were categorized into two groups to review government policies and programs about putting an end to child marriage. At the end, the groups reported that some countries in West Africa (Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Burkina Faso) already have policies regarding the putting to an end of child marriage policies while some others either do not have or are in the process (Liberia, Benin, Chad, Guinea, Niger, Senegal etc.). The groups concluded that the challenges confronting government policies and programs in the bid to end child marriage are:

- Poor implementation of policies and programs on ending child marriage,

- Lack of political will to support timely formulation and implementation of policies and programs to end child marriage,
- Inadequate knowledge of advocates (CSOs and CSO networks) on the availability of policies and programs to end child marriage,
- Lack of costing/budget for ending child policies in some West African countries, and
- Lack of monitoring and implementation plans on ending child marriage in some West African countries.
- Groupwork session



Session 5: Identifying and framing the advocacy issues/messages in GBV and child marriage – Facilitators: Turnwait Michael and Charity Binka

The participants learnt that advocacy framing is a way of structuring a problem/issue in a subtle manner using powerful communication strategy with a very clear language for advocacy purpose. The participants identified that the following questions need to be considered when framing advocacy message on GBV and child marriage:

- Does the advocacy message tell the story of how to end GBV and child marriage?
- Does it define who, what, when and how to pass the message?
- Does it specify the boundary for analysis?
- Does it contain evidence of causes, scope and consequences?
- Does it contain implementation strategy?
- Does it contain monitoring and evaluation plan?

Session 6: Logistic planning and presentation for advocacy visit to advocacy target with a message on child marriage – Facilitators: Alhassan Nuhu and Salamat Abdulwaheed

The participants discussed that logistic planning and advocacy visit require the identification of the target group/individual. On logistic planning and presentation for advocacy visit with a message on child marriage, the participants identified the following steps:

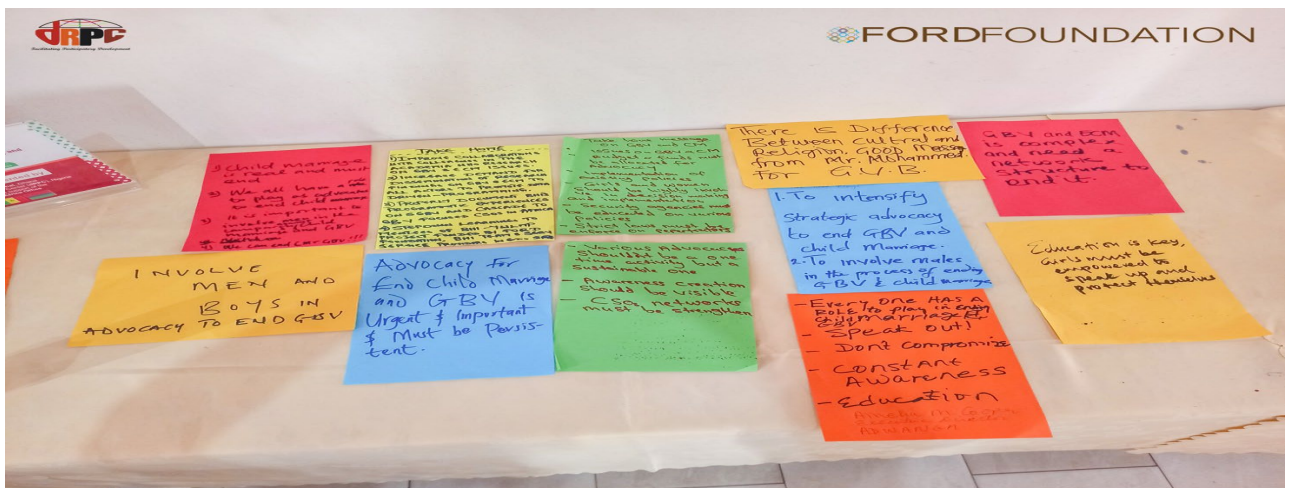
- Build consensus on deciding who to involve.
- Set smart objective.
- Identify the decision maker.
- Focus efforts on reviewing the context of the planning, presentation and advocacy visit.
- Know the decision maker.
- Determine the ask (questions and who to ask the questions).
- Achieve change through developing a work plan.
- Set benchmarks for success.
- Implement and assess the advocacy visit and presentation.



DAY 03

Day 3 of the training focused on the review of the advocacy issues, targets, logistics, and presentation for advocacy visit on GBV and child marriage from the group work session of the previous day. Some of the participants' reflections on lessons learned from the workshop are as follows:

- There is a difference between culture and religion on GBV and child marriage.
- Involve men and boys in advocacy to end GBV.
- Advocacy for ending child marriage and GBV is urgent & important.
- Intensify strategic advocacy for ending child marriage and GBV.
- Education is the key.
- Girls must be empowered to speak up and protect themselves.
- GBV is complex and needs united CSO networks for effective advocacy.
- Constant awareness is essential for ending child marriage & GBV.



Advocacy visit

The participants engaged in an advocacy visit to “Opportunities Industrialization Centers International Ghana” with advocacy messages on ending child marriage. The messages are:

- Stop under 18 child marriages.
- Globally - 12 million girls marry before age 18 each year – one every 2 seconds.
- Child marriage is highly prevalent in West and Central Africa (nearly 4 in 10 women are married before age 18).
- 1 out of 3 girls in Ghana is married before age 18 (34.1% nationally).
- Proportion of child marriage in Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa are similar.

- Over 65% of child marriage occurs in rural area of Ghana.
- Child marriage remains persistently high among girls with no education.
- Child marriage is highest among the poorest households.
- 14% of girls aged 15 to19 had begun childbearing in Ghana.
- Child marriage has negative effects on individual, family, community and the nation.
- Child mothers and their children are more susceptible to diseases and deaths than adult mothers and their children.
- If we don't take action now, more than 150 million girls will be married before age 18 by 2030.
- Advocacy visit session



Draft Workplan developed by the CSO networks coalition

| S/N | Output to be Achieved | Detailed Actions to be taken | When & where | Advocacy Targets | Partners | Expected Outcomes |
|-----|--|--|---|---|--------------|---|
| 1 | Conduct advocacy visit to the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection (MOGCSP) | Advocacy to improve implementation on National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage in Ghana | 2 nd week, October 2021 Accra | Honorable Minister, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection | CSO networks | Improved implementation on National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage in Ghana |
| 2 | Conduct advocacy visit to the | Advocacy for full implementation of justice on | 2 nd week, November 2021 Accra | Chief Justice of Ghana, | CSO networks | Improved justice on ending child marriage and |

| S/N | Output to be Achieved | Detailed Actions to be taken | When & where | Advocacy Targets | Partners | Expected Outcomes |
|-----|---|---|---|---|--------------|--|
| | Chief Justice of Ghana, Ministry of Justice | childing marriage and gender based violence in Ghana | | Ministry of Justice | | gender based violence in Ghana |
| 3 | Conduct advocacy visit to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Ghana Police Force | Advocacy for timely justice, arrest and execution of actions on ending childing marriage and gender-based violence in Ghana | 2 nd week, December 2021 Accra | Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Ghana Police Force | CSO networks | Improved timely justice, arrest and execution on ending childing marriage and gender-based violence in Ghana |

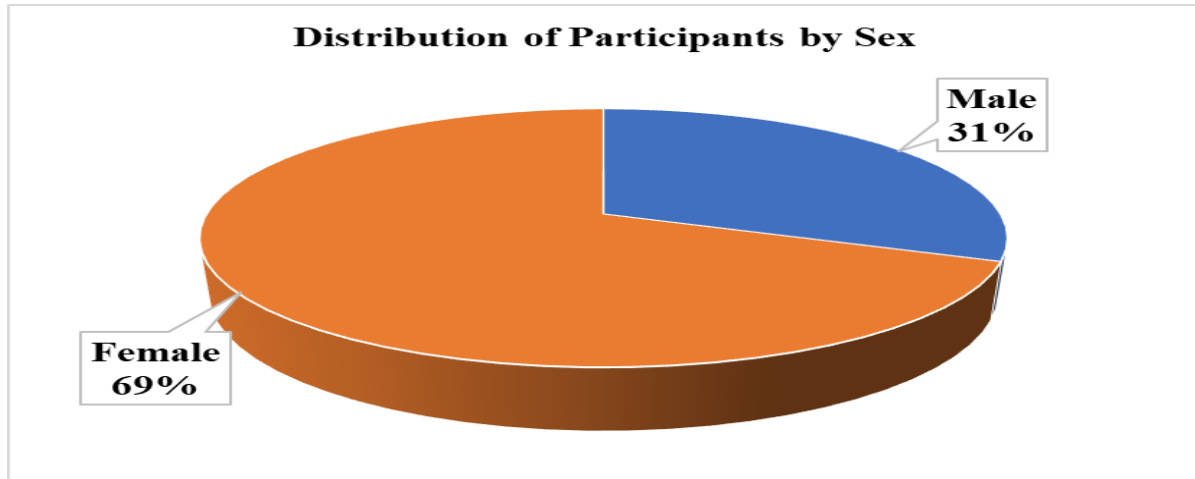
Closing ceremony and presentation of certificates to participants



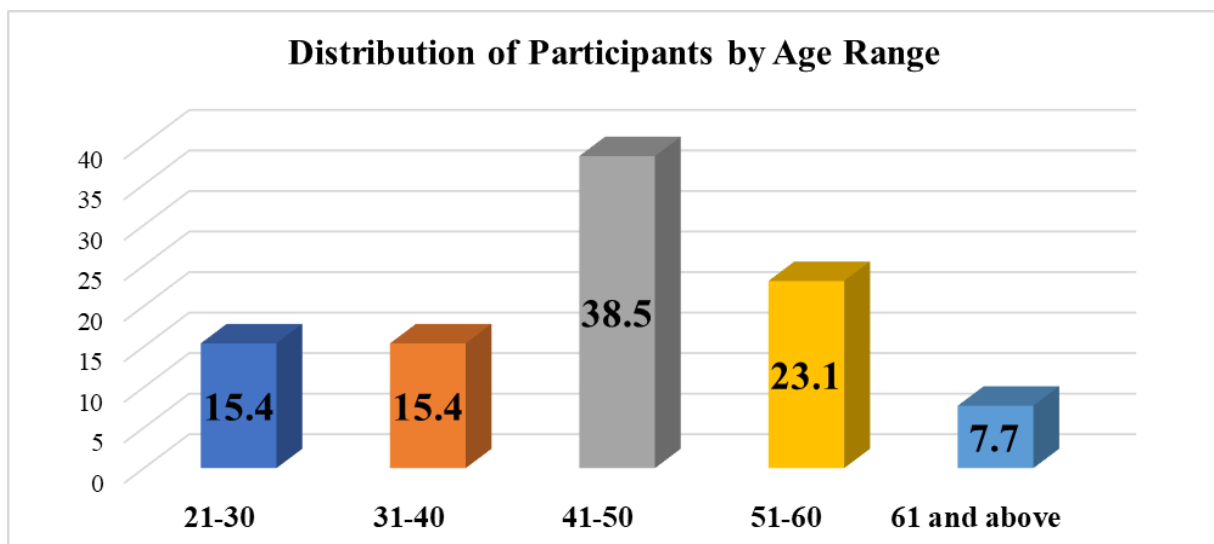
Evaluation of findings from the 3-day workshop

An evaluation instrument was used to measure the training outcome. The questionnaire employed was designed in both open and closed ended format. Qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted among participants to complement quantitative findings. A total of 14 participants were in the training. The 14 participants were administered the questionnaire; however, 13 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved and found completely filled and useful for analysis, giving a return rate of 92.9%. The retrieved copies of the questionnaire were coded and analyzed using excel software and presented in percentages. The qualitative data were content analyzed and presented in themes.

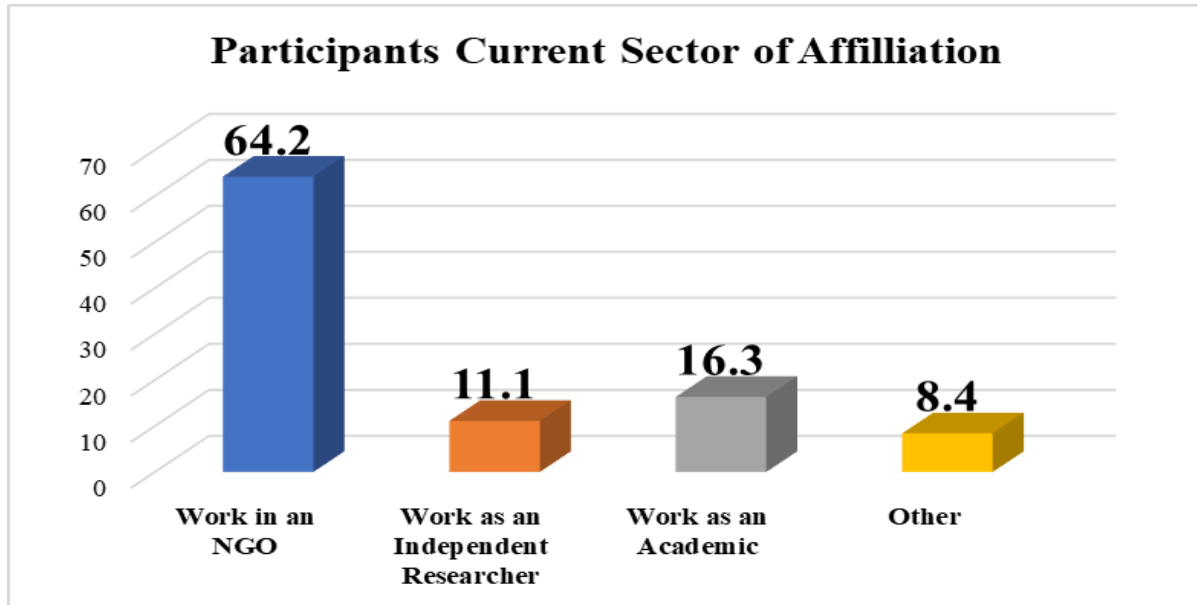
The findings showed that the participants were made up of both males and females. While more than half of the respondents were females (69%), others (31%) were males. The integration of both sexes in the workshop provided better understanding of the issues affecting gender-based violence and child marriage in West Africa.



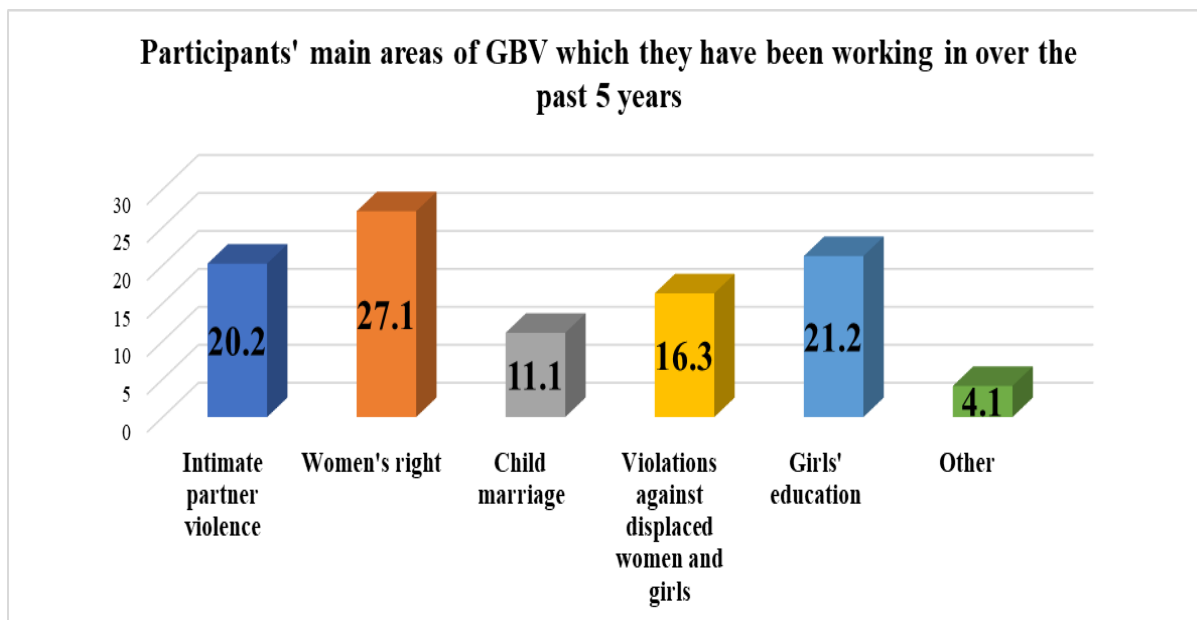
The participants were drawn from a wide age range, including young and advanced adults. For instance, 38.5% of the participants were aged 41 to 50 and 7.7% were aged 61 and above. The inclusion of various age categories provided deeper understanding of the phenomena.



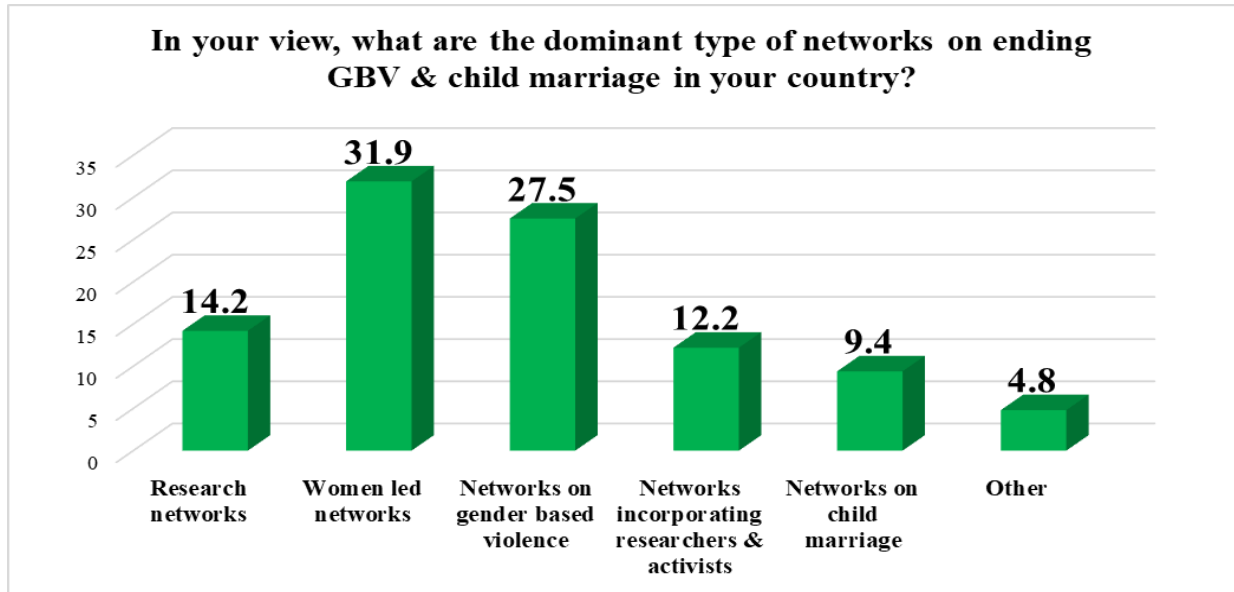
More than half of the respondents (64.2%) were working in a non-governmental organization, 11.1% were working as independent researchers and 16.3% were working in academic environment. This provided opportunity to capture ideas from staff of various sectors for informed decision making and generalization of findings.



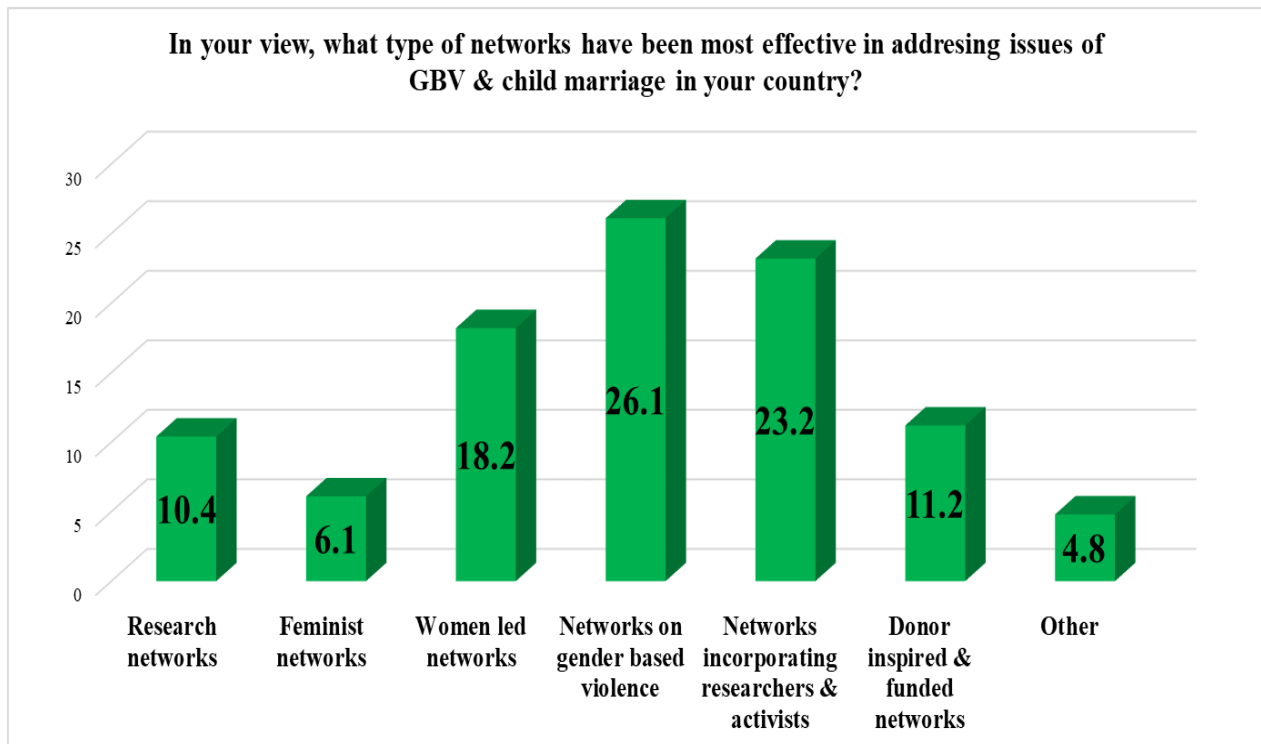
The participants were those who are working on gender-based violence issues, hence capable of providing insight on the objectives of the workshop. The highest percent of the participants (27.1%) had worked on women's rights. This was followed by those who had worked on intimate partner violence (20.2%), girls' education (21.2%), and violations against displaced women and girls (16.3%), among others. Although a few had specifically worked on child marriage (11.1%), it was not a surprise as child marriage is an issue that is recently attracting attention despite its many years of existence in Africa.



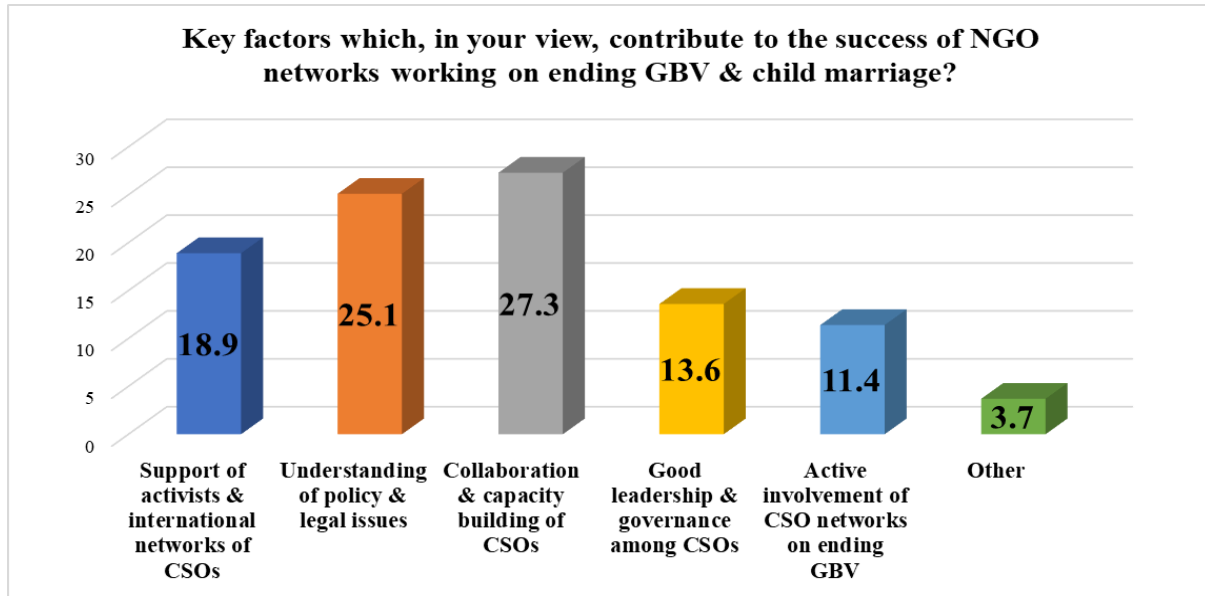
When participants were asked to identify the dominant type of networks adopted in ending GBV and child marriage in their country, they responded that the dominant type of networks adopted were women led networks (31.9%), followed by networks on gender-based violence (27.5%) and research networks (14.2%). Only a few (9.4%) stated that they adopted networks specifically meant for ending child marriage. These findings imply that there is need to focus much attention on putting an end to child marriage in West Africa as the incidence is on the increase in the sub-region.



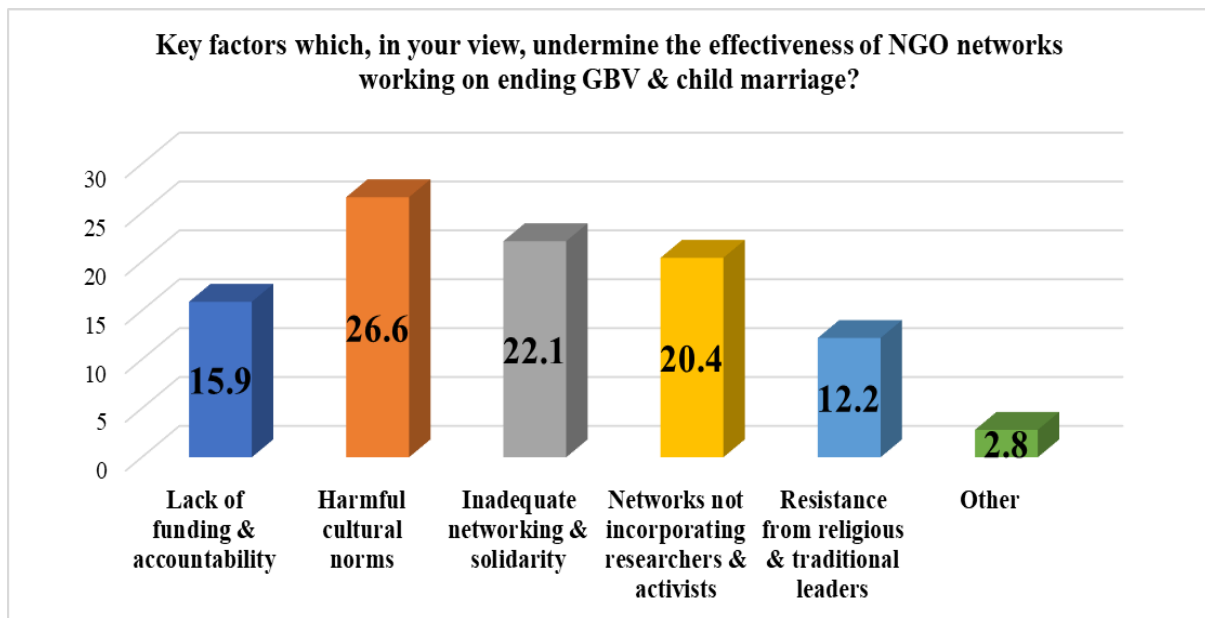
In their view, the participants mentioned that networks that have been most effective in addressing issues of GBV and child marriage in their country are networked on gender-based violence (26.1%), followed by networks incorporating researchers and activists (23.2%), women led networks (18.2%) and donor inspired & funded networks (11.2%). Their responses indicate that there is need for collaboration among CSO networks so as to end GBV and child marriage in West Africa, as a wide range of networks' collaboration could largely assist in ending GBV and child marriage.



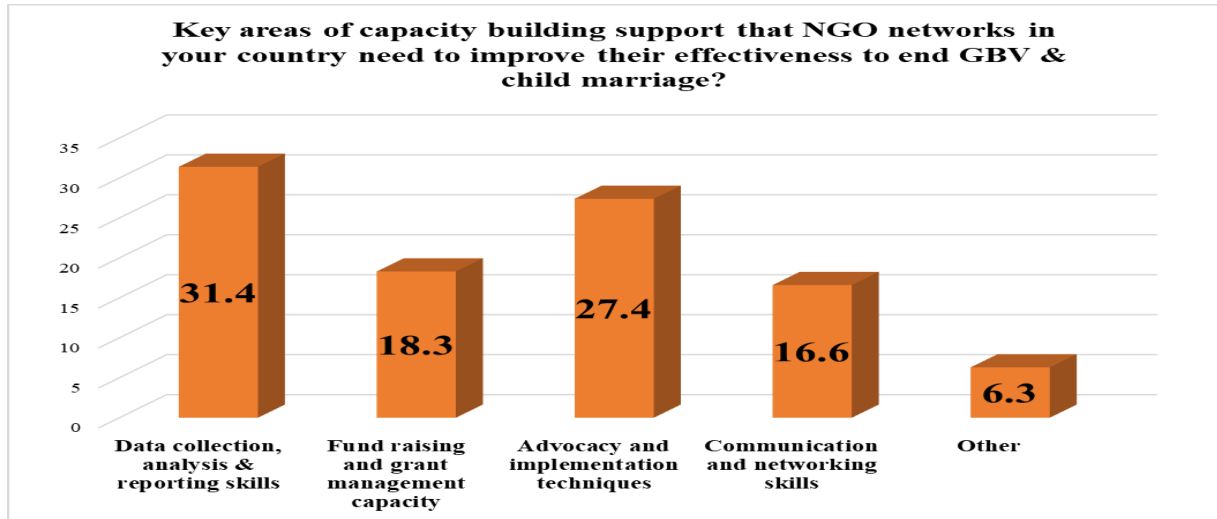
According to the participants, the key factors that have contributed to the success of NGO networks working in ending gender-based violence and child marriage are collaboration and capacity building (27.3%), followed by understanding of policy and legal issues (25.1%) and support of activists and international networks of CSOs (18.9%). The results therefore suggest that more attention is needed for fruitful collaboration and capacity building among CSOs and CSO networks for a better advocacy towards ending GBV and child marriage in West African states.



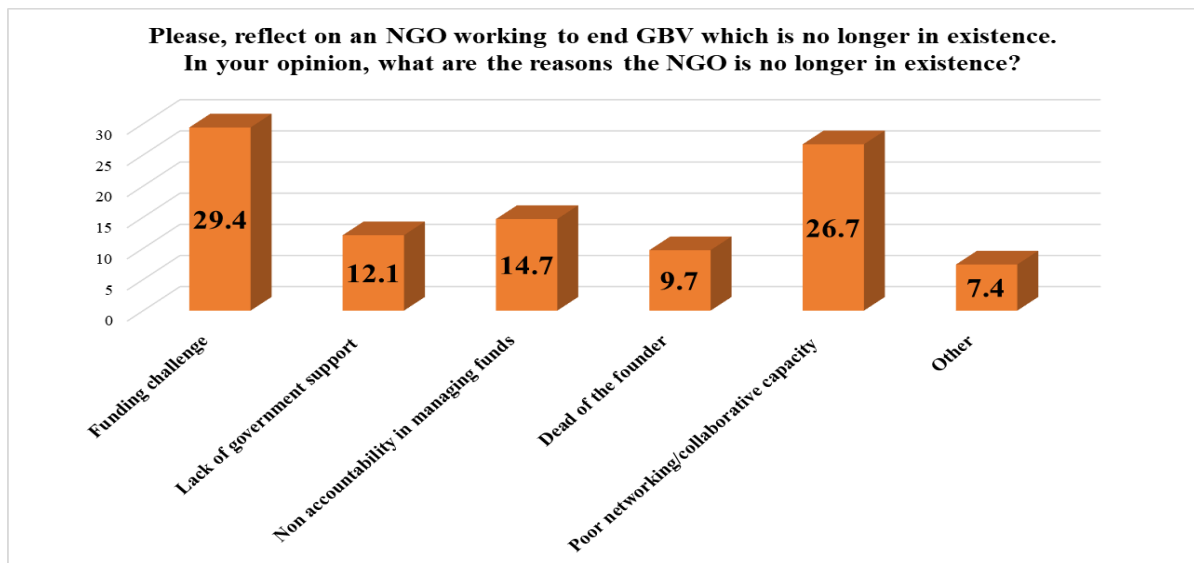
The participants explained that the key factors undermining the effectiveness of NGO networks working towards ending child marriage and gender-based violence are harmful cultural norms/practices (26.6%), followed by inadequate networking and solidarity among CSOs and CSO networks (22.1%). About 20% of the respondents mentioned that not incorporating researchers and activists into CSO networks has undermined the effectiveness of NGO networks working around GBV and child marriage in West Africa. The implication is that there is need to focus on ending harmful cultural norms during advocacy.



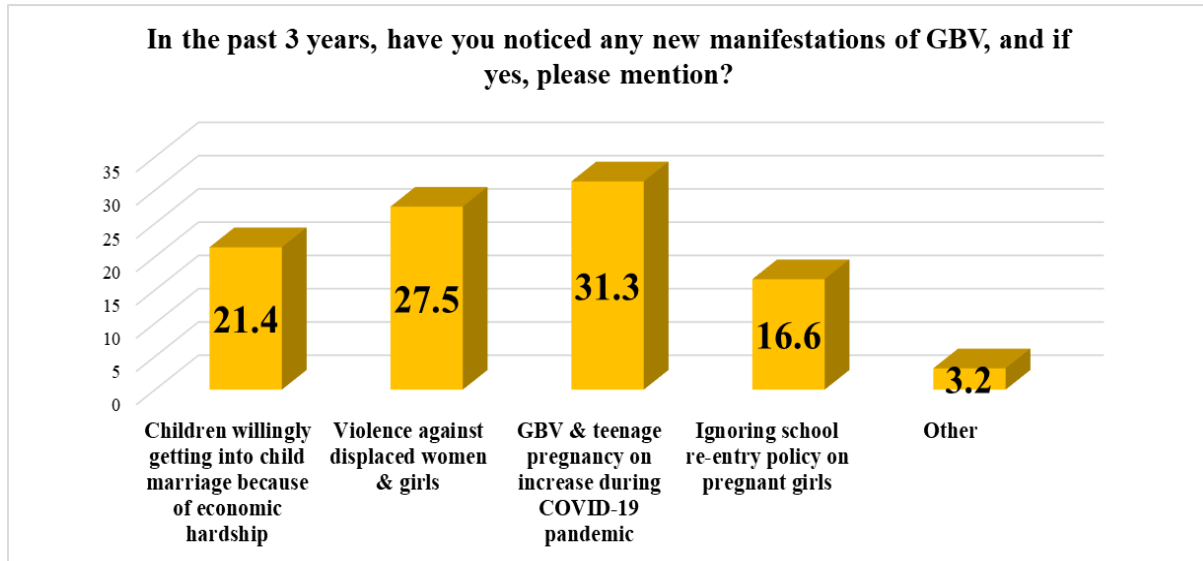
As indicated in the participants' responses, the key areas of capacity building support which NGO networks need to improve in order to be more effective in putting an end to GBV and child marriage are data collection, analysis and reporting skills (31.4%), advocacy and implementation techniques (27.4%), and fund raising/grant management capacity (18.3%). The results showed that communication and networking skills (16.6%) are equally essential capacity building support required by NGO networks in order to improve their advocacy skills so as to put an end to GBV and child marriage in West Africa.



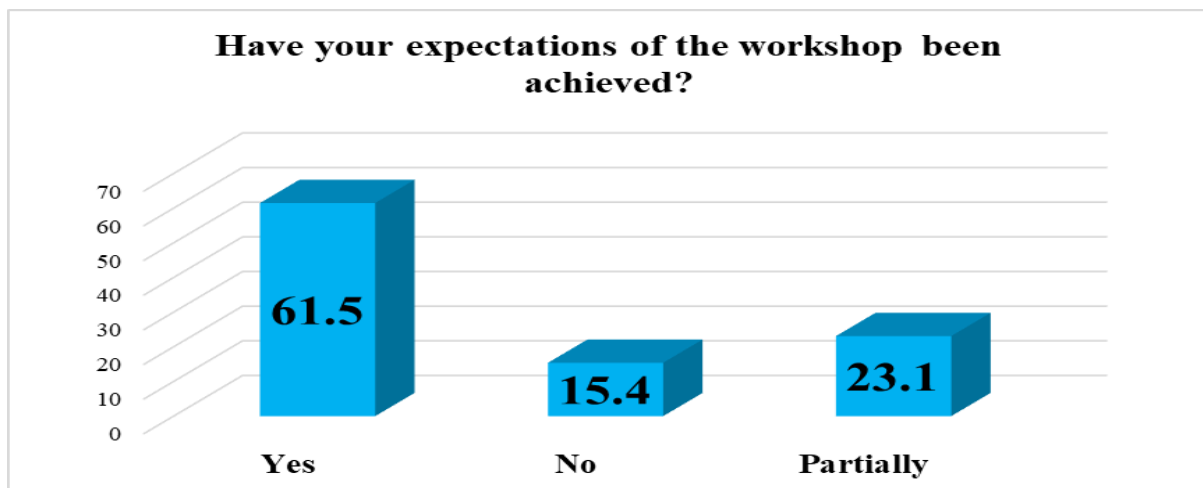
Reflecting on some of the adopted NGO networks in ending GBV that are no longer in existence, the participants mentioned that the reasons those networks are no longer in existence include the following: lack of funding (29.4%), poor networking/collaborative capacity (26.7%) and non-accountability on funding (14.7%). The results suggest that there is need for appropriate funding, management and networking among CSOs for effective advocacy towards the ending of child marriage and GBV in West Africa.



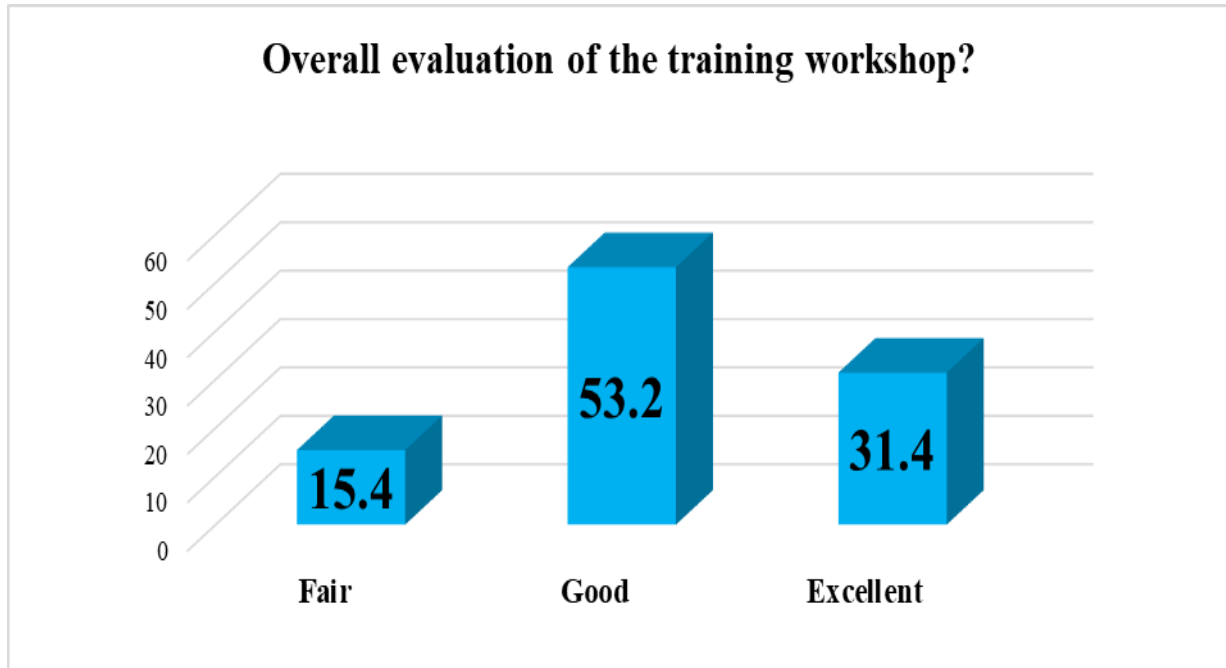
The participants highlighted that they have noticed some new manifestations in GBV in the past 3 years. The new manifestation observed by the participants include sudden increment on GBV and teenage pregnancy rates during COVID-19 pandemic (31.3%), violence against displaced women and girls (27.5%), and children willingly getting into child marriage because of economic hardship (21.4%). About 16% of the respondents mentioned that ignoring school re-entry policy on pregnant girls are among the new manifestation of GBV that should be tackled. This indicates a comprehensive approach in advocacy to end GBV and its associated factors in West African countries.



At the end of the workshop, the participants were asked if their expectations of the workshop were met. More than half of the participants (61.5%) mentioned that their expectations were met. However, 23.1% said that their expectations were partially met. The observations from the participants were also noted so as to improve subsequent workshop training for better outcomes.



Nearly all the participants indicated that they were satisfied with the workshop training, including 53.2% of the respondents who evaluated the workshop training 'good' and 31.4% who rated the training 'excellent'. None of the participants rated the workshop training 'poor'. The qualitative interviews conducted with the participants showed that the participants were very happy to partake in the workshop and were eagerly ready and glad to apply the advocacy lessons learnt at the workshop in their various CSOs and countries so as to end GBV and child marriage in West Africa.



Outcomes

The CSO and CSO networks working to put an end to child marriage and gender-based violence in West Africa gathered in the workshop have been made aware of emerging factors putting girls and women at risks of GBV and child marriage. They have acquired new skills and techniques about emerging opportunities necessary for putting an end to GBV and child marriage. These new skills and techniques are supposed to be implemented through effective advocacy messaging, plans and evidenced based data to make government officials to accelerate actions towards ending GBV and child marriage in West Africa. The expectations of the participants were also met. The dRPC in partnership with the ProHumane Afrique International in Ghana is working with participants to fully develop the CSO networks draft action plan for effective implementation through timely advocacy visit by the coalition so as to end GBV and child marriage, in particular Ghana, and West Africa in general.

dRPC follow-up/next steps

- Planning meetings for coalitions work plan engagements
- Commence implementation of the work plan

APPENDIX

AGENDA

| DAY ONE | | |
|---|--|--|
| Opening Ceremony Program Outline | | |
| Welcome address: Baptista S. Gebu, Executive Director – ProHumane Afrique International | | |
| Message from our Implementing Partners – dRPC (https://drpcngr.org/) | | |
| Dr. Judith – Ann Walker, Executive Director of development Research and Projects Center, Nigeria | | |
| <p>Keynote Address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minister of Gender, Women & Social Protection - Honorable Sarah Adwoa Sarfo. - H.E. Samira Bawumia 2nd Lady of the Republic of Ghana. - Professor Rev. Yaa Adebbea Owusu, Associate Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER). - Ms. Melonia Asibi: Head of DU secretariat, Ministry of Gender, children and social interest. - Mrs. Cecilia Senor: Executive Director for Hope for Future Generation and Goal 5 Convener – SDG CSO Network Platform - Mr. Mohammed Bid – Executive Director of Muslim Family Counselling Service and Vice President of the Girls Not Brides Ghana CSO Network - Mrs. Dorcas Coker-Appiah, Steering Committee member of NETRIGHT and the Executive Director of Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre (Gender Centre). - Pr. Adjaratou Wakha Aidara Ndiaye, Executive Director of Partners West Africa in Senegal, representing all CSO Networks in Senegal - Mr. Fallu Sowe, the Executive Director of Network against Gender Based Violence, Gambia, representing all CSO Networks in Gambia. - Madam Amalia M. Cooper – Aiding Disadvantaged and Traumatized Women and Girls, Liberia. - The Director of Ghana Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) - The Director, Ghana Education Service Guidance and Counselling Department. - The Director, Social Welfare Department. - The Directives – Nigeria CSO Network Representatives – - C.E.O. Nigeria Women Trust Fund (Ms. Mufuliat Fijabi, represented by Ms. Salmat Abdulwaheed. - Ms. Priscilla Ikos Ubiobiafo, Executive Director, BraveHeart Initiative – Nigeria. <p>International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)</p> <p>Closing Remarks/End of Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Tea-break, networking and media event</p> | <p>Coordinator: Mr. Ferdinand Nyantakyi-Dapaah</p> | |
| Session | Time | Person Responsible |
| Ice -breaker Activity Expectations from the workshop Pre-workshop questionnaire administration Second Part – Panel Team Introduction Participants’ introductions – list out activities and achievements on GBV and ending Child Marriage. | 12:15 – 1:00 | Baptista Panel Coordinators (3) |
| Group work to map new and emerging risks and risk settings for GBV and CM as well as new and emerging opportunities to address risk factors Emerging risks (eg Covid-19) Risk settings for GBV (eg. the mining sector) | 1:00-1:45 | Baptista |
| Lunch | 1:45 – 2:45 | Volunteers |
| Reporting back by groups, Questions and Answers | 2:45-3:45 | Volunteers |
| Presentation of Technical Analysis of GBV and Child Marriage Trends in Ghana | 3:45-4:00 | Dr. Michael Turnwait, dRPC |
| Questions and Answers and Closing Reflections on learning for the day Panel Team Closing Remarks | 4:00 – 4:45 | Panel Coordinators |

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| Closing, departure and networking | 4:45-5:00pm | |
| DAY TWO | | |
| Session | Time | Person Responsible |
| Where are we? Recap of previous day and Evaluation Ice breaker and Ground rules reminder Day Two Panel Members | 8:30-9:00 | All Selected 3 CSO Networks' Members |
| Role of CSOs and CSO coalitions ending child marriage Service delivery; Awareness Creation; Advocacy roles | 9:00-9:45 | Presentation followed by interactive session - write out the key activities of their CSO and pin under each of these 3 roles |
| Introducing Policy Advocacy (defining the advocacy issue, the advocacy cycle and advocacy strategic planning) | 9:45-10:45 | |
| Tea break | 10:4-11:15 | All |
| Strengths and Weaknesses of CSOs and CSO coalitions carrying out advocacy roles to end GBV/CM | 11:15 - 12:15 | Group work |
| Presentation | 12:15-12:30 | Group Leaders |
| Lunch | 12:30 - 1:30 | All |
| Assessing Government policies and programs to end child marriage | 1:30-2:30 | Group work to review policies |
| Report back | 2:30-2:50 | All Groups |
| Identifying and framing the advocacy issue in GBV and CM - Group work and working tea break | 2:50-4:00 | All |
| To frame the advocacy message and Identifying Advocacy Targets in government to take the advocacy message | | |
| Logistics planning and presentation for advocacy visit to advocacy target with a message on CM Convening Point for Advocacy Visit | 4:00-4:40 | All |
| Wrap up, key learning for the day | 4:40-5:00 | Panel Members |
| Closing, departure and networking | 4:45-5:00pm | All |
| DAY THREE | | |
| Session | Time | Person Responsible |
| Recap for the previous day Panel Members for Day three | 9:00-9:20 | Selected 3 CSO Network Members |
| Report back on the advocacy Issues on GBV and CM from the group work session of the previous day | 9:20-10:20 | |
| Working Group Tea Break Report back on a. Advocacy message and targets in Government to take the advocacy message b. Logistics planning and presentation for advocacy visit to advocacy target with a message on CM c. Advocacy plan execution | 10:20-11:45 | |
| Award of Certificates and vote of thanks | 11:45-12:00 | |
| Lunch | 12:00-1:00 | |
| Planned Advocacy Visit Advocacy Visits to Advocacy Target with Advocacy Messaging on Child Marriage with Media Coverage Closure of Workshop | 1:10-3:30 | All |

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| S/N | Name | Organization | Designation/ Position | Gender |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|---|--------|
| 1 | Rejoice Anku | Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection (MOGSP) | Representative of the Ghanaian Minister of Gender, Women and Social Protection, Honorable Sarah Adwoa Sarfo | Female |
| 2 | Dorcas Coker-Appiah | Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) | Steering Committee Member of NETRIGHT | Female |
| 3 | Professor Rev. Yaa Adebea Owusu | Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana | Associate Professor | Female |
| 4 | Hajia Alima Sagito-Seed | Savannah Women Integrated Development Agency (SWIDA), NR - Tamale Ghana | Executive Director | Female |
| 5 | Kpachin Abdulai Ibrahim | The People's Hope Foundation Africa, NR - Tatale - Ghana | Executive Director | Male |
| 6 | Alhassan Nuhu | Faith Dawah Foundation, E/R Ghana | Executive Director | Male |
| 7 | Mohammed Bud Bida | Muslim Family Counselling Services/ Girls Not Brides Ghana Partnership | Executive Director | Male |
| 8 | Salimat Abdulwaheed | Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Nigeria | Director, Representing C.E.O. Nigeria Women Trust Fund (Ms. Mufuliat Fijabi) | Female |
| 9 | Priscilla Usiobaifo | BraveHeart Initiative for Youth & Women, Nigeria | Executive Director | Female |
| 10 | Omelia M. Cooper | Aiding Disadvantaged & Traumatized Women & Girls (Adwanga), Liberia | Executive Director | Female |
| 11 | Christiana Asiedua-Asiedu | Chrissy Foundation, Accra - Ghana | Executive Director | Female |
| 12 | Dr. Charity Binka | Women, Media and Change, Accra - Ghana | Executive Director | Female |
| 13 | Cecilia Senoo | Hope for Future Generation and Goal 5 Convener - SDG CSO Network Platform | Executive Director | Female |
| 14 | Dr. Turnwait O. Michael | development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) | Research Consultant | Male |
| 15 | Baptista S. Gebu | ProHumane Afrique International | Executive Director | Female |
| 16 | Mr. Ferdinand Nyantakyi-Dapaah | ProHumane Afrique International | Activity Coordinator | Male |

Names of those that participated online:

- Pr. Adjaratou Wakha Aidara Ndiaye, Executive Director of Partners West Africa in Senegal, representing all CSO Networks in Senegal

- Mr. Fallu Sowe, the Executive Director of Network against Gender Based Violence, Gambia, representing all CSO Networks in Gambia.

- **Ms. Melonia Asibi**: Head of DU secretariat, Ministry of Gender, children and social interest, Ghana.