

The Fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Our strengths and capabilities



NIRAS International Consulting joins the global effort to address gender-based violence (GBV) – one of the most pervasive violations of human rights worldwide affecting about one in three women in her lifetime. GBV is rooted in **gender inequality, systematic discrimination, and harmful cultural and social norms**. It impedes human development and results in negative and often generational consequences, preventing women and girls from realising their full potential as equal partners in development. Moreover, GBV results in tremendous social and economic costs to societies, and undermines progress towards attaining sustainable development.

NIRAS’ strategy for addressing GBV is founded on our principle of ‘Do no harm’ and our commitment to do better in all the projects we implement regardless of scale, sector, or donor. This is evidenced by NIRAS’ track record for providing high-level gender expertise to projects and programmes, proactive gender mainstreaming, and taking concrete action that interventions do not disadvantage and/ or result in violence against women, girls and other vulnerable groups.

#3 Good health and well-being

#5 Gender equality

#10 Reduced inequalities

#16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

#17 Partnerships for the goals

Our experience points to the following key lessons in the fight against GBV:

1 in 3

women or girls experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime

38%

of women are estimated to have been murdered by a male partner

- 1 Align/ integrate interventions within government structures and sectoral policies and programmes.** Improve/ enhance existing strategies. Avoid creating new layers of structure and/or interventions that cannot be sustained. Support multi-sectoral approaches and interventions.
- 2 Institutional capacity and coordination matter in preventing and responding to GBV.** Have a good overview of who is doing what along the prevention and response chain. A stakeholder analysis and assessment is always useful. Effective and efficient service delivery requires a coordinated government approach, both horizontally and vertically across ministries, agencies, and offices. Build capacity and empower institutions!
- 3 Secure local ownership with a shared vision and roadmap to prevent and respond effectively to GBV.** Link with non-governmental organizations. Build alliances with traditional leaders to create a local network to address GBV. Support the creation of a community of practice involving formal and informal institutions.
- 4 Prevent revictimisation.** Reduce the amount of times and number of places a survivor has to go to tell their story and get the help they need.
- 5 Monitor, evaluate, learn and take action!** Expand data collection. In addition to collecting data to produce statistics on prevalence and incidence, gather qualitative data to understand survivors’ experiences in accessing services. Find out what can be done better to improve the service response chain.
- 6 Identify locally preferred services.** Mobile phone applications can be useful for reporting incidences of violence. Measures should be put in place to mitigate the user’s risk of violence.
- 7 A one-size-fits-all approach may not always work.** Understanding the local condition is vital for an effective GBV response.

Learn more about NIRAS’ work addressing in this area on the following pages.