



EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19

Actions, Gaps and the Way Forward



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.



GLOBALLY, THERE HAS BEEN A

30% INCREASE

IN **GBV REPORTED CASES**

UNFPA'S LATEST PROJECTIONS

31 MILLION ADDITIONAL CASES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



can be expected to occur if the **LOCKDOWN** continues for at least **6 MONTHS**

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**.



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.

