

RESULTS SUMMARY

Combatting GBV - a new model implemented in the Northern Ghana

Author: Oxfam Denmark, 2023

[Find project on OpenAid](#) 

PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Combatting GBV – a new model implemented throughout the northern Ghana
	<i>Partner:</i>	Norsaac
	<i>Country:</i>	Ghana
	<i>Period:</i>	2022 - 2025

CHANGE

To reinforce protection against widespread Gender Based Violence, GBV, Oxfam and Norsaac, a local partner, in collaboration with local authorities have developed a new exemplary way of combatting GBV. This new promising model, named “Agenda 55” is an integrated system, encompassing the entire region which has managed to get full commitment from all 55 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, (MMDAs) and Regional Coordinating Councils.



CONTEXT

Statistics by the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service showed that as of 31.9 per cent (2020) of Ghanaian women face at least one form of domestic violence. While the Domestic Violence Act, stipulates that a victim of domestic violence, who is assisted by the Police to obtain medical treatment, is entitled to free medical treatment from the state, but survivors of sexual violence are still asked to pay for a medical report up to 165 Euro which prevents many survivors enjoying protection of their rights.

CONTRIBUTION

Oxfam has funded the process of establishing the Agenda 55 and also provided technical support to Norsaac, the local partner that was lead in establishing the system. Norsaac is a longterm partner to Oxfam and based on their credibility and expertise, the organisation has built rapport with government and connected with the public, thus enabling the Agenda 55 to become a reality. Recognised for their expertise, Oxfam and Norsaac are well positioned to promote replications and similar models established in other Ghanaian regions.

IMAGES

 <p>Mark Kubuga, Norsaac</p>	 <p>Mark Kubuga, Norsaac</p>
---	--

[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Coordination has been a key activity area. In developing the Agenda 55, Norsaac worked closely with the MMDAs, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD). Also five NGOs were involved in the design of the model. Key activities included also the many technical aspects involved in the design of the model such as baseline data, definition of indicators and standards regarding girls' and women protection. Negotiating terms and conditions for the peer-to-peer review mechanism and eventually obtaining endorsement and approval from the many MMDAs involved was yet another task. Endorsement was achieved through a series of face-to-face meetings with policy makers and duty bearers at sub-national and national level. Yet another activity was to build commitment from authorities to actively promote positive masculinity and sensitize citizens on GBV. All in all, the authorities have taken up their role as the lead in combatting GBV, assisted by Norsaac's well versed process facilitation.

LESSONS

The intervention builds on a number of lessons learned. Firstly, it was learned that, despite its innovative character, and building on solid relations, expertise and accountability, a NGO can eventually succeed and convince authorities to take new ways in meeting their obligations with respect to combatting GBV. Secondly, it was instrumental to ensure authorities clear commitment to actively promote positive gender norms - a main factor in reducing GBV. The demand for reducing GBV incidents put forward by the wider public has worked to propel such commitment. Thirdly, while all agree to the importance of ensuring documentation of progress and results, in order to be sustainable local government actors themselves must take ownership. This was met by setting up inexpensive systems based on internal peer reviewing. Peer reviewing advances documentation of results, it creates credibility and it connects citizens to the issues of GBV, eventually sustaining the Agenda 55 model.

EVIDENCE

The establishment of the Agenda 55 has been well documented in the reporting on the Strategic Partnership project in Ghana. Moreover, Norsaac has meticulously conveyed media outlets via their own media ensuring a wider flow of information. Public launch of the model in November and December 2022 brought a lot of media attention from also national media, including Ghana News Agency. Evidence for the relevance and the commitment by authorities are also found in press releases. This includes the announcement by the Dean of Coordinating Directors in the Northern Region, commended Norsaac for initiating the Agenda 55, saying its objectives were straight in line with the responsibilities of the MMDAs. He also stresses that the model can mitigate some of the government's challenges with respect to funding of their obligations to combat GBV effectively. Authorities acknowledge the many challenges and recognise their role, thus finding the Agenda 55 timely and opportune.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Insert strategy priority
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-