



Vol. 23 | Post COVID-19 Recovery and Sustainable development

Vol. 23 Article 8 | March 26, 2025

Copyright © 2025 The International Journal of Social and Development Concerns (IJSDC) All Rights Reserved (An International Publisher for Academic and Scientific Resources)

## **Impact of the Community Mobilization Approach on Reducing Social Violence Against Vulnerable Women in The Gatumba Zone: Case of Disaster Victims of the Maramvya Sobel Site, Burundi**

**Authors:** <sup>1</sup>Amadi Kyemo Max, <sup>2</sup>Abdoul Karim Djuma <sup>3</sup>Mabongo Rehani Lebon, <sup>4</sup>Napala Mbilizi Joseph, <sup>5</sup>Ombeni Seraphin Destin, <sup>6</sup>Imani Muzaliwa Casimir and <sup>7</sup>Simon Ngendakumana  
<sup>1-7</sup>Hope Africa University, Burundi. **Website:** <https://www.hau.bi>

**Correspondence:** Amadi Kyemo Max. **E-mail:** amadikyemomax68@gmail.com

**Cite as:** Kyemo, M. A., Djuma, A. K., Lebon, M. R., Mbilizi, J. N., Ombeni, S. D., Muzaliwa, I. C., & Ngendakumana, S. (2025). Impact of the Community Mobilization Approach on Reducing Social Violence Against Vulnerable Women in The Gatumba Zone: Case of Disaster Victims of the Maramvya Sobel Site, Burundi. *International Journal of Social and Development Concerns*, 23(8), 100–114.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15090169>

<p><b>Chief Editor</b>  Web: <a href="http://www.ijsdc.org">www.ijsdc.org</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:info@ijsdc.org">info@ijsdc.org</a></p> <p><b>Editing Oversight</b>  Impericals Consultants International Limited</p>	<p><b>Abstract:</b> <i>This study examines community mobilization approach in addressing domestic violence against vulnerable women in the Maramvya site, Sobel. Women residing in these shelters face dire living conditions, exacerbated by the victimization they endure. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The target population consisted of 250 individuals, from which a refined sample of 69 participants was randomly selected for interviews. Data collection was conducted through documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews, guided by three thematic areas. Findings reveal that the socio-economic conditions of women in the Maramvya site are significantly poor. According to the survey results, 56.7% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the mobilization efforts carried out by organizations to combat violence within the site. Additionally, 50% of the women acknowledged that community mobilization initiatives have positively impacted their socio-economic well-being. These findings underscore the importance of community-driven interventions in enhancing resilience and empowering women affected by domestic violence.</i></p> <p><b>Key Terms:</b> <i>Vulnerable Women, Domestic Violence, Social Violence, Physical Violence, Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization</i></p>
--	--

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Social violence remains a pressing issue worldwide, particularly affecting vulnerable women in disaster-prone and conflict-stricken areas. Women in these settings often experience various forms of violence, including physical, economic, and sexual abuse, which are exacerbated by socio-economic instability and displacement (UNFPA, 2014). This study explores the impact of community

mobilization in addressing social violence against women in the Maramvya site within the Gatumba area.

Gatumba, a village in western Burundi, has been historically affected by both man-made and natural disasters, including recurrent floods and social conflicts (IOM Burundi, 2020). Women in this area face significant vulnerabilities due to displacement, economic dependence, and cultural norms that perpetuate gender-based violence (WHO, 2005). Despite efforts by national and international organizations, the persistence of violence against women highlights the need to assess the effectiveness of intervention strategies such as community mobilization. Community mobilization is a participatory approach that involves engaging local populations in developing solutions to their socio-economic challenges (Austen, 2003). This study examines whether community-led initiatives, awareness campaigns, and economic empowerment programs contribute to reducing violence and improving the socio-economic status of women at the Maramvya site. Through an in-depth analysis, the study aims to provide insights into the effectiveness of mobilization efforts in fostering resilience and social change.

### ***Study Context***

Poverty, unemployment, and humanitarian crises are significant challenges that increase the vulnerability of populations in precarious conditions. Women and adolescent girls, in particular, face heightened risks of violence in times of crisis, as their economic and social instability makes them more susceptible to exploitation and abuse (UNFPA, 2014). Forced and sudden displacement has devastating consequences for individuals, families, and entire communities, particularly in peri-urban areas. Displaced people often struggle to survive in unfamiliar environments, where they face numerous obstacles, including inadequate access to resources, insecurity, and limited social support. Women, in particular, experience additional hardships as they navigate care responsibilities in emergency situations (UNHCR, 2008).

Gatumba, a village in western Burundi, is one of the regions most affected by displacement and violence. It is bordered to the south by Lake Tanganyika, to the north by the rural commune of Gihanga in the Bubanza province, to the west by the province of Bujumbura Town Hall, and to the east by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Located near the Gatumba-Kavinvira border, this village has a history marked by massacres and recurrent flooding. Women in this area frequently experience violence, exacerbating their already precarious living conditions.

According to IOM Burundi (2020), on April 19 and May 1, 2020, severe floods devastated the Gatumba area, destroying homes and displacing thousands of residents. The flooding affected seven districts (Kinyinya I, Kinyinya II, Mushasha I, Mushasha II, Muyange I, Muyange II, and Gaharawa) due to the rising waters of the Rusizi River. This natural disaster displaced approximately 45,681 people, equivalent to 8,543 households, with 17,792 individuals (3,210 households) resettling in three emergency sites: Maramvya, Kinyinya II, and Kigaramango (IOM Burundi, 2020). The demographic profile of the displaced population indicates that 56% were women, including 1% pregnant women, 5% breastfeeding mothers, and 2% female-headed households (IOM Burundi, 2020). The prevalence of gender-based violence in such displaced settings is well-documented. According to WHO (2009), violence against women has severe consequences for both human rights and socio-economic development. Women's efforts to escape poverty and build sustainable livelihoods are often hindered by violence and discrimination. Furthermore, gender-based violence undermines social stability,

security, public health, education, and employment opportunities for women and girls (Uwihoreye, 2018). In response, various national and international organizations have intensified their efforts to combat gender-based violence and support women in vulnerable situations. One such organization is Social Action for Development (SAD), which focuses on empowering displaced women, providing support services, and promoting gender equality within crisis-affected communities.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Domestic violence remains a significant global issue, disproportionately affecting women and hindering their socio-economic development. Studies indicate that between 20% and 50% of women worldwide experience physical violence from intimate partners or family members (Hawke, 2000; WHO, 2005). In developing countries, domestic violence contributes to severe psychological, economic, and social burdens, limiting women's ability to participate fully in their communities (Clifton, 2022). In Burundi, gender-based violence is particularly prevalent, with young women, female heads of households, and marginalized populations being the most affected (Uwihoreye, 2018). Despite national and international efforts to address this issue, domestic violence persists, with many women lacking access to effective support systems and economic empowerment opportunities (Christiaensen, 2016). In the Maramvya site, Gatumba area, displaced women face heightened vulnerabilities due to poverty, displacement, and inadequate social protection. Reports indicate that women in this community are frequently subjected to sexual, physical, and economic abuse, further exacerbating their precarious living conditions (IOM Burundi, 2020). While organizations such as Social Action for Development (SAD) have implemented community mobilization initiatives, there remains a lack of empirical research assessing their effectiveness in addressing domestic violence and improving women's socio-economic well-being. This study seeks to fill this gap by evaluating the impact of community mobilization approaches in reducing domestic violence and enhancing the resilience of women in the Maramvya site.

## **1.3 The Study Objective**

To assess the impact of community mobilization in addressing domestic violence and improving the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable women in the Maramvya site, Gatumba area.

## **1.4 Literature Review**

In this section, the theoretical framework and empirical literature reviews will be presented as follows.

### **1.4.1 Theoretical framework**

This study is grounded in the Theory of Social Change, developed by Charles Tilly (1978), which explains how collective efforts lead to significant societal transformations. According to Tilly, social change is driven by the mobilization of solidarity networks, which empower individuals and communities to challenge existing power structures. This theory is highly relevant to the study as it underscores the role of community mobilization in addressing domestic violence by fostering collective action and societal transformation. One of the key strengths of the Theory of Social Change is its emphasis on community agency and the potential for grassroots movements to bring about meaningful societal change (McCarthy & Zald, 1995). It highlights the importance of mobilization in addressing social injustices, such as gender-based violence. However, a major weakness is its reliance on external resources and leadership to sustain movements, which can sometimes lead to dependency rather than self-sufficiency (Olivier de Sardan, 1995). This theory directly aligns with the research as it

provides a framework for understanding how community-led interventions can influence social norms and reduce domestic violence. By examining the effectiveness of mobilization efforts in the Maramvya site, this study contributes to the broader discourse on how organized community action can enhance women's socio-economic well-being and reduce gender-based violence.

Another relevant theory is the Theory of Women's Intimate Partner Violence, which examines the complexities of domestic abuse dynamics. Developed by Felson (2002), this theory suggests that power imbalances in intimate relationships contribute to cycles of violence. This theory effectively highlights the role of gendered power dynamics in domestic violence, making it valuable for understanding the root causes of abuse. However, it has been criticized for oversimplifying intimate partner violence by not accounting for socio-economic factors and community-based interventions (Greenfeld et al., 1998). This theory is significant to the study as it helps explain why women in the Maramvya site remain vulnerable to domestic violence. Understanding these power dynamics allows for a more targeted approach in community mobilization strategies, ensuring that interventions address both individual and structural barriers to gender equality. By integrating these two theories, this study builds a comprehensive framework for analyzing how community mobilization efforts influence social change and reduce domestic violence among vulnerable women in the Maramvya site.

#### **1.4.2 Empirical Review**

##### ***Prevalence and Causes of Domestic Violence Against Women***

Agarwal and Golwalkar (2022), in their study *Engender Health Language Guide for Gender-Based Violence*, conducted qualitative research through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. Their findings indicated that domestic violence was highly prevalent among women, with economic dependence being a major contributing factor. Women who lacked financial independence were more likely to endure abuse due to their reliance on male partners. However, the study did not explore how community-based interventions influenced the prevalence of domestic violence.

In Africa, Christiaensen (2016) found that cultural norms reinforced male dominance, with 51% of women believing that their husbands had the right to discipline them under certain circumstances. His research highlighted economic and social factors as key drivers of domestic violence. However, the study did not assess the effectiveness of community interventions in addressing these norms. In Burundi, IOM Burundi (2020) reported that displaced women in Maramvya were at increased risk of domestic violence due to economic instability and social vulnerabilities. While several organizations operated in the area, there was a lack of empirical research on the specific causes of domestic violence in displacement settings. This study examined these causes in Maramvya and assessed how community mobilization influenced their prevalence.

##### ***Consequences of Domestic Violence on Women's Well-being***

Krug et al. (2002), in their *World Report on Violence and Health*, conducted a global review of gender-based violence policies and programs. Their research revealed that domestic violence had severe consequences on women's mental and physical health, including psychological trauma, physical injuries, and economic hardship. While the study highlighted the overall impact of domestic violence, it did not focus on how these consequences varied based on socio-economic contexts.

In Africa, Uwihoreye (2018) examined the effects of domestic violence on women's well-being in Burundi. His study found that gender-based violence hindered women's participation in economic activities, worsening poverty levels among survivors. However, the study did not explore how local interventions mitigated these consequences. In Maramvya, displaced women faced multiple layers of victimization, including economic dependency and social stigma. This study assessed the extent to which domestic violence affected the overall well-being of women in Maramvya and the role of community mobilization in addressing these consequences.

### ***Community Mobilization Approaches in Addressing Domestic Violence***

CARE International in Burundi (2006), in their study *Final Evaluation of the Project to Strengthen the Prevention of Sexual Violence and Community Support for Victims*, employed a mixed-method approach combining surveys and case studies. Their research found that grassroots community structures played a crucial role in preventing gender-based violence. Women who participated in community mobilization initiatives reported increased awareness of their rights and a greater willingness to report cases of abuse. However, the study did not evaluate whether these initiatives resulted in long-term behavioral change among perpetrators.

Gregory (2015) emphasized that successful community mobilization efforts engaged both men and women in discussions about gender-based violence. However, in many rural and peri-urban settings, such as Burundi, traditional gender roles continued to hinder women's participation in decision-making. Reports from local organizations suggested that while awareness campaigns increased knowledge about gender-based violence, cultural resistance remained a major obstacle. This study assessed the effectiveness of community mobilization in Maramvya and its impact on the reduction of domestic violence cases.

### ***Role of Organizations in Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence***

Krug et al. (2002), in their *World Report on Violence and Health*, conducted a comprehensive review of global policies and programs addressing domestic violence. Their research found that organizations providing psychological support, legal aid, and economic empowerment programs played a critical role in improving the lives of survivors. Programs that integrated financial literacy and vocational training were particularly effective in promoting women's independence. However, the study did not explore the specific challenges organizations faced in implementing these programs in resource-constrained settings.

In Burundi, community organizations such as Social Action for Development (SAD) played a vital role in supporting women affected by domestic violence. While SAD implemented various initiatives, including skills training and awareness campaigns, the sustainability of these efforts remained unclear. Studies indicated that many displaced women continued to struggle with economic hardships and social stigma, limiting their ability to break free from abusive relationships. This study assessed the effectiveness of SAD and other organizations in Maramvya, focusing on the sustainability of their interventions and their impact on women's long-term empowerment.

## **1.5 Study methods and techniques**

This study employed a qualitative research design, utilizing both documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews to collect data. The target population consisted of 250 individuals, including



women who had experienced domestic violence in the Maramvya site, administrative authorities residing in the area, and staff from organizations operating within the site. A probabilistic sampling approach was used to ensure that all members of the target population had an equal chance of being selected for participation (Nyandwi, 2007). This method allowed for the accurate representation of the population's characteristics while reducing potential bias in participant selection.

A simple random probability sampling technique was employed to select 60 women who had experienced violence, ensuring that the sample reflected the diversity of experiences within the community. Additionally, six staff members from various organizations and three administrative authorities were interviewed to provide insights into the institutional and governance aspects of community mobilization efforts. This approach facilitated a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence and the effectiveness of interventions within the Maramvya site.

To determine the appropriate sample size, the study applied the scientific formula developed by Allain Bouchard (2008), as cited by Kabwa (2019). Given that the total population was below 1,000,000 individuals, a sample size of 96 respondents was considered statistically valid, with a margin of error of 10%. However, due to the specific focus on women affected by domestic violence, the final sample was adjusted to include 69 respondents, ensuring adequate representation of key stakeholders.

$$N_c = \frac{n}{1 + \frac{n}{N}} = \frac{n}{N + \frac{n}{N}} = \frac{nN}{N+n}$$

N = Total population

N<sub>c</sub> = Corrected sample

n = the total sample of the finite universe is 96

N<sub>c</sub> = the corrected sample is 69

Sampling information is summarized in the following table

**Table 1: Sampling frame**

Population	Sampling technique	Sample size
Women victims of violence	simple random probability	60
Administrative Authorities	simple random probability	3
Staff of organizations	simple random probability	6
TOTAL		69

*Source: Field data (2024)*

The interview process was guided by a structured interview guide, which was designed around key thematic areas relevant to the study. The data collected was analyzed qualitatively to capture participants' lived experiences, perceptions, and the impact of community mobilization on their socio-economic conditions. This methodological approach ensured that the findings were grounded in real-life narratives while maintaining academic rigor and reliability (Kabwa, 2019).

### **Data Analysis Methods**

This study utilized qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods to ensure a comprehensive interpretation of the findings. The qualitative data analysis method, as highlighted by Mutai (2000) in his study *How to Write a Quantitative Research Proposal*, was employed to analyze non-numerical

data. This approach is particularly effective in understanding personal experiences and exploring social phenomena such as domestic violence and community mobilization. Additionally, Mucchielli (2011) emphasized that qualitative analysis allows for in-depth thematic examination, capturing the subjective meanings and lived experiences of research participants. The study also incorporated quantitative analysis to process numerical data. According to Dubois (1992), the quantitative method seeks to explain social phenomena through systematic empirical investigation, using numerical data that is analyzed through mathematical, statistical, or computational techniques. In this study, quantitative data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel, enabling the organization and interpretation of statistical patterns related to domestic violence prevalence and community mobilization efforts.

### 1.6 Study Findings

The results of this study established that women who were victims of domestic violence in the Maramvya site, Sobel, experienced poor living conditions. The findings also indicated that the community mobilization approach carried out by organizations, particularly Social Action for Development (SAD), had a significant impact on their socio-economic conditions both within and outside the site. The results are presented in the following table.

**Table 2: Causes of Domestic Violence in the Maramvya Site Sobel**

<b>Respondent's proposal</b>	<b>Effective</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
<b>Alcohol/Drugs</b>	22	0.37	36.7
<b>Not taking care of children or the home</b>	4	0.07	6.7
<b>Ask the man about money</b>	12	0.2	20
<b>Refusing to sleep with her husband</b>	14	0.23	23.3
<b>Infidelity in the home</b>	8	0.13	13.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data, 2024**

The table above illustrates that among the 60 women surveyed, 22 respondents (36.7%) identified domestic violence as being primarily caused by their husbands' alcohol consumption. Additionally, 14 respondents (23.3%) attributed domestic violence to sexual harassment within the home, while 12 respondents (20%) reported that financial disputes were a major contributing factor. Furthermore, 8 respondents (13.3%) stated that suspicions of infidelity led to domestic conflicts, and 4 respondents (6.7%) indicated that neglecting childcare responsibilities was a cause of violence in their households.

The findings highlight that alcohol and drug use among men negatively impacts their health and significantly contributes to domestic violence. A majority of the respondents reported experiencing violence when their husbands were intoxicated. Others emphasised that, in addition to alcohol consumption, issues such as harassment and financial mismanagement also played a crucial role in the violence they endured.

Moreover, the results indicate that suspicions of infidelity within the household often lead to verbal and physical altercations between partners. Many women reported being subjected to quarrels, fights, or insults as a result of these suspicions, further exacerbating domestic conflicts. These findings

underscore the complexity of domestic violence and the urgent need for targeted interventions to address its root causes.

**Table 3: Consequences of Domestic Violence on Women Victims of the Maramvya Site Sobel**

Respondent's Proposal	Effective	Frequency	Percentage %
Personal Injury	20	0.33	33.3
Depression/Stress	20	0.33	33.3
Unwanted pregnancy	10	0.17	16.7
HIV/AIDS	6	0.1	10
Others	4	0.07	6.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data, 2024**

The findings presented in Table 3 indicate that the majority of women who are victims of domestic violence suffer from both physical and psychological trauma. Out of the 60 women surveyed, 20 respondents (33.3%) reported experiencing physical injuries as a result of domestic violence, while an equal number (33.3%) suffered from psychological trauma. Additionally, 10 respondents (16.7%) reported early pregnancies linked to intimate partner violence, 6 respondents (10%) were diagnosed with HIV, and 4 respondents (6.7%) provided other responses beyond the listed categories.

The data highlight that a significant number of women at the Sobel site endure both physical and emotional abuse within their homes. Furthermore, early pregnancies and the spread of HIV/AIDS are often direct consequences of sexual coercion imposed by male partners, particularly in situations where women have limited autonomy in intimate relationships. These findings underscore the urgent need for interventions that address both the physical and mental health repercussions of domestic violence while advocating for stronger protections for women's rights.

**Table 4: Living Conditions of Women Victims of Domestic Violence at the Maramvya Site Sobel**

Respondent's Proposal	Effective	Frequency	Percentage %
Good	12	0.2	20
Bad	34	0.57	56.7
Relative	14	0.23	23.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data, 2024**

The data indicate that the majority of women at the Maramvya site, Sobel, live in poor conditions. Out of the 60 women surveyed, 34 respondents (56.7%) reported living in poor conditions, while 14 respondents (23.3%) stated that they lived in relatively stable conditions with their husbands. Only 12 respondents (20%) reported living in good conditions within the site. The findings suggest that poor living conditions among women in the site are attributed to multiple socio-cultural and economic factors. Many vulnerable women experience domestic violence, which significantly undermines their ability to provide for themselves and maintain stable households. One respondent noted that even women who live with their husbands frequently endure physical abuse, including being kicked, punched, and verbally insulted, particularly when their husbands return home intoxicated. This further supports the evidence that domestic violence is prevalent in the site.



Interviews with respondents also revealed that women who reported relatively stable living conditions still faced significant stress and emotional strain. Many of these women stated that despite their circumstances, their husbands frequently reprimanded and harassed them, particularly when conflicts arose within the home. Alcohol abuse among men was commonly mentioned as a contributing factor to domestic disputes and heightened tensions. These findings underscore the urgent need for interventions that address both economic hardship and domestic violence to improve the overall well-being of women in the Maramvya site.

**Table 5: Contribution of the Community Mobilization Approach as adopted by Organizations in the fight against Domestic Violence in the Sobel Site**

Respondent's proposal	Effective	Frequency	Percentage %
<b>Satisfied</b>	34	0.57	56.7
<b>Bad</b>	2	0.03	3.3
<b>Relative</b>	24	0.4	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data, 2024**

The data indicate that a majority of women at the Maramvya site are satisfied with the community mobilization efforts against gender-based violence (GBV). Out of the 60 respondents, 34 women (56.7%) expressed satisfaction with the mobilization initiatives carried out by various organizations. Additionally, 24 respondents (40%) reported being somewhat satisfied with these efforts, while only 2 respondents (3.3%) stated that they were dissatisfied with the mobilization activities aimed at combating GBV in the site.

These findings highlight the positive impact of community mobilization on vulnerable women, particularly those who have experienced domestic violence. The presence of organizations actively working to raise awareness, provide support, and offer training has played a crucial role in fostering resilience and empowerment among women in the site. The mobilization initiatives have encouraged women to interact, seek solidarity, and support one another in overcoming the challenges posed by GBV.

The responses further indicate that the awareness campaigns and interventions carried out by organizations have contributed to changing perceptions and strengthening women's ability to address and report cases of violence. The appreciation expressed by the majority of respondents demonstrates the effectiveness of the community mobilization approach in creating a more informed and supportive environment for survivors of gender-based violence at the Maramvya site.

**Table 6: Contribution of the Community Mobilization Approach to the Socio-economic Living Conditions of Women Victims of Domestic Violence in the Sobel Site**

Respondent's proposal	Effectiv e	Frequenc y	Percentage %
<b>Satisfied</b>	30	0.5	50
<b>Bad</b>	2	0.03	3.3
<b>Average</b>	28	0.47	46.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data from our 2023 survey**

Data from the field indicates that community mobilization efforts have played a crucial role in improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable women in the Maramvya site. Out of the 60 respondents, 30 women (50%) expressed satisfaction with the socio-economic activities carried out by organizations in the site. Additionally, 28 respondents (46.7%) appreciated the mobilization efforts to some extent, while only 2 respondents (3.3%) were dissatisfied with the socio-economic initiatives implemented in the community. These findings highlight the positive influence of community mobilization in fostering socio-economic change, particularly for women affected by domestic violence. Many respondents acknowledged that the income-generating activities (AGR) introduced by organizations had a meaningful impact on their financial stability and overall well-being. The availability of such initiatives has empowered women to become more self-sufficient and resilient in the face of economic hardships.

Training programs such as tailoring, fabric weaving, charcoal production, gender-based violence awareness sessions, microcredit opportunities for self-promotion, and mat weaving have provided women with valuable skills and financial opportunities. These activities, carried out by various organizations, have been instrumental in promoting the economic empowerment of vulnerable women at the Maramvya site. Social Action for Development (SAD) has been at the forefront of these efforts, leading initiatives to enhance the self-reliance and economic independence of women in the community. The success of these programs underscores the importance of sustained community mobilization in addressing both economic vulnerability and domestic violence.

### ***The Impact of the Community Mobilization Approach carried out by Women's Organizations of the Maramvya Site Sobel***

The community mobilization approach emphasizes active community participation in defining and implementing local development processes. This process enables local groups to receive support in organizing their development initiatives, collectively working toward their aspirations. Majority of respondents in this study reported feeling empowered and motivated by the human rights advocacy and empowerment programs provided by organizations operating in the Maramvya site. One respondent confirmed that these organizations provide guidance, supervision, education, and awareness campaigns on gender-based violence (GBV). Additionally, they establish women's community structures, develop projects for vulnerable women, and offer psychosocial support to displaced women at the site.

The various projects implemented by organizations primarily target women as direct beneficiaries. These organizations adopt strategies to support women before, during, and after project implementation while also promoting group solidarity despite the diverse challenges faced by women

at the site. In this context, the community mobilization approach led by organizations aims to bring about significant and lasting change for vulnerable women in the Maramvya site. The objective is to equip women with the resources and knowledge necessary to become self-sufficient and independent within their households. The support provided by these organizations contributes to the protection and resilience of women who face various traumatic experiences.

Furthermore, the involvement of domestic violence survivors in decision-making processes and self-promotion activities instils confidence in the initiatives carried out by these organizations. Many women have actively sought assistance from these organizations, reporting domestic abuse and seeking guidance on legal and social interventions. The community mobilization approach against domestic violence has had a significant impact on vulnerable women in the Maramvya site. Women play crucial roles in their families and communities, and their participation in all aspects of community activities and decision-making is essential despite prevailing cultural and traditional restrictions. To effectively mobilize women, organizations bring them together in structured groups where they engage in awareness-raising, education, and collective problem-solving discussions. Capacity-building initiatives focused on solidarity, mutual support, and human rights education are key components of the mobilization efforts conducted by these organizations to foster mass education and community engagement within the site.

#### ***Interviews with the Administrative Authorities of the Maramvya Sobel Site***

As part of this study, several administrative authorities from the Maramvya Sobel site were interviewed to ensure the reliability and credibility of the research findings. The majority of respondents reported that they frequently observed abusive behavior by men toward women in various households. They noted widespread instances of physical, sexual, and economic violence within the site. Many women suffered from physical assaults and bodily injuries inflicted by their husbands. Economic violence was also prevalent, including men borrowing money under false pretences or without their partner's consent, restricting women's financial decision-making, and misusing household finances. These factors contributed significantly to the economic vulnerability of women at the site.

Authorities emphasized that the presence of organizations within the site has empowered many women who are victims of domestic violence to make independent decisions. Women demonstrated trust in the staff of these organizations, seeking their assistance in cases of abuse and mistreatment. The support provided by these organizations has enabled many women to gain awareness of their rights and seek interventions when necessary. The role of administrative authorities at the site is to ensure security, protection, and service for all displaced persons. Authorities outlined several strategies they employ when addressing cases of violence against women. Preventive and protective measures include listening to victims, offering counselling services, and raising awareness about human rights. Partner mediation is a commonly used strategy to guide victims in resolving household conflicts. In more severe cases, administrative authorities escalate domestic violence cases to the Mutimbuzi communal police for appropriate legal action.

Regarding the impact of community mobilization on vulnerable women, respondents affirmed that the socio-economic conditions of many women had improved due to the activities implemented by organizations operating within the study location. Organizations have played a crucial role in

stimulating, encouraging, and involving women in socio-economic and entrepreneurial projects. These initiatives have fostered financial independence and strengthened women's decision-making abilities. The mobilization efforts have had a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable women at the Maramvya site, particularly those who have experienced domestic violence.

### ***Interviews with the Staff of the Social Action for Development Organization***

The interview with the staff of the Social Action for Development (SAD) organization focused on the role of field agents at the Maramvya site, Sobel. The discussion centered on the organization's contributions to vulnerable women and how they assess the impact of their activities on beneficiaries. SAD's primary mission is to foster autonomy and enhance the socio-economic capacities of its beneficiaries, enabling them to actively participate in the country's sustainable development. SAD implements a wide range of initiatives, including community daycare services, psychosocial support, and educational assistance for out-of-school children. The organization also engages in advocacy, vocational training for young people, agriculture and livestock programs, the formation of solidarity groups, income-generating activities (AGR), health education, and the promotion of gender equality and equity. These activities aim to support displaced individuals, particularly vulnerable women at the Maramvya site.

As a non-profit organization, SAD is committed to several priority areas, including child protection, sustainable development, healthcare, and environmental conservation. The organization continuously works to enhance the living conditions of disaster victims and displaced populations, with a particular focus on women affected by domestic violence. To empower these women, SAD conducts training programs on their rights, facilitates the creation of AGRs, and establishes solidarity groups that foster mutual support among women within the site. Additionally, the organization provides practical skills training in tailoring, charcoal production, fabric-making, and mat weaving, equipping women with the resources needed to sustain their livelihoods.

Recognizing that many women who have experienced domestic violence have limited social interactions within the site, SAD actively brings them together in discussion groups. These groups serve as platforms for women to engage in meaningful dialogue, understand the benefits of social connections, and build supportive networks. Furthermore, SAD conducts awareness campaigns and sensitization programs on key issues, encouraging women to participate in economic and social activities despite the challenges they face. Through these efforts, SAD continues to play a vital role in improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable women in the Maramvya site.

### **1.7 Conclusion**

The Social Action for Development (SAD) organization plays a crucial role in mobilizing and empowering vulnerable women at the Maramvya site, Sobel. Through its initiatives, SAD actively contributes to the promotion of human rights and the economic empowerment of women. The organization encourages women to participate in income-generating activities, enabling them to become autonomous and financially independent. Findings of this study indicates that, 50% of women who have experienced domestic violence affirms that, community mobilization approach has had a positive impact on improving their socio-economic living conditions. Additionally, SAD's efforts in raising awareness and educating vulnerable women about gender-based violence (GBV) have been widely recognized. A significant proportion—56.7% of women—expressed satisfaction with the

mobilization activities conducted by organizations at the site. These results highlight the effectiveness of community mobilization in fostering resilience and self-sufficiency among vulnerable women. The ongoing efforts of organizations like SAD are essential in ensuring continued support, advocacy, and empowerment for women affected by domestic violence in the Maramvya site.

## REFERENCES

- Agarwal, A. and Golwalkar, R. (2022). *EngenderHealth Language Guide for Gender-Based Violence*. Washington, DC: EngenderHealth.
- Amadi, KM (2022). *Contribution of APADECO to the Socio-Economic Development of Rural Women in Burundi*. Bujumbura: University of Hope of Africa.
- Archer, J. (2000). "Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review". *Psychological Bulletin*, 126 , 651-680.
- Assogba, LM (1990). *Status of women, family structures, fertility: Transitions in the Gulf of Benin*. Paris: CEPED.
- Austen, P. (2003). *Community Capacity Building and Community Mobilization to Promote Youth Mental Health*. Ottawa: Health Canada.
- Bottos, S. (2007). *Women and Violence: Theory, Risk, and Implications for Treatment*. Ottawa: Correctional Service of Canada.
- Caetano, R. et al. (2002). "Agreement on reports of intimate partner violence among white, Black, and Hispanic couples in the United States." *Journal of Interpersonal violence*, 17 , 1308-1322.
- CARE International in Burundi. (2006). *Final evaluation of the project to strengthen the prevention of sexual violence and community support for victims of sexual violence*. London.
- Christiaensen, L. (2016). Domestic Violence and Poverty in Africa. *When Husband's Blows Are Sweet as Honey* . Retrieved 7 19, 2023 from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/fr/africacan/violences-domestiques-et-pauvrete-en-afrique-quand-les-coups-du-mari-ont-la-douceur-du-miel>
- Clifton, EG (2022). *Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault*. Review, USA. Retrieved 7 18, 2023 from <https://www.msmanuals.com/en/home/womens-health-issues/domestic-violence-and-sexual-assault/domestic-violence>
- Crenner, E. (2006). Family roles and identity. *Economics and Statistics* , 393-394.
- Daligand, L. (2019). Victim support. *In domestic violence* , 86-100.
- Diarra, A. et al. (2011). *Gender profile of Burundi*. Tunis: AfDB Group.
- Droy, I. (1990). *Women and Rural Development*. Paris: KARTHALA.
- Dubois, JL (1992). Reflecting to Measure. Methodological Innovations for the Collection and Analysis of Statistical Information. *The Social Dimensions of Adjustment in Sub-Saharan Africa, Surveys and Statistics, Working Paper No. 7, World Bank, Washington* .
- Felson, R.B. (2002). *Violence and gender reexamined*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- GIZ-ADLP. (2018). Burundi. *Burundian women, leaders of change* . Retrieved 8 April 2023 from <https://gender-works.giz.de/competitions2018/burundi-la-femme-burundaise-leader-du-changement/>.
- Greenfeld, L. et al. (1998). *Violence by intimates: Analysis of data on crimes by current or former spouses, boyfriends and girlfriends*. Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Haubert, M. (1981). "From Community Tradition to Cooperative Modernity. *Evolution, Grafting or Recovery?*" *Revue du tiers monde* (88), 789-808.



- Hawke, A. (2000). *Domestic violence against women and girls*. Florence, Italy: United Nations Children's Fund Innocenti Research Centre.
- IOM Burundi. (2020). Gatumba area. *Flooding in Bujumbura Rural province*.
- Jacquot, M. et al. (2018). Domestic Violence. *The Enigma of the Link to Childhood Racism*, 2 (143), 99-110. Retrieved 8 8, 2023 from <https://www.cain.info/revuetopique-2018-2-p-99.htm>
- Kabwa, N. (2019). *Role of agricultural cooperatives in the community development process: Case of the Bitaho cooperative in the Nyarusange commune, Biziya hill and Kabimba*. Bujumbura: University of Hope of Africa.
- Kane, F. (1999). The Social Status of Women in West Africa. *West African Sub-Region*. Retrieved 8 4, 2023 from [https://aflit.arts.uwa.edu.au/Noppaw\\_Dakar\\_Fatoumata-Kane.pdf](https://aflit.arts.uwa.edu.au/Noppaw_Dakar_Fatoumata-Kane.pdf)
- Krug, E. et al. (2002). *World report on violence and health*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Kurz, D. (1998). "Old problems and new directions in the study of violence against women". (RK Bergen, Ed.) *In Issues in intimate violence*, 197-208.
- Loubet, and Jean-Louis, D. (2000). *Practical introduction to documentary research*. Paris: L'harmattan.
- Mccarthy, A. and Zald, M. (1995). 'Resource mobilization and social movements: A partial theory'. *American Journal of sociology*, 82 (6), 1212-1241.
- Mucchielli, R. (2011). *The survey questionnaire*. Paris: ESF editions.
- Mutai, B. (2000). *How to write quantity research proposal: A complete and simplified recipe*. Nairobi: Thelly Publications.
- N'DA, P. (2007). *Methodology and practical guide to research papers and doctoral theses*. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Ndayiragije, G. (2011). *Image of women in Burundi through tales and epithalamia*. Oslo-Norway: University of Oslo.
- Ntizonyanka, E. (2023). *Contribution of grassroots community organizations to improving the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable women in Burundi*. Bujumbura: Université Espoir d'Afrique.
- Olivier de Sardan, J.-P. (1995). *Anthropology and development, Essays in socio-anthropology of social change*. Paris: Karthala.
- WHO. (2002). *World report on violence and health*. Geneva: Tushika Graphic Vision.
- WHO. (2005). *WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: initial findings on prevalence, health effects and women's responses*. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- WHO. (2013). London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council - Global and regional assessments of violence against women. *Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and violence with a non-sexual partner*, 21-30.
- UN-Women. (2000). *The feminization of poverty fact sheet n1*. New York: United Nations Department of Public.
- Swan, S.C. and Snow, D.L. (2006). "The development of a theory of women's use of violence in intimate relationships", *Violence Against Women*. 12, 1026-1045.
- Tilly, C. (1978). *from mobilization to revolution*. Addison-Wesley: Reading Mass.
- Tjaden, P. and Thoennes, N. (2000). "Prenalence and consequences of male-to-female and female-to-male intimate partner violence as measured by the National Violence Against Women Survey." *Violence Against Women*, 6, 142-161.
- UNFPA. (2014, December). *Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings*. Retrieved July 8, 2023 from [www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org).
- UNHCR. (2008). *UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls*. Geneva.



Uwase., SO (2018). Women and the Environment in Underdeveloped Countries. *Effective empowerment and participation of women* . Retrieved 8 7, 2023 from [https://ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/38321/1/Sybille\\_Uwase\\_2018.pdf](https://ruor.uottawa.ca/bitstream/10393/38321/1/Sybille_Uwase_2018.pdf)

Uwihoreye, P. (2018). *Effect of physical violence against women on family well-being in Burundi*. Bujumbura: Université Espoir d'Afrique.