

MAKING DATA WORK FOR WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS

A Proposed Framework for the CHR Observatory on Gender-Based Violence*

Table of Contents

1. Gender-Based Violence Documentation and Research.....	2
2. The GBV Observatory Project.....	3
3. Discussion on Findings	4
3.1. Documentation and Referral Systems on GBV	4
3.2. Thematic Results of the Study	6
4. The GBV Observatory: Challenges and Potentials.....	10
5. Recommendations.....	12
References	13

The CHR is the country’s Gender and Development Ombud, as designated by the Magna Carta of Women of 2009 (Republic Act 9710). As such, it functions to –

...advocate for the promotion and protection of women’s human rights, strengthen its Human Rights Education program, investigate violations including those committed by private institutions or by private individuals, monitor compliance, and recommend appropriate measures to the CSC [Civil Service Commission] or to the concerned department of the government for its effective implementation. (Section 40)

Specifically, the CHR is tasked to monitor compliance to the provisions of the Magna Carta of Women on gender equality, and develop indicators to guide such; establish guidelines and mechanisms to facilitate women’s access to legal remedies against GBV; assist in the filing of GBV cases; and submit regular reports to Congress assessing the compliance of government agencies to the Magna Carta of Women and their recommendations (Section 40.A).

The establishment of a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Observatory is a step for CHR to fulfil its Gender Ombud functions. In general, Observatories work as resource centers or platforms for building knowledge on certain thematic concerns, which in turn provide more solid foundations for monitoring, research and advocacy, planning, policy and program development, and even service delivery.

In countries where a Gender or Women’s Human Rights Observatory has been established, the mechanism supported and facilitated actions mainstreaming gender equality. This is done by providing references and knowledge products that can aid in the monitoring the status of gender equality as well as in developing policies and programs to strengthen the environment for women’s human rights. Some of the data collected and published by Gender Observatories are gender statistics from local to national levels and on various themes, information on the country’s

* This final version of the report is written by Nancy Endrinal Parreño and Ma. Rosalyn G. Mesina, and was submitted in June 2019. It integrates the input from the validation meeting with stakeholders on 19 February 2019, as well as inputs from participants when the GBV Observatory framework was launched on 29 November 2018, and in a forum with CHR regional directors and GAD focal persons on 02 April 2019.

compliance to national and international standards on women’s human rights, specialized studies and researches on gender issues, gender equality frameworks and analytical tools, and innovative approaches and strategies to promote women’s rights, among others.

1. Gender-Based Violence Documentation and Research

The [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women] in article 1 defines discrimination against women. The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. Gender-based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether those provisions expressly mention violence. (General Recommendation No. 19, CEDAW)

Documentation plays a critical role addressing gender-based discrimination (GBV). Its function goes beyond recording the various forms of violations that women face on the basis of their sex, but it is also a source of knowledge that can be utilized to critique and broaden the current discourse on women’s human rights and gender equality, as well as improve and innovate on interventions related to the protection and promotion of such. Literature is replete with examples of this role of documentation and research in the women’s human rights movement: through conscientious documentation and research, it is now recognized that violence against women is a systemic form of oppression against a group, embedded in social, political and cultural institutions. Documentation and research has also challenged the prevailing idea that abuse of women is only physical; even more devastating in the long run are the economic and psychological violence that cripples women’s self-worth and dignity as human beings. These concepts – that gender-based violence exists, it is perpetuated by institutions in society, and that it is more than physical abuse – are now reflected in international and Philippine laws and inform State actions to protect and promote gender equality.

However, many more needs to be done for GBV and women’s human rights documentation and research. The concept of women/femininity being the singular “Other” in relation to men/masculinity has been taken over by the idea of diversity and intersectionality: women are not a homogenous group, and even a singular woman is a constellation of social identities that collectively construct who she is, and defines her current capabilities and the power she has within specific contexts. Intersectionality as an analytical frame is informative in this regard. Intersectionality forwards that women’s marginalization is not simply because of her gender, but a confluence of her social identities and location in society. In doing so, the phenomenon of VAW is nuanced: while all women are vulnerable to VAW, their experience of violence and access to resources to overcome it will be influenced by their socio-economic class, ethnicity, age, cultural affinities and politics, among others.¹ Related to this, feminist literature also emphasized the importance of contextualization in documenting VAW. To focus on the violation per se and isolating the incident from the constellation of socio-cultural, economic and political factors that frames women’s experiences of gender-based violence and society’s response to this experience, is to reduce the issue to a personal problem brought into a “neutral” public arena where there exists an array of services, and the

¹ For fuller discussions on intersectionality as an analytical frame for GBV and women’s human rights, see Botts, T.F. (2017), Winker, G. and Degele, N. (2011), and van der Hoogte, L. and Kingma, K. (2004)

woman only has to choose to access them.² For documentation and research, this means that what is being unsaid is just as important as what is being said. Relevant questions in this regard include what information about GBV is currently being collected and monitored, and which ones are not? with which groups of women? which information can be accessed and utilized, and how are they being utilized? How are these information utilized from the individual level (e.g. facilitate direct service delivery to GBV survivors) to the institutional level (monitoring, development planning, advocacy).

2. The GBV Observatory Project

The CHR-GEWHRC started a mapping project of the current GBV referral and documentation systems in June 2018 as a step toward developing a framework for a GBV Observatory. For this project, the mapping focused on two of the most prevalent forms of GBV, based on available statistics: *rape* as defined in Republic Act 8353, and *violence against women and their children* (VAWC) as defined in Republic Act 9262.³ The project will map out:

1. current referral systems of government and non-government agencies tasked to address various forms of GBV, and
2. researches and published reports relevant to the Philippine experience of GBV in the past five years.

A particular concern in the former is documentation and data management systems – what data on GBV are presently collected by helping agencies, how these are used, stored and shared to enhance service delivery (or develop new ones, as the case may be), and what are the issues and challenges to such. The latter is interested in mapping the thematic areas of current discourse, noting the attention given to which issues or groups of women in relation to GBV.

Thus, the following specific objectives of the project:

1. To review the role and functions of different government agencies at the national level and selected regional areas in addressing GBV cases, specifically rape and VAWC;
2. To map out the current referral systems of the above government agencies, as well as select civil society organizations working with survivors of rape and VAWC;
3. To describe the current documentation and data management systems of above government agencies and select civil society organizations working with survivors of rape and VAWC;
4. To map out thematic areas of current GBV discourse, noting the attention given to which issues or groups of Filipino women in relation to GBV.

² See for instance, *Gendering Documentation: A Manual for and about Women's Human Rights Defenders* (Women's Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, 2015) for its discussion on documentation as a "politically motivated" act, and its critique of prevailing human rights documentation that is focused on violations (thereby producing "victims"), neglecting how women defy and resist powerlessness.

³ In 2017, the 14 percent of the cases received by the Women and Children's Protection Desk of the Philippine National Police involved a form of sexual violence (i.e. rape, attempted rape, incest rape and acts of lasciviousness), making it second to physical injuries as the most prevalent form of violence against women. In the same year, the Philippine Statistical Authority released a report that 26 percent (or one in four) ever-married women from 15 to 49 years old has experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence by their husband or partner. The data was based on the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS).

The mapping was piloted in five areas, purposively selected to highlight specific contexts: a highly urbanized city (Marikina City), a provincial capital city (Batangas City), multi-cultural areas (Zamboanga City and Koronadal City in South Cotabato) and disaster areas (Guian, Eastern Samar and Zamboanga City). In addition to this, a mapping of literature on women’s human rights in the Philippines from the past five years (2013-2018) was also conducted towards providing an initial grasp of the discourse on women’s human rights and GBV as intersecting with other identities: rural women, indigenous women, migrant women, Muslim women, among others.⁴

The data was gathered through interviews and focus group discussions with direct service providers in GBV cases, and review of related secondary data.⁵

This report is structured around the findings related to Objectives 3 and 4, as interfaced with the review of stakeholders’ roles and functions in relation to Objectives 1 and 2. It was observed that GBV documentation follows the women’s entry into the system of social services addressing GBV, and ends when the woman opts or falls out of this system for reasons ranging from already having accessed the services needed, lack of personal resources to pursue her legal case, to disillusionment with the process.

3. Discussion on Findings

3.1. Documentation and Referral Systems on GBV

Documenting GBV is part of standard operating procedures of government agencies directly engaged in addressing the issue. This is also reinforced in several laws and their implementing rules and regulations, as well as administrative orders and circulars specific to each agency.

The focus of government documentation is on case management (recording incidents, case referrals and transfers, and monitoring case progress) and program planning and evaluation (tracking of number of cases and services provided). In both instances, GBV cases received is the basic unit of data. Thus mapping the case management network and referral pathway of GBV cases is a strategic starting point for understanding how GBV is documented. Diagram 1 shows the different entry points for GBV victim/survivors into the purview of helping agencies. Although some will only provide referral services or accompany women to agencies with more specific mandates to intervene in GBV cases (for instance, the barangay, local social welfare office, or the police), some form of recording is still part of the process. Intake forms are particularly important tools to capture details of the case, so as to assess the immediate needs and issues of the victim/survivor, and if the agency can address these or a referral is needed. Each agency will have its own format for this purpose, but the basic information on the woman, the violation, and the perpetrator is standard.

⁴ Other limitations of the project include: (1) it focused on women’s experiences, (2) VAWC as defined by RA 9262 and rape as concrete platforms for discussing GBV, (3) data analyzed is limited to the participants’ input, specifically, the lack references to women with disabilities, women migrants, women in the informal economy reflect the non-inclusion of these groups of women in the general discourse of research participants, and (4) literature mapping is based on materials available online using search engines and databases such as Google Scholar, ProQuest, OPAC of major universities (UP/ UP Center for Women’s Studies, Ateneo, De La Salle Unvesity, Miriam College / Women and Gender Institute) and those available from government institutions such as Philippine Institute of Development Studies.

⁵ Refer to the GBV Observatory inception report, and knowledge products on data auditing and conducting FGDs (also part of the project outputs) for more detailed discussion of project methodology.

Diagram 1: Entry points for victim/survivor into the GBV intervention or referral system (IACVAWC and UNFPA, 2009)

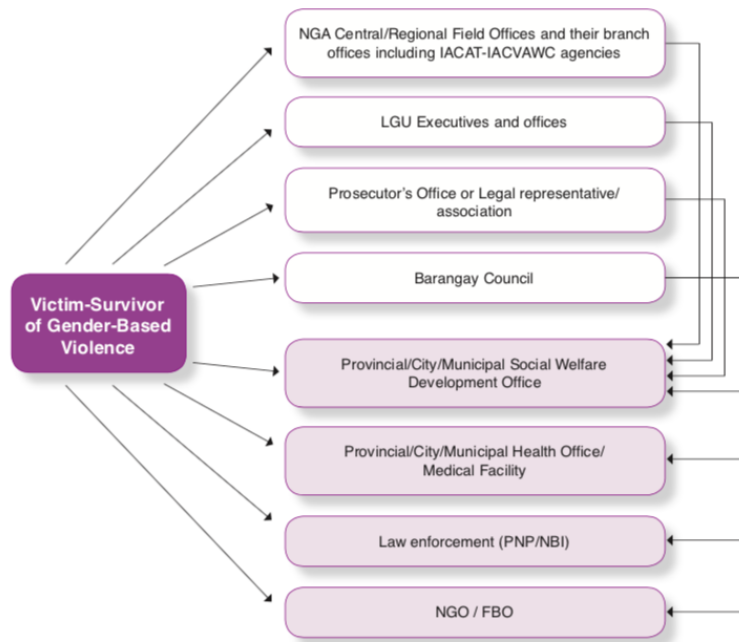
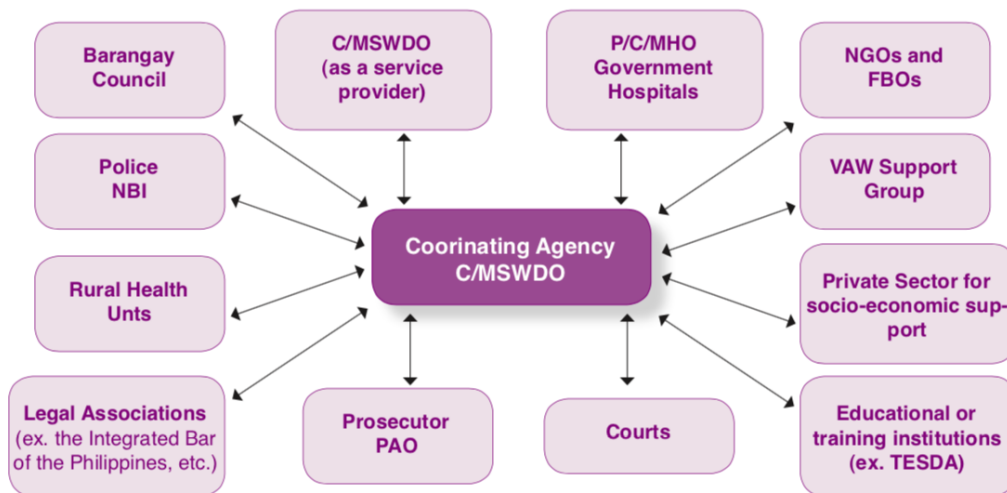


Diagram 2 illustrates the referral network for direct assistance on VAW cases from initial contact (left side) to reintegration (right side) at the local level. The same agencies or stakeholders identified will have records of the VAW victim/survivor's experience, the services she accessed, or both.

Diagram 2: Referral network in the case management of VAW at the local level (IACVAWC and UNFPA, 2009)



The Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG), through the barangays, the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are the key government agencies with regard to VAWC and rape as frontline agencies providing assistance to victim/survivors. They are also the major sources of annual data on the number of VAWC and rape cases reported in the country. Qualitative data, in the form of case studies and “good practices” are also published by these agencies from time-to-time.⁶ Outside of the agencies directly involved in the handling of cases, one can assume that the agency’s role in documentation is secondary data consolidation, analysis and publication. These agencies also collect primary or first-hand GBV data through researches, although the scope would be limited and often targeted at specific themes (e.g. violence against women with disabilities, SOGIE-based discrimination). The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) are examples of such agencies. Inter-agency councils on VAWC and trafficking are also required by law to submit annual reports on their accomplishments with regard to service provision and institutional mechanisms put in place to strengthen responses to the issues. There are agencies such as the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) which consolidate and interpret various quantitative data on GBV, and makes these available to the public. The PSA, through the national census, also has data on women’s socio-economic status which are important in contextualizing their vulnerability to GBV, as well as empowerment. The NEDA, on the other hand, is the lead agency on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals which monitors the country’s accomplishment along the lines of gender equality indicators.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) also play an important role in the documentation of GBV in the country, specifically, CSOs which engage women in the course of their work, whether these are in terms of direct service provision to GBV victim/survivors, capacity building on women’s human rights in general, or lobbying and advocacy work on gender-related policies. Academics and researchers document quantitative and qualitative data on GBV, albeit in a limited capacity and within well-defined themes or parameters.

3.2. Thematic Results of the Study

The data gathering surfaced the following themes:

1. The appreciation of the concept of gender-based violence is not standard across various stakeholders to the issue, particularly the direct service providers and the women victim-survivors. This is also true for the concepts of women’s human rights and gender equality. The law is only one way to define what counts as GBV and which violations merit redress from formal legal systems and in what form. But the law as written and interpreted in jurisprudence has a social, political context which will influence how it is interpreted when applied to specific cases, and how it will be appreciated even by the very women whose rights it seeks to protect

⁶ For instance, see the DSWD Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 2013, on the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Comprehensive Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence. In Section VIII.B (Component 3 no.5) –

Documentation and Printing of Success Stories. A three-day writeshop will be conducted with the GBV service providers. The writeshop shall facilitate the production of first-hand accounts of cases of gender-based violence handled by the case managers themselves. This shall also enable case managers to share and process their individual experiences as a group, and collectively reflect on their achievements and learnings. The results of the writeshop will be used for the development and production of a publication on best practices of the project.

and promote. It is also relevant to reflect on women's ideas of justice and her participation in defining this: not all women see pursuing a legal case against their partners as the solution; many women just want the violence to stop.

This may also explain why community-based processes such as mediation at the barangay or by the community elders, which are discouraged for GBV cases under the law, are still accessed by women. Practices of barangay mediation in a general sense are still present in all research areas. In Zamboanga City and Koronadal City, indigenous and Muslim women can also opt to bring the GBV complaint to the council of elders. Particularly in cases involving Muslim women, community peace also weighs in the discussion of what is just in VAWC.

2. GBV documentation is initiated when the women engages the formal systems of redress or access services needed. This highlights another function of documentation: not only does it records the experience of GBV but prior to this, it also officializes the women's entry to the social service and legal systems. Documentation is integral to the process of service delivery and is a requirement for accountability. By agreeing to have her experience recorded, the woman is able to avail of interventions offered by the State, from the issuance of barangay protection orders, getting material assistance and psychosocial services, to receiving legal aid. Each service provider has their own intake system and forms, although documentation sharing is not uncommon especially when a legal case is filed. For instance, the police may ask for a copy of the barangay complaint as part of the evidence.

This is also notable in the context of GBV statistics which has been described as presenting only of documented cases. What is excluded in *official* data is both the unreported cases and the reported but *unrecorded* ones. Common among barangay women's desk officers in the research areas are stories of women reporting a VAWC but does not want to have her complaint documented in the barangay VAWC logbook. Also notable, the barangay VAWC desk officers also do not see their interaction with these women as official work as well, even if during their "*pag-uusap*" or "conversation" she gave information on women's human rights, the Anti-VAWC law and options for the women to consider.

Another category of reported but unrecorded cases of GBV are those brought to community mechanisms for resolution, such as in the case of IP and Muslim women. In the context of Muslims, since child marriages are acceptable in their culture, a case of child sexual abuse brought to the barangay may be recorded not as "rape" but child marriage if the perpetrator proposes marriage and is accepted by the victim-survivor's family (Zamboanga City).

In emergency or disaster contexts, forms of GBV are uncovered and documented because of the monitoring of service providers, and not always because the woman had initiated the complaint. The support by international and national agencies, usually through capacity building of local service providers, in this regard has been important. Some of the systems, specifically referral pathways, put in place during the disaster response and recovery period were carried over in more stable times.

3. State level documentation as published is almost always focused on the "point of entry data" i.e. number of women who asked for help, and the services given. Information on the process (e.g.

how long did it take for the woman to get a court protection order) and status of cases are not part of official data, although these can be sourced from documentation already done by certain institutions.

Related to this, is the one-dimensional regard of women in GBV documentation. The intersectionality of women's identities and its impact on their experience of GBV is yet to be explored, and the availability of data on this is crucial. Only a few agencies have mainstreamed questions regarding their ethnicity, SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression) and (dis)ability in standard intake forms. Instead, these information may be found in the "*salaysay*" or narratives of women recorded in logbooks, but it is highly subject to what the documentor thinks as relevant to the case, thus would consciously ask or include this, or to what the woman herself thinks is relevant.

It is important to note that the Joint Memorandum Circular 02 on the establishment of barangay women's desks, which was released in 2010, forwarded a national documentation form on VAW for barangays, however, none of the participating barangays in the GBV Observatory project was familiar with it, or had used it. The documentation form was more comprehensive than current barangay formats which noted only basic personal information such as name, address, civil status and age, in addition to the *salaysay*. It also tracked information such as the victim/survivor's disability, but not her ethnicity or SOGIE.⁷

4. There is extensive quantitative and qualitative data related to GBV and its context collected by various government agencies, from local to national levels. At the barangay level, VAWC logbook entries are good sources of the type of VAWC reported, and interventions done and resolutions (e.g. the *salaysay* and *kasunduan* as referred by the police and local social welfare and development offices). However, not all of these information are captured in the forms submitted to municipal, provincial governments, which only track the number of cases received and type of violence experienced. For VAWC, it will be grouped according to the categories of physical, sexual, psychological and economic, as set in RA 9262.

City, municipal and provincial level data on GBV are the same, but agencies such as the LSWDO and PNP would have more information on the profile of women, as well as interventions provided. Marikina City has started on a database project on VAWC which they aim to be more attuned to the nuances of the cases, track cases by number of complaints as well as number of individuals who sought help, and case management up to after-care interventions. Ease of documentation is also another issue which the project aims to address.

At the national level, there is the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) which have consolidated reports on VAWC from communities across the country. As mentioned earlier, these reports contain the number of VAWC and rape cases recorded, and the type of violence experienced. The DILG also monitors the establishment of Anti-VAWC desks across the country and the number of established desks are also published. The PNP data is more extensive as it contains the general

⁷ The Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2, s.2010 was issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Department of Health and the Philippine Commission on Women. The National VAW (NVAW) documentation form is found in Annex 1 of the JMC.

profile of women complainants, as well as other GBV-related crimes that are not VAWC or rape (e.g. sexual harassment, trafficking, unjust vexation). However, published PNP reports are focused on the number of cases received segregated by region.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also publishes numbers on GBV-related cases they received and provided intervention. The source of information is the local and regional social welfare centers managed by the national agency. The documentation within the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, which is national anti-overtly program managed by the Central Office, is another source of information. Recently, the Pantawid program piloted focus group discussions on GBV issues with their beneficiaries from which quantitative and qualitative data can be culled.

The Philippine Statistics Authority publishes statistical data on women and men / gender. This publication features gender-disaggregated quantitative data gathered from different agencies.

5. Utilization of data in the form of researches, annual gender reports and similar publications is limited among direct service delivery agencies, whether government or non-government.

Publication and research remains a challenge for national agencies. While the data is available it has been mostly used internally i.e., to inform planning and identifying policy advocacy agenda. They do, however, make select data available to the public to be used by researchers. Websites of national agencies are access points to GBV-related information. Researchers can also write to local and national agencies to request for data, which can be provided but within the limits specified by the Freedom of Information (Executive Order No. 2 s.2016), the Data Privacy Law (RA 10173 of 2012), and similar policies and ethical considerations (principle of confidentiality in GBV cases). The DSWD also released Administrative Order No. 11 s. 2011 which details their protocol on the conduct of studies in DSWD centers, institutions and offices. Agencies such as the Philippine Commission on Women also publish reports from time to time.

The GBV Observatory project also mapped out researches and reports available online that are related to women’s human rights in the Philippine context. Apart from the inclusive period (the past five years, or 2013 to 2018), and search words (“gender based violence” and “women’s human’s rights”), the mapping also limited itself to works by Filipino authors or includes a Filipino author, and on focus areas mentioned in the Magna Carta of Women.

The mapping surfaced the following:

- From 2013-2018, there are 195 studies and reports that used women’s human rights and gender-based violence as key concepts.
- In terms of publication type, 88.7 percent are articles published in local and international journals (102), non-academic situational analyses or reports (41), and MA or PhD theses (30).
- Focus areas of these studies are varied, as shown in the table below. Notable is the small number of literature found on women’s human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS, solo parenting, general health care (excluding reproductive and sexual health issues),

mental health and urban poor women. dearth of available online work women’s human rights in the context of disabilities, climate change, housing and health.

Focus Area / Topic	Frequency
sexual and reproductive health	28
general women’s human rights / gender equality	20
disasters and climate change	17
intimate partner abuse / VAWC	17
migration	17
sexuality / LGBT	15
women and economy / economic empowerment	16
violence against women (all forms)	13
political participation	12
gender stereotyping	10
internally displaced women	10
gender mainstreaming	9
militarization / armed conflict / peace	9
trafficking of women	9
rural women	8
human rights standards / national law implementation	8
indigenous women	6
women in prostitution	5
women and mass media / communications	4
women in prisons / women deprived of liberty	4
HIV / AIDS	3
solo parents	3
women and general health care	2
mental health	1
urban poor women	1
Total*	248

* Total is more than 195 due multiple counts i.e. some literature intersects several issues, or women’s social identities

4. The GBV Observatory: Challenges and Potentials

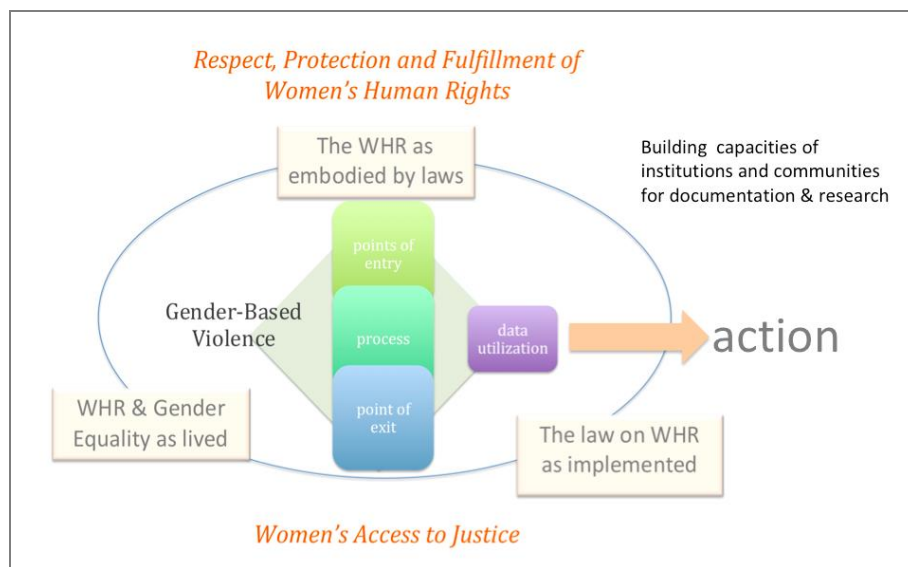
Gender-based violence is not a new issue. Yet it is still persistent feature in the lives of women, whether in actuality or a possibility as women navigate through and negotiate with social norms which, for instance, hold them responsible for intimate partner violence and sexual abuse. The GBV Observatory project aimed to refresh the issue by looking at it from another angle: information, documentation and research. In doing so, it surfaced the following insights:

1. Documentation as point to service access.
2. Statistics on the number of GBV cases in the country reflects only reported and recorded cases; there are reported GBV cases which are not recorded through mainstream systems.
3. Published data on GBV has focused on quantitative or quantifiable information, but there are qualitative data also being documented especially at the local level.
4. Utilization of the data from various agencies in the form of researches and publications is limited; making data available to a wider audience is also a gap.

The GBV Observatory can play an important role in setting up a platform to collate all information and data available from different agencies doing work on violence against women and gender-based violence in general. Its scope could be as broad as presenting the international and national instruments relevant to addressing barriers to women’s empowerment to featuring tools and good practices that human rights advocates can use as a platform to strengthen their gains and push further towards gender equality and social inclusivity.

The framework below is a result of the study. Recalling that most data and information are collected from point of entry into the formal (mainstream) legal process (such as filing a complaint, lodging a case and upon access of service) – prompts asking direct service providers and agencies:

- How sensitive is the existing mechanisms and support systems to the intersectionality of women’s identities and contexts when they document their experience of gender-based violence? how is this mirrored in the services open to and provided to diverse groups of women?
- How is the end point of case management conceptualized, and consequently, documented?
- How can the process of women’s empowerment be documented, recognizing that legal victory may not be the endpoint for many women?



Draft Framework for the CHR GBV Observatory (Parreño and Mesina, November 2018)

The focus is on documentation; the next, and ideally, the inevitable step is to harness the data gathered in the process of service delivery to use for strategic ends: education and training, gender mainstreaming, and promotion of gender and cultural sensitivity and social inclusion as institutional values. Making available the data to a wider audience can facilitate this. It can also strengthen critical thinking about women’s human rights and current actions to fulfill this. As noted by the study, the dominance of law-based instruments in human rights discourse, and legal justice as the main vehicle for justice in the context of gender-based violence, can be disempowering when service providers

trivialize other ways women resolve their situation, for instance, getting BPOs multiple times without filing a case or seeking mediation from community leaders.

This puts forward the framework of women’s human rights as a result of the interplay of the what the law says, how the law is implemented, and the law’s socio-cultural context (Schuler, 1998). Much have been written about gender-based violence using this framework, whether this is explicitly acknowledged or implicit in the structure of the researches. The laws themselves are a product of this interplay as stakeholders engage each other to find common ground amidst the myriad of social and cultural meanings attached to specific forms of gender-based violence. However, as the ideas of diversity and intersectionality teach, the process of consensus making may not be so straight-forward. There are missing voices. There are voices which are buried under those which are louder. Of particular note here are the voices of IP and Muslim women whose cultural practices the law on VAWC, for instance, seem to have overlooked.

The bigger picture of these discussions are the goals of protecting and fulfilling of women’s human rights, and increasing women’s access to justice – and the present gaps, emerging challenges and potential sources of support for continuing advocacy. An Observatory can function as a magnifying glass on areas of concern on gender-based violence, and in the process, offer new and critical ways of thinking about an “old” issue.

5. Recommendations

The project also forwards specific recommendations for stakeholders culled from the research participants and from the data, in addition to the GBV Observatory framework.

1. Include in intake forms or client data sheets information on a range of identities of women which may have been contributing to her marginalization: ethnicity, SOGIE and abilities, among others.
2. Strengthening the documentation, research and publication of capacities of direct service providers and agencies, especially at the local level.
3. Publish local data (city, municipal and provincial) on gender-based violence, recognizing the context-specific nature of the social construction of GBV
4. Encourage more research and publication on women and climate change, disabilities, health in general, mental health, and housing using a women’s human rights-based framework.
5. Create spaces for dialogues or grassroots discussions on community and culture-based processes and mechanisms also accessed by GBV victim-survivors.

Specifically for CHR-GEWHRC and the Regional GAD focal systems for the GBV Observatory–

1. Continue to strengthen capacities of its Regional GAD focal systems on women’s human rights and GBV documentation, focusing on the intersectionality of women’s social identities and location;
2. Actively engage State and civil society organizations toward strengthening internal (for CHR) and local (at the regional and provincial levels) resources and networks for (a) GBV interventions, including material and psychosocial services for victim/survivors, and (b) multi-sectoral and inter-agency GBV and WHR documentation and research;
3. Develop a knowledge management and communications system for maximizing GBV and WHR-related data, both the quantitative and qualitative, already being collected in the CHR Regional Offices;
4. Take lead in the publication of a regional and provincial indices on human development (HDI), gender and development (GDI), gender inequality (GII) as based on the international measures on such; and
5. Explore the possibility of publishing a national and regional “women’s human rights index” based on the provisions of the Magna Carta of Women

References

Botts, T.F. (2017). “The Genealogy and Viability of the Concept of Intersectionality.” *The Routledge Companion to Feminist Philosophy*. Routledge.

Commission on Human Rights (2016). *CHR Gender Ombud Guidelines: Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment under the MCW (R.A. 9710) and Related Laws*.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Department of Interior and Local Government (www.dilg.gov.ph)

Department of Social Welfare and Development website (www.dswd.gov.ph)

Philippine Commission on Women website (www.pcw.gov.ph)

Philippine Statistical Authority (26 March 2018). “One In Four Women Have Ever Experienced Spousal Violence (Preliminary results from the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey).” Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/one-four-women-have-ever-experienced-spousal-violence-preliminary-results-2017-national>

Philippine Statistical Authority (2018). Women and Men Fact Sheet. Retrieved from <http://www.psa.gov.ph/gender-stat/wmf>.

Republic Act 8353, or the Anti-Rape Law of 1997, and its Implementing Rules and

Regulations.

Republic Act 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Republic Act 9710, or the Magna Carta of Women of 2009, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Schuler, M., ed. (1998) *Empowerment and the Law: Strategies of Third World Women*. USA: OEF International.

van der Hoogte, L. and Kingma, K. (2004). “Promoting cultural diversity and the rights of women: the dilemmas of “intersectionality” for development organisations”. *Gender & Development*, 12:1, 47-55.

Women’s Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (2015). *Gendering Documentation: A Manual for and about Women’s Human Rights Defenders*.

Winker G. and Degele, N. (2011) Intersectionality as multi-level analysis: Dealing with social inequality. *European Journal for Women’s Studies* 18(1), 55-61.

Gender Observatory website references

Women’s Link Worldwide: Gender Justice Observatory.

<http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org/en/gender-justice-observatory/court-rulings-database>

Universitat Rovira i Virgili: Gender Equality Observatory

<http://www.urv.cat/en/campus-life/corporate-responsibility/equality-observatory/>

International School of Equal Possibilities: Gender Observatory

<http://gender-ua.org/en/directions-of-activity/gender-observatory>

Walls and Integration: Gender Observatory

<http://www.wallsandintegration.com/index.php/en/chi-siamo-2/28-patners/81-osservatorio-di-genere-2>

Government of Morocco: Public Service Gender Observatory

<http://www.egov.ma/en/News/launch-public-service%E2%80%99-gender-observatory-ogfp>

Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://oig.cepal.org/en/about-observatory>