



**MALAWI IRISH
CONSORTIUM**
ON GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE

STRATEGIC PLAN

Advocacy, Collaboration, and Information:
A united response to ending
gender-based violence.

2026-2030



Cover photo:

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, focusing on the specific theme of ending digital GBV in Malawi for 2025.

CONTENTS

The consortium will not only complement government and civil society efforts but also catalyse more coherent and impactful responses to GBV.

02 Introduction

- 03 The Malawi Context
- 04 The Strategic Plan

06 Overview: Who We Are

- 07 Member Organisations
- 08 Our History
- 08 Governance and Coordination

10 Vision, Mission and Values

- 11 Vision
- 11 Mission
- 11 Core Values
- 12 Theory of Change
- 13 Strategic Objectives

14 Strategic Objectives

- 14 Strategic Objective 1: Advocacy
- 16 Strategic Objective 2: Collaboration
- 18 Strategic Objective 3: Information
- 20 Improving MICGBV

22 Alignment with National, Regional and Global Agendas

- 24 Appreciation

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence remains a persistent challenge in Malawi. Despite significant legal reforms, implementation is uneven, and cultural norms continue to silence survivors. This strategy outlines a unified path forward.



Walking together for change —
MICGBV Consortium members join
the 16 Days of Activism to stand
against gender-based violence →

1 in 3

partnered women have
experienced intimate
partner violence

42%

of girls are married
before the age of 18



The Malawi Context

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread and persistent challenge in Malawi, cutting across all regions, age groups, and social classes. National data show that more than one in three ever-partnered women have experienced intimate partner violence, while adolescent girls and young women remain disproportionately at risk of sexual violence, child marriage, and harmful practices. Survivors often face stigma, discrimination, and silence, with nearly half never seeking help.

Although Malawi has taken significant steps to strengthen its legal and policy environment, including the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, the Gender Equality Act, and the 2017 constitutional amendment that set 18 as the absolute minimum age of marriage; implementation remains uneven. Service systems such as One-Stop Centres (OSCs) and Police Victim Support Units (VSUs) provide vital entry points, yet coverage is inconsistent, quality of care is variable, and referral pathways are fragmented. GBV data is dispersed across multiple institutions and platforms, limiting coordination, evidence use, and accountability. Climate shocks such as Cyclone Freddy in 2023 have further intensified risks, exposing displaced women and girls to heightened violence, exploitation, and trafficking.

The GBV response landscape in Malawi is marked by dedicated actors and important initiatives, but several gaps persist:

- **Systems and service gaps:** Uneven distribution of OSCs and VSUs, inadequate staffing, and weak medical and legal support undermine survivor-centred care.
- **Data fragmentation:** Multiple non-interoperable databases limit a comprehensive picture of GBV trends and responses.
- **Normative barriers:** Harmful social norms, stigma, and economic stress perpetuate violence and discourage help-seeking.
- **Resource constraints:** Legal and policy reforms have not been matched with adequate financing and consistent implementation.
- **Emerging risks:** Humanitarian shocks and technology-facilitated abuse are adding new layers of vulnerability.

These realities demonstrate the urgent need for coordinated advocacy, stronger evidence generation, and platforms for collaboration and learning across Malawi's GBV sector.

The Strategic Plan

The Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (MICGBV) is a six-member consortium representing humanitarian, development, human rights, advocacy, and gender-focused organisations with support from, and in close collaboration with, the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi.

This strategic plan outlines the MICGBV's vision and mission, and its key objectives and overarching activities for the next five years: 2026 - 2030. This strategy will support consortium members to work together in efficient and coherent ways to enhance and amplify their collective impact in tackling gender-based violence across Malawi.

This five-year strategic plan (2026–2030) provides a clear framework for consortium action.

By aligning advocacy, evidence, and collaboration, the consortium will not only complement government and civil society efforts but also catalyse more coherent and impactful responses to GBV. This strategy is therefore both timely and necessary, positioning MICGBV as a convener, amplifier, and evidence leader in Malawi's fight against gender-based violence.

Providing dignity kits to adolescent girls as part of our commitment to gender equality and protection ↓



Over the next five years, the consortium will:



Advocate

Advocate at the national level for improved access to quality gender-based violence (GBV) services for all, especially for adolescents and young people.



Improve

Improve the availability of GBV-related evidence across the sector in collaboration with academia and other GBV networks/consortia at national, regional and global levels.



Collaborate

Facilitate stronger collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and learning among GBV practitioners to drive evidence-based and effective programming.



OUR MISSION

We advocate, promote evidence-based learning and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Malawi.

OVERVIEW

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2014, the MICGBV represents a unique collaboration between six international organisations and the Embassy of Ireland. By pooling our resources, expertise, and networks, we strive to amplify our collective impact and create a safer Malawi through coordinated advocacy and action.



The MICGBV members exhibition during the SRVI forum →

Member Organisations

The logo for act:onaid, featuring the word "act:onaid" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The colon is stylized as a small circle.

a global federation working for a world free from poverty and injustice.

The logo for CONCERN worldwide, with "CONCERN" in a bold, green, sans-serif font and "worldwide" in a smaller, green, sans-serif font below it.

an international humanitarian organisation that strives for a world free from poverty, fear and oppression.

The logo for IRLI, featuring a green square icon with a white circle inside, followed by the letters "IRLI" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

a project-orientated, non-profit, rule-of-law initiative.

The logo for OXFAM, featuring a green circular icon with a white stylized figure inside, followed by the word "OXFAM" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

a global confederation of independent and interconnected affiliates working to end poverty and injustice.

The logo for Self Help AFRICA, featuring a green heart icon with a white stylized figure inside, followed by the words "Self Help" in a bold, green, sans-serif font and "AFRICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font below it.

an international organisation working to alleviate hunger, poverty, social inequality and the impact of climate change.

The logo for Trocaire, featuring the word "Trocaire" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a blue horizontal bar above the 'o', and the tagline "TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.

an international non-governmental organisation working to tackle the underlying causes of poverty and injustice and respond to the crises they create.

Our History

2014

Founding

Formed by Concern Worldwide, GOAL, Self Help Africa, and Trócaire, with the Embassy of Ireland. Launched with a photography exhibition for the 16 Days of Activism.



2018

New Members

The consortium grew in strength and numbers as ActionAid and Oxfam joined the partnership.



2016

Expanding Reach

Expanded into national-level advocacy events and interactive radio programmes in partnership with Theatre for a Change and UN Women.



Governance and Coordination

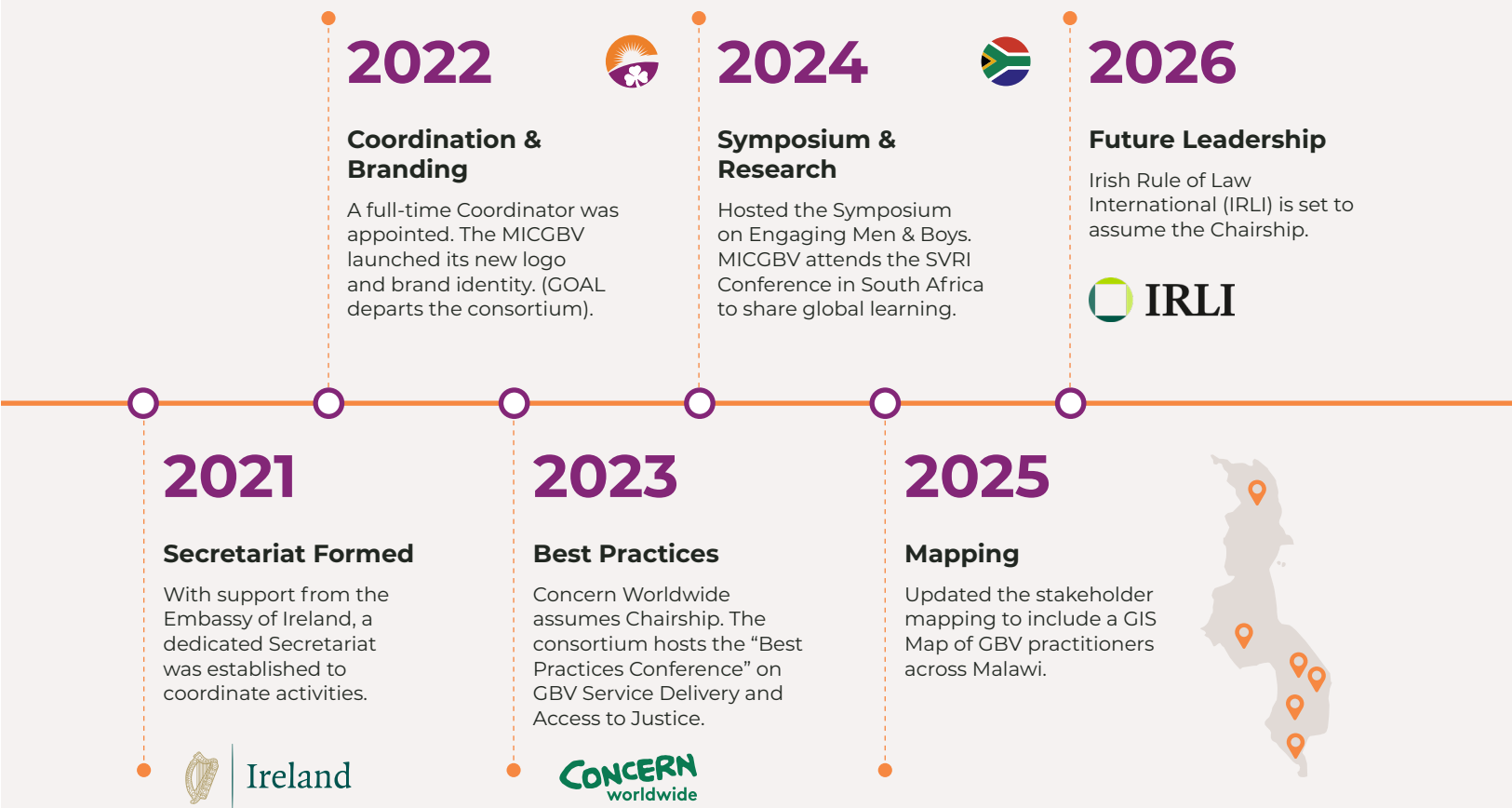
The consortium is governed by a two-year rotating Chairing system. The Chairing organisation is nominated by the consortium members. The Secretariat Chair manages donor reporting, financial tracking, and overall coordination of MICGBV activities. The Chairing organisation is assisted by the Vice-Chair organisation; also nominated for a 2-year term. The Vice-Chair automatically assumes the Chairing role in the

subsequent term. Each member organisation contributes to joint initiatives as well as leading on relevant strategic areas.

The MICGBV Management Group comprises Country/Executive Directors of each consortium member organization. This group is led by MICGBV's Chairing organisation. This group meets quarterly to oversee and provide leadership, guidance, and oversight to

ensure the achievement of the MICGBV's strategic objectives. The quorum for meetings of the MICGBV Management Group is four member organisations. Decisions are made by a simple majority vote, with each member organisation present entitled to a single vote. The chair may elect to exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

The consortium has another group of Technical Members.



This Technical Group meets on a monthly basis to actively contribute towards the fulfilment of the strategic objectives and activities of the consortium. They provide information and technical input, participate in consortium events, and support partnership building efforts. Technical Members also support the consortium in addressing challenges and tracking implementation. The quorum for meetings of the

MICGBV Technical Group is four member organisations. Technical and programmatic decisions are made by a majority vote, with each member organisation present entitled to a single vote. The Secretariat Coordinator may elect to exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

The MICGBV Secretariat Coordinator is responsible for day-to-day tasks. They are accountable to members

of the Technical Group and Management Group, and provide updates on implementation progress against annual work plans and the strategy. The Secretariat Coordinator reports to the Chair.

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Every strategy needs a compass. This section defines the future we are fighting for: a Malawi free from violence. It also outlines the five core values that ensure our work remains inclusive, safe, and focused on the survivor.



Showcasing MICGBV's work to the Minister of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Honourable Mary Navicha, M.P. →

Vision

A Malawi that is safe, inclusive and free from gender-based violence.

Mission

We advocate, promote evidence-based learning and strengthen collaboration among stakeholders to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Malawi.

Core Values

MICGBV holds **five core values** across our work.



Quality Assurance

This includes ensuring evidence-based communication, ensuring all content included in the Information Hub is accurate, and countering misinformation in GBV narratives.



Safeguarding: Do no harm

MICGBV will ensure that our interventions do not cause participants harm or put them at additional risk, as much as possible. We will have a clear complaints mechanism for MICGBV-related work on our website and social media channels.



Survivor-Centred and Gender-Transformative Approaches

MICGBV's work and messaging will use survivor-centred and gender transformative approaches to ensure we are consistently pushing for justice and gender equity through systemic change.



Inclusivity

We will not passively or actively exclude individuals from any group in our work, including groups defined by characteristics of race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, or religion.

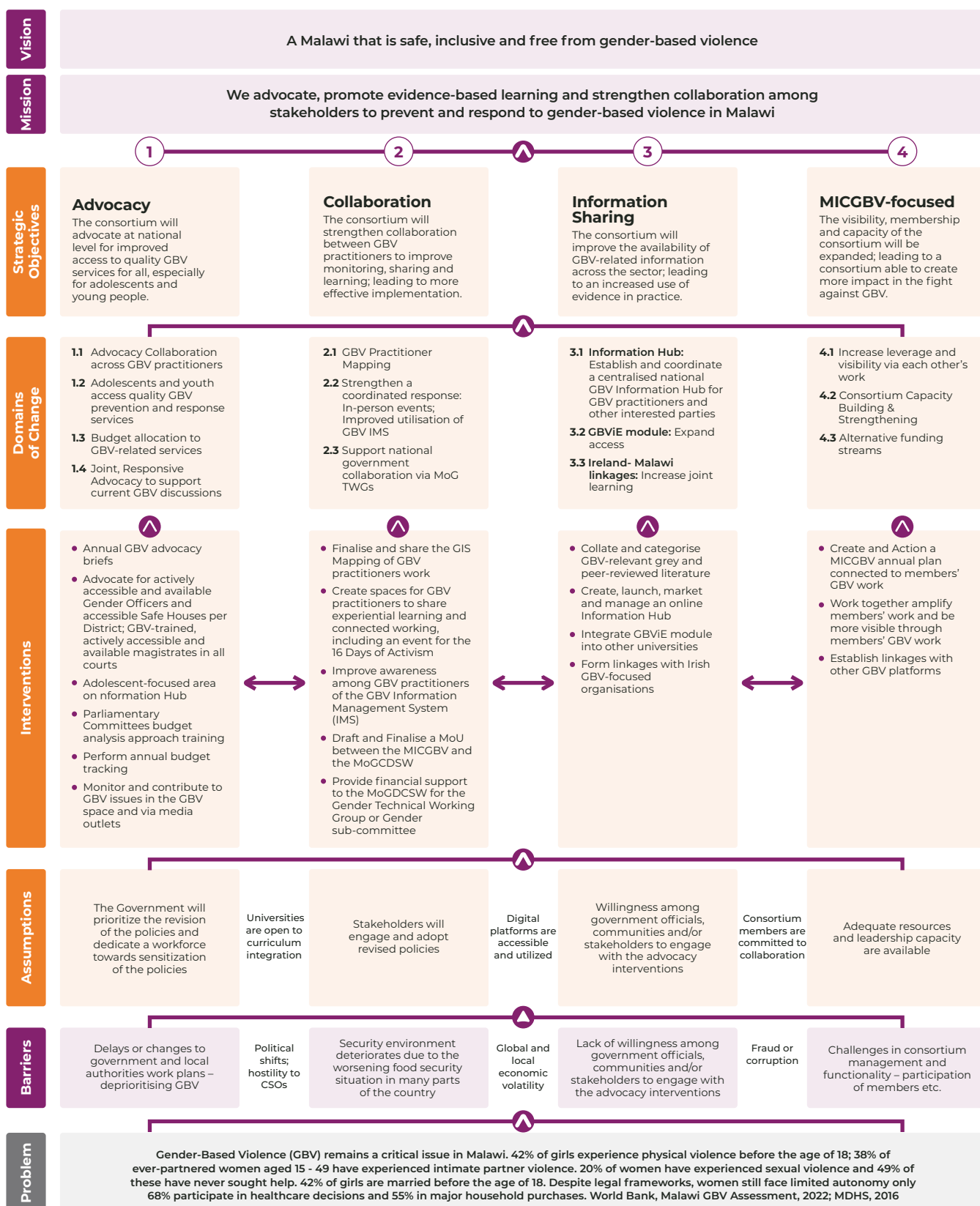


Intersectionality

MICGBV recognises that numerous characteristics of individuals and groups influence whether GBV occurs, as well as how it is managed. Intersectionality provides us with a framework to include other characteristics, as well as gender, in our work, for example, tribe, rural/urban contexts, education status, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

MICGBV's Theory of Change

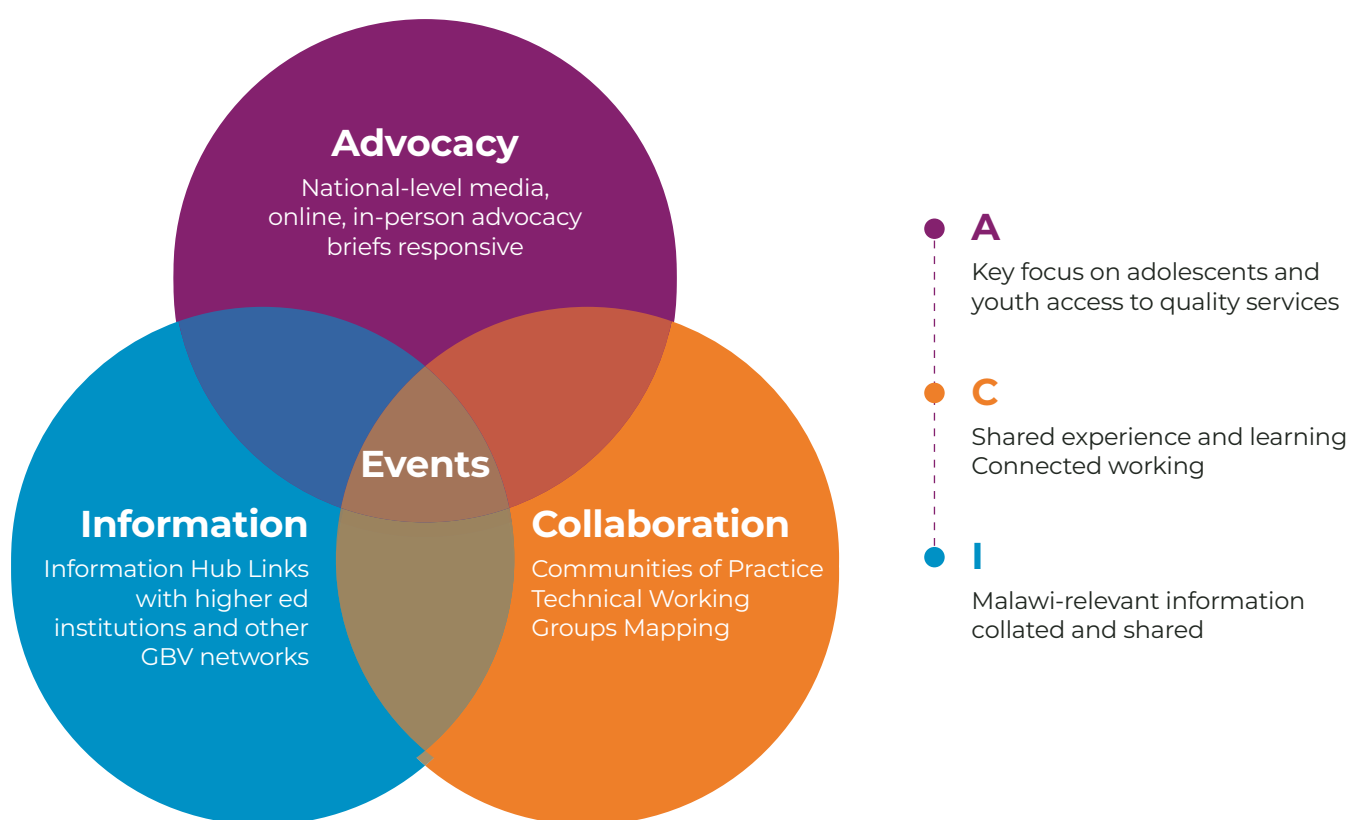
If the MICGBV advocates collectively, amplifies evidence-based learning, and strengthens collaboration among power holders and GBV practitioners, then policies, services, and budgets will better respond to the GBV-related needs of adolescents and GBV survivors.



MICGBV's Strategic Objectives

From our work as a consortium to date, we have learnt that the more we collaborate, the more effective our work can be: within the consortium and with other GBV-focused practitioners and partners. This new strategy has been co-created by all consortium members, with additional input from partners via key informant interviews. This will help us to collectively work towards our new vision and mission.

From 2026 - 2030, MICGBV will focus on four strategic areas: three outward facing and one inward-facing. These have been selected as priority areas through key informant interviews with stakeholders, including government and implementation organisations. The three outward facing areas are visualised below, with all four areas described below.



If we advocate collectively, amplify evidence, and strengthen collaboration, then policies and services will better respond to the needs of adolescents and GBV survivors.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

01 ADVOCACY



The consortium will advocate at national level for improved access to quality GBV services for all, especially for adolescents and young people.

We will focus our advocacy work on improving access to high-quality prevention and response GBV services, specifically for adolescents and young people. Advocacy work will be in-person as well as online and through media. This will include five areas of work:

1.1 Advocacy Collaboration

The MICGBV will develop and publish annual Malawi-specific GBV advocacy briefs so as to provide practitioners in the GBV space with key, current, priority areas for advocacy work. This availability of common goals aims to strengthen GBV-related advocacy in Malawi across the GBV space, leading to power holders receiving similar messaging from as many groups as possible.

The Secretariat Coordinator will promote access to these, to all key GBV organizations, including INGOs, Malawian NGOs, CBOs, Rural Women Assemblies and Women Forums. The Coordinator will also make them available on the Information Hub (see Strategic Area 3).

1.2 Adolescents and Youth Access Quality GBV Services

To improve access to quality GBV services, especially for adolescents and youth, the MICGBV will advocate on areas such as:

- **the construction or renovations** of accessible Safe Houses per District
- **removal of any other barriers** to access to prevention or justice

The MICGBV will support GBV practitioners' work with adolescents to be evidence-based, via the Secretariat Coordinator creating an adolescent-focused area on the Information Hub (see Strategic Area 3). The consortium will source, or if necessary, create:

- **a training program for educators and youth group leaders** focused on working with adolescents around GBV prevention and response
- **a training program for health practitioners and police officers** focused on working with adolescents as a specific population of GBV survivors
- **adolescent-focused referral pathways** linking health, legal, and psychosocial services.

1.3 Budget-Focused

This will advocate for increased budget allocation to GBV-related activities for the MoGCDSW, MoJ, Police and any other relevant bodies within the national budget.

The MICGBV will perform annual budget tracking by reviewing each year's budget, identifying gaps and providing advice on potential solutions or models. We will support Parliamentary groups by enhancing their capacity building in budget analysis skills to enable them to perform budget tracking and analysis going forward.

1.4 Joint, Responsive Advocacy

As the MICGBV, we will use our collective voice to support current GBV issues or discussions, both in the media as well as the GBV space. The Secretariat Coordinator will consistently monitor the media and aim to be part of any discussions being held within the GBV space, to enable MICGBV's involvement.

The Secretariat Coordinator will work with the full MICGBV member organizations to create a decision-making system that enables the consortium to quickly confirm whether to add MICGBV's voice to an issue or not, for example, via a social media post or press release.

Key Indicators

OVERARCHING METRICS

- **Engagement:** Frequency of high-level advocacy meetings with national power holders.
- **Influence:** Measurable increase in active commitment to reducing GBV among power holders.
- **Media Reach:** breadth of visibility across unique media outlets and social platforms.
- **Content Volume:** Consistent output of MICGBV-instigated advocacy media posts.
- **Practitioner Impact:** Positive influence on GBV practitioners' commitment reported through media engagement.

COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY

- Publication and dissemination of annual Malawi-specific GBV advocacy briefs.
- Active uptake and usage of advocacy briefs by peer organisations.

NATIONAL INFLUENCE & MEDIA

- Regular GBV-advocacy meetings held with national power holders.
- Increased active commitment to reducing GBV among power holders and practitioners.
- Expanded visibility across a diverse range of media outlets and social platforms.
- Consistent volume of MICGBV-led advocacy campaigns and responsive media posts.

BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY

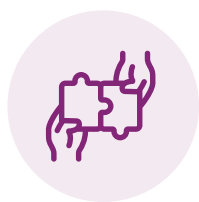
- Delivery of budget analysis training to Parliamentary Committee members.
- Completion of annual national budget tracking reviews and recommendations.
- Advocacy contributing to increased national budget allocations for GBV-related lines.

ADOLESCENT & YOUTH ACCESS

- Expansion of Safe Houses to additional districts.
- Increased availability of trained magistrates handling GBV cases in courts.
- Creation of dedicated adolescent-focused resources on the Information Hub.
- Publication of referral pathways connecting health, legal, and psychosocial services.
- Availability of training programmes for educators, police, and health workers on the Information Hub.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

02 COLLABORATION



The consortium will strengthen collaboration between GBV practitioners to improve monitoring, sharing and learning; leading to more effective GBV-focused implementation.

The MICGBV will facilitate GBV practitioners to share learning and promote connected working, as well as maintain focus on GBV as a key national issue. We will do this in three ways.

2.1 GBV Practitioner Mapping

In 2025, the MICGBV engaged a consultant to run a GIS mapping exercise on GBV practitioners across Malawi. This map will be shared on the Information Hub as well as directly with relevant ministries and partners. All MICGBV members will publicise this map as widely as possible, requesting additions of those not yet included, for example, small community-based organizations.

The Secretariat Coordinator will be responsible to keep the GIS GBV practitioners map up to date, including receiving and validating suggested additions.

2.2 Strengthening a Coordinated Response

We will create spaces for GBV practitioners to share experiential learning and connected working through in-person events. Two of these will be commemorating international days: the 16 Days of Activism to End GBV, and International Women's Day. We aim to run another event during the year

for different sets of GBV practitioners, to expand the reach of these events. We will distribute any new evidence, policies or advocacy briefs at these events, as well as holding panel discussions on promising interventions and best practices in the Malawi context. The Secretariat Coordinator will ensure there are meaningful outputs from each event, such as slide decks and recommendations. We will also publicise the Information Hub to promote participant awareness and use.

The MICGBV will improve the breadth of utilisation of the GBV Information Management System (IMS) by increasing awareness among GBV practitioners of the GBV IMS.

2.3 Support National Government Collaboration

The MICGBV will work with the MoGCDSW to consolidate the consortium's role alongside the MoGCDSW. This will result in an MoU between the two bodies.

The MICGBV will provide financial support to the MoGCDSW for the Gender Technical Working Group and/or the Gender sub-committee, depending on need and on availability of finances.

Ms. Grace Manda, GBV
Coordinator at Malawi
Police Service Orienting
journalists on Ethical
reporting →



Key Indicators

GBV PRACTITIONER MAPPING

- Active access and utilization of the GBV practitioners GIS map by unique individuals.

STRENGTHENING A COORDINATED RESPONSE

- Consistent attendance and participation at MICGBV-led events.
- Participants reporting acquisition of new GBV-related information and knowledge.
- Facilitation of new potential collaborations discussed among event participants.
- Measured increase in active commitment to reducing GBV among participants influenced by MICGBV events.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

- Formalization of partnership through signed MoUs with the Ministry (MoGCDSW).
- Provision of support to MoGCDSW-led technical meetings.



We will create spaces for GBV practitioners to share experiential learning and connected working.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

03 INFORMATION



The consortium will improve the availability of GBV-related information across the sector; leading to an increased use of evidence in practice. We will do this in three ways.

3.1 Information Hub

The MICGBV will establish and coordinate a centralised, open-access, national GBV Information Hub for GBV practitioners and other interested parties. The Secretariat will coordinate the MICGBV to collate all Malawi-relevant, GBV-focused grey and peer-reviewed literature available online.

Note: not all information must be based in Malawi. For example, if best practice examples are available and could be contextualised, this is seen as relevant to Malawi, especially if these are from similar socio-cultural contexts. All relevant government of Malawi laws, policies and other documentation will be included.

The Secretariat will then run quality assurance checks on all literature and create easy-to-navigate categorisations. The Secretariat will then create an online Information Hub. The hub will have contact details of the Secretariat for GBV practitioners to send future information for inclusion. All information submitted will go through a quality assurance process before hub inclusion.

The Secretariat will then organise an Information Hub Launch.

The Secretariat Coordinator will continue to market the hub post-launch, as well as monitor online traffic and usage statistics. The Secretariat Coordinator will also manage user issues, information requests and submissions.

3.2 GBV in Emergencies Module

In 2024, in collaboration with the University College Dublin (UCD), the MICGBV created a module called Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE). This has been integrated into curricula at the University of Malawi (UNIMA) and the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST). Within the period of this strategy, we aim to integrate the module into other higher learning institutions across Malawi.

3.3 Ireland - Malawi Linkages

The MICGBV will increase the GBV-focused learning between Ireland and Malawi by conferring more with the ICGBV and forming linkages with other Irish universities and GBV-focused organisations to share learning and resources.

Ms. Virginia Mzunzu,
orienting facilitators of the
ethical reporting training



Key Indicators

INFORMATION HUB USAGE & IMPACT

- **User Reach:** Volume of unique users accessing the MICGBV Information Hub.
- **User Retention:** Frequency of return visits by unique users.
- **Content Growth:** Quarterly addition of new documents and links from both MICGBV members and external practitioners.
- **Practitioner Impact:** Reported improvement in GBV work quality attributed to Information Hub access.

GBV IN EMERGENCIES MODULE

- **Curriculum Integration:** Expansion of the GBViE module into curricula at additional higher education institutions.

IRELAND – MALAWI LINKAGES

- **International Connections:** Establishment of new formal linkages with Irish-based organisations.



Improving the availability of information across
the sector to drive evidence-based practice.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

04 IMPROVING MICGBV



The visibility and capacity of the consortium will be expanded; leading to a consortium able to create more impact in the fight against GBV. This will be achieved via three pathways.

4.1 Increase Leverage and Visibility

The MICGBV will work to amplify consortium members' work, as well as use members' work to extend the breadth of MICGBV's voice. We will do this by collating our annual work plans including all GBV-related work, and pre-identifying how we can:

- **amplify members' work**, including advocacy, communications etc.
- **be more visible** through members' GBV work

The results of this will create a MICGBV annual plan connected to members' GBV work.

4.2 Consortium Capacity Building & Strengthening

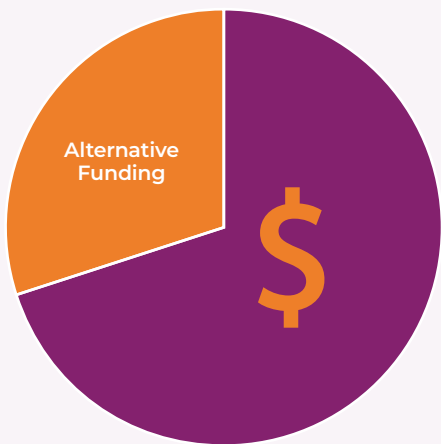
The MICGBV will enhance core members' capacity to deliver coordinated GBV interventions by hosting annual capacity-building workshops for MICGBV core members. The content of these will be determined through organisational needs assessments.

To ensure this strategy is successful, all core members will attend biannual evaluation meetings. We will use a joint monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to assess our progress and co-create solutions to any challenges we are facing. We will also use this time to prioritise further areas of research.

4.3 Alternative Funding Streams

The MICGBV will investigate alternative funding streams to support the funding gratefully received from the Embassy of Ireland. This will increase the sustainability of the MICGBV past this five-year strategy.

Key Indicators



LEVERAGE & VISIBILITY

- **Strategic Alignment:** Creation of MICGBV annual plans directly connected to members' GBV work.
- **Consortium Support:** Volume of core members' work amplified by the MICGBV platform.
- **Member Support:** Reach of MICGBV initiatives amplified through core members' channels.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING & SHARING

- **Training Delivery:** Hosting of annual capacity-building and sharing workshops for MICGBV core members.
- **Workshop Engagement:** Level of attendance and participation at capacity-building workshops.
- **Monitoring:** Completion of scheduled biannual evaluation meetings.
- **Evaluation Participation:** Consistent attendee turnout at biannual evaluation meetings.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

- **Diversification:** Measured proportion of funding derived from a single source (tracking reduced dependency).



Expanding our visibility and capacity to create lasting impact in the fight against gender-based violence.

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL AGENDAS

Global

- **United Nations Generation Equality:**
Accelerating progress on gender equality.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**
specifically Goal 5.2.1 (Eliminate violence against women).
- **CEDAW:** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- **Women, Peace and Security (WPS):**
Protection from SGBV.
- **Beijing Declaration:** Platform for Action to prevent violence.

*Aligning our local
action with global
standards to ensure
no woman or girl is
left behind.*



Regional

- **SADC Strategy (2018–2030):** Framework for addressing Gender-Based Violence.
- **The Maputo Protocol:** Rights of Women in Africa (eliminating discrimination).



Presentation of tailoring business start up kits to women with disabilities ↑

National

- **Malawi Vision 2063:** Eliminating gender-based discrimination.
- **National Gender Policy:** Reducing gender-based violence.
- **Prevention of Domestic Violence Act:** Legal remedies and social services.
- **Sexual Offences Act:** Improved support for victims.
- **Gender Equality Act:** Access to SRHR services and civic awareness.
- **National Action Plan:** Multi-sectoral approaches to combat GBV.

APPRECIATION

We appreciate the input provided by our consortium members, and other partners and stakeholders, to create MICGBV's 2026 - 2030 strategy. These include the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi, and numerous implementation organizations and educational institutions. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Embassy of Ireland in Malawi for funding the creation of this Strategic Plan, and to Three Stones International for their support in its writing and development, especially the project co-Leads Joanna Seth-Smith and Thokozani Ng'ombe Mwenyekonde.

*Our strength lies in our unity.
This strategy is the result
of the shared dedication,
insight, and vision of every
partner involved.*



**MALAWI
CONSO**
ON GENDER
BASED VIOLENCE



Empowered and ready to create!
Women celebrate receiving tailoring
start-up kits during International
Women's Day 2024 — a step toward
economic independence and
brighter futures. →



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VIOLENCE

For a Malawi free from
gender-based violence

www.micgbv.mw

act:onaïd

CONCERN
worldwide

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