



ADVOCACY & DISSEMINATION

FACT SHEET

Research Synthesis & Priorities for Integrated Action

from

'HER VOICE' Research: Investigating the Connection Between Climate Change, Digitalisation, and Violence Against Women & Girls in West and Central Africa
(2025 - 2026)

CLIMATE + DIGITALISATION = RISING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



751

households



56+

focus group discussions



7

key WROs/Coalition/Network stakeholder-partners



78+

key informant interviews

A Convergence Crisis in West & Central Africa

HER VOICE select Key Stakeholder Interactions - Civil Society & Women's Rights Organisations (CSO/WROs), Coalitions-Networks Across the Four Countries

GHANA 

FIDA Ghana, Ark Foundation, Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment (WISE), community anti-trafficking networks, WiLDAF Ghana, DOVVSU (police/civil society hybrid), Traditional stools Northern Ghana

NIGERIA 

WACOL, WARDC, WARIF, HEDA, CLEEN Foundation, Mirabel Centre, ActionAid Nigeria, Women and Girls with Albinism Network, Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDOC), growing ecosystem of feminist digital advocacy organisations including Co-Creation Hub (CC Hub) and Gender Studies departments in 2 Higher Education Institutions, Traditional stools in Northern and Southern Nigeria

CAMEROON 

REACH OUT, REDHAC, Her Innovations Cameroon, ALVF, Alert GBV network, gender-focused legal aid NGOs, University of Buea Gender Studies Department, Traditional stools in Anglo/Francophone Cameroon

TOGO 

GF2D (Groupe de réflexion et d'action Femme, Démocratie et Développement), WiLDAF-Togo, AFAD-Togo, ALAC, REFED network, NanaTech programme, Togolese Women in Science (TIS) network, Traditional stool in Lome



Coalition Building and Legal & Policy Actions around Climate Change, Digitalisation, and Violence Against Women and Girls



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KEY FACTS

🔥 THE CRISIS AT A GLANCE

“Fragmented systems are failing women in a changing climate and digital world”

KEY POINTS:

- CLIMATE SHOCKS
 - DIGITALISATION
 - DISPLACEMENT
 - DATA SYSTEMS
- LEADING TO**
- VIOLENCE ESCALATION
 - NEW ABUSE FORMS
 - CLIMATE EVENTS
 - INDUCE HIGHEST VULNERABILITY
 - LARGELY BROKEN DATA SYSTEMS

- Only 0.04% Climate finance for GBV prevention
- 86–98% Women own phones yet digitally illiterate
- 70%+ women face cyber-stalking (Nigerian)
- 98.9% DV cases go unrecorded (Ghana)
- 40.9% Women don't know where to get help (Togo)
- 0 Research Focal Countries have comprehensive TFSGBV laws

👉 THE ADVOCACY: Women and Survivors remain vulnerable: little protection, failing systems.

🔥 WHAT'S DRIVING VIOLENCE

1) THE VIOLENCE CYCLE

- Climate Shocks Exacerbate:
 - FOOD INSECURITY
 - HOUSEHOLD STRESS
 - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2) THE RISK MULTIPLIERS

- DISPLACEMENT → HIGHEST VIOLENCE RISK
- DIGITAL ACCESS WITHOUT LITERACY LEADING TO EXPLOITATION
- ECONOMIC STRESS LEADING TO BACKLASH VIOLENCE

3) THE DIGITAL PARADOX

Increased Access	Sub-optimal Protection
HIGH PHONE OWNERSHIP	LOW DIGITAL LITERACY
ONLINE PRESENCE	NO REPORTING TOOLS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY	CYBERSTALKING, SEXTORTION

👉 THE ADVOCACY: Technology brings both power and harm

⚠️ WHY SYSTEMS ARE FAILING

- POLICY SILOS - (climate, GBV, digital disconnect)
- INVISIBLE DATA - (most cases unrecorded)
- Inaccessible REPORTING tools - (require literacy/internet)
- LEGAL & JUSTICE GAPS - non-criminalisation of marital rape
- COMMODIFICATION OF JUSTICE - (survivors pay to seek help)
- DATA CAPACITY GAPS - of WROs, CSOs, Coalition-Networks

✅ WHAT MUST CHANGE NOW

- INTEGRATE: Incorporate GBV into climate policies (NAPs, NDCs, DRR)
- PROTECT: Adopt digital GBV laws + simple reporting (IVR/SMS)
- COUNT: Build national GBV data systems
- PREVENT: Design programmes with multi-sector and community accountability & embeddedness alongside male engagement & safeguards

👉 WHO MUST ACT

- WROs & CSOs → Lead coalitions & data recognition, collection and channel its utilization
- GOVERNMENTS → Reform laws & systems
- TRADITIONAL/FAITH LEADERS → Drive norms change
- DONORS → Fund long-term systems
- ACADEMIA/MEDIA → Strengthen evidence & Accountability

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ADVOCACY

- HIGH-LEVEL (MINISTERS / AU / RECS) & ENTITIES WITH CLIMATE & ICT MANDATES - “CLIMATE AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS ARE NOT GENDER-NEUTRAL WHICH UNDERMINES DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY, AND RESILIENCE.”
- POLICYMAKERS - EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY MAKING AS “WHAT IS NOT MEASURED IS NOT GOVERNED. MODERNISATION OF GBV DATA SYSTEMS
- TRADITIONAL/FAITH LEADERS - “COMMUNITIES TRUST YOU FIRST. YOUR LEADERSHIP CAN PREVENT VIOLENCE BEFORE SYSTEMS RESPOND.”
- CIVIL SOCIETY / WROS - “COALITIONS ARE THE BRIDGE BETWEEN EVIDENCE AND POLICY — BUT NEED SUSTAINED INVESTMENT.”
- DONORS - “SHORT-TERM FUNDING CANNOT SOLVE STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE. FUND SYSTEMS, NOT PROJECTS.”
- ACADEMIA & MEDIA - FOR STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE, AMPLIFYING VAW MESSAGING & CO-ANCHORING ACCOUNTABILITY

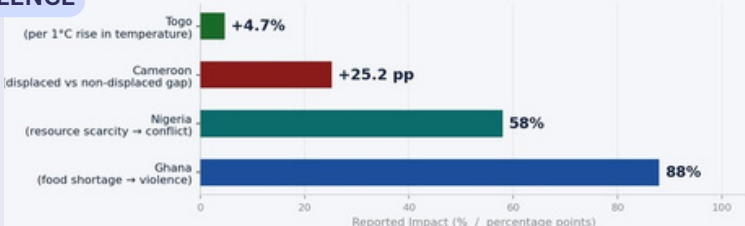


Key evidence and vulnerabilities: WROs/Coalition networks as levers for structural influence.

THE HUNGER-ANGER PATHWAY: CLIMATE SHOCKS DRIVE VIOLENCE

In Ghana's Upper East Region, drought, crop failure, and food shortages were widespread by 98% – 100%. Climate stress was the strongest factor linked to rising violence and more significant than factors such as digital literacy during periods of severe climate stress.

Climate Shocks and Violence Against Women: Four-Country Evidence

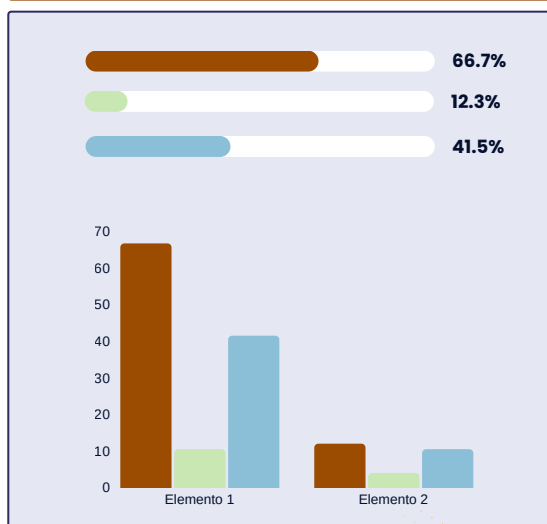


Four Cross-Cutting Policy Priorities for integrated action

- Integrate VAWG prevention into National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, and disaster risk reduction frameworks as a non-negotiable, resourced component.
- Enact dedicated TFSGBV legislation and shift digital GBV reporting to voice-based IVR and toll-free SMS accessible on basic phones.
- Establish interoperable national GBV case management systems disaggregated by disability, climate-context, and digital violence, and contributing to a regional monitoring strategy.
- Redesign economic empowerment and digital inclusion programmes with backlash-aware safeguards and mandatory male engagement components.



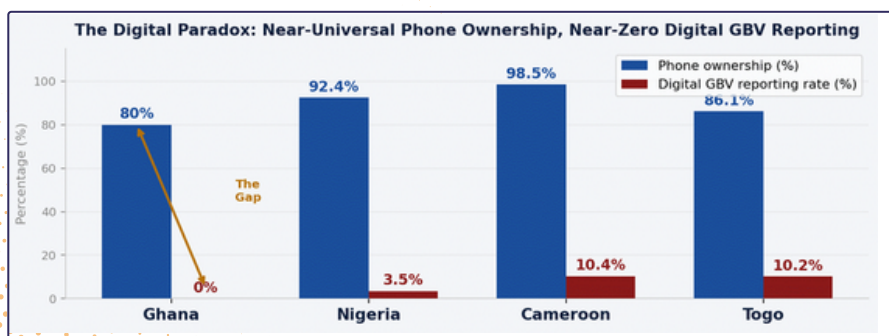
Key action: Build partnerships among civil society, community networks, academia/researchers, media, faith and traditional leaders, and government agencies.



DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION INCREASE RISK: PRIORITIES FOR COORDINATED ACTION.

Displacement is the single most powerful individual-level violence risk amplifier. In Cameroon, 66.7% of displaced households reported violence vs 41.5% of non-displaced which is a +25.2 percentage point gap. In Nigeria, of 57 displaced respondents, 10.5% reported sexual exploitation, 8.8% forced labour, and 12.3% domestic abuse. In Togo, flood-displaced women are disproportionately targeted via social media for sextortion. In Ghana, the 'kayaye' phenomenon (young women migrating from climate-stressed Upper East to southern cities) carries severe safety risks with zero legal protection along migration corridors.

THE DIGITAL PARADOX: NEW FORMS OF VIOLENCE



TFGVB is a present epidemic, not an emerging risk. Phone ownership reaches 86–98% across all four countries, yet digital literacy is critically low — 98% of Togo phone users report low or zero digital skills, and digital GBV reporting rates are 0–10.4%. Women are simultaneously exposed to digital harms and excluded from digital protections.



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EVIDENCE FOR WHAT STRENGTHENED COALITIONS CAN ACHIEVE



The most compelling evidence for what organised feminist coalitions can achieve comes from within the research itself. e.g. The Togo Fieldwork Report (2025) documents the Notsè Declaration process – an intervention between a coalition of CSOs and traditional leaders that reduced early marriages from 335 cases in 2020 to 261 cases in 2021, a 22% reduction in a single year.



Data Capacity Gaps: Fieldwork and Survey Evidence

Key Finding: Across all eight fieldwork and desk review reports, and triangulated by the WRO/Coalition stakeholder survey, a critical gap is the inadequacy of existing data systems. WROs and Coalitions lack the capacity to jointly capture and use VAWG data, especially in contexts of climate and digital crises.

Action: building of coalition power identified as essential framework for strengthening data capacity among WROs, CSOs, Coalitions, and Networks are represented evidentially below:



WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS COALITION BUILDING MUST ADDRESS



THEMATIC CONVENING
Data Point: Only 28.6% of WROs/Networks/Coalitions report cross-movement strategy sessions of measured frequency
Priority Actions: Host regular multi-stakeholder dialogues, co-develop shared agendas, and align on common goals across diverse groups.



i. Thematic, cross-sectoral convening: WRO coalitions must be positioned to convene across the climate, digital, and GBV sectors especially as a space for adaptive capacity & learning.

ii. Traditional and religious leader engagement: for narrative-shaping & advocacy, the evidence is consistent that traditional leaders are the most trusted first-responders across all four countries.




NARRATIVE SHAPING & ADVOCACY
Data Point: evidence is consistent that traditional leaders are the most trusted first-responders across all 4 countries & prioritizing active community leader engagement and endorsement is positioned to increase coalition credibility and resource mobilization.
Priority Actions: Cultivate relationships with community and formal leaders, secure public endorsements, and involve leaders in governance structures.



INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP & MALE ALLYSHIP
Data Point: CSO/WROs' engagement with strong youth and male ally engagement as a boost to long-term sustainability.
Priority Actions: Establish mentorship programs, create platforms for youth leadership voices, and train male allies as advocates and supporters.



iii. Power-building: Intergenerational feminist leadership is well documented from Nigeria's desk review documents that spotlight the growing ecosystem of feminist digital advocacy and social media campaigns. WROs/Coalitions/Networks and their institutional access to foster stronger alliances.

iv. Financial Resilience: while the synthesis report identifies chronic underfunding as a huge structural threat to civil society and rights organisations' effectiveness, the WROs/CSOs share an awareness for coalition-survival that also hints at independence from donor influence and agendas as a way of maintaining autonomy as well as creation of spaces where the networks/coalitions can co-source funding and share practices for strengthening internal resource.




FINANCIAL RESILIENCE
Data Point: 100% of the WROs/coalitions/networks struggle with financial fragmentation and autonomy, limiting impact.
Priority Actions: Develop diversified funding strategies, pool resources for collective funds, and build financial management capacity to ensure transparency.



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