WORKSHOP REPORT

ACT
AFRICA REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING, ADVOCACY AND DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

Building Evidence-Informed Violence Against Women Prevention and Response Resilience Through Coalition Strengthening, Shared Leadership and Advocacy



Women Aid Collective
Tamar SARC

West & Central Africa Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC)

13–15 May 2026
Banjul, The Gambia

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June, 2026

Foreword

It is with great conviction and purpose that we present this report from the workshop in Banjul, The Gambia, titled, "***Building Evidence-Informed Violence Against Women Prevention and Response Resilience Through Coalition Strengthening, Shared Leadership and Advocacy***" which convened diverse stakeholders committed to advancing the rights, dignity, security and safety of women and girls. At its core, the workshop underscored the urgent need for **evidence-informed strategies** that not only prevent violence but also strengthen women's rights and civil society organisations, and community resilience in responding to it. By fostering coalition building, and feminist strategies, participants recognised that collective action is essential to dismantle systemic barriers and to amplify the voices of survivors.

Equally, the emphasis on shared leadership reflects a transformative approach—one that values inclusivity, collaboration, and the power of diverse perspectives in shaping sustainable solutions that address VAWG. Through advocacy, the workshop reaffirmed the importance of influencing policy, mobilising resources, and ensuring accountability at all levels of governance.

This report captures the insights, commitments, and pathways identified during the workshop. It serves not only as a record of dialogue but also as a roadmap for continued, strategic action. We believe that the outcomes documented here will inspire stronger partnerships, deepen evidence-informed practices, and accelerate progress toward a society free from violence against women.

Together, we stand resolute in our mission: to build resilience, strengthen coalitions, and champion advocacy that transforms lives and communities, thereby ensuring that women and girls can live free from violence, the fear of it, and realise their full potential.

Yours-in-Service

Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (Prof., SAN, OON)

Founding Executive Director, Women Aid Collective (WACOL)
Convener, West and Central Africa Women's Rights' Coalition (WAWORC)

Acknowledgements

Importantly, the outstanding funding support from the ACT Programme funders—UN Women particularly the West and Central Africa Regional Office Team, European Union—made the conceived idea of this workshop come to fruition. We express our gratitude for this generous support, productive collaboration and advisory in implementing the ACT programme.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all the women's rights and civil society organisations (WROs/CSOs) who are members of the West and Central Africa Women's Rights' Coalition (WAWORC), diverse sector participants, and partners who contributed to the success of the ACT Programme's Africa Regional Capacity Building, Advocacy and Dissemination Workshop titled, "***Building Evidence-Informed Violence Against Women Prevention and Response Resilience Through Coalition Strengthening, Shared Leadership and Advocacy***". Your commitment, expertise, and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in advancing the shared vision of a safer, more equitable society. The knowledge exchanged and strategies developed during this workshop will serve as a cornerstone for strengthening coalitions and amplifying advocacy across the region. Our workshop not only catalyses targeted policy and rights advocacy it also, importantly, ensures the formation of WROs/CSOs as knowledge producers.

We also extend appreciation to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), who through the Executive Secretary and the immediate outgoing vice chair of the commission/Special Rapporteur on Women's rights, met with workshop participants in a bilateral meeting and study tour during the 87th Ordinary Session of the Commission. Special recognition goes to the women's rights advocates, researchers, policymakers, other supporting agencies, and leaders of communities whose dedication made the workshop possible, and who brought diverse perspectives and evidence-based insights to the discussions. By fostering shared leadership and resilience, this workshop has laid the groundwork for sustainable, collective action against violence. Together, we have demonstrated that meaningful change is achievable when voices are united, resources are shared, and advocacy is rooted in evidence and solidarity.

To the facilitators/resource person—Dr Ejiro Otive-Igbuzor, Prof. Anthonia Ifeyinwa Achike and Justice Veronic Wright—thank you for preparing and transferring knowledge and insight, and for contributing to the workshop report. Also, to the Women's Aid Collective (WACOL) project Team and Staff, thank you for sharing wealth of experiences, the outstanding coordination from Amala Okwuosa, service contributions and commitment to ending Violence against Women and Girls.

We trust that the insights and action points captured in this report will inspire continued collaboration, strengthen advocacy efforts, and support the development of resilient, evidence-based policy-informed systems for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.

To God be the Glory!

About WACOL

Our Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Target

Our Vision: A democratic society free from violence and abuse where the human rights of all, especially women and young people, are recognised in law and practice.

Our Mission: To assist in the educational, social, economic, and political development of women and young people through a wide range of services, including training, research, advocacy, shelter, legal and financial aid, intra-familial conflict resolution, and information and library services.

Core Values: Empathy, Equity, Openness, Probity, and Commitment

Primary Targets: Women and young people

WACOL Profile

The Women Aid Collective (WACOL), established in 1997 and registered in 2000 (RC: 388132), is an independent, non-political, non-governmental, and non-profit organisation committed to advancing human rights, gender equality, and the welfare of women and young people in Nigeria, West Africa, and beyond. Its vision is a society free from violence and abuse, where the rights of all, particularly women and young people, are respected and upheld. WACOL's mission is to support the education, social, economic, and political development of women and young people through training, research, advocacy, legal aid, shelter, conflict resolution, and information services. The organisation enjoys observer status with the African Union and African Commission on Human Rights, and Special Consultative Status with the United Nations (ECOSOC, 2010).

West and Central African Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC)

The West African Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC) is convened and managed by the Women's Aid Collective (WACOL). It was established in May 2006 in Banjul, The Gambia, during a two-day consultative meeting titled, "Advancing Women's Human Rights in Africa." This meeting brought together fifteen women's organisations from seven West and Central African countries (Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone).

WAWORC is committed to advancing and protecting women's rights throughout the region. It leverages regional frameworks provided by the African Union, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court on Human Rights, as well as sub-regional bodies such as the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

In response to widespread violations of women's human rights, which are often rooted in patriarchal social norms and customary and religious practices, the coalition promotes cross-border cooperation. This enables member organisations to share experiences and effective strategies for addressing these challenges.

WAWORC actively advocates for the adoption and enforcement of international and regional treaties that protect women's rights. It also provides a platform for open dialogue among advocacy groups and empowers women across ECOWAS member states through impactful legislative and social advocacy initiatives.

Programmes and Initiatives

WACOL runs a broad range of programmes addressing women's rights and gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), access to justice, including legal aid, human rights advocacy, capacity building, education, and community empowerment. Its projects include:

• **Legal aid and access to justice:** Programmes and services include publications of legal literacy series, training of paralegals, free legal aid and assistance, court representation, counseling, shelters, and mobile legal clinics, with over 82,000 women and girls served since 1998. Cases cover inheritance disputes, assault, child abuse, sexual violence, family maintenance, and other rights violations.

• **SGBV response:** The establishment of the Tamar Sexual Assault Referral Center (Tamar SARC) has implemented international best practices in the response to and mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). This includes social and legislative advocacy to ensure the effective implementation of existing laws that protect women and girls from all forms of violence and help end the culture of impunity.

WACOL played a crucial role in advocacy efforts that led to the adoption of several important laws, including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015), the Enugu State VAPP Law (2019), laws on widowhood, and laws addressing anti-HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination. Alongside these legal measures, WACOL has also focused on public education to promote a culture of prevention, protection, and respect for women's rights, as well as the eradication of violence against women and children.

• **Capacity building and education:** Training paralegals, human rights mediators, judges, law enforcement, and health practitioners; curriculum development on gender and reproductive rights; publications and media campaigns on human rights, civic education, and gender equality.

• **Strengthening the capacity of state & non-state actors:** Enhancing the capacity of Government Officials, MDAs, and non-state actors to adopt strategic action to mainstream gender, prevent VAWG and effectively respond to VAWG/HP, including Women and Girls' SRHR, through the implementation of relevant extant laws on GBV/VAWG, strategically influencing state actors through capacity building to prevent and eradicate GBV, including budgeting to implement existing law on GBV/VAWG/HP.

• **Engaging Traditional and Religious Leaders:** WACOL has engaged and continues to consult and strengthen the capacity of traditional and religious leaders as gatekeepers in communities towards prevention and response to GBV, including human trafficking and irregular migration. Also, we have trained them as mediators to deploy alternative dispute resolution in cases involving women's rights and to ensure gender justice and culture of respect for women is entrenched at the grassroots level.

• **Community empowerment and networks:** Community outreaches, community legal education, programmes for widows, survivors of trafficking, and victims of violence. WACOL coordinates and participates in networks including NGO CEDAW Coalition, WAWORC, NPWRIS, LACVAW, GECORN, and the National Network of Sexual Assault Referral Centers, among others.

• **Other Special Projects**:

- GIRL's Will: Promotes girls' rights and amplifies their voices nationwide.
- WEEP Not Funds: Empowers widows and women in poverty with income-generating support for sustainable livelihoods.
- Fifty-Fifty (50/50) Women Advocacy Group: Builds women leaders to address and prevent violence against women and girls collectively through engagement of gatekeepers at the community level, especially religious, traditional, and cultural leaders.

- Migrant Information Centre (MIC): Provide information to prevent and combat human trafficking and irregular migration, and further provides resources and job linkages for trafficked persons and returning migrants to discourage unsafe migration and re-trafficking.

- TAMAR Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Tamar SARC). One-stop Centre for responding to victims/survivors of SGBV in accordance with international best practices.

Leadership and Recognition

WACOL is led by Prof. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), a Law Professor, and a national honoree of Nigeria (Officer of the Order of Niger, OON). She is also a former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2008 – 2014) and a globally recognised advocate for human rights. In addition, she serves as the convener for WAWORC and the Human Rights Situation Room.

Under her leadership, WACOL has evolved into a credible and sustainable institution dedicated to advancing gender equality, human rights, democracy, and good governance. The organisation effectively combines advocacy, research, education, and direct services to create meaningful change in Nigeria and the surrounding region.

Tamar Sexual Assault Referral Centre (Tamar SARC)

A registered WACOL subsidiary established in 2014, Tamar SARC provides rapid, integrated support, including medical, legal, counseling, shelter, financial, and psychosocial services, to victims and survivors of sexual violence. It fills a critical gap in Nigeria's response to sexual and gender-based violence.

WACOL Podcast: Breaking the Silence

In 2025, WACOL launched a powerful digital podcast titled, "***Breaking the Silence***." Designed to tackle the pervasive issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria, the series provides listeners with an insightful, informative, and empathetic platform to take action to end GBV and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Hosted by Prof. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (SAN, OON), each episode explores critical topics such as GBV prevention, understanding legal rights, navigating justice systems, and supporting survivors towards recovering, seeking and obtaining redress. Beyond education, the podcast serves as a safe space for victims and survivors to share their experiences, fostering hope, solidarity, and empowerment. *Breaking the Silence* also amplifies voices that have historically been marginalised or ignored, creating an environment where survivors can be heard and society can learn to respond more effectively. Through personal stories, expert interviews, and practical guidance, WACOL aims to increase awareness, dialogue, and action against gender-based violence across Nigeria and beyond.

This podcast forms a vital part of WACOL's ongoing mission to not only address GBV but also to cultivate a culture of respect, equality, and justice for women and young people nationwide. By breaking the silence, WACOL is opening the door to societal change, one conversation at a time.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Full Meaning
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACT	Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action
APDF	ONG/Association Pour Le Progres et La Defense Des Droits Des Femmes
AWLA	African Women Lawyers Association
AWLN	African Women's Leadership Network
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
GOVI	Gambia Organisation of the Visually Impaired
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
R2P	Research-to-Practice Framework
REPSFECO	Réseau Paix et Sécurité pour les Femmes de l'Espace CEDEAO
SAN	Senior Advocate of Nigeria
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WARDC	Women's Advocates Research and Documentation Centre
WAVE	Women Against Violence and Exploitation
WACOL	Women Aid Collective
WAWORC	West and Central Africa Women's Rights Coalition
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WRO	Women's Rights Organisation

1.0 Executive Summary

The ACT Africa Regional Capacity Building, Advocacy and Dissemination Workshop was held from 13–15 May, 2026 in Banjul, The Gambia, under the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) Programme, a strategic partnership led by UN Women with support from the European Union. Organised by Women's Aid Collective (WACOL) in collaboration with UN Women and regional partners, the workshop brought together women's rights organisations, feminist networks, civil society organisations, human rights institutions, legal practitioners, policymakers, researchers, development partners, and disability rights actors from thirteen countries across West and Central Africa.

The workshop was designed as an evidence-to-action intervention aimed at strengthening participants' capacity to utilise evidence for advocacy, policy influence, coalition building, and accountability. It was informed by findings from the Her Voice research initiative, which examined the intersections between climate change, digitalisation, resource scarcity, and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Togo. The research highlighted the growing ways in which climate-related shocks, economic insecurity, displacement, digital exclusion, and technology-facilitated violence are increasing risks for women and girls while exposing persistent gaps between evidence generation and practical action.

The workshop convened 40 participants from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. Women constituted 94.9% of participants, reflecting the workshop's strong focus on feminist leadership and women's rights advocacy. Participants represented a diverse range of institutions, with women's rights organisations, feminist networks, and women's leadership organisations accounting for 75% of attendees. The regional diversity of participants enriched learning, strengthened solidarity, and facilitated cross-country exchange on emerging challenges and promising practices.

The workshop adopted a participatory and action-oriented methodology combining technical presentations, plenary discussions, case studies, practical exercises, stakeholder mapping, advocacy simulations, peer learning, and engagement with regional accountability mechanisms. Central to the workshop was the application of the Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework, which provided participants with a structured approach for moving from evidence generation to advocacy, action, influence, and change. Participants applied the framework to analyse evidence, identify priority issues, map stakeholders, develop advocacy messages, and formulate action plans relevant to their national and regional contexts.

Day One focused on understanding the links between climate change, digitalisation, structural inequality, and violence against women and girls. Participants examined climate change as a risk multiplier, explored the opportunities and threats associated with digitalisation, and reflected on how unequal power relations and harmful social norms continue to shape women's experiences of violence. The introduction of the Research-to-Practice Framework provided participants with practical tools for translating evidence into advocacy and action. Discussions reinforced the message that evidence only becomes meaningful when it informs policy, programmes, accountability, and social change.

Day Two shifted from knowledge acquisition to practical application. Participants engaged with findings from the Her Voice research, strengthened their understanding of evidence analysis and ethical data use, and developed advocacy strategies through stakeholder mapping, power analysis, and group work. Working in mixed-country and mixed-language groups, participants developed practical responses to technology-facilitated violence, climate-related vulnerabilities, survivor access to justice, coalition strengthening, and policy reform. The day reinforced the importance of evidence-based advocacy, strategic communication, coalition engagement, and sustained accountability efforts.

Day Three connected workshop learning to regional accountability mechanisms through engagement with the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Participants gained first-hand exposure to regional human rights processes and strengthened their understanding of opportunities for civil society engagement in continental accountability systems. A major outcome was the development and presentation of a regional communiqué that articulated shared concerns and advocacy priorities relating to climate change, digitalisation, violence against women and girls, access to justice, accountability, and women's rights. The communiqué reflected a collective commitment to translating evidence into coordinated regional action.

The group work sessions generated practical outputs and demonstrated participants' ability to apply the Research-to-Practice Framework effectively. Participants identified priority challenges including climate-related violence, technology-facilitated violence, weak access to services, economic vulnerability, harmful social norms, weak data systems, limited policy implementation, and under-utilisation of regional accountability mechanisms. They proposed advocacy directions centred on stronger implementation of laws and policies, gender-responsive climate adaptation, digital safety, improved survivor services, enhanced evidence generation, and stronger coalition action.

Assessment of workshop outcomes drew on participant feedback, facilitator observations, rapporteurs' reports, group outputs, advocacy products, action-planning exercises, and the workshop communiqué. Although participant evaluation responses were limited and insufficient for robust statistical analysis, evidence from multiple sources demonstrated significant learning and capacity strengthening. Participants showed increased confidence in utilising evidence for advocacy, applying the Research-to-Practice Framework, developing advocacy messages, engaging stakeholders, and navigating regional accountability mechanisms. The quality of group outputs, advocacy strategies, and action plans provided further evidence of practical learning and readiness for action.

Several strategic lessons emerged from the workshop. Participants recognised that violence against women and girls must be addressed through systems approaches that acknowledge the interactions between gender inequality, climate vulnerability, digital risks, economic insecurity, and weak institutional responses. Climate change was increasingly understood as a gender justice issue, while digitalisation was recognised as both an opportunity and a source of emerging risks. Participants reaffirmed that evidence must be translated into action, that coalition-building strengthens influence and impact, and that accountability mechanisms remain essential to achieving sustainable change.

The workshop also highlighted several challenges, including limited time relative to the complexity of issues discussed, language and interpretation demands, diverse participant experience levels, resource constraints facing women's rights organisations, and continuing evidence gaps on emerging issues such as technology-facilitated violence and climate-related risks. Participants expressed interest in deeper engagement on these themes and called for sustained post-workshop mentoring, networking, and technical support.

The workshop concluded with a set of strategic recommendations for women's rights organisations, governments, regional human rights bodies, development partners, and civil society actors. Key priorities included strengthening evidence-informed advocacy, integrating climate and digital risks into VAWG programming, expanding coalition action, improving implementation of existing laws and policies, increasing engagement with accountability mechanisms, and investing in research and innovation on emerging forms of violence. Participants also committed to disseminating workshop learning, implementing advocacy strategies developed during the workshop, strengthening regional collaboration, and continuing documentation.

Overall, the workshop successfully achieved its objective of strengthening evidence-informed advocacy and coalition action across West and Central Africa. It reinforced regional solidarity, strengthened participants' capacity to translate evidence into action, and generated practical tools, strategies, and

commitments for advancing the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls. The workshop demonstrated that when evidence is combined with leadership, accountability, and collective action, it can serve as a powerful catalyst for transformative change in the lives of women and girls across the region.

2.0 Introduction

The ACT Africa Regional Capacity Building and Advocacy Workshop was held in Banjul, The Gambia, from 13–15 May, 2026 under the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) Programme, a strategic partnership led by UN Women and supported by the European Union. The workshop brought together women's rights organisations, feminist coalitions, civil society actors, human rights institutions, legal practitioners, policymakers, academics, and development partners from across West and Central Africa to strengthen evidence-informed action for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The workshop was organised by Women Aid Collective (WACOL), a leading women's rights organisation in Nigeria and Convener of the West and Central Africa Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC), in collaboration with UN Women and regional partners. Through its implementation of the ACT Programme, WACOL has played a central role in advancing coalition strengthening, feminist leadership, evidence generation, advocacy, and regional collaboration to end violence against women and girls.

The workshop was informed by findings from the *Her Voice* research initiative, implemented by WACOL and partners across Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Togo. The research examined the intersections between climate change, digitalisation, resource scarcity, and violence against women and girls, highlighting how climate-related shocks, economic insecurity, displacement, digital exclusion, and technology-facilitated violence are creating new and evolving risks for women and girls. The research also identified a persistent challenge across the region: the gap between evidence generation and practical action.

While significant research, policies, and legal frameworks exist (African Women in Media, 2022–2025), Gender Based Violence and COVID 19 in Nigeria" (2020), National Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Nigeria 2022–2026, National Policy and Action Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Nigeria), many organisations continue to face challenges in translating evidence into effective advocacy, policy influence, institutional accountability, and community action. The workshop was therefore designed as an evidence-to-action intervention aimed at strengthening participants' capacity to interpret evidence, utilise the Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework, engage accountability mechanisms, strengthen coalition action, and develop practical advocacy responses to emerging forms of violence against women and girls.

The workshop sought to:

- Strengthen participants' capacity to use evidence and data for advocacy, policy engagement, and programme improvement.
- Enhance understanding of the links between climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls.
- Build participants' skills in applying the Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework.
- Strengthen capacity for advocacy planning, stakeholder engagement, and coalition mobilisation.

- Improve understanding of regional human rights accountability mechanisms and opportunities for engagement.
- Foster networking, solidarity, and collaboration among women's rights organisations and coalition actors across West and Central Africa.
- Support the development of practical post-workshop action plans and advocacy priorities.

The workshop coincided with the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), providing participants with a unique opportunity to connect technical learning with regional advocacy, accountability, and human rights processes.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Workshop Design

The workshop adopted a participatory and action-oriented design that combined technical learning, peer exchange, practical application, advocacy planning, and engagement with regional accountability mechanisms. Rather than functioning as a conventional research dissemination event, the workshop was structured to enable participants to translate evidence into practical action within their respective organisations, coalitions, and national contexts.

The workshop was organised around three interconnected learning stages:

1. **Understanding the Evidence:** Participants explored findings from the Her Voice research on climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls.
2. **Translating Evidence into Action:** Participants applied the Research-to-Practice Framework to develop advocacy priorities, stakeholder engagement strategies, and implementation pathways.
3. **Advancing Accountability and Coalition Action:** Participants strengthened their understanding of regional human rights mechanisms and developed collective advocacy positions through engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The design emphasised practical application, reflection, collaboration, and action planning.

3.2 Participants

The workshop convened approximately 40 participants representing women's rights organisations, feminist coalitions, civil society organisations, legal institutions, human rights bodies, policy makers, academia, disability inclusion organisations, media representation and development partners from thirteen countries, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The diversity of participants strengthened opportunities for cross-country learning, coalition building, knowledge sharing, and collaborative problem-solving.

3.3 Facilitation Approach

The workshop utilised adult-learning and feminist facilitation approaches that encouraged active participation and shared learning. Participants were treated as contributors to the learning process, bringing their experiences, expertise, and contextual realities into discussions.

Facilitation methods included:

1. Technical presentations.
2. Interactive plenary discussions.
3. Guided reflection sessions.
4. Practical group exercises/break-out sessions.
5. Stakeholder mapping and advocacy simulations.
6. Peer learning and cross-country exchange.
7. Action-planning exercises.
8. Engagement with regional accountability institutions.
9. Case studies

Particular emphasis was placed on linking research evidence to practical advocacy, policy influence, and programme action. Additionally, the workshop methodology underpins the strengthening of WAWORC's organising, leadership, and resilience, thereby enhancing member-participants capacities to undertake effective advocacy, campaigning, and policymaking on ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG). It further sought to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships and coordinated feminist action through targeted exposure to accountability mechanisms to advance sustainable and impactful change.

3.4 The Research-to-Practice Framework

A central feature of the workshop was the application of the Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework (Annex 1). The framework provided participants with a practical approach for moving from evidence generation to advocacy and action.

The framework guided participants through six key stages:

1. Understanding the Context.
2. Collecting Relevant Evidence.
3. Analysing and Interpreting Findings.
4. Translating Evidence into Advocacy and Action.
5. Engaging and Influencing Stakeholders.
6. Monitoring, Learning, and Adaptation.

The framework served as the primary tool for group exercises, advocacy planning, and action development throughout the workshop.

3.5 Documentation and Reporting

This report was prepared using information from multiple sources, including the workshop concept note, agenda, presentations, facilitation materials, rapporteurs' reports, group work outputs, participant feedback, workshop evaluations, the Her Voice research reports, participants' sex-age-disability disaggregated data and the workshop communiqué.

The report combines descriptive reporting with analytical interpretation and focuses on key achievements, lessons learned, participant outcomes, and strategic implications for future advocacy and coalition action.

4.0 Participant Profile

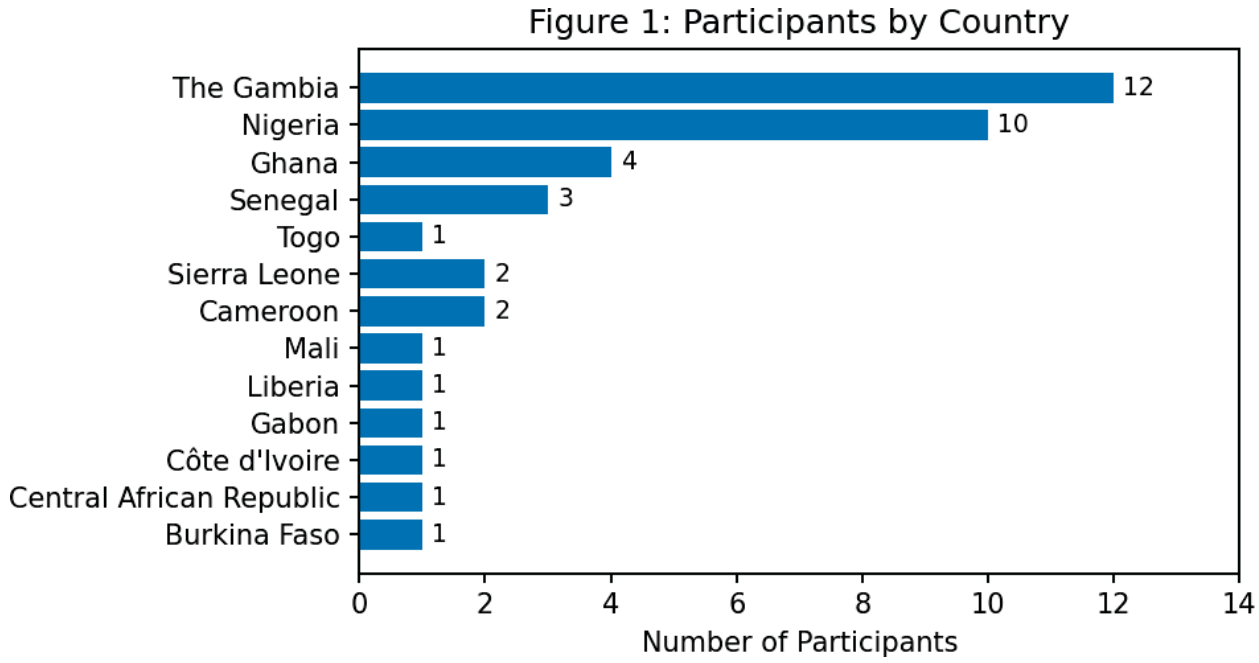
4.1 Overview of Participation

The ACT Africa Regional Capacity Building and Advocacy Workshop brought together 40[1] participants from thirteen countries across West and Central Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo.

Participants represented a diverse range of institutions working to advance women's rights, gender equality, violence prevention and response, human rights, legal reform, advocacy, coalition building, research, disability inclusion, and policy engagement. The workshop provided an important platform for cross-country learning, knowledge exchange, networking, and coalition strengthening among actors committed to ending violence against women and girls (VAWG).

4.2 Country Representation

Participants were drawn from thirteen countries, with the largest delegations coming from The Gambia and Nigeria, reflecting both host-country participation and the leadership role of WACOL and WAWORC in convening the workshop (Figure 1).



[1] Note: Demographic analyses presented in this section are based on available participant records. Some participants did not provide complete demographic information; therefore, totals vary slightly across demographic categories.

The broad geographic representation strengthened opportunities for comparative learning and facilitated discussions on shared challenges and emerging trends affecting women and girls across different national contexts. The participation of organisations from both Anglophone and Francophone countries further enriched regional exchange and coalition building.

4.3 Gender and Inclusion Profile

The workshop demonstrated strong participation by women leaders and women's rights advocates. Of the 40 participants, 38 (95%) were women and 2 (5%) were men reflecting the workshop's focus on strengthening feminist leadership, women's rights advocacy, and coalition action (Figure 2).

Fig 2: Participation by Sex

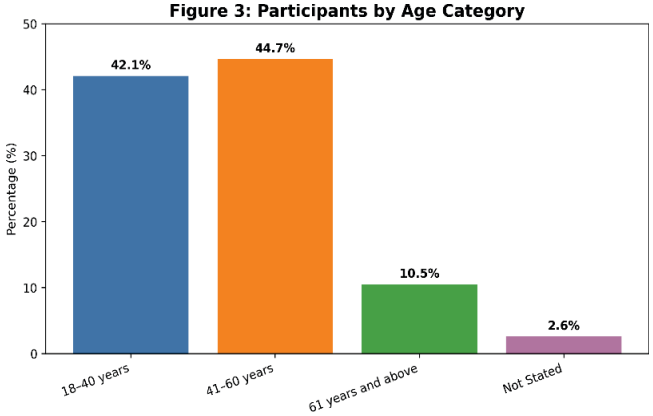


The workshop also reflected a commitment to inclusion through the participation of disability rights organisations, younger feminist leaders, academics, human rights actors, legal practitioners, and development partners. Simultaneous interpretation services ensured meaningful participation by both Anglophone and Francophone delegates and promoted inclusive engagement throughout the workshop.

4.4 Participants by Age Category

Figure 3 shows that the workshop attracted a balanced mix of emerging and experienced leaders. Participants aged 41–60 years constituted the largest age group (44.7%), closely followed by those aged 18–40 years (42.1%). Participants aged 61 years and above represented 10.5% of attendees, while 2.6% did not state their age. The age profile reflects a strong blend of youthful energy and seasoned expertise, creating opportunities for inter-generational learning, mentorship, leadership development, and exchange of experiences among women's rights advocates and coalition leaders across the region.

Figure 3: Participants by Age Category



4.5 Participants by Disability Status

Table 1 shows that the workshop was largely composed of participants who did not report a disability (94.9%), with one participant (2.56%) identifying as a person with a disability and 1 more not stated (2.56%). While the number of participants with disabilities was small, their inclusion reflects the workshop's commitment to diversity, intersectionality, and the principle of leaving no one behind. The participation of disability rights actors enriched discussions by bringing attention to the unique barriers and vulnerabilities faced by women and girls with disabilities, particularly in relation to access to information, services, justice, and protection from violence.

Table 1: Participants by Disability Status

Disability Status	Number	Percentage
No Disability Reported	**37**	**94.9%**
Person with Disability	1	**2.56%**
Not stated	1	**2.56%**
Total	**39**	**100.0%**

4.6 Institutional Representation

Participants represented a broad spectrum of institutions working to advance gender equality, women's rights, violence prevention and response, legal reform, human rights, and social justice.

Women's rights organisations, feminist networks, and women's leadership organisations constituted the largest participant group, accounting for three-quarters of all participants. This was consistent with the objectives of the ACT Programme and the workshop's emphasis on strengthening feminist leadership, coalition building, and evidence-informed advocacy.

Table 2: Participants by Institutional Category

Institutional Category	Number	Percentage
Women's Rights Organisations, Feminist Networks and Women's Leadership Organisations, Media, and other Development partners	27	67.5%
Community-Based and Civil Society Organisations	4	10.0%
National Human Rights and Justice Institutions	2	5.0%
Donor Partners (UN Women)	2	5.0%
Academia	4	10,0%
Disability Rights Organisation	1	2.5%
Total	40	100%

Participating organisations included WACOL, WAWORC, FIDA Ghana, FIDA Cameroon, WiLDAF Ghana, WiLDAF Togo, AWLA Ghana, AWLN Ghana, WAVE-The Gambia, Women in Politics Forum, WARDC,

REPSFECO, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, the Gambia Organisation of the Visually Impaired (GOVI),), ONG/Association Pour Le Progres et La Defense Des Droits Des Femmes (APDF) – Mali, Women Journalists Association of The Gambia, UN Women, UNFPA, and several national and regional organisations working to advance women's rights and gender justice.

4.7 Strategic Significance of Participation

The composition of participants was one of the workshop's major strengths. Bringing together women's rights organisations, feminist coalitions, human rights institutions, justice actors, researchers, disability rights organisations, development partners, and community-based organisations created a rich environment for peer learning, critical reflection, and collaborative problem-solving.

The strong representation of women's rights and feminist organisations ensured that discussions remained grounded in lived realities, survivor-centred approaches, and feminist principles. At the same time, participation by human rights institutions, justice actors, academia, disability rights organisations, and UN Women strengthened opportunities for cross-sector dialogue and collaboration.

The workshop therefore served not only as a capacity-strengthening initiative but also as a strategic regional convening that reinforced feminist solidarity, coalition building, and collective commitment to translating evidence into action for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls across West and Central Africa.

The diversity, regional reach, and strong representation of feminist actors contributed significantly to the achievement of the workshop objectives and laid a solid foundation for continued collaboration, knowledge sharing, coalition strengthening, and coordinated advocacy across West and Central Africa.

5.0 Opening Ceremony and Strategic Framing

The workshop commenced with an opening session that set the tone for learning, collaboration, and action. Participants were welcomed by representatives of Women's Aid Collective (WACOL), who highlighted the importance of strengthening evidence-informed advocacy and collective action to address emerging drivers of violence against women and girls across West and Central Africa.

In her keynote remarks, Professor Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, SAN, Founding Executive Director of WACOL and Convener of the West and Central Africa Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC), situated the workshop within the broader struggle for women's rights and gender justice in Africa. She emphasised the importance of strengthening feminist solidarity, coalition building, and strategic engagement with regional accountability mechanisms to advance the rights of women and girls.

A goodwill message from UN Women reaffirmed the commitment of the ACT Programme to supporting women's rights organisations, strengthening feminist movements, and promoting evidence-based approaches to ending violence against women and girls.

An expectation-setting exercise enabled participants to share what they hoped to gain from the workshop and the experiences they brought to the learning process. Key expectations included strengthening advocacy skills, improving the use of evidence for action, deepening understanding of emerging violence drivers, and expanding regional networks and partnerships.

The opening sessions also provided the strategic framing for the workshop. Participants were introduced to the growing intersections between climate change, digitalisation, structural inequality, and violence against women and girls. Discussions highlighted that climate-related shocks, economic

insecurity, displacement, and technology-facilitated abuse are increasingly shaping women's experiences of violence and require more integrated and innovative responses.

The opening successfully established a shared understanding of the workshop's purpose and reinforced the central message that evidence must be translated into advocacy, accountability, and collective action to achieve meaningful change for women and girls.

6.0 Technical Proceedings: Day One

6.1 Overview

Day One focused on establishing a common understanding of the emerging factors driving violence against women and girls (VAWG) and introducing participants to the Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework that underpinned the workshop. The sessions explored the intersections between climate change, digitalisation, structural inequality, and violence against women and girls, while emphasising the importance of translating research evidence into practical action.

A recurring message throughout the day was that evidence alone does not create change. Research findings must be deliberately translated into advocacy, policy influence, institutional accountability, and community action.

6.2 Key Sessions

Climate Change and Violence Against Women and Girls

Participants examined evidence demonstrating how climate-related shocks such as drought, flooding, livelihood loss, food insecurity, and displacement can increase women's vulnerability to violence. Discussions highlighted climate change as a risk multiplier that intensifies existing inequalities and creates new protection challenges for women and girls.

Digitalisation and Technology-Facilitated Violence

The workshop explored the opportunities and risks associated with digitalisation. While technology can enhance communication, economic participation, reporting, and access to information, participants also examined growing concerns around cyberstalking, online harassment, digital surveillance, sextortion, and other forms of technology-facilitated violence.

Structural Inequality and Gender-Based Violence

Participants reflected on how harmful social norms, economic dependency, weak institutional responses, and unequal power relations continue to shape women's experiences of violence. Discussions reinforced the importance of addressing underlying structural inequalities alongside immediate protection concerns.

Introduction to the Research-to-Practice Framework

A major highlight of the day was the introduction of the **Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework (Annex 1).** Participants were introduced to a practical pathway for moving from evidence generation to advocacy, action, influence, and change. The framework emphasised context analysis, evidence collection, interpretation, advocacy design, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive learning.

Feminist Leadership and Collective Action

Participants reflected on the roles of feminist leadership, coalition-building, and collective action in advancing women's rights. Discussions highlighted the importance of solidarity, strategic partnerships, and coordinated advocacy in addressing complex and evolving forms of violence.

6.3 Key Learning Points

The discussions generated several important insights:

1. Climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a gender justice and violence prevention issue.
2. Digitalisation presents both opportunities and risks for women and girls.
3. Structural inequality remains the underlying driver of many forms of violence.
4. Evidence is valuable only when translated into action.
5. Effective advocacy requires credible evidence, strategic communication, and coalition engagement.
6. Intersectionality is essential for understanding and responding to women's diverse experiences.
7. Sustainable change requires coordinated action across sectors and institutions.

6.4 Day One Outcomes

By the end of Day One, participants had:

1. Developed a stronger understanding of the nexus of climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls.
2. Increased awareness of emerging risks affecting women and girls across the region.
3. Acquired practical understanding of the Research-to-Practice Framework.
4. Strengthened appreciation of evidence-informed advocacy and action.
5. Deepened their understanding of the importance of coalition building, feminist networking and solidarity.

Day One successfully established the conceptual and strategic foundation for the more practical advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and action-planning sessions that followed.

7.0 Technical Proceedings: Day Two

Day Two focused on translating evidence into advocacy, coalition action, and practical implementation strategies. Building on the conceptual foundation established on Day One, participants engaged more deeply with the Her Voice research findings and applied the Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework through practical exercises, stakeholder analysis, advocacy planning, and group work.

A major highlight of the day was the **presentation and discussion of findings from the Her Voice multi-country research conducted in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Togo** by Prof Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (SAN, OON). The findings reinforced the growing links between climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls. Participants examined evidence showing how climate-induced

livelihood loss, food insecurity, displacement, and economic insecurity increase women's vulnerability to violence. Discussions also highlighted the rise of technology-facilitated violence, including cyberstalking, online harassment, digital surveillance, sextortion, and non-consensual image sharing. Participants reflected on how these findings mirrored realities within their own countries and organisational contexts.

The workshop also strengthened participants' understanding of evidence analysis and ethical data use. Sessions emphasised the importance of data quality, ethical documentation, confidentiality, survivor-centred approaches, and the interpretation of evidence. Participants explored practical approaches to transforming research findings into compelling evidence to inform advocacy, programme design, and institutional engagement. Discussions reinforced the principle that evidence must be credible, actionable, and ethically grounded to influence change effectively.

A significant portion of the day was devoted to advocacy strategy development. Participants examined advocacy as a deliberate process aimed at influencing decision-makers and securing policy, institutional, and behavioural change. Sessions covered problem identification, goal setting, coalition mobilisation, message development, stakeholder engagement, implementation planning, and monitoring. Particular emphasis was placed on developing evidence-based messages that are clear, targeted, persuasive, and action-oriented.

Participants also undertook stakeholder mapping and power analysis exercises to strengthen their capacity to identify and engage key actors who can influence change. Stakeholders identified included government ministries, legislators, justice institutions, national human rights bodies, traditional and religious leaders, telecommunications actors, development partners, media organisations, and community structures. Through these exercises, participants gained practical skills in analysing influence, understanding power dynamics, and designing context-appropriate engagement strategies.

One of the most interactive sessions of the day was the group work on applying the Research-to-Practice Framework. Participants worked in groups to develop practical advocacy and action plans addressing issues such as technology-facilitated violence, climate-responsive violence prevention, survivor access to justice, community accountability systems, coalition-based advocacy, and policy reform. Using structured implementation matrices, each group identified advocacy objectives, target stakeholders, key messages, proposed activities, timelines, responsible actors, and indicators of success. The exercise enabled participants to move beyond problem analysis to the development of concrete and actionable strategies.

Several important lessons emerged from Day Two. Participants recognised that effective advocacy requires credible evidence, strategic targeting, coalition engagement, and sustained follow-up. They also highlighted the importance of collaboration across sectors and institutions, particularly when addressing complex issues such as climate-related violence and technology-facilitated abuse. The discussions further reinforced the value of feminist networking and solidarity, collective action, and regional collaboration in advancing women's rights and accountability.

By the end of Day Two, participants had strengthened their capacity to analyse and utilise evidence for advocacy and action; improved their understanding of stakeholder engagement and advocacy planning; increased their confidence in applying the Research-to-Practice Framework; and developed practical strategies for influencing policy, institutions, and social norms. The day represented a significant shift from knowledge acquisition to practical application and strategic action.

8.0 Technical Proceedings: Day Three

8.1 Overview

The third and final day of the workshop focused on connecting learning, advocacy, and coalition action to regional accountability mechanisms. Having spent the previous two days examining the intersections between climate change, digitalisation, structural inequality, and violence against women and girls (VAWG), and applying the Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework to advocacy design and action planning, participants were now positioned to engage directly with continental human rights institutions and collective advocacy processes.

The day represented the culmination of the workshop's evidence-to-action journey. It reinforced the principle that research findings, advocacy strategies, and coalition initiatives achieve greater impact when linked to accountability systems that influence state behaviour, policy implementation, and protection outcomes for women and girls.

8.2 Engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

A major highlight of Day Three was participants' engagement with the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which was taking place concurrently in Banjul, The Gambia. It also encompassed the oral Statement submissions made by WACOL/WAWORC to the ACHPR – [i) Agenda Item: Violence Against Women and Girls (Statement on the Nexus of Climate Change, Digitalization, and Violence Against Women and Girls in West and Central Africa); ii) Human Rights: Our Collective Responsibility: Human Rights Situation in Africa- Water & Sustainability; iii) Oral Statement to ACHPR situated in research evidence for Coalition Building & Integrated Policy Actions on the triad of Climate Change, Digitalisation, and Violence Against Women and Girls in West and Central Africa]

The African Commission is the principal human rights body responsible for promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights across Africa. Established under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Commission provides an important platform through which civil society organisations, women's rights groups, and human rights defenders engage with governments on their obligations to protect and fulfil human rights.

The workshop's alignment with the ACHPR session provided participants with a unique opportunity to move beyond theoretical discussions and gain first-hand exposure to regional accountability processes. Participants observed how civil society organisations engage continental institutions, influence policy discussions, raise concerns about human rights violations, and advocate for stronger implementation of regional human rights instruments such as the Maputo Protocol.

For many participants, this was their first direct interaction with a regional accountability mechanism. The experience demystified the African human rights system and strengthened appreciation of the opportunities available for feminist advocacy, shadow reporting, coalition engagement, and strategic accountability work beyond national borders.

Discussions reinforced the importance of utilising regional mechanisms to complement national advocacy efforts, particularly in contexts where implementation of laws and policies remains weak. Participants recognised that meaningful change often requires coordinated engagement at community, national, regional, and continental levels.

The study visits also facilitated and informed the submission of a workshop participant's (WAWORC member) testimony to the Commission through the Executive Secretary. The testimony highlighted the intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalisation experienced by the participant and other women/women human rights defenders in the partner country. The Commission formally acknowledged and documented the submission, enunciating steps for follow-up action that included referrals to the Special Rapporteurs on Torture and on the Rights of Women, as well as official communication with the concerned partner country in due course.

8.3 Presentation of the Workshop Communiqué

Another significant milestone of Day Three was the presentation of the workshop communiqué (Annex 2) at the margins of the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The communiqué represented the collective voice of participants from thirteen countries and translated key workshop discussions, research findings, and advocacy priorities into a unified regional position. It demonstrated the practical application of the workshop's central message: evidence must be translated into action.

Drawing on findings from the Her Voice research and workshop deliberations, the communiqué highlighted the growing links between climate change, digitalisation, resource insecurity, weak accountability systems, and violence against women and girls. It expressed concern about the increasing vulnerability of women and girls arising from climate shocks, displacement, economic insecurity, technology-facilitated violence, and inadequate institutional responses.

The communiqué called on African governments, regional institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation of existing human rights commitments, particularly those relating to women's rights and protection from violence. It also emphasised the need for gender-responsive climate adaptation measures, stronger responses to technology-facilitated violence, improved access to justice, strengthened data systems, and greater investment in survivor-centred prevention and response mechanisms.

Importantly, the communiqué reaffirmed the role of feminist movements, women's rights organisations, and regional coalitions in driving accountability, influencing policy, and advancing transformative change across the continent.

8.4 Key Lessons from Regional Accountability Engagement

Engagement with the African Commission yielded several important lessons for participants.

First, accountability mechanisms matter. Participants recognised that laws, policies, and commitments alone do not guarantee change. Sustained advocacy and accountability engagement are necessary to ensure implementation and meaningful outcomes for women and girls.

Second, regional human rights systems provide valuable opportunities for influence. The African Commission, the Maputo Protocol, Special Rapporteur mechanisms, and state reporting processes offer important entry points for advancing women's rights and holding governments accountable for their obligations.

Third, coalition action amplifies impact. Participants observed how collective advocacy often achieves greater visibility and influence than isolated organisational efforts. Strong coalitions can mobilise evidence, amplify voices, and sustain pressure for reform.

Fourth, evidence remains central to effective advocacy. The workshop reinforced that credible data, lived experiences, and documented evidence are powerful tools for influencing decision-makers and strengthening accountability demands.

Finally, participants appreciated that feminist advocacy must operate across multiple levels. Community mobilisation, national policy engagement, and regional accountability processes are mutually reinforcing and can collectively contribute to stronger protection systems for women and girls.

8.5 Day Three Outcomes

By the end of Day Three, participants had:

1. Strengthened their understanding of regional human rights and accountability mechanisms.
2. Increased awareness of opportunities for engaging the African Commission and other regional institutions in advancing women's rights.
3. Deepened their appreciation of accountability as a critical component of violence prevention and response.
4. Contributed to the development and presentation of a regional communiqué reflecting shared advocacy priorities.
5. Strengthened regional networking, coalition building, and feminist solidarity across participating countries.
6. Enhanced their confidence to engage national and regional institutions using evidence-informed advocacy approaches.
7. Reaffirmed their commitment to translating research evidence into practical action for the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls.

The final day successfully connected capacity strengthening with regional advocacy and accountability engagement, reinforcing the workshop's overarching goal of building evidence-informed resilience through coalition strengthening, shared leadership, and strategic action.

9.0 Group Work Outputs and Application of the Research-to-Practice Framework

9.1 Overview

A central feature of the workshop was the practical application of the Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework through group exercises and collaborative learning sessions. Participants worked in mixed-country and mixed-language groups to analyse evidence generated through the Her Voice research, identify priority issues affecting women and girls, and develop practical advocacy and programme responses.

The group work sessions provided an opportunity for participants to move beyond understanding research findings and begin translating evidence into action. Through guided discussions, participants applied the key stages of the R2P Framework, including contextual analysis, evidence interpretation, prioritisation, stakeholder mapping, advocacy planning, and action design.

The exercises also enabled participants to compare experiences across countries, identify common challenges, and develop shared responses to emerging forms of violence against women and girls.

9.2 Key Issues Identified by Participants

Across both Anglophone and Francophone groups, participants identified several recurring issues emerging from the Her Voice research findings.

Table 3: Key Issues and Proposed Advocacy Directions

Emerging Issue	Evidence from Research	Proposed Advocacy Direction
Climate-related violence and vulnerability	Climate shocks increase food insecurity, economic stress, displacement and exposure to violence	Advocate for gender-responsive climate policies and integration of VAWG into climate adaptation planning
Technology-facilitated violence	Increased online harassment, cyberstalking, digital surveillance and online abuse	Strengthen legislation, reporting mechanisms and digital safety education
Weak access to services	Limited access to justice, protection services and survivor support systems	Improve service delivery, referral pathways and survivor-centred responses
Economic vulnerability	Poverty and economic shocks increase exposure to exploitation and violence	Promote economic empowerment and social protection measures
Weak data and documentation systems	Limited availability of disaggregated data on emerging forms of violence	Strengthen data systems, research and evidence generation
Harmful social norms	Persistent discriminatory attitudes and unequal gender relations	Support community mobilisation and social norm transformation initiatives
Limited policy implementation	Existing laws and policies often remain poorly implemented	Strengthen accountability, monitoring and policy advocacy

9.3 Advocacy Priorities Emerging from the Group Work

The group discussions demonstrated strong convergence around several regional advocacy priorities.

First, participants emphasised the need to recognise climate change as a gender equality and violence prevention issue. Discussions highlighted how climate-related shocks can exacerbate existing inequalities and increase the vulnerability of women and girls to violence, exploitation, and harmful coping mechanisms.

Second, participants called for stronger attention to technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. While digital technologies create opportunities for participation, learning, and economic empowerment, they also expose women and girls to new forms of abuse that are often poorly understood and inadequately addressed.

Third, participants stressed the importance of strengthening accountability systems. This included improving implementation of existing laws and policies, increasing access to justice, and strengthening engagement with national and regional human rights mechanisms.

Fourth, participants highlighted the need for stronger investment in feminist movements, coalition building, and collective advocacy. The workshop reinforced the value of collaboration among women's rights organisations in addressing complex and emerging forms of violence.

9.4 Application of the Research-to-Practice Framework

The group work demonstrated that participants were able to apply the Research-to-Practice Framework effectively.

Participants successfully:

1. Identified priority problems affecting women and girls within their respective contexts
2. Interpreted and analysed available evidence
3. Examined the root causes and drivers of identified challenges
4. Prioritised issues requiring immediate action
5. Identified key stakeholders and accountability actors
6. Developed advocacy messages and strategic responses
7. Proposed practical actions for implementation at national and regional levels

The exercises demonstrated increased confidence among participants in translating research findings into advocacy priorities, programme responses, and policy engagement strategies.

9.5 Key Outcomes from the Group Work Process

The group work sessions generated several important outcomes. These included:

1. Increased understanding of how evidence can inform advocacy and programme design
2. Improved ability to analyse and prioritise complex challenges affecting women and girls
3. Stronger appreciation of the links between climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls
4. Enhanced skills in stakeholder analysis and advocacy planning
5. Development of practical advocacy priorities that can be adapted and implemented by participating organisations
6. Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange among participants from different countries and sectors

The group work therefore served as a critical bridge between research findings and practical action, reinforcing the workshop's overarching objective of strengthening evidence-informed advocacy and coalition action across West and Central Africa.

10.0 Key Learning, Outcomes and Strategic Insights

10.1 Overview

The workshop generated significant learning and reflection on the evolving nature of violence against women and girls (VAWG) and strengthened participants' capacity to utilise evidence for advocacy, policy engagement, coalition building, and programme improvement. Through presentations, peer learning, practical exercises, engagement with regional accountability mechanisms, and application of the Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework, participants developed a deeper understanding of both the drivers of violence and the pathways through which evidence can be translated into meaningful action.

A notable strength of the workshop was its emphasis on practical application. Participants moved beyond reviewing research findings to analysing evidence, identifying advocacy priorities, developing action-oriented responses, and exploring opportunities for regional collaboration and accountability engagement.

10.2 Violence Against Women and Girls Requires a Systems Approach

One of the strongest lessons emerging from the workshop was the recognition that violence against women and girls cannot be understood or addressed in isolation. Participants acknowledged that violence is shaped by interconnected factors, including gender inequality, harmful social norms, economic insecurity, climate-related vulnerabilities, digital risks, weak institutional responses, and unequal power relations.

This reinforced the importance of adopting integrated, multisectoral approaches that address both the immediate manifestations of violence and the structural conditions that enable it.

10.3 Climate Change Is Emerging as a Significant Risk Multiplier

The workshop strengthened participants' understanding of climate change as a gender equality and protection issue. Discussions highlighted how climate-related shocks such as drought, flooding, displacement, food insecurity, and livelihood loss can increase women's and girls' vulnerability to violence, exploitation, harmful coping mechanisms, and reduced access to support services.

Participants recognised the importance of integrating gender-responsive and protection-centred approaches into climate adaptation, resilience-building, and disaster response initiatives.

10.4 Digitalisation Presents Both Opportunities and Risks

Participants explored the growing influence of digital technologies in shaping the lives of women and girls. While digitalisation creates opportunities for learning, communication, economic participation, networking, and advocacy, it also exposes women and girls to emerging forms of technology-facilitated violence.

Discussions highlighted concerns relating to cyberstalking, online harassment, digital surveillance, image-based abuse, and other forms of online violence. Participants emphasised the need for stronger digital safety measures, legal protections, awareness raising, and survivor support systems.

10.5 Evidence Must Be Translated into Action

A central message throughout the workshop was that research alone does not create change. Evidence becomes meaningful only when it informs advocacy, policy influence, programme design, institutional accountability, and collective action.

The Her Voice Research-to-Practice Framework was widely recognised as a practical tool for helping organisations move from evidence generation to action. Through the group exercises, participants demonstrated increased confidence in analysing evidence, identifying priorities, engaging stakeholders, and developing advocacy responses.

10.6 Coalition Building Strengthens Impact

Participants consistently highlighted the value of coalition building and collective action. The workshop demonstrated how collaboration among women's rights organisations, feminist networks, researchers, human rights institutions, legal actors, and community organisations can strengthen advocacy influence and expand opportunities for change.

The regional nature of the workshop further reinforced solidarity and created opportunities for future collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordinated advocacy across West and Central Africa.

10.7 Accountability Mechanisms Are Essential for Sustainable Change

Engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights reinforced the importance of accountability in advancing women's rights and addressing violence against women and girls. Participants gained a greater appreciation of the role of regional human rights mechanisms in influencing policy, monitoring implementation, and strengthening protection systems.

The workshop highlighted opportunities for organisations to utilise national and regional accountability mechanisms more strategically in their advocacy efforts.

10.8 Inclusion and Intersectionality Matter

Participants repeatedly emphasised the importance of recognising the diverse realities and experiences of women and girls. Discussions highlighted how factors such as disability, age, poverty, displacement, geography, language, and digital exclusion can shape vulnerability to violence and influence access to services and opportunities.

The workshop reinforced the need for survivor-centred and intersectional approaches that ensure no woman or girl is left behind.

10.9 Evidence of Learning and Capacity Strengthening

Several indicators suggest that the workshop contributed to strengthening participant capacity and readiness for action.

These included:

1. Active participation in discussions, case analyses, and practical exercises throughout the three-day workshop
2. Successful application of the Research-to-Practice Framework during group work sessions
3. Development of advocacy priorities, stakeholder engagement strategies, and action-oriented recommendations
4. Meaningful engagement with regional accountability mechanisms through activities linked to the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
5. Production of a regional communiqué reflecting collective analysis, shared priorities, and agreed advocacy directions
6. Increased networking and collaboration among participants from thirteen countries

7. Strong engagement during plenary discussions, peer learning sessions, and collaborative exercises

Collectively, these outcomes indicate that the workshop moved beyond awareness-raising to strengthen participants' ability to utilise evidence for advocacy, coalition-building, and action.

10.10 Overall Workshop Outcomes

By the end of the workshop, participants had:

1. Enhanced their understanding of the intersections between climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls
2. Strengthened their capacity to interpret and utilise research evidence for advocacy and programme improvement
3. Increased their understanding and application of the Her Voice Research-to-Practice Framework
4. Improved their ability to identify advocacy priorities and engage key stakeholders
5. Strengthened knowledge of regional human rights and accountability mechanisms
6. Expanded regional networks and opportunities for collaboration
7. Developed practical ideas for integrating workshop learning into organisational advocacy and programming

The workshop therefore achieved its core objective of strengthening evidence-informed advocacy and coalition action while reinforcing regional solidarity, feminist leadership, and shared commitment to ending violence against women and girls across West and Central Africa.

11.0 Workshop Outcomes, Learning and Evaluation Findings

Assessment of workshop outcomes drew on multiple sources of evidence, including participant evaluation forms, facilitator observations, rapporteurs' reports, participant engagement during sessions, group work outputs, advocacy products, action-planning exercises, and the workshop communiqué. While only a limited number of evaluation forms were received, the convergence of evidence from these different sources provides a reasonable basis for assessing participant learning, engagement, and application of knowledge.

The findings presented in this section should therefore be interpreted as indicative rather than statistically representative of all participants. Nevertheless, the consistency observed across participant feedback, group outputs, facilitator observations, and workshop products provides credible evidence of learning, capacity strengthening, and readiness for action.

11.1 Overall Participant Perceptions

Feedback received from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Most respondents indicated that the workshop objectives were achieved either completely or to a large extent and reported that the content was highly relevant to their work, advocacy priorities, and organisational mandates.

Many participants particularly valued the practical orientation of the workshop. The combination of technical presentations, peer learning, group exercises, advocacy planning sessions, and engagement with regional accountability mechanisms was widely viewed as useful, engaging, and applicable to real-world challenges.

Participants appreciated the opportunity to move beyond discussion of violence against women and girls and engage directly with practical approaches for translating evidence into advocacy, policy influence, coalition action, and accountability.

11.2 Perceived Learning and Capacity Strengthening

Evidence from participant feedback, group exercises, and facilitator observations suggests that the workshop contributed significantly to strengthening participants' knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Most participants demonstrated an increased understanding of the relationships between climate change, digitalisation, structural inequality, and violence against women and girls. Many also reported improved confidence in collecting, analysing, interpreting, and utilising evidence to influence policy, programmes, and institutional responses.

The Her Voice Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework emerged as one of the most valued aspects of the workshop. Participants viewed the framework as a practical tool for moving from research findings to advocacy priorities, stakeholder engagement strategies, and concrete action.

Participants also demonstrated increased confidence in advocacy planning, message development, coalition building, stakeholder engagement, and accountability-focused advocacy.

11.3 Most Valued Sessions and Experiences

Across both Anglophone and Francophone participants, several workshop components emerged as particularly valuable.

Many participants highlighted:
- The Research-to-Practice (R2P) Framework and its practical application
- Evidence generation, analysis, and utilisation for advocacy
- Advocacy strategy development and message construction
- Stakeholder mapping and engagement exercises
- Group work and collaborative problem-solving sessions
- Coalition building and shared leadership discussions
- Exposure to regional accountability mechanisms, particularly the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Discussions on climate change, digitalisation, and violence against women and girls

Participants consistently appreciated opportunities to apply learning through practical exercises rather than relying solely on presentations and theoretical discussions.

11.4 Key Lessons Emerging from the Workshop

Several recurring lessons emerged from participant reflections, group discussions, and facilitator observations.

Many participants recognised that:
- Effective advocacy must be grounded in credible evidence and data
- Research only becomes meaningful when translated into action
- Climate change and digitalisation are increasingly important drivers of vulnerability and violence affecting women and girls
- Coalition building and collective action strengthen advocacy influence and impact
- Strong advocacy requires strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, and accountability
- Existing laws and policies are often limited by weak implementation rather than the absence of legal frameworks

• Regional accountability mechanisms provide valuable opportunities for advancing women's rights and institutional accountability

Participants also demonstrated a stronger appreciation of intersectional approaches that recognise how disability, age, poverty, displacement, geography, and digital exclusion shape women's experiences and access to services.

11.5 Areas Requiring Strengthening

While overall feedback was positive, participants identified several areas requiring further attention.

Many respondents expressed a desire for:
• Additional time to explore workshop themes in greater depth
• More practical sessions on evidence collection, analysis, and utilisation
• Expanded discussion of regional and international accountability mechanisms
• Stronger post-workshop mentoring, financial and technical support particularly for rights and policy advocacy streams
• Continued opportunities for peer learning, networking, and regional collaboration

A few participants also suggested improvements relating to workshop logistics, interpretation services, accommodation arrangements, and venue facilities.

11.6 Evidence of Learning and Capacity Strengthening

Beyond participant feedback, evidence of learning was demonstrated through the practical outputs produced during the workshop.

Participants successfully applied the Research-to-Practice Framework to analyse evidence, identify advocacy priorities, examine root causes, map stakeholders, develop advocacy strategies, and formulate action plans relevant to their national and regional contexts.

The quality of group presentations, stakeholder engagement strategies, advocacy messages, implementation plans, and action matrices demonstrated participants' ability to move beyond theoretical understanding towards practical application. The development and presentation of a regional communiqué during the 87th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights further illustrated participants' capacity to translate evidence into collective advocacy and accountability action.

Facilitator observations throughout the workshop also indicated increasing confidence among participants in discussing evidence, identifying strategic entry points for advocacy, engaging decision-makers, and utilising regional accountability mechanisms.

11.7 Overall Assessment

Although the number of completed evaluation forms was limited, the available feedback aligns strongly with observations made throughout the workshop. Participants demonstrated high levels of engagement during plenary discussions, practical exercises, stakeholder mapping sessions, advocacy simulations, and accountability-focused activities.

The quality of group work outputs, advocacy strategies, action plans, and the workshop communiqué provides further evidence that participants were able to understand, apply, and operationalise key concepts introduced during the workshop.

Taken together, the available evidence indicates that the workshop successfully strengthened participants' understanding of evidence-informed advocacy, enhanced their capacity to utilise the Research-to-Practice Framework, increased awareness of emerging drivers of violence against women

and girls, and reinforced the importance of coalition building, feminist leadership, and accountability in advancing women's rights across West and Central Africa.

12.0 Challenges, Limitations and Lessons Learned

The workshop achieved its objectives and generated significant learning, networking opportunities, and practical outputs. However, several challenges and lessons emerged that are important for future capacity-strengthening initiatives.

12.1 Challenges and Limitations

1. **Limited Time for Complex Discussions:** The workshop addressed a wide range of interconnected issues, including climate change, digitalisation, violence against women and girls, advocacy, coalition building, and accountability mechanisms. Given the breadth and complexity of these themes, participants expressed a desire for more time to deepen discussions and strengthen action planning.
2. **Language and Communication Demands:** The participation of both Anglophone and Francophone delegates enriched learning and regional exchange. While simultaneous interpretation facilitated communication, language differences occasionally affected the pace of discussions and group interactions.
3. **Diverse Levels of Experience:** Participants brought varying levels of experience in research utilisation, advocacy, coalition building, and engagement with accountability mechanisms. Facilitators therefore had to balance technical depth with accessibility to ensure meaningful participation by all attendees.
4. **Resource and Capacity Constraints:** Many of the advocacy priorities and action plans developed during the workshop will require sustained financial, technical, and institutional support. Resource limitations continue to affect the ability of many women's rights organisations to implement and scale advocacy initiatives.
5. **Evidence Gaps on Emerging Issues:** Discussions highlighted continuing gaps in evidence relating to technology-facilitated violence and the gendered impacts of climate change, underscoring the need for continued research, documentation, and knowledge generation.

12.2 Key Lessons Learned

Several important lessons emerged from the workshop.

1. Evidence is most valuable when translated into advocacy, policy influence, accountability, and practical action.
2. Emerging challenges such as climate change and technology-facilitated violence require integrated and adaptive responses.
3. Coalition building remains one of the most effective strategies for strengthening influence, amplifying voices, and advancing collective action.
4. Regional accountability mechanisms provide important opportunities for advancing women's rights and strengthening the implementation of existing commitments.
5. Capacity strengthening is most effective when supported by ongoing learning, networking, mentoring, and peer exchange beyond a single workshop event.

The workshop reinforced the importance of moving beyond knowledge generation towards coordinated action, stronger accountability, and sustained investment in feminist leadership and movement building across West and Central Africa.

13.0 Strategic Recommendations

Building on the workshop discussions, group work, research findings, and engagement with regional accountability mechanisms, the following strategic recommendations are proposed to strengthen evidence-informed advocacy and collective action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls across West and Central Africa.

13.1 Recommendations for Women's Rights Organisations, Coalitions and Civil Society Actors

1. Strengthen the use of evidence to inform advocacy, policy engagement, and programme design through wider application of the Research-to-Practice Framework.
2. Integrate climate-related risks and technology-facilitated violence into violence prevention and response programming.
3. Strengthen coalition building, knowledge sharing, and coordinated advocacy around shared regional priorities.
4. Broaden expertise in identifying and mobilising alternative funding sources to advance financial self-determination and safeguard the Coalition's political autonomy and advocacy agenda.
5. Expand documentation and monitoring of emerging forms of violence affecting women and girls, particularly those linked to climate change and digitalisation.
6. Increase engagement with national, regional, and international accountability mechanisms to advance women's rights and institutional accountability including treaty body monitoring and contributions to shadow reporting.

13.2 Recommendations for Governments and Public Institutions

1. Strengthen implementation and enforcement of existing laws, policies, and commitments relating to violence against women and girls.
2. Integrate gender-responsive and survivor-centred approaches into climate adaptation, disaster response, and digital governance frameworks.
3. Strengthen prevention and response measures addressing technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.
4. Increase investment in accessible survivor support services, including legal aid, psychosocial support, referral systems, and protection mechanisms.
5. Strengthen data systems and inter-agency coordination to support evidence-informed policy making and accountability.
6. Facilitate the timely prosecution of judicial processes for prompt justice to cases of violence against women and girls

13.3 Recommendations for Regional Human Rights Bodies and Development Partners

1. Expand opportunities for civil society engagement in regional accountability and reporting processes.
2. Strengthen support for feminist movement building, coalition strengthening, and cross-country learning initiatives.

3. Invest in research, innovation, and evidence generation on emerging issues affecting women and girls, particularly climate-related and technology-facilitated violence.
4. Promote greater awareness and utilisation of regional human rights instruments, including the Maputo Protocol and African Commission mechanisms.
5. Provide sustained and flexible support to women's rights organisations and coalitions working to advance prevention, accountability, and social norm change.

13.4 Priority Actions Going Forward

Participants identified the following immediate priorities:

1. Dissemination of workshop learning within participating organisations and networks.
2. Application of advocacy strategies and action plans developed through the Research-to-Practice Framework.
3. Continued collaboration and information sharing among participating organisations and coalitions.
4. Increased engagement with accountability mechanisms at national and regional levels.
5. Continued evidence generation and documentation of emerging forms of violence affecting women and girls.

Implementation of these recommendations will contribute to stronger evidence-informed advocacy, enhanced accountability, and more coordinated regional action to address violence against women and girls across West and Central Africa.

14.0 Conclusion

The ACT Africa Regional Capacity Building, Advocacy and Dissemination Workshop provided an important platform for advancing evidence-informed action to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls across West and Central Africa. Bringing together women's rights organisations, feminist networks, human rights actors, researchers, development partners, and advocates from thirteen countries, the workshop created a unique space for learning, reflection, collaboration, and collective action.

The workshop reaffirmed that violence against women and girls remains one of the most significant barriers to gender equality, human rights, and sustainable development. It also highlighted the rapidly evolving nature of the challenge. Climate change, digitalisation, economic insecurity, displacement, and widening inequalities are creating new and complex risks that require innovative, coordinated, and adaptive responses.

A central lesson emerging from the workshop was that evidence alone does not create change. Research findings become transformative only when they are translated into advocacy, policy influence, institutional accountability, programme improvement, and community action. The Her Voice Research-to-Practice Framework provided participants with practical tools to bridge the gap between knowledge generation and action, strengthening their capacity to interpret evidence, engage stakeholders, and influence change.

The workshop also reinforced the importance of coalition building and collective leadership. Participants recognised that no single organisation, institution, or sector can effectively address the interconnected drivers of violence against women and girls. Sustainable progress requires strong partnerships, shared learning, coordinated advocacy, and sustained investment in feminist leadership and movement building.

Engagement with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights further underscored the critical role of accountability in advancing women's rights. Participants gained valuable insights into how regional mechanisms can complement national efforts and provide additional pathways to

promote implementation, monitor commitments, and strengthen protection systems for women and girls.

Perhaps, most importantly, the workshop strengthened a shared sense of purpose among participants. It fostered regional solidarity, deepened collaboration among women's rights actors, and generated renewed commitment to advancing evidence-informed advocacy and action. The relationships, ideas, strategies, and commitments emerging from the workshop provide a strong foundation for continued collaboration and collective action beyond Banjul.

As the region continues to confront evolving threats to the rights, safety, and well-being of women and girls, the workshop demonstrated that evidence, when combined with leadership, accountability, and collective action, can serve as a powerful catalyst for change. The challenge moving forward is to sustain the momentum generated, strengthen partnerships, and translate commitments into concrete actions that improve the lives of women and girls across West and Central Africa.

ANNEXURE

Annex 1 – The Research to Practice (R2P) Framework Matrix



Annex 2 – Workshop Communique

Friday, May 15th, 2026

COMMUNIQUE PRESENTED AT THE MARGINS OF THE 87TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Banjul, The Gambia | May 2026

We, the participants from thirteen countries across West and Central Africa, at the ACT Africa Regional Capacity Building and Advocacy Workshop on *"Building Evidence-Informed Violence Against Women*

(VAW) Prevention and Response Resilience through Coalition Strengthening, Shared Leadership and Advocacy," convened in Banjul, The Gambia from 13–15 May 2026 under the leadership of Women Aid Collective (WACOL) and the West and Central Africa Women Rights Coalition (WAWORC), with funding support from UN Women and the European Commission, reaffirm our collective commitment to ending all forms of violence against women and girls (EVAWG) across Africa.

Drawing on the *Her Voice* regional research covering Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo, we recognize the growing intersection of climate change, digitalisation, resource scarcity and violence against women and girls. The evidence shows that climate shocks, displacement, resource scarcity, economic insecurity, online abuse, weak justice systems, and limited accountability mechanisms are increasing the vulnerability of women and girls across West and Central Africa. It also underscores the importance of cohesive feminist actions through coalition building as a critical driver of transformative and structural change.

We are deeply concerned that, despite increasing digital access, women continue to face widespread cyberstalking, technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and barriers to reporting abuse. We further note the severe underinvestment in gender-responsive climate action and the continued invisibility of women's lived realities in national data systems.
Accordingly, we call on African States Parties to:

- Fully implement the decisions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Maputo Protocol, and all regional and international human rights obligations relating to women's rights, particularly those concerning the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.;
- Integrate gender-responsive and survivor-centred approaches into climate adaptation, disaster response, digital governance, and national development frameworks;
- Establish accessible, adequately funded, and community-based systems for prevention, reporting, protection, and redress for survivors of violence;
- Enact and enforce laws addressing technology-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthen digital governance and online safety protections for women and girls;
- Invest in harmonized national data systems and feminist, gender-sensitive research that generate credible evidence for policy reform and accountability;
- Protect women human rights defenders, feminist movements, and civil society actors from backlash, reprisals, and shrinking civic space.

We further urge the African governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners, and the international community to strengthen collaboration with women-led organizations and feminist coalitions in advancing accountability, shadow reporting, strategic litigation, and policy advocacy.
As participants from across West and Central Africa, we commit to sustaining cross-border feminist solidarity and action, strengthening coalition networks, advancing evidence-based advocacy, and amplifying the voices of women and girls across our respective countries.
We reaffirm that ending violence against women and girls requires urgent, coordinated, intersectional and transformative action.

Adopted in Banjul, The Gambia, this 15th day of May 2026.

Signatories (by Countries)

Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Central Africa Republic (CAR)

Cote d'Ivoire

Gabon

The Gambia

Ghana

Liberia

Mali

Nigeria

Senegal

Sierra Leone

Togo

Signed for and on behalf of WACOL and WAWORC:

Professor Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (OON, SAN & Life Bencher)

Convener, West and Central African Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC)



Website/Social Media: www.wacolnigeria.org; :Women Aid Collective- WACOL Tamar SARC;

(formerly Twitter) @WACOLTamarSARC; : @wacoltamarsarc

Annex3 – Harmonised Summary of Group Advocacy Strategies

Table 4: Harmonised Summary of Group Advocacy Strategies

Thematic Area	Key Problem Identified	Root Causes	Priority Stakeholders	Strategic Advocacy Direction
Justice and Accountability for VAWG	Persistent impunity for perpetrators and low reporting of violence against women and girls	Weak enforcement of laws, social stigma, survivor intimidation, and inadequate funding for survivor services	Ministries of Justice, Judiciary, Police, Human Rights Institutions, Legislators, Women's Rights Organisations	Strengthen prosecution and sanctions, improve survivor-centred reporting systems, increase legal aid and survivor support, and advocate for stronger implementation of existing laws
Climate Change and Violence Against Women and Girls	Climate shocks increase women's vulnerability to violence, exploitation and economic dependency	Drought, flooding, livelihood loss, food insecurity, displacement and weak social protection systems	Ministries of Environment, Gender Ministries, Disaster Management Agencies, Local Authorities, and Development Partners	Integrate gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation policies, strengthen protection systems, support women's livelihoods and resilience programmes
Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence	Growing incidence of cyberstalking, online harassment, sextortion, digital surveillance and image-based abuse	Weak regulation, poor digital literacy, inadequate reporting mechanisms, and gendered power imbalances	Telecommunications Regulators, ICT Ministries, Law Enforcement Agencies, Digital Platforms, Civil Society Organisations	Strengthen legal and policy frameworks, improve reporting mechanisms, promote digital safety education and accountability of technology platforms
Economic Vulnerability and Violence	Economic dependence increases women's exposure to abuse and limits their ability to seek help	Poverty, unemployment, unequal access to resources, and exclusion from economic opportunities	Ministries of Labour, Social Protection Agencies, Financial Institutions, and Development Partners	Expand women's economic empowerment programmes, improve access to livelihoods, finance and social protection services
Harmful Social Norms and Gender Inequality	Persistent discriminatory attitudes and practices sustain violence against women	Patriarchal norms, harmful traditions, gender stereotypes, and weak community accountability	Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, Community Structures, Media, Educational Institutions	Promote social norm change through community dialogue, faith-based engagement, public education and male

Thematic Area	Key Problem Identified	Root Causes	Priority Stakeholders	Strategic Advocacy Direction
	and girls			allyship initiatives
Survivor Access to Services	Limited access to justice, psychosocial support, shelters and referral services	Inadequate service coverage, poor coordination, insufficient funding and weak referral pathways	Service Providers, Government Agencies, Health Institutions, CSOs, Donors	Strengthen referral mechanisms, expand survivor-centred services and improve coordination among service providers
Evidence and Data for Advocacy	Insufficient use of evidence to influence policy and programming	Weak data systems, limited analytical capacity, poor documentation and dissemination	Research Institutions, WROs, Government Agencies, Academia, Development Partners	Strengthen evidence generation, documentation and utilisation for advocacy, policy engagement and accountability
Coalition Building and Collective Action	Fragmented responses reduce the effectiveness of advocacy efforts	Weak coordination, competition for resources, limited networking and information sharing	Women's Rights Coalitions, CSOs, Regional Networks, Development Partners	Strengthen coalition structures, promote joint advocacy, facilitate information sharing and coordinate regional action
Regional Accountability and Human Rights Engagement	Limited utilisation of regional accountability mechanisms for advancing women's rights	Low awareness of continental systems and weak engagement with human rights bodies	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, National Human Rights Institutions, CSOs, WROs	Increase engagement with regional mechanisms, strengthen shadow reporting, and utilise human rights instruments to advance accountability

Annex 4 – ACT REGIONAL WORKSHOP (Banjul, The Gambia) || PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY

s/no	NAMES	Country	Disability Status Physical (PD) None (N) Others, Specify (O)
1	ZOUNDI Elisabeth Wend-bénédo	Burkina Faso	N
2	MBUYA Fry Epse Luku Gladys	Cameroon	N
3	NGUM Funiba	Cameroon	N
4	YANKINON Nina Mireille	Central African Republic (CAR)	N
5	TRAORE Stephanie	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire	N
6	TSOUMBOU Claudine	Gabon	N
7	SECKA Isatou	The Gambia	N
8	CIESAY Priscillia Yagu Shalom Esq.	The Gambia	N
9	JOBARTEH Jonfolo		
10	MUSO CAMARA Annette	The Gambia	N
11	SANNEH Bintou	The Gambia	O (Visually Impaired)
12	JENG Fatou A.	The Gambia	N
13	SOWE Fallu	The Gambia	N
14	BITTAYE Jainaba	The Gambia	N
15	GOMEZ Elizabeth Kinta	The Gambia	N
16	HACKMAN-STEVENS Adjoa K.	The Gambia	N
17	BINKA Charity Yawa (Dr)	Ghana	N
18	LARTEY Kristine Awurabena	Ghana	N
19	ADUAMOAH-ADDO Lois	Ghana	N
20	ARYEETEY Susan	Ghana	N
21	NMAH Alfreda	Liberia	N

22	DIAKITE Aminata Koné Mme	Mali	N
23	IFENDU Ebere (Barr)	Nigeria	N
24	OLUFEMI-KAYODE Princess Dupe (Dr)	Nigeria	N
25	MOHAMMED Rashidat	Nigeria	N
26	DIALLO Woppa	Senegal	N
27	DIAGO Diagne Ndiaye	Senegal	N
28	SESAY Menisa	Sierra Leone	N
29	KAMARA Bintu	Sierra Leone	N
30	AKAKPO Adjoa Thérèse	Togo	N

Resource Person & Facilitators

s/no	Name	Country	Disability Status Physical (PD) None (N) Others, Specify (O)
1	Prof Anthonia Ifeyinwa Achike	Nigeria	N
2	Dr Ejiro Otive-Igbuzor	Nigeria	
3	Justice Veronic Wright	Gambia	N

Donor Funders & Partners

s/no	Name	Country	Disability Status Physical (PD) None (N) Others, Specify (O)
1	BA Soukeyna	Senegal	N
2	NURUDEEN Ibrahim	Nigeria	N
3	LACHAVANNE Alexia	Gambia	N
4	CAMARA Satang	Gambia	N

5	KADIRI Maxwell	Nigeria	N

WACOL Team

s/no	Name	Country	Disability Status Physical (PD) None (N) Others, Specify (O)
1	Prof Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (SAN, OON)	Nigeria	N
2	Amala Okwuosa	Nigeria	N
3	Ebele Okocha	Nigeria	N
4	Helen Kalu (Dr)	Nigeria	N
5	Bethel Ezugwu	Nigeria	N



Secretariat: WAWORC
West African Women's Rights Coalition

WACOL/Tamar SARC Helplines
09091333000, 09060002128
09092777000

Email
wacolnig@gmail.com
wacol@wacolnigeria.org

X (Twitter)
@WACOLTamarSARC

Facebook
Women Aid Collective-WACOL
WACOL Tamar Sarc

Instagram
@wacoltamarsarc

Website
www.wacolnigeria.org

Head Office, Enugu
No 9 Dr. Mathias Ilo Avenue, by Airport Flyover, New Haven Extension, Enugu – 090 8080 8080

Abuja Office
33 Yaounde Street, Wuse, Zone 6

Benin Office
Suite 16, Jesurobo Complex, 133, 2nd East Circular Road, Benin City – 070 3577 7083

OTHER WACOL OFFICE ADDRESSES

Imo Office
Kenuj, 02 Mall, Akachi, Weatheral Road, Owerri, Imo State.
Tel: 08064892805 / 08038233877
Email: wacolnig@yahoo.com, wacolimo@wacolnigeria.org

Anambra Office
Godwin Ezeemo International Press Center, P129 Executive Business District, Behind CBN, Awka, Anambra State.
Tel: 09060002128, 08155850000
Email: wacolanambra@wacolnigeria.org

Ebonyi Office
#5 Ziks Avenue, Opposite UBA Bank, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.
Tel: 08165439125 / 08187615551
Email: wacolebonyi@wacolnigeria.org

Katsina Office
No 102 Zaria Road, Funtua, Katsina.
Email: wacolkatsina@wacolnigeria.org

Cross River Office
Ministry of Women Affairs, Leopard Town Rd, Big Qua Town, Calabar, Cross River State.

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