

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

MINISTERE DE LA PROMOTION DE LA FEMME ET DE LA
FAMILLE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

COMITE D'ORGANISATION DE LA 16^{EME} EDITION DE LA
CAMPAGNE 16 JOURS D'ACTIVISME CONTRE LES
VIOLENCES FAITES AUX FEMMES 2022



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace-Work-Fatherland

MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT AND THE FAMILY

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE 16TH EDITION OF
THE 16 DAYS ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN 2022

16th EDITION OF THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

"16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST VIOLENCE ON WOMEN
AND GIRLS"

25 November - 10 December 2022

THEME :

***"Let us join forces to end violence against women
and girls"***

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" is an international campaign launched in 1991 by activists from the Women's Global Leadership Institute to protect women's rights and prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres is calling for global action to raise awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts, share knowledge and innovations to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) once and for all through the global **UNiTE** campaign against violence on women and girls launched in 2008. It is a multi-year advocacy effort for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls worldwide. "UNiTE calls on governments, development actors, civil society, women's organizations, youth, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces to combat violence against women and girls.

The dates of 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and 10 December, International Human Rights Day, marking the beginning and end of the Campaign respectively, were chosen to symbolically create a link between violence against women and girls and human rights. Thus, emphasis is placed on the fact that such violence is a violation of human rights. The sixteen-day period also highlights other significant dates, such as 29 November, International Human Rights Defenders Day, and 1 December, World AIDS Day.

The 16 Days of Activism campaign has since been commemorated around the world by governments, organisations working to end violence against women and girls, and individuals and groups who use the human rights framework to push for the elimination of all forms of violence. The strategies commonly used include:

- Awareness raising at local, national, regional and international levels;
- Consolidation of efforts at the local level;
- Correlation between efforts at local and global levels;
- Creation of forums for dialogue and strategy sharing;
- Pressure on states to honour commitments taken through national and international legal agreements;
- the active solidarity of activists around the world.

The environmental, health, security and climate change crises accentuate all forms of VAWG, creating more urgency for governments, women's rights organisations and other actors to promote and encourage policy changes that would contribute to the reduction of violence. In this regard, the UN Secretary General has launched the "**Our Common Agenda**" initiative, aimed at galvanising the UN system, Member States and other actors, through the strategy of political commitment and the development of contingency plans, to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls is still a reality in Cameroon and the available data on the subject are sufficient proof of this. The 2018 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) indicates that 39% of women and 42% of men aged 15-49 years reported having experienced physical violence from individuals, since the age of 15. Furthermore, 18% of women and 14% of men experienced such violence in the last 12 months of the survey. It should be noted that the percentage of women aged 15-49 who experienced physical violence from individuals in the 12 months prior to the survey increased from the 2004 DHS-III to the 2011 DHS-MICS, from 21% to 27%; then it dropped to 18% in the 2018 DHS-V.

With regard to sexual abuse, overall, 13% of women aged 15-49 said they had experienced sexual abuse by someone at some point in their lives and 5% had experienced it recently, i.e. in the last 12 months. Among men, these percentages are lower (6% and 3% respectively). The percentage of women aged 15-49 who have experienced sexual abuse at some point in their lives has not changed from the 2004 DHS-III to the 2011 DHS-MICS (10% in both cases); however, since 2011 there has been a decrease in this percentage (5%). Among women aged 15-19 who have experienced sexual abuse, 21.5% had their first experience of sexual abuse before the age of 15. The perpetrators of violence are mainly husbands or partners.

In terms of domestic violence, more than four out of ten (44%) women aged 15-49 in a union or in a broken union reported having experienced violence, be it emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse, at some point by a current or most recent husband/partner and 32% of cases are recent, i.e. in the last 12 months. The most common forms of domestic violence for women are: physical (34%), emotional (29%) and sexual abuse (10%). The results for men show that one third (33%) of men in a union or relationship breakdown have experienced emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse, at some point from a current or most recent wife/partner and 22% of cases are recent, i.e. within the last 12 months. Men mostly reported experiencing emotional abuse (30% at some point and 18% recently) compared to 12% and 7% respectively for physical violence. Compared to women, the percentages of men who experienced physical violence are about three times lower (12% and 7% compared to 34% and 20%).

The DHS-V data also reveals that among women aged 15-49 who are currently pregnant or have been pregnant, 7% reported having experienced physical violence during a pregnancy, regardless of the perpetrator.

Despite these worrying figures, VAWG can be prevented through coordinated action by the Government, local authorities, technical and financial partners and civil society. This is why the fight against violence against women is one of the major axes of the Government's action in the framework of the implementation of the Very High Directives of the Head of State in terms of the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights.

At the normative level, Cameroon has ratified almost all international and regional conventions and resolutions promoting human rights in general and women's rights in particular.

At the national level, the principle of gender equality is affirmed in the Constitution of Cameroon adopted in 1972 and revised in 1996 and 2008. Although there is no specific law that punishes violence against women, the legal framework for the protection of women against attacks on their dignity and physical integrity was strengthened with the adoption in 2016 of Law No. 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 on the Penal Code.

However, more efforts need to be made to domesticate the provisions of ratified international conventions and align them with the national legal framework. The revision of the Civil Code, which has been underway for several years, the drafting of new texts integrating the relevant provisions of the CEDAW, such as the Persons and Family Code, and the bill of law on the repression of gender-based violence are hopeful for the many victims.

The global theme of this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which runs from 25 November to 10 December 2022, is "Unite! Activism to end violence against women and girls". This theme has been contextualised at national level as follows: **"Let us join forces to end violence against women and girls"**. The campaign is being commemorated in a context marked by the resurgence of violence against women and girls in all sectors, and it is important that strategies for supporting victims and survivors be revisited. This edition also provides an opportunity to strengthen the synergy between all stakeholders in the protection of human rights in general and those of women and girls in particular. It is in this spirit that the activities organised by the Government, local authorities, development partners and civil society during this 16th campaign of activism against violence against women and girls should be carried out.

II. OBJECTIVES

II.1 – General objective

Mobilise all stakeholders to reduce violence against women and girls.

II.2 – Specific objectives

- Popularise the new documents drawn up and validated as part of the fight against VAWG;
- Strengthen the capacity of actors on the mechanisms of prevention and repression of violence, protection and management of victims and survivors;
- Strengthen advocacy for women's and girls' leadership and meaningful participation in political life and decision-making at global, regional, national and local levels, including in the development of humanitarian and peace processes;
- Promote the positive masculinity approach;
- Engage state actors, civil society organisations, development partners, the private sector and other actors in providing technical, material and financial support for actions to combat violence against women;

- Engage the media and decision-makers in exploring innovative approaches to communication to raise awareness;
- Strengthen advocacy for free health care for survivors of sexual violence;
- Set up a statistical monitoring on data relating to VAWG.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

- The new documents developed and validated are disseminated;
- The capacities of actors on mechanisms for prevention and repression of violence, protection and management of victims and survivors are strengthened;
- Advocacy for women's and girls' leadership and meaningful participation in political life and decision-making at global, regional, national and local levels, including in the development of humanitarian and peace processes, is strengthened;
- Positive masculinity is promoted;
- State actors, civil society organisations, development partners, the private sector and other actors provide technical, material and financial support for actions to combat violence against women;
- The media and decision-makers commit themselves to exploring innovative communication approaches to raise awareness;
- Advocacy for free health care for survivors of sexual violence is strengthened;
- Statistical monitoring of data relating to VAWG is put in place.

IV. ACTIVITIES

At the central level

- National launch of the Campaign;
- Official presentation and dissemination of documents on Gender Based Violence including in development and humanitarian contexts.
- Continuation of the HeForShe activities;
- Development of safe space mapping;
- Equipping safe spaces;
- Updating of the guide for the holistic management of GBV survivors;
- Capacity building of care providers;
- Capacity building for IDPs;
- Distribution of economic empowerment kits to women and girls survivors;
- Amplification of women leaders' voices;
- Organising radio and television broadcasts;
- Production of leaflets, roll-ups, gadgets, T-shirts, posters, etc;
- Organisation of conference debates, educational talks and socio-legal clinics;
- Organisation of an awareness caravan.

At the decentralised level

- Distribution of economic empowerment kits to women and girl survivors;
- Establishment/revitalization of regional and local GBV management platforms;
- Organisation of educational talks and socio-legal clinics;
- Organisation of capacity building sessions in various fields;
- Conference-debates, radio and television programmes and debates;
- Production and distribution of leaflets, roll-ups, gadgets, T-shirts and posters;
- Popularisation and dissemination of documents on gender-based violence;
- Amplification of the voices of women leaders.

V. STAKEHOLDERS

- Public and parapublic administrations ;
- Regional and Local Authorities ;
- Development partners ;
- Civil society organisations;
- Private sector ;
- Traditional, community and religious leaders;
- Extra-curricular, school and university circles.

VI. METHODOLOGY

The 16th edition of the global campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" will take place, as in previous years, throughout the country. The events are organised in strict compliance with the barrier measures prescribed by the Government and the World Health Organisation (WHO). MINPROFF will produce a national report, which will be the synthesis of the reports of the regional delegations, the reports of civil society organisations and partner administrations. The different reports are expected at the central level of MINPROFF, at the latest two weeks after the end of the campaign.