Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is violence directed at an individual based on biological sex, gender identity or socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. Marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, and those in the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender community are at a higher risk of experiencing GBV. GBV negatively harms individuals and societies.

GBV CAN INCLUDE
- Sexual, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse
- Sexual harassment
- Child marriage
- Domestic violence
- Female genital mutilation
- Trafficking in persons

THE PROBLEM

1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence.¹

There are over 14 million child marriages each year.²

Sexual violence against men and boys has been reported in over 25 conflict-affected countries in the last decade.³

Over 1,700 transgender persons have been murdered in 63 countries over the past seven years.⁴
USAID addresses GBV in over **40 countries** around the world, in every region where the Agency works.

**PROGRAM EXAMPLES**

- **In Ethiopia,** our programs are increasing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate child marriage and female genital mutilation.
- **In Egypt,** our programs are reducing sexual harassment in agribusiness firms by addressing attitudes about sexual harassment in the workplace.
- **In Georgia,** USAID supports the Government of Georgia’s National Action Plan to address domestic violence through institutionalizing the role of social workers, establishing a national referral system to protect survivors, and providing anti-domestic violence education.
- **In Bangladesh,** USAID works to reduce child marriage through enhancing advocacy initiatives for child marriage legislation and enforcement. The program aims to increase public awareness and support civil participation in shaping policy.
- **In Haiti,** USAID works with domestic violence survivors through providing legal assistance, psycho social support, and medical assistance.
- **In South Africa,** USAID is working alongside the Government of South Africa’s flagship rape crisis and counseling centers to address sexual assault.
- **In Zambia,** USAID engages boys and young men in schools to reduce social acceptance of GBV. USAID is also working with traditional leaders to support GBV prevention and response in rural areas.
- **In India,** our programs are expanding the use of mobile technology to identify and address intimate partner violence among female patients receiving family planning and prenatal care.
- **In Zimbabwe,** USAID provides gender-based violence prevention and protection services for adolescent girls, including those living with disabilities.

**Sources**