

# CAFI II Baseline Report



December 2023



@Trutschel/AA/photothek.de



Implemented by:



# Table of Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Scope & Approach.....	<b>7</b>
Limitations.....	<b>9</b>
<b>CONTEXT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>CAFI Phase I: Progress &amp; Lessons</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Lessons .....	<b>12</b>
<b>CAFI Phase II: Baseline</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Status of CTA Implementation.....	<b>13</b>
Representation & Leadership of WLOs in GBV Coordination Mechanisms .....	<b>14</b>
WLO Capacity.....	<b>21</b>
WLOs' Access to Humanitarian Funding.....	<b>23</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
Areas of Focus for Advocacy .....	<b>26</b>
Support to CAFI Network WLOs .....	<b>26</b>
CAFI Implementation.....	<b>27</b>
<b>ANNEXES</b> .....	<b>28</b>

# Executive summary

The Call to Action Field Implementation project (CAFI) collaborates with ten Women-Led Organizations (WLOs)<sup>1</sup> across diverse regions to catalyze WLO's representation and leadership in humanitarian decision-making spaces, amplify GBV expertise, and address the root causes of GBV. Operating in Colombia, the DRC, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Niger, Ukraine, and Venezuela, CAFI aims to drive change and foster gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response in humanitarian emergencies. The project works toward implementing the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (CTA) at field level.

After Phase I (2020-2022), the project is now initiating its second phase (2023-2025). This report serves as a foundational baseline study for Phase II, while also assessing lessons learned from Phase I, to inform and guide Phase II. Drawing on insights from WLO leaders within CAFI countries, this study explores a spectrum of issues pertaining to the implementation of CTA objectives and effective GBV programming by WLOs.

Examining contextual factors and Phase I impacts, the study explores a variety of topics related to WLOs' ability to implement CTA objectives and carry out effective GBV programming in their countries. Wars, displacement crises, political and policy barriers that each significantly impact both the need for GBV prevention as well as the challenges to conducting GBV response in emergencies are scrutinized.

## Key Findings:

- **CAFI Phase I Achievements:** Strengthened capacity of WLOs in focus countries. Increased recognition of the crucial role WLOs play within the CTA. Enhanced collaboration among WLOs and with national, regional, and international actors. Improved WLO engagement in regional networks, the CTA, and other international spaces related to GBV. The need for improvement persists and can best be addressed by the CAFI model and approach.
- **Baseline Indicators for Phase II:** The report establishes specific baseline indicators for Phase II, highlighting progress, challenges, and gaps related to CTA implementation.
- **Challenges in CTA Implementation:** Awareness was raised, and important tools and resources developed. However, challenges persist, such as a lack of accountability mechanisms for signatories and issues related to GBV funding accessibility for WLOs.
- **Barriers for WLOs in Coordination Spaces:** Insufficient financial means, lack of awareness or information about existing coordination spaces or how to engage in them, and restrictions, e.g., cap numbers, hindering WLO's active participation and leading in coordination spaces, both at national and international levels.
- **Challenges in CTA Participation:** Despite playing critical roles in CTA implementation, WLOs face barriers, including feeling a lack of trust from signatories, limited awareness among non-lead CAFI partners, and delays in processing applications.
- **Capacity and Funding Needs:** Despite having overall high technical capacity, WLOs express a desire for additional capacity strengthening, particularly in prevention strategies, GBV minimum standards, and response and survivor support. Many WLOs lack access to long-term, flexible funding and request support in networking opportunities with donors and fundraising/grant management capacity strengthening.

The report concludes with important recommendations for the CAFI project in Phase II, including key areas for further advocacy, opportunities for providing needed support to WLOs, and suggestions for the implementation of the CAFI project itself.

1. Arab Women Organization (AWO) of Jordan, Baghdad Women Association (BWA) in Iraq, Center Women's Perspectives (CWP) in Ukraine, Comité des Jeunes Filles Leaders (COJEFIL) in Niger, Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DFJ) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fundación para el Desarrollo en Género y Familia (GENFAMI) in Colombia, Global Media Campaign to End FGM (GMC) in Mali (currently in the process of renaming to FemiLead), Himaya Daeem Aataa (HDA) in Lebanon, and Tinta Violeta in Venezuela.

### **Areas of Focus for Advocacy:**

- Improved representation and leadership of WLOs in CTA and GBV mechanisms.
- CTA leadership and signatories to improve accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the CTA Road Map, prioritize WLO application processing, shift towards a partnership-based approach, and form regional networks
- Increased allocation of humanitarian funding to WLOs for GBV work by donors, addressing key barriers that have inhibited WLO's access to such.

### **Support to WLOs**

- Development of a comprehensive and tailored capacity strengthening approach, considering lessons from Phase I.
- Prioritization of efforts to build independence and sustainability of WLOs and enhance networking opportunities.
- Creation of trust-building initiatives and provision accessible information and regular updates to project stakeholders.

### **CAFI Implementation**

- Development of a participatory, inclusive, and transparent network.
- Exploration of innovative engagement strategies and provision of periodic assessments to allow for flexibility and adaptation.

# Introduction

The Call to Action Field Implementation project (CAFI) works with ten women-led organizations (WLOs) across Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, and West and Central Africa to drive change and foster gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response in humanitarian emergencies. Through the ten WLOs, CAFI works with an extensive network of GBV-focused WLOs to advance the following main objectives:

- Increase accountability to women and girls in emergencies through sustainable implementation of the [Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#) (Call to Action or CTA) through collective action that addresses the root causes of GBV and coordinates effective response and risk mitigation.
- Catalyze increased representation and leadership of women and girls, specifically WLOs, in decision making structures and humanitarian assistance of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (CTA) and other GBV coordination mechanisms.
- Amplify GBV expertise: Scaling existing capacity of WLOs to prioritize, design, staff, implement and coordinate GBV prevention and response programming, as a core function of humanitarian action.
- Locally owned CTA collective action addresses the root causes of GBV and coordinate effective response and risk mitigation

Phase I of CAFI took place from 2020-2022. The work was led by a consortium of three organizations – CARE, the Arab Women’s Organization (AWO) of Jordan, and Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DFJ) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – and focused on six countries: Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine. CAFI Phase II (2023 - 2025), which was launched in May 2023 with funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), has expanded the CAFI consortium to 11 members, including partner organizations in ten countries, and expanded the reach to eight focus countries and two regional coordinators: Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Niger, Ukraine, and Venezuela, with the DRC and Jordan leading their own regions, Jordan additionally including Palestine in regional activities as a focus country without national activities.

This baseline study was conducted during the initial months of CAFI Phase II in order to establish a baseline for key indicators related to the program objectives and gather input from key stakeholders (i.e., WLOs in focus countries, CAFI partners, global CTA actors) to inform the detailed planning for CAFI Phase II activities. The baseline seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How, if at all, are women and girls, specifically WLOs, represented and in leadership roles in the CTA and other GBV coordination mechanisms at local, national, regional and global levels?
2. What is the current capacity of WLOs in the CAFI network to prioritize, design, staff, implement and coordinate GBV prevention and response programming?
3. To what extent is the implementation of CTA at the field level accountable to women and girls in emergencies?
4. What progress, if any, was made in CAFI Phase I in the areas listed above? What lessons from Phase I can/should inform Phase II?

The data collected through the baseline was considered at the local, national, regional and global levels. The approach and tools were developed collaboratively between CAFI national partners, regional partners, and CARE. The aim was to collect data that could be compared across countries and used to measure changes in key indicators in future studies, while also allowing some flexibility for countries to add questions that are specific to their context. The primary intended users are the members of the CAFI consortium; the secondary users are the Call to Action signatories and other GBV stakeholders.

# Definitions

The definition of “women-led organization” varies among stakeholders and across geographies. For the purposes of this baseline study and the CAFI project more broadly, we use the following definition, adapted from the commonly cited definitions advanced by UN Women:

- **Women-Led Organization (WLO):** any non-governmental, not-for-profit and non-political organization where two-thirds of its board (including the Chair) and management staff/volunteers (including the Executive Director) are female, and it focuses on women and girls as a primary target of programming. We recognize that not all actors will be formal organizations and that supporting movements, grassroots groups, activists and individual leaders should also be part of the approach to achieve localized, women-led humanitarian action.

The generic terms of women’s groups and women’s organizations refer to women’s self-organized groups, either informal community-based organizations or formal WLOs and/or women’s rights organizations (WROs). The terminology varies among different stakeholders and across geographies. For example, in the DRC, WLOs and women’s groups are referred to as *Associations Dirigées par des Femmes* (or ADIFEs), a terminology framed during a workshop organized by CARE with WLOs and women’s groups. In Latin America, WLOs are referred to as *Organizaciones Lideradas por Mujeres* (OLM).

# Methodology

## Scope & Approach

The baseline activities were conducted in November and December of 2023 and included the following countries and regions:

- Focus Countries continuing from CAFI Phase I: Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, and Niger
- Focus Countries new in CAFI Phase II: Colombia, Venezuela, and Ukraine
- Regional Leads (also part of Phase I): Jordan and the DRC

All baseline questions related to progress made in CAFI Phase I cover the period of 2020 - 2022. One of the CAFI Phase II countries, Libya, is not included in this baseline report as this work will not begin until 2024.

At the MENA regional level, the CAFI network includes Palestinian WLOs. However, due to the current situation, it was not possible to include them in the baseline activities.

**Online Survey:** An online survey, created in Google Forms, was sent to all WLOs who are part of the CAFI networks in the focus countries. The survey had approximately 20 questions, the majority of which were multiple choice questions, designed to assess the WLOs' current levels of knowledge and engagement in the CTA and other GBV mechanisms, their GBV technical capacity, their access to funding for GBV, and their most significant needs in these areas. The questionnaire included a set of standard questions to be asked in all countries, and a set of questions that could be adjusted to fit the country context. It was delivered in four languages: French, Spanish, Arabic and Ukrainian.

A total of 190 representatives from WLOs in focus countries responded to the online survey (see Figure 1). The response rate was high; 77% of WLOs in the CAFI networks responding to the survey across the seven countries. In most countries, the survey was completed online by the respondents; however, national CAFI partners in some countries conducted the survey by phone and then entered the data into the Google Form due to connectivity and safety issues.

**Key Informant Interviews and Focus Groups:** In each of the focus countries, a sample of WLOs who are part of the CAFI networks participated in semi-structured key informant interviews or a focus group discussion. Similar to the online survey, a questionnaire was developed in consultation with the CAFI partners in each focus country. It provided a set of standard questions to be used by all countries, as well as flexibility to adapt the remaining questions to fit the country context and/or to adapt the format to be used in a focus group rather than a key informant interview. A total of 37 WLOs participated in key informant interviews or focus group discussions, all of which were conducted by CAFI partners or consultants in the local language.

In addition, two key informant interviews were conducted by a consultant with knowledge of CAFI with stakeholders involved in the CTA at the global level, to gather their perspective on the baseline questions.

**Partner Questionnaire:** Each CAFI partner (both national and regional partners) was asked to respond to a set of questions designed to gather their insights on the baseline questions, ensuring their knowledge and experiences were represented in the baseline analysis and results. For the national partners, this also included their analysis of findings from the WLOs they surveyed and/or interviewed in their network. For regional partners, this included contextualization of CAFI Phase I. The templates were provided in English, French and Spanish.

**Figure 1. Summary of WLO respondents in the focus countries, by region**

<b>Middle East/North Africa</b>			
	<b>Iraq</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Total</b>
Nb of survey invitations	35	17	52
Nb of survey responses	33	16	49
Nb of semi-structured interviews	5	5	10
<b>West and Central Africa</b>			
	<b>Mali</b>	<b>Niger</b>	<b>Total</b>
Nb of survey invitations	34	80	114
Nb of survey responses	33	42	75
Nb of semi-structured interviews	4	9	13
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>			
	<b>Colombia</b>	<b>Venezuela</b>	<b>Total</b>
Nb of survey invitations	29	21	50
Nb of survey responses	23	21	44
Nb of semi-structured interviews	4	5	9
<b>Europe</b>			
	<b>Ukraine</b>		<b>Total</b>
Nb of survey invitations	31		31
Nb of survey responses	22		22
Nb of semi-structured interviews	5		5



## Limitations

First, connectivity issues in some of the focus countries caused delays in gathering survey responses and, while the response rate was high, these issues likely prevented some WLOs from completing the survey.

Second, there appears to be reliability issues with the responses to some of the survey questions related to WLOs' level and type of engagement in the CTA, with some overreporting evident. It is likely that some WLOs had limited understanding of the CTA and/or the distinction between global level engagement in the CTA and the CAFI project itself. Where there are clear discrepancies, we have noted them in the Findings section, alongside the survey results.

Third, while the focus of the baseline study was to gather input from WLOs involved in CAFI networks, which was achieved, it is important to note that other stakeholders' views and insights are only minimally represented in the findings. In particular, we would have liked a larger sample of interviewees involved in the CTA at the global level; however, there were issues with lack of availability and time. Additionally, due to the current situation, it was not possible to include Palestinian WLOs in the baseline.

Fourth, the decision to develop a standard survey questionnaire that was then adapted in a different online form for each country, allowing each country to have the power to adapt their survey, was sound; however, there were some minor drawbacks to this approach. There were some cases in which a required question was mistakenly changed or removed, resulting in missing data.

Finally, the short timeline to conduct the baseline study presented some challenges and limitations. With more time, the design of the study and data collection tools could have been developed more collaboratively with partners in focus countries and regions, the tools further refined and then tested with respondents in the different languages they were delivered in, additional training provided to focus countries, and the findings analyzed and validated using participatory approaches. With more time, it is likely that additional interviews could have been conducted with key stakeholders.

# Context

Since the launch of the project in May 2023, there have been multiple shifts in the external context that underscore the importance of the CAFI project, while also creating additional challenges to achieving its objectives.

**Escalating conflicts and humanitarian crises:** Ongoing conflicts in the CAFI countries and regions are exacerbating GBV risks and increasing demand on WLOs. For example, countries in MENA are being affected by multiple ongoing conflicts in the region (i.e., Syria, Yemen, Gaza). These conflicts are putting increased demands on the CAFI countries in the region, stretching their already limited resources, as GBV cases and numbers of displaced people increase. In Ukraine, despite continued increases in instances of GBV, there are not enough specialists to work with GBV survivors and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in particular. Many GBV specialists are experiencing burnout because of the full-scale Russian invasion and the number of survivors, and many WLOs who are trying to help address the gap lack training and experience in this area. In Niger, the country experienced multiple shocks between January and September 2023, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, food insecurity and a recent political crisis to which are added economic sanctions linked to the closure of borders with certain countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ending of financial transactions, and suspension of development aid by a large number of partners. The armed conflicts have caused forced displacement of over 700,000 people and resulted in reports of over two thousand GBV cases. In addition, the scale of early/forced marriage remains a challenge and other forms of GBV, such as kidnappings and conflict-related sexual violence, are becoming more and more common, particularly in the Diffa region. In Mali, meanwhile, there were 2,809 incidents of GBV recorded between April and June 2023 (GBVIMS report), resulting in part from the ongoing, precarious security situation that creates an environment conducive to violence and limits women's access to vital resources. And in Colombia, the country that is the largest recipient of people on the move in South America especially for those in transit to the Darién Gap, the number of people on the move reached more than 500,000 people in October 2023. This represents a humanitarian emergency situation that puts women, girls and people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in a condition of high vulnerability to suffering gender-based violence.

**Limited access to justice and essential services:** The ongoing conflicts and crisis situations, combined with the economic downturn, are resulting in shifting priorities as access to basic needs takes precedence over access to justice and the urgency of addressing GBV. Furthermore, many conflict-affected areas lack adequate healthcare, legal aid, and safe spaces for survivors, making it difficult for CAFI to ensure survivors' access to essential support.

**Evolving legal and policy frameworks and limited implementation:** While there has been some progress towards comprehensive GBV laws and policies in some CAFI countries, the extent to which these policies are implemented effectively is low. In the MENA region, implementation and enforcement of GBV laws remain inconsistent across the region, hindering CAFI's efforts to promote a holistic response. In Colombia, the country's commitment to a life free of violence for women is reflected in its efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women; however, challenges persist in making a comprehensive approach to prevention, risk mitigation and response to GBV. In Venezuela, while the Law for the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence is also in place, the institutions, bodies and structures that previously carried out related program and accountability activities have essentially disappeared as a result of the national crisis. State prevention programs and care services have essentially dissolved, there are no longer any State shelters available, and the bodies that receive complaints, especially the police, lack sufficient training and knowledge of the law and basic aspects of survivor care.

# Findings

## CAFI Phase I: Progress & Lessons

This section summarizes the key achievements and lessons learned from CAFI Phase I, with the aim of identifying insights that will inform the Phase II baseline findings and recommendations. The information presented here is based on reporting from national and regional CAFI partners who were engaged in Phase I and interviews with global stakeholders involved in the CTA.

### Key Achievements

In summary, in Phase I, CAFI successfully contributed to the strengthened capacity of WLOs in the focus countries; increased recognition within the CTA of the important role WLOs can and do play; increased collaboration among WLOs and between WLOs and national, regional and global actors; and enhanced and increased WLO engagement in regional networks, the CTA, and other global spaces relevant to GBV. In addition, there is evidence of the direct influence of CAFI-affiliated WLOs through the CTA (i.e. co-leadership of Jordan regional partner, AWO, and Lebanon national partner, HDA, of the NGO Working Group). As there is still a need for continued improvement in all of these areas, the evidence from CAFI Phase I demonstrates the important role CAFI can continue to play in efforts to increase the representation of WLOs in GBV mechanisms, ensuring they have greater influence and leadership, and to improve accountability to women and girls in emergencies.

#### Enhanced engagement of WLOs in regional networks and global spaces

The CAFI project was very successful in forming regional networks and involving many WLOs who work in the field of GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response. The CAFI networks facilitated access to global events, meetings, and opportunities, effectively spreading the message of the project and contributing to the implementation of the localization agenda. The collaborative environment between WLOs has fostered more opportunities, spread knowledge within the network, and facilitated access to global networking events and opportunities allowing WLOs to represent women and girls on a global level.

#### Strengthened capacity of WLOs

Through training and other capacity-strengthening activities, hundreds of WLO representatives in MENA and West and Central Africa were equipped with additional GBV expertise and related skills to support and improve the quality of their GBV work. For example, in MENA over 113 WLO representatives received comprehensive training on GBV Minimum Standards and case management, significantly enhancing their ability to provide effective services and support to survivors in emergencies. WLOs report being able to offer more comprehensive and tailored support to survivors (e.g., legal assistance, psychological counseling, and safe housing) and that they are incorporating the Minimum Standards into their programs. In Mali, additionally, workshops focused on gender-based violence and advocacy were held in several districts and regions throughout the country, each with approximately 30 participants. These trainings went beyond skill-building and fostered active and meaningful participation of WLOs at local, national and regional levels.

#### Increased recognition and inclusion of WLOs in global spaces

During CAFI I, the virtual and in-person participation of WLOs in CTA meetings amplified their voices on the global stage, going beyond inclusion to recognition of WLOs as critical experts in the fight against GBV and ensuring they are in spaces where they can help shape policies and influence global conversations on GBV in emergencies. For example, because of CAFI, over 150 women leaders from 100 WLOs engaged virtually in the 2021 CTA Annual Partners' Meeting – which was held online that year because of COVID-19 – and nine WLOs even took center stage, showcasing their work on a global platform. There were also ripple effects from this work resulting in additional representation of WLOs at other high-profile global events. For example, WLOs actively participated in side events at the UN General Assembly and the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative conference in London in 2022.

## Increased collaboration between WLOs and with national, regional, and global actors

Through their engagement in the CTA and other CAFI activities, WLOs were able to connect with other organizations and advocates working on GBV in emergencies, which has led to new collaborations and initiatives. For example, in Niger this work mobilized WLOs and led to the creation of the Coalition of Women and Girls against GBV (Coalition des Femmes et Filles Contre les VBG, COFEF) network, and multiple national and global level actors have made commitments to work with or support COFEF. This includes a commitment from UNHCR to collaborate with COFEF in the holistic care of victims of GBV, and a commitment from UNFPA to support the integration of COFEF in communications channels that will ensure they can actively participate in humanitarian coordination activities.

Furthermore, CAFI also gave the opportunity for WLOs to be able to meet with donors and share their knowledge on the local and regional levels as well as participate in meetings, conferences, and panels.

## Greater influence of WLOs on local, national, regional and global solutions

Through their engagement in the CTA, WLOs' insights and recommendations have been incorporated into the CTA's planning and implementation processes. WLOs and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) co-created and launched the MENA Regional Road Map, which provides WLOs with a clear and actionable plan for advancing the CTA in the region. It also serves as a platform for WLOs to share best practices and learn from each other's experiences. During Phase I, 17 Palestinian WLOs worked together to craft a 2023-2025 Strategic Plan tailored to their specific needs. This bottom-up approach ensures the CTA's objectives resonate with local realities, not just global aspirations. And in Niger, the Ministry of Health and the humanitarian cluster have committed to presenting the CAFI and COFEF project at other levels of coordination.

## Lessons

The lessons identified from Phase I will likely be helpful in guiding both strategic and tactical decisions in Phase II. Of note, CAFI's collaborative and comprehensive approach, alongside the project's convening role, was effective in engaging and amplifying the voices of WLOs. WLOs involved in Phase I particularly appreciated the opportunities the project offered for capacity strengthening, networking, collaboration and funding. There were also some notable challenges that required additional attention, such as the need to accompany WLOs in the process to become a signatory to the CTA and the need for more comprehensive translation and interpretation.

**A Paradigm Shift:** The approach taken in the CAFI project is, according to one CAFI partner, "a paradigm shift, not just a project". By prioritizing collaboration, training, strategic planning, and global representation, CAFI builds a resilient and inclusive framework for addressing GBV in emergencies. It empowers WLOs, amplifies their voices, and rewrites the narrative, ensuring that women lead the charge in creating a world free from GBV, even in the face of crisis.

**Capacity Strengthening:** The capacity-strengthening initiatives provided in CAFI Phase I, which focused on building the skills and knowledge of staff, were positively received by WLOs. According to CAFI partners, qualified trainers who facilitate these processes played a pivotal role and ensured the success of the initiatives. Furthermore, in Lebanon, a continuous staff training model was used in which all staff, including new staff as they entered the organization, participated in the same training sessions. This proved beneficial, as it ensured a consistent level of knowledge across the organization, promoting a unified and informed approach.

**Networking and Collaboration:** WLOs highlighted the importance of networking opportunities in CAFI Phase I as a valuable resource and the key to fostering collaboration. Furthermore, the success of the MENA regional roadmap illustrates the effectiveness of collaborative efforts among WLOs and CTA signatories and the opportunities for regional initiatives that allow stakeholders to emphasize the specific challenges faced by different communities in the region.

**CTA Annual Meeting Organization:** Ten recommendations were provided from the 2021 pre-meeting suggesting how the pre-sessions and main sessions could be strengthened to promote WLO participation and how the CAFI project could build upon the outcomes of the meeting. Such recommendations included: reducing the presentation time during annual meetings to have time for discussions with participants, circulation of a summary of discussion points

and results from each session to focal points and WLOs, and reducing the number of topics in the annual meeting to make sure the topics can be discussed in depth, with decisions and/or commitments taken as a result.

**The Process to Become a CTA Signatory:** Another lesson learned from the project is that to successfully accompany WLOs in acceding to CTA signatory status, there needs to be a regularized transparent process for joining developed by the CTA lead. The current lack of such a process has impeded the capacity of WLOs to join the CTA, with some facing a short process and others stuck in limbo without clarity on why.

**Translation:** It is important for documents, resources and meetings, especially at the global level, to be available to WLOs in their preferred languages. As mentioned above, the process to become a CTA signatory was further complicated by the fact that WLOs were not able to submit the necessary documents and their commitments in their preferred languages under previous CTA leadership. As NGO working group co-chair, AWO made it a priority to advocate for language inclusion within the CTA structures, although this continues to be an issue that prevents WLOs from fully participating. Language inclusion applies outside of the CTA as well, to materials such as the GBV Minimum Standards Facilitator's Guide, that are not translated into local languages.

**Budgeting:** The CAFI Phase I project was the first of its kind in funding directly a WLO to lead a multi-actor regional project and, according to one of the regional partners, the learning from this experience has been invaluable not only in preparing future proposals (ensuring more accurate budget estimates for expenses and staff time) but also to the larger community of practice of WLOs in providing evidence of the demand on the organizational resources that come from delivering projects at this scale with excellence.

**Convening Role:** WLOs appreciated the role of CAFI in serving as a focal point for coordinating efforts at the national and regional levels. They would like to see this strengthened and continued in Phase II to enhance communication, collaboration, and the collective impact of WLOs.

## CAFI Phase II: Baseline

This section summarizes the data collected from the online surveys, key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus groups with WLOs in the CAFI network in the seven countries; KIIs with global CTA stakeholders; and reports submitted by CAFI's national and regional partners.

### Status of CTA Implementation

It is difficult to assess the overall success of CTA signatories in implementing global roadmap commitments due to limited data and the lack of consistent reporting. However, based on available information and ongoing efforts of CAFI partners, the following observations can be made.

#### Areas of Progress

**Increased awareness and advocacy:** The CTA has helped raise awareness about the needs of women and girls in emergencies and promoted advocacy efforts to hold actors accountable. The improved channels for WLOs between the local level, global and decision-making arena was noticeable as part of the successes of the CTA in the past few years.

**Increased connections between WLOs and other stakeholders:** WLOs in the CAFI network who have participated in the CTA noted their appreciation for the unique opportunities the CTA provides for cross-country collaboration and experience sharing, particularly in addressing women's and girls' issues. These connections have taken place both at the local level and between WLOs and global organizations. Some examples include increased participation in virtual and in-person CTA meetings leading to increased engagement with global actors and increased connectivity with other WLO CTA signatories. This increased connectivity among peer WLOs has the potential to lead to cross-country partnerships among CTA signatories.

**Development of Tools and Resources:** Several tools and resources have been developed to support implementation, including guidance documents and best practices. In addition, efforts are underway to improve data collection and monitoring mechanisms to track progress and identify areas for improvement.

## Challenges and Gaps

While this progress is important, there are many gaps in the implementation of the CTA global roadmap and ongoing barriers that are inhibiting progress.

**Accountability mechanisms and framework:** While local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and some International NGOs (INGOs) appear to be actively revising and following up on their commitments, many signatories have not shown concrete evidence of revision or follow-up, which has raised questions among WLOs about the level of commitment and accountability among some signatories. According to participants, a clear and robust accountability mechanism needs to be implemented in a more systematic and comprehensive way to ensure that signatories at all levels uphold their commitments and address any shortcomings. In particular, they noted that states and donors can do more to hold each other accountable to their commitments.

Participants in the study acknowledged that the signatories have many competing priorities even within their work on GBV and conflict-related sexual violence, such that even when they are actively working on these topics, they may not be showing progress on their CTA commitments. They suggested that the accountability mechanism should be organized, as simple as possible, and delivered in a way that encourages stakeholders to implement their commitments.

As is noted above, there is limited data available and inconsistent reporting on the status of commitments, making it difficult to assess progress and gaps in implementing the CTA Road Map. While CTA stakeholders are taking action to address this gap, it will require greater resources and capacity to implement as it will require regular follow-up with all the organizations involved in the CTA.

**Restricted and limited funds to WLOs:** WLOs express the need for the CTA to address challenges related to financial support, delays or lack of approval for initiatives, and the absence of supportive political will, as well as to increase transparency. CTA donor signatories have not yet met their commitment to provide 30% of funds to WLOs. Organizations are calling for increased funding amounts, ideally sustained for a minimum of two years, to achieve a more significant and lasting impact. Challenges arise when funds deplete before interventions with beneficiaries conclude, requiring additional resources or alternative service providers to ensure uninterrupted support. In addition, in Lebanon, many donors have heightened criteria post-Beirut explosion, emphasizing credibility and accountability in proposals, creating a need for enhanced capacity in proposal writing.

WLOs also call for greater transparency in the process and decision-making around the results from calls for proposals, at minimum to allow organizations to learn from the decision and improve future submissions. WLOs would like to see clearer and more measurable objectives, increased participation, and enhanced networking and communication among organizations.

**Limited capacity:** According to one participant, it is not only WLOs who face challenges with limited resources. CTA signatories and leadership also have limited capacity, which has hindered their ability to carry out their commitments, especially high-level political and technical commitments. They noted that the time spent engaging in the CTA itself is time-consuming, making it even more difficult to work on the commitments.

**Gender-Sensitive Budgeting:** Budgets allocated to implementing CTA commitments often lack a gender-sensitive approach, risking disparities in outcomes for women and girls. WLOs see room for improvement in this area within the CTA.

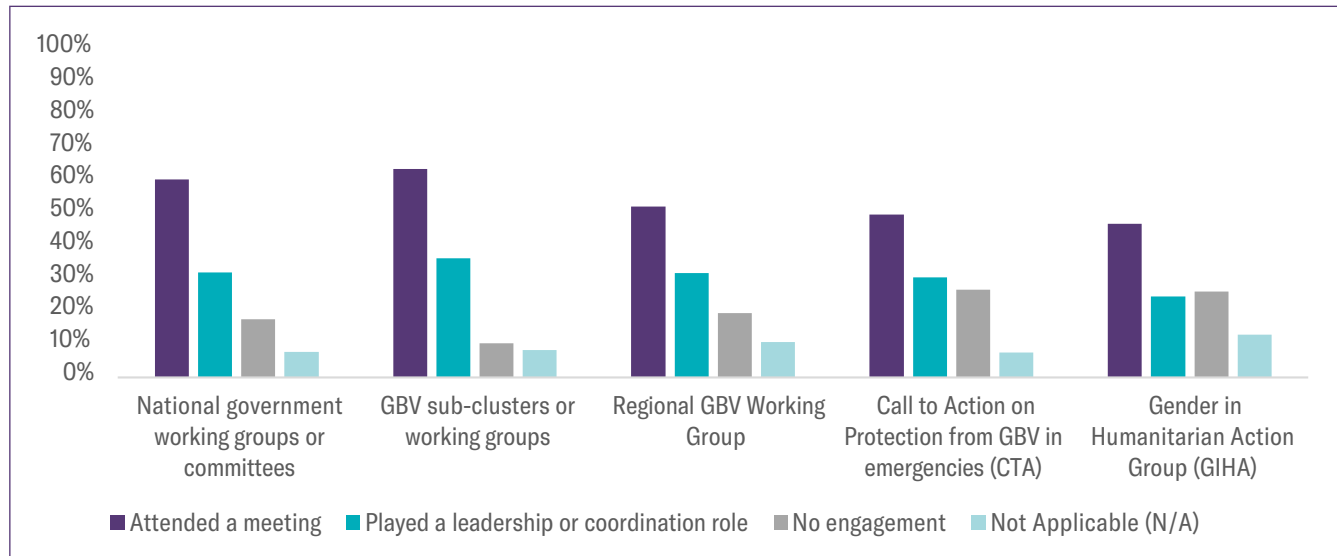
## Representation & Leadership of WLOs in GBV Coordination Mechanisms

### Engagement in GBV Coordination Mechanisms

In multiple focus countries, particularly in those that were part of CAFI Phase I, WLOs play an important role in GBV programming and response at local, national, regional and global levels; however, many of the WLOs surveyed are not engaged in GBV mechanisms and, among those who are engaged, very few play a leadership role. Approximately half of the WLOs surveyed reported having some form of engagement in a GBV coordination mechanism (see Figure 2). The highest levels of engagement appear to be in national government working groups or committees and GBV sub-clusters or working groups. Less than half of the WLOs reported engagement in the Gender in Humanitarian Action

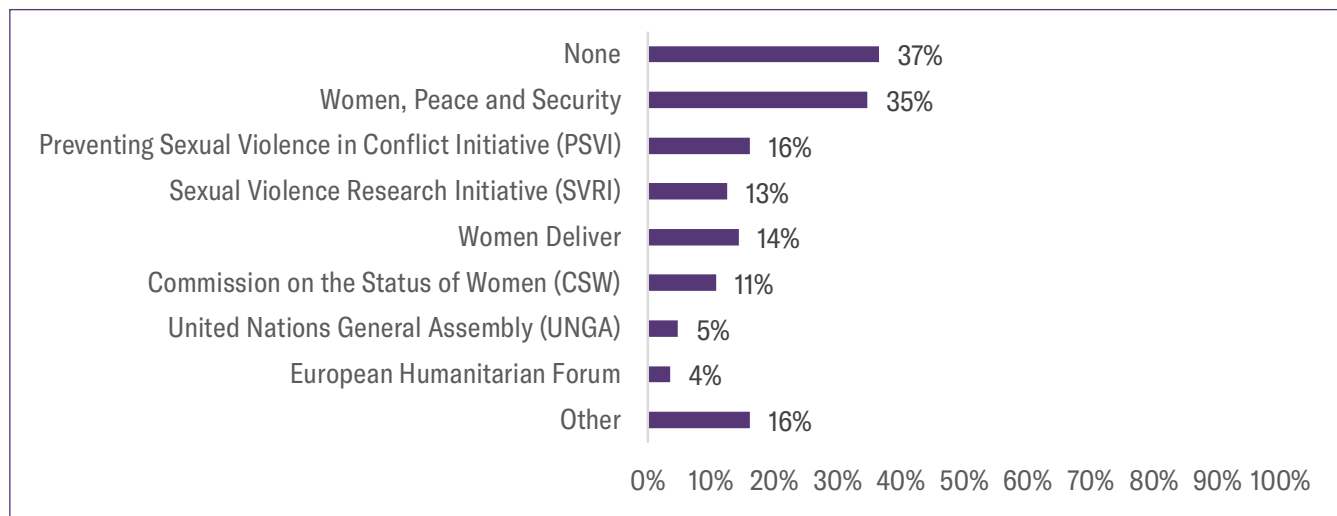
Working Group (GiHA). Looking across all the GBV coordination mechanisms discussed, WLOs were most likely to report attending a meeting; however, some organizations have played a leadership or coordination role in national government working groups (32%), GBV sub-clusters (36%), regional working groups (32%) and the GIHA (25%).

**Figure 2. WLO engagement in GBV Coordination Mechanisms in the previous three years**



Slightly over half of the WLOs (63%) have participated in global conferences and/or networking events in the last three years. Among these organizations, they most attended the UN Women, Peace and Security Week (35%), followed by the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) (16%), Women Deliver (14%), and the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) (13%) (see Figure 3). WLOs also shared additional spaces they have participated in, including CEDAW and the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) International Feminist Forum.

**Figure 3. Global conferences and/or networking events WLOs participated in during the last three years (n=167)**



## Details by Country:

While WLO engagement in GBV mechanisms is still relatively limited, within each country we see some WLOs engaging in these spaces, particularly at the local, national and regional levels, and other examples of WLOs playing leadership roles in GBV programming and response. This section provides a summary of some of the ways WLOs are participating in GBV coordination structures.

In *Iraq*, WLOs engage in coordinating efforts at local, national, and global levels. They actively participate in workshops, seminars, and legislative processes, contributing to the formulation of national laws related to women's rights and GBV. Coordination mechanisms involve referral processes for domestic or family violence, engagement in GBV clusters formed by UNFPA (although currently inactive), and periodic service map creation for organizations operating in the region. Some organizations actively participate in GBV sub-clusters at national and/or local levels, expressing satisfaction with participation levels and proposing the use of Arabic in coordination meetings for better inclusivity.

In *Lebanon*, WLOs also engage in GBV coordination mechanisms at local, national, regional, and global levels. Over the past three years, WLOs have actively engaged in various GBV coordination mechanisms, demonstrating a commitment to leadership and collaboration. Notably, WLOs have played crucial leadership or coordination roles at the local level within GBV sub-clusters and working groups, including the GBV Working Group, the Protection Working Group, the Interagency Working Group, the Child Protection Working Group, and the Livelihood Working Group, as well as the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA). In addition to assuming leadership roles, WLOs have consistently attended meetings related to GBV coordination. This involvement is deemed essential for staying informed, contributing to decision-making processes, and fostering collaboration with other stakeholders.

In *Mali*, WLOs play a central role in GBV coordination mechanisms at local, national, regional and global levels. Their commitment is manifested by active involvement in the design and implementation of policies aimed at preventing and mitigating GBV. They facilitate coordination between governments, civil society organizations, UN agencies and other actors involved in preventing and responding to GBV, by organizing meetings, workshops and working groups to harmonize actions and share good practices.

In *Niger*, WLOs are involved in multiple GBV coordination mechanisms, especially at local, regional and national levels. At the local level, WLOs have facilitated coordination and interventions on the ground, especially in emergency areas. WLOs are also involved in regional sub-clusters and the regional platform (established to strengthen coordination at the regional level). While active in multiple mechanisms, very few WLOs play a leadership role in the coordination mechanisms at the national, regional or global levels. Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of WLOs are not involved in the various activities carried out by national GBV coordination mechanisms and even those who are involved do not have a position of responsibility. Their power ends with participation in monthly meetings and capacity-strengthening sessions organized by the GBV sub-cluster. WLOs are often asked to complete the 5W tool in order to know which organization does what, why, when, where and how.

In *Ukraine*, WLOs' involvement in GBV coordination mechanisms is generally low, and this involvement is mainly in local coordination mechanisms and, to a much lesser extent, national and global coordination mechanisms. The local level of the coordination mechanism in Ukraine is represented by the coordination councils for the prevention and counteraction of domestic violence and gender-based violence at city and regional state authorities, as well as GBV sub-clusters. About half of the respondents have attended meetings of such mechanisms, and very few WLOs play a leadership or coordination role in such entities. At the national level of GBV coordination, only 23% of respondents have even attended a meeting.

In *Colombia*, WLOs participate in GBV coordination mechanisms at the local level; 62% of the WLOs attend the municipal and departmental coordinating mechanism of each territory, and 58% attend the working subgroups on GBV that operate locally. Less than half of WLOs (45%) participate in the GiHA and only 33% participate in Latin American regional groups and/or the CTA. WLOs also participate in additional mechanisms, such as National Representation to Law 1257 of 2008, the Sexual Violence Committee and Departmental Family, Early Childhood, Childhood and Adolescence Operating Table (FIAD), and the Gender subgroup of the Interagency Group on Mixed Migration Flows (GIFMM). Regarding leadership functions, the representatives of the WLOs reported most frequently leading subgroups or gender-based violence groups and regional working groups at the Latin American level.



In *Venezuela*, WLOs participate in the humanitarian coordination spaces that are organized in the territories where they live. In most cases, these are coordination spaces convened by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Protection Cluster, or the GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR). More than 70% of the organizations have participated in at least one meeting of the GBV humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and 35% of them stated that they had had some leadership role. However, these spaces are not uniform. WLOs reported higher satisfaction with the levels of activity and coordination in states where a subnational element exists (e.g., Zulia and Bolívar states). In addition, WLOs participate in other coordination groups such as the Gender Equality Network and identify their participation in the national spaces of the Protection Cluster and the GBV AoR.

## Engagement in the Call to Action

While WLO representation increased during CAFI Phase I, engagement of WLOs in the CTA (for example, participating in CTA Annual Partners' Meetings, becoming CTA signatories, participating in CTA NGO Working Group calls, or reporting to the CTA) and their representation in leadership roles is still very low, particularly at the global level. Among the 100 CTA signatories, only five are WLOs, despite additional WLOs applying to join. Recent changes in and commitments by the CTA signal potential new opportunities for increasing WLOs' role in the CTA going forward; however, there are several challenges that will need to be addressed in order for this to be possible. Notably, many WLOs lack basic information regarding available GBV mechanisms and how to engage them, insufficient financial means to participate, and/or restrictions and other barriers to their participation put in place by key stakeholders (e.g., donors, INGOs, State).

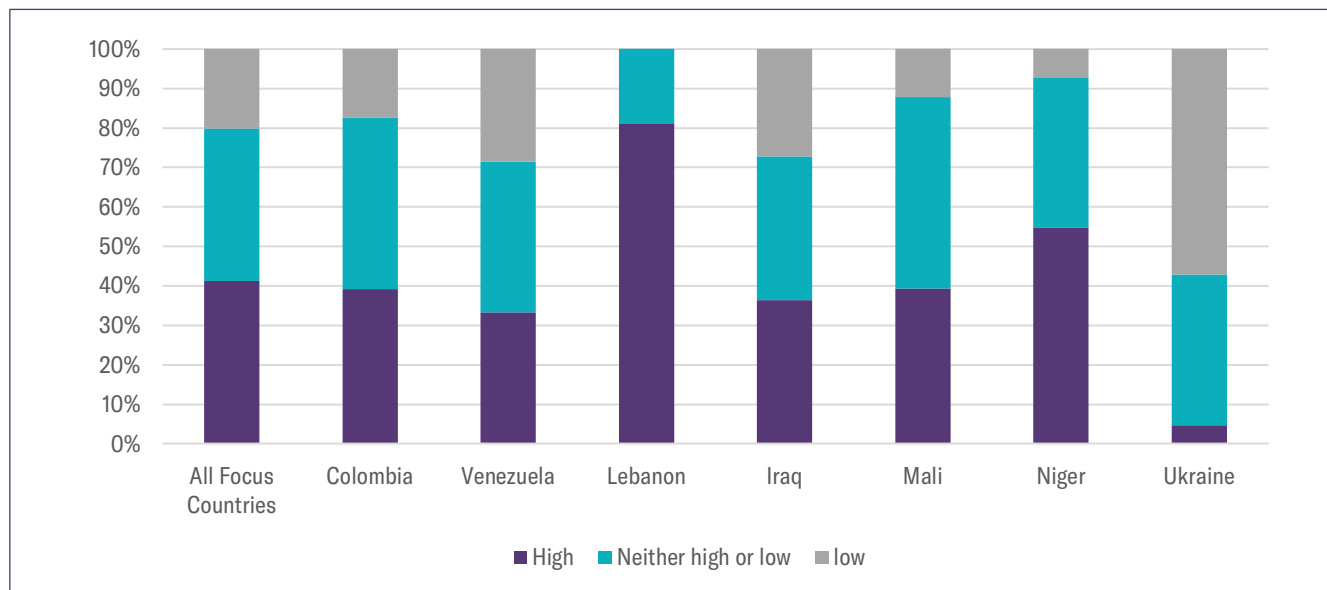
WLOs are playing an important role in advocating for the CTA's implementation at the local and regional levels with governments and other stakeholders not only through CAFI but also with other GBV networks. One participant noted that WLOs are increasingly making their voices heard in the CTA. At the local level, WLOs have also made vital contributions to the CTA global roadmap commitments, as they have followed through and achieved some of the concrete commitments in their communities.

Recent changes to the CTA's global governance structure demonstrate the growing recognition of the vital role of WLOs and potentially signify a shift towards greater representation and leadership of WLOs at the global level. First, WLOs played a critical role in the revision of the CTA governance package by providing insightful input and engaging in advocacy efforts. Their involvement in this process reflects a commitment to a more inclusive process. Second, two WLO representatives – Arab Women's Organization (AWO) and Association Himaya Daeem Aataa (HDA) – were elected as co-chairs of the NGO Working Group, with terms spanning from 2022-2024 and 2023-2025 respectively. Their membership in the steering committee grants them direct influence in decision-making and governance processes, ensuring that the voices and needs of local communities are represented at the highest levels. In addition, the participation of WLOs in the CTA Annual Partners' Meetings is vital and provides very important input and contribution.

While these steps are positive, participants noted that WLOs' role in the CTA, particularly in leadership roles, is still limited at the global level and it does not reflect the outsized role WLOs play in GBV programming and response at the local and regional levels.

Among the WLOs who are part of the CAFI networks in focus countries in Phase II, levels of knowledge of and engagement with the CTA are relatively low. Less than half of WLOs (41%) reported having a high level of knowledge of the CTA at the beginning of Phase II and 20% reported low levels of knowledge (see Figure 4). There are a few notable outliers. In Lebanon, levels of knowledge of the CTA are relatively high, with approximately 80% of WLOs rating their knowledge as high and none rating it as low. In Niger, over half of the WLOs (55%) reported high knowledge of the CTA. And in Ukraine, one of the new CAFI countries, knowledge of the CTA among WLOs is very low; only 5% reported a high level of knowledge of the CTA and over half rated their knowledge as low (57%).

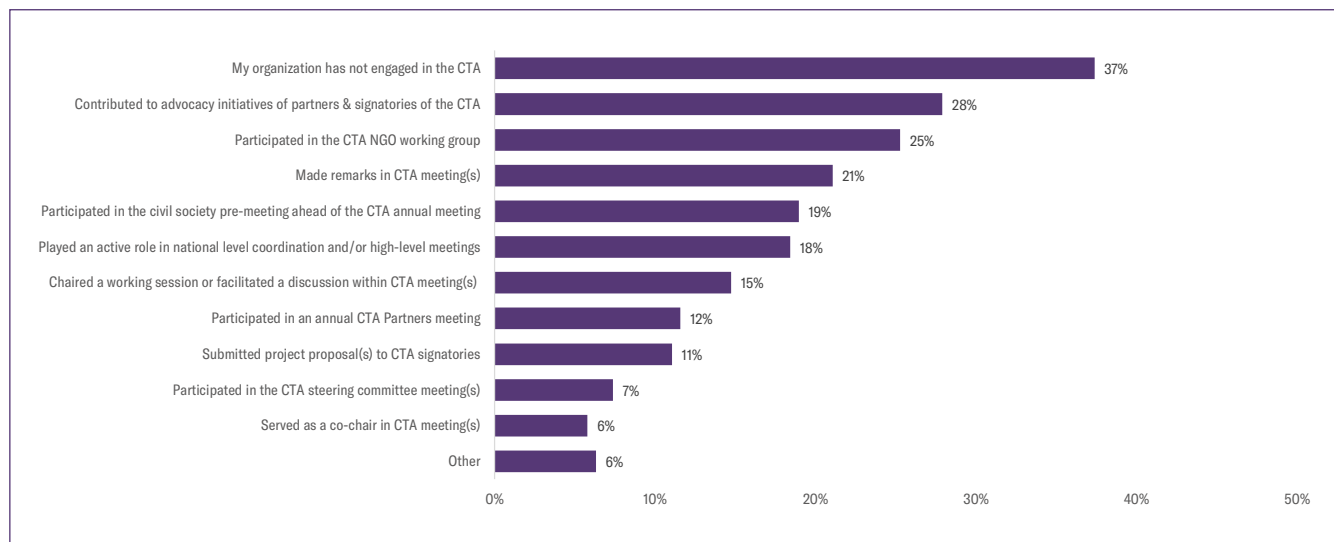
**Figure 4. WLOs’ knowledge of the CTA (n=190)**



Over half of the organizations (63%) report engagement in the CTA in the last three years; however, the number of organizations playing leadership roles is relatively low (see Figure 5). For example, 21% of WLOs have made remarks in a CTA meeting, 18% have played an active role in coordination at the national level, 15% have chaired a working session or facilitated a discussion, and 6% have served as a co-chair in a CTA meeting. In addition, only 25% of the WLOs have participated in the NGO Working Group, 12% in the CTA Partners meeting, 7% in the CTA steering committee and 19% in the civil society meeting ahead of the annual meeting.

The level of engagement appears to be higher in countries that were part of CAFI Phase I, but there are variations among WLOs within these countries as well. For example, in Lebanon WLOs actively participate in the NGO Working Group and CTA steering committee and have played leadership roles at national and global levels. Notably, WLOs have chaired working sessions or facilitated discussions (37.5%), participated in the NGO Working Group (37.5%), and played an active role in coordination meetings at the national level (37.5%). In Iraq, organizations vary in their participation, with some actively engaging in CTA meetings and serving as focal points (i.e., 30% participated in the NGO working group), while approximately one-third of WLOs do not participate at all. As mentioned in the limitations section above, there is evidence of overreporting in some of the CTA specific responses. For example, 25% reported participation in the CTA NGO Working Group, when only five organizations are eligible, as CTA signatories, to be part of this group. Levels of knowledge and engagement are likely even lower than they appear in the results above. While the overreporting could signal bias in the responses, it seems more likely to be a basic misunderstanding of the CTA among some WLOs and/or confusion between the CTA and the CAFI project itself.

**Figure 5. WLOs' engagement in the implementation of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies in the last three years (n=190)**



## WLO Signatories to the CTA

Only five WLOs are currently signatories to the CTA, despite the fact that multiple WLOs, including at least three CAFI partners, have submitted applications to become CTA signatories. Multiple WLOs raised concerns, describing the process as slow and unresponsive, with organizations still waiting for a reply months after submitting their application. These delays, which began in 2022 and persisted through the transition between CTA leads, have significantly hampered WLO participation and engagement. Limited capacity and unclear processes were the main reason for the delay in processing the WLOs' applications, as reading and reviewing many applications then formulating a vote takes a lot of time and effort especially with the unclear governance package regarding the processes and workflow. The process is delayed further in cases where the application needs to be modified or the commitments reformulated to meet the eligibility requirements. At the same time, several WLOs in the CAFI network are interested in becoming signatories; in the survey, the majority of WLOs who have not yet applied reported that they are interested in doing so. According to CTA leadership, the steering committee has formulated a solution to accelerate the process and there are plans in place to process more WLO signatories in early 2024.

## Challenges and Gaps

Despite the significant progress in recent years, participants report that the meaningful participation of WLOs within the CTA faces ongoing challenges. First, WLOs feel that there is a lingering lack of trust and underestimation of their capabilities among some stakeholders. This translates at times to a feeling that WLOs' inclusion is merely a box-ticking exercise, rather than a genuine commitment to harnessing their expertise. Second, a top-down approach persists in the interactions between WLOs and certain actors, particularly INGOs. This approach fails to recognize and leverage the unique perspectives and contributions of WLOs, hindering their ability to fully participate in decision-making and program implementation.

Furthermore, WLOs face various challenges to participating in the CTA, other GBV mechanisms and global conferences and networking events (see Figure 6). The barriers most frequently mentioned by WLOs in the CAFI focus countries include the following:

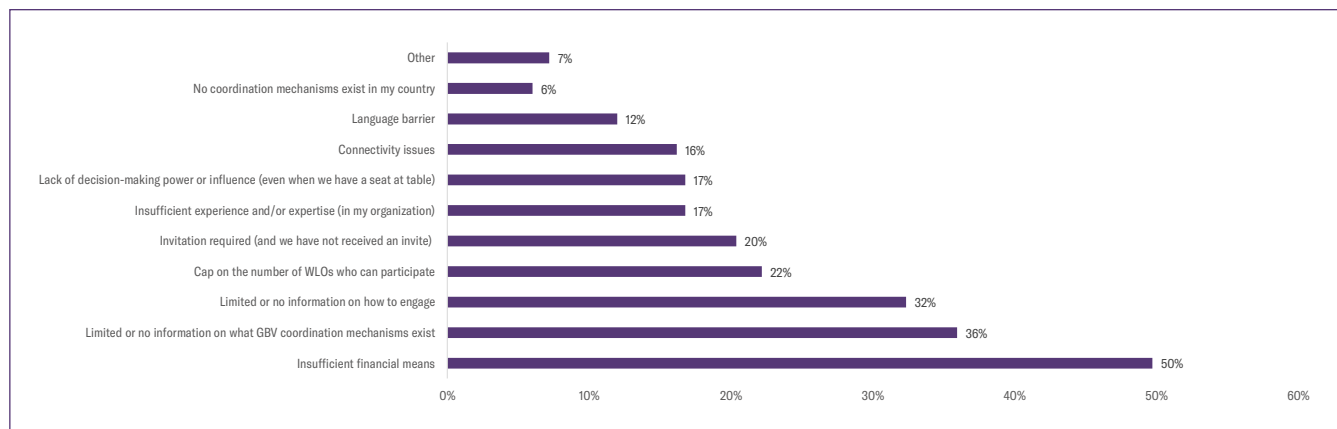
**Insufficient financial means:** This is the challenge most frequently reported by WLOs (50% of organizations) and is among the primary challenges reported by WLOs in most CAFI countries (Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Ukraine, Venezuela). According to WLOs, they do not have sufficient personnel and/or funds to cover the associated expenses (e.g., travel expenses, visa fees, equipment and/or internet service for online meetings) required to participate in GBV coordination mechanisms and/or global conferences.

**Limited information on GBV mechanisms and/or how to engage in them:** Approximately one-third of WLOs reported the lack of information on what GBV mechanisms exist and/or how to engage in them as one of the most significant challenges they face. This is a primary challenge in all CAFI countries. WLOs need basic information on the mechanisms available and practical guidance on how to engage.

**Restrictions set on WLO participation:** Approximately 20% of WLOs reported challenges in participating in GBV Coordination mechanisms due to invitation requirements and/or caps on the number of WLOs who can participate. In Iraq and Lebanon specifically, while many WLOs have been able to participate in coordination mechanisms, many others still cite these impediments specifically as limiting their engagement. In addition, some participants noted gatekeeping practices that do not welcome WLOs to participate and reach out to states and donors. While some think there have been some improvements in this area, they say more needs to be done to address this issue, particularly with INGOs that are restricting WLOs from reaching out and contacting donors directly.

In addition, some WLOs also reported insufficient internal experience or expertise, a lack of decision-making power or influence for WLOs in the mechanisms, connectivity issues, and language barriers. The last challenge, language barriers, stems from two core issues: (1) lack (or limited options) of translation of materials and communications, particularly in local indigenous languages or sign languages; and (2) the use of technical terms in English, acronyms and other references that many WLOs representatives are not familiar with.

**Figure 6. Challenges WLO/WROs face in engaging in GBV coordination mechanisms at the local, national, regional and/or global levels (n=167)**



### Key Lessons

While it was not a specific question in the survey or interviews, multiple WLOs called on the CTA to move away from top-down management and embrace a partnership-based approach that recognizes the expertise and leadership of WLOs. This involves co-creating solutions, sharing responsibilities, and ensuring WLOs have a voice in decision-making. This requires relinquishing control and empowering WLOs to lead and manage their own initiatives. It means acknowledging that WLOs are capable and effective organizations, deserving of trust and autonomy.

They emphasized that it is not simply about engaging WLOs as implementers, but actively involving them in strategic discussions and leveraging their expertise in a collective exercise. Genuine willingness to listen to the voices and perspectives of WLOs is paramount. This means actively seeking their input on program design, implementation, and monitoring, and adapting approaches based on their feedback. It also means recognizing that WLOs possess deep understanding of local contexts and the needs of their communities, making their insights invaluable. One WLO representative noted that this will also require initiative among WLOs to express the needs and hold others accountable.

In addition, some WLOs who are new to CAFI expressed that they expect and hope to see this approach also reflected in the implementation of the CAFI project itself. Specifically, this includes a common framework of principles and values to guide their interactions as a group, participatory leadership approaches, grounding in equity and inclusion, clear work plans, and a fair and transparent distribution of resources.

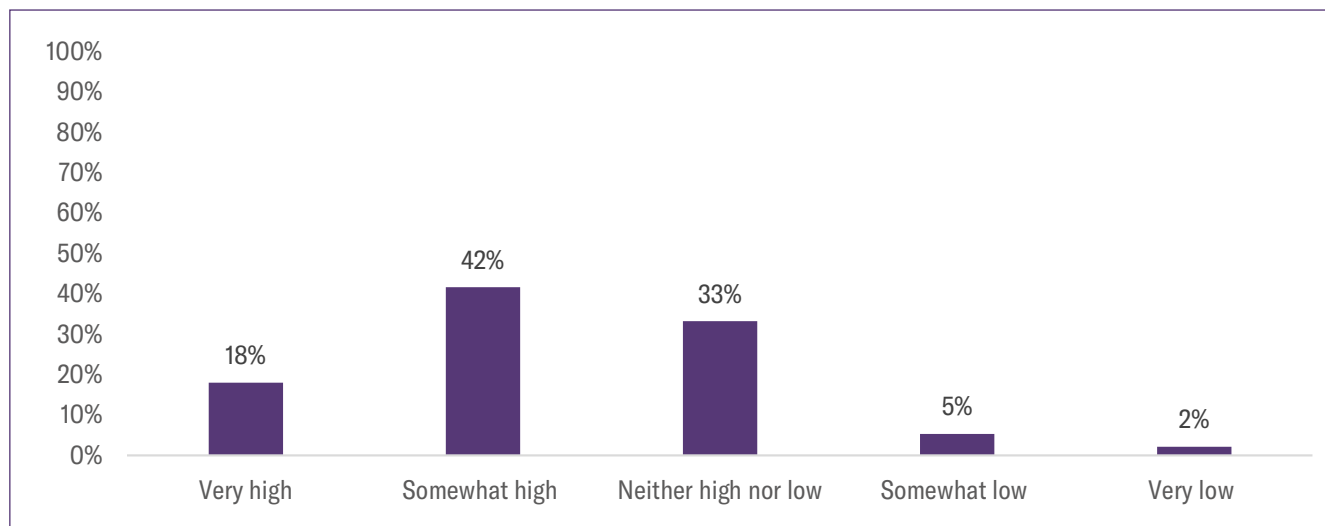
## WLO Capacity

### Current Capacity

Overall, WLOs in the CAFI network have strong experience and technical capacity in GBV prevention and programming; however, there are variations among and within the focus countries in terms of levels of capacity. Furthermore, WLOs, even those who rated themselves highly, identified multiple areas for which additional capacity strengthening is needed. Over half (60%) of WLOs in the network rate their organizations' technical capacity of GBV prevention and response programming highly (18% very high and 42% somewhat high), but one-third of the organizations (33%) were neutral in their response, saying their technical capacity is neither high nor low. 7% rated their capacity as low (see Figure 7).

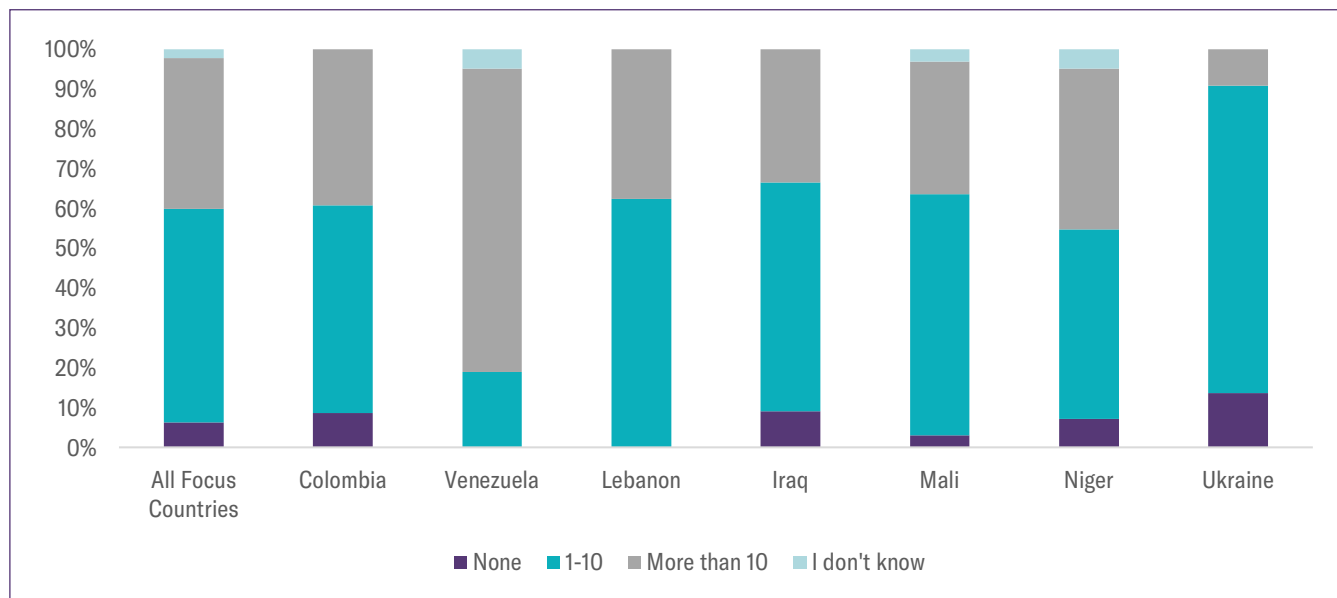
Nearly all of the organizations in the network (92%) have at least one staff member who has received formal training in topics related to GBV (see Figure 8). Among these organizations, 38% reported that more than ten staff have received formal training, which suggests they have made an intentional investment in building expertise within their organization. Slightly over half of WLOs (54%) reported one to ten staff members have received formal training. In addition to formal training, WLOs noted the importance of experience and ongoing work in strengthening the capacity of their organization.

**Figure 7. Technical capacity of WLOs in the CAFI network on GBV prevention and response programming, self reported (n=190)**



There is variation among and within the focus countries. Venezuelan WLOs reported high levels of technical capacity, with over 80% of the organizations rating their capacity as high. They attributed this to their frequent training processes (76% have more than ten staff members who have received formal training in GBV) and the professional quality of their staff, as well as the work their organizations do in local communities and with State organizations. In Mali, only 40% of WLOs rated their technical capacity as high. In Ukraine, while half of the WLOs rated their technical capacity as high and three-quarters have at least one staff member who has received formal training in GBV, 14% of WLOs have no staff with formal training and very few have more than ten formally trained staff. The reasons for this include that many staff have only completed online webinars or short-term training sessions, some WLOs operate with volunteers and have no permanent staff, and many WLOs are new to the work on GBV issues, getting involved as a result of the war, therefore, they hire psychologists and other trained professionals with formal training but who lack GBV specific training.

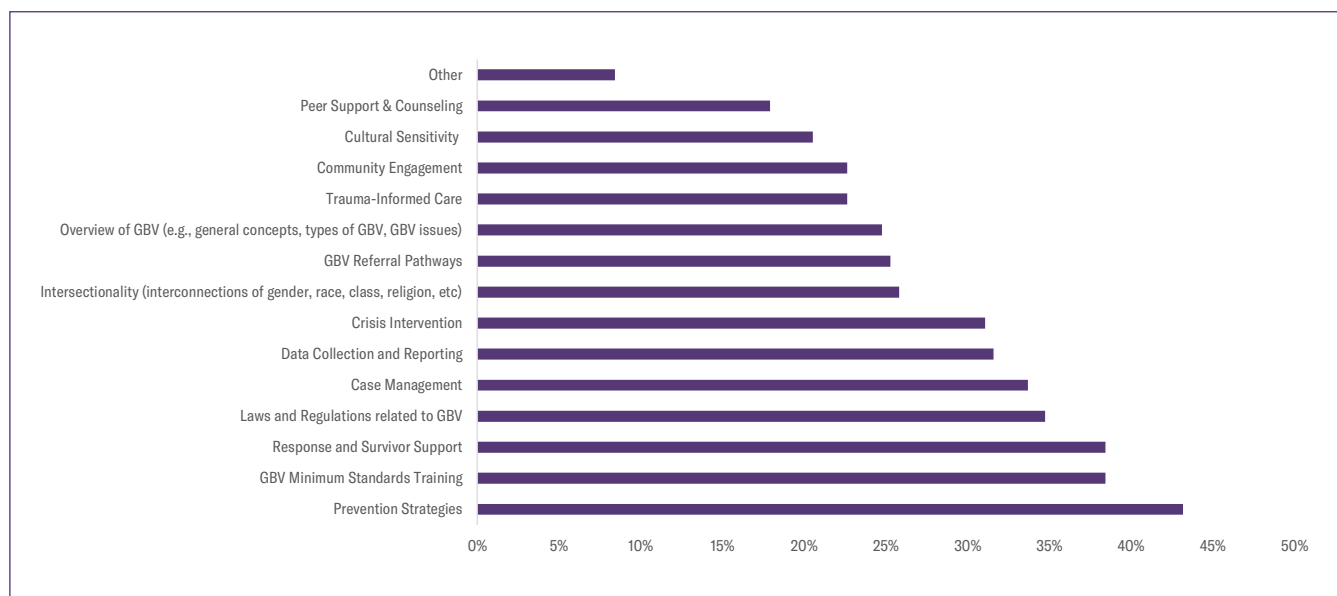
**Figure 8. Number of WLO staff and volunteers who have received formal training in topics related to GBV (n=190)**



### Challenges and Gaps

WLOs identified a diverse set of needs for capacity strengthening support (see Figure 9). Looking across the seven countries, the topics WLOs identified most frequently include Prevention Strategies (43%), GBV Minimum Standards (38%), Response and Survivor Support (38%), Laws and Regulations related to GBV (35%), Case Management (34%), Data Collection & Reporting (32%), and Crisis Intervention (31%).

**Figure 9. Areas for which additional training/capacity strengthening is most useful, according to WLOs (n = 190)**



WLOs also reported the following GBV topics as useful areas of training: Intersectionality (interconnections of gender, race, class, religion, etc.) (26%), Trauma-Informed Care (23%), Community Engagement (23%), Cultural Sensitivity (21%), and Peer Support & Counseling (18%). In addition to GBV-related topics, WLOs in multiple countries also emphasized the need for capacity strengthening in areas related to the operation of their organization and management of projects, such as organizational development, fundraising (including access to regional and/or international funds), financial management, and project design and management.

WLOs provided some suggestions for the delivery of the capacity support in Phase II, including focusing on content that aligns with the local reality to ensure relevance to the WLOs; providing access to information and tools that take into consideration different needs and abilities, particularly when working with organizations of women with disabilities; and providing opportunities for WLOs to exchange experiences with others.

It is important to note that there was variation between countries in terms of the areas of training that are most useful to WLOs in each national network.

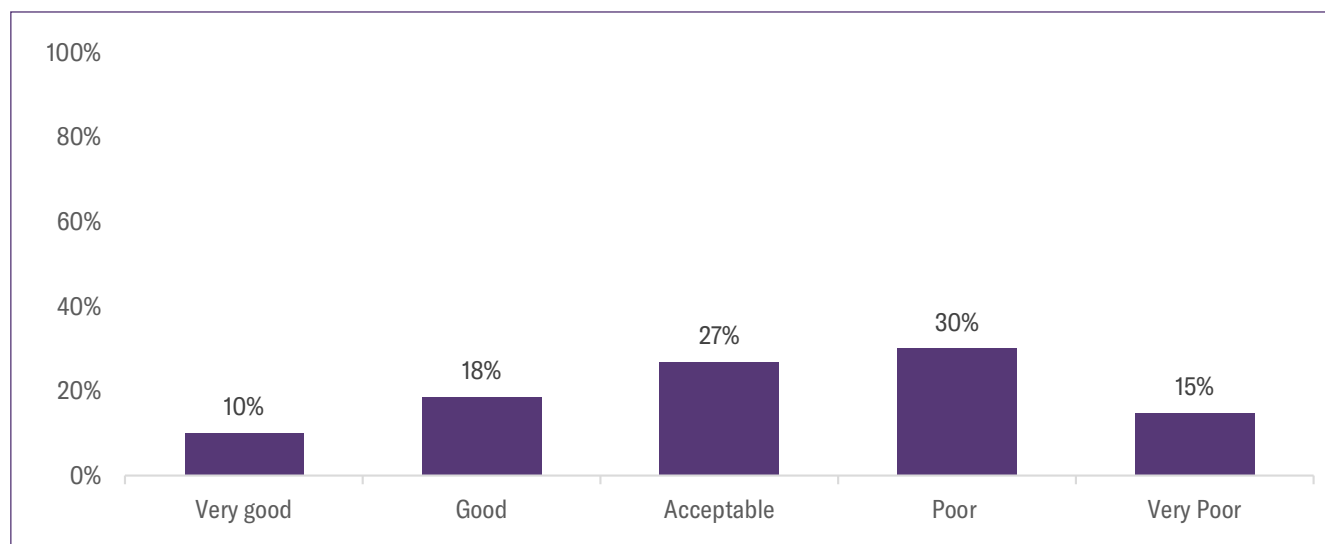
## WLOs' Access to Humanitarian Funding

### Current Access

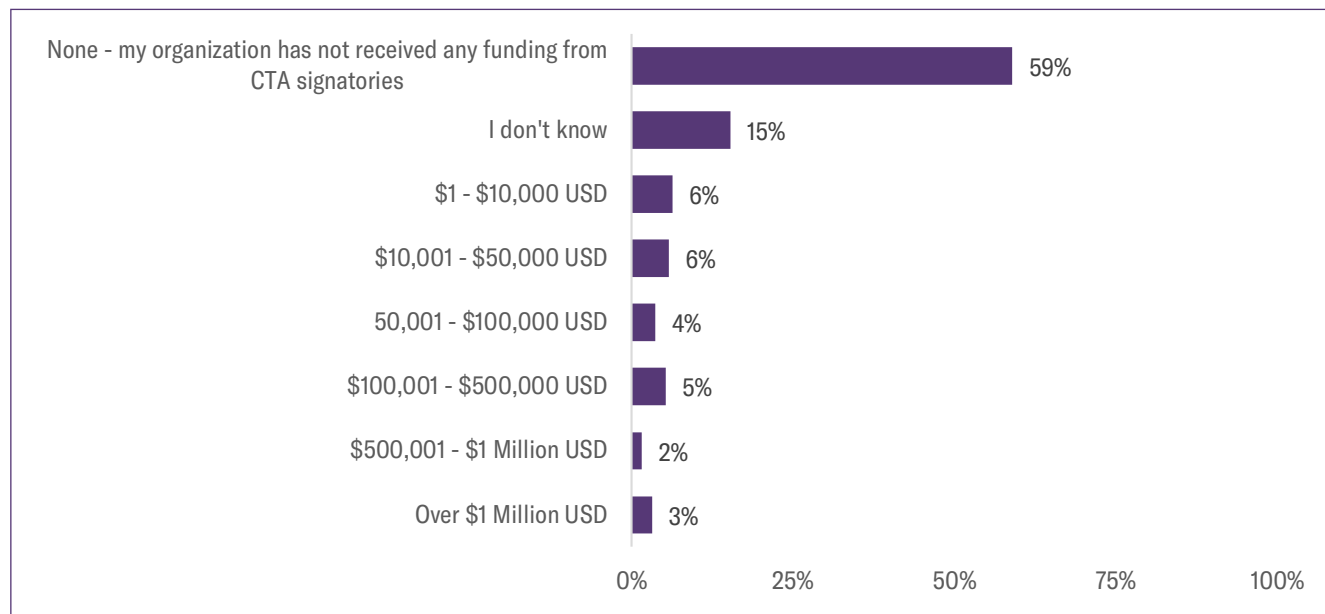
Many WLOs still lack sufficient funding and/or access to humanitarian funding, particularly long-term funding, which they require to maintain their independence and reach greater impact. Many participants noted the need for WLOs to be empowered not only with the resources they need, but the trust and autonomy that would allow them to access funding for their work.

Limited or lack of access to humanitarian funding for GBV (e.g., pooled funding, UN agency funding, bilateral donor funding) is a significant issue for many WLOs in the focus countries. Nearly half of the WLOs reported having poor or very poor access to funding (30% and 15% respectively) and approximately one-quarter of WLOs believe their access to funding is acceptable (see Figure 10). Only 28% described their access to funding good or very good. The majority of WLOs (72%) have been in direct contact with at least one donor and have submitted applications to at least one funding call on the topic of GBV and women's rights in the last three years. At the same time, nearly 60% of WLOs reported that they did not receive any funding from CTA signatories in 2021 and/or 2022 and 15% said they are unsure (see Figure 11). Among the remaining WLOs who have received funding from signatories (25%), the amounts they have received are wide ranging from \$10,000 or less to over \$1 million USD (see Figure 11).

**Figure 10. WLO respondents' rating of their organization's access to humanitarian funding (e.g., pooled funding, UN agency funding, bilateral donor funding) (n=190)**



**Figure 11. Amount of funding WLOs received from CTA signatories in 2021 and 2022 (n=190)**



Many WLOs, particularly small, local organizations, report that they are not able to access humanitarian funding due to several factors, including not meeting the minimum requirements (e.g., legal registration, certain banking routes, certain organizational policies) and lacking dedicated staff to prepare proposals, carry out evaluations, etc. In addition, in some cases such as in Ukraine, many WLOs are nascent or small organizations and, therefore, have no large projects in their portfolio, which makes it difficult for them to receive funding from large global funds. As a result, funding is generally given to international or larger national organizations; therefore, for many WLOs access to financing is through other larger organizations or through partnerships or consortia with international organizations. In Venezuela, for example, OCHA has promoted the formation of consortia as a strategy for the incorporation of local organizations. For those who have accessed some funding, oftentimes the amounts allocated are not sufficient to support the GBV activities.

On the other hand, approximately one-quarter of the WLOs reported having good or very good access to funding. For example, in Iraq, some organizations cited successful engagements with various international organizations (e.g., UN Women, Norwegian People's Aid, Lutheran World Federation, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam, Tearfund, the German Development Agency [GIZ], and International Organization for Migration [IOM]) and collaborations with additional organizations (e.g., Norwegian Church Aid, Cordaid), which demonstrate their ability to secure grants and diversify funding sources. These organizations stressed the importance of a clear vision, alignment with organizational goals, and maintaining independence as factors contributing to their success in accessing funding.

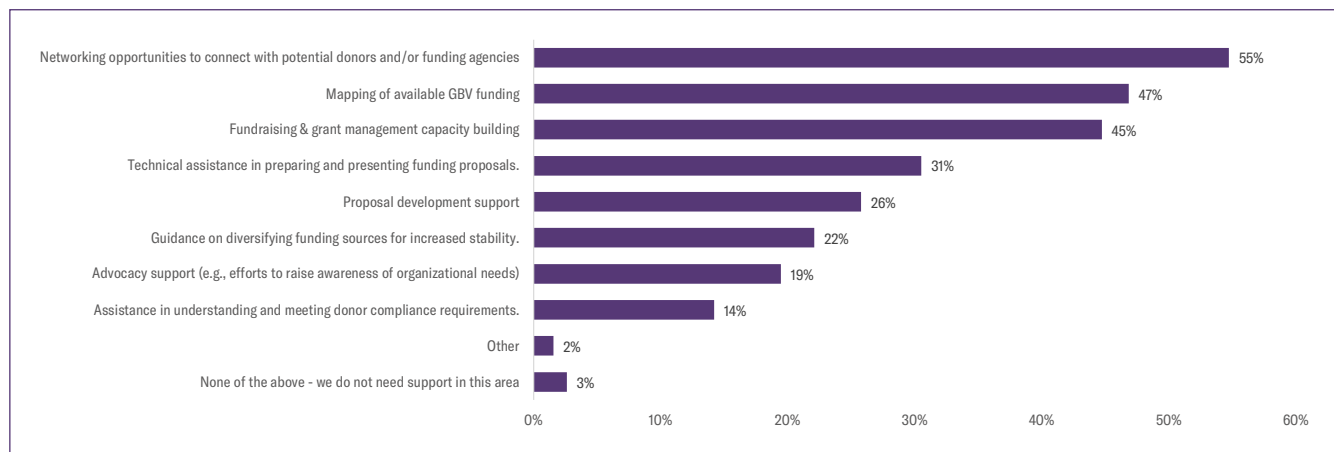
### Support Needed by WLOs

While there are variations among WLOs, the most common areas of support WLOs say they need to improve their access to humanitarian funding for GBV are (1) Networking opportunities to connect with potential donors and/or funding agencies (55%), (2) Mapping of available GBV funding (47%), and (3) Fundraising and grant management capacity strengthening (45%). In the interviews, WLOs shared that funding from large global funds is often unavailable or complicated due to lack of awareness of such available sources of funding, lack of qualification in grant writing, and language barriers. Funding is usually advertised and required in English and there are no translation options for local languages that might limit the funding opportunities for WLOs.

Around one-quarter of WLOs also need technical assistance in preparing and presenting funding proposals, proposal development support and guidance on diversifying funding sources for increased stability. This work of formulating proposals is a challenge for organizations, as it requires time and resources, and often must be carried out voluntarily (in cases when the organization does not have any source of institutional funding).



**Figure 12. Areas of support WLOs need most to improve their access to humanitarian funding (respondents were asked to choose up to three areas)**



## Systemic Barriers and Lack of Trust

In addition to the practical challenges WLOs face, there are systemic barriers that are also inhibiting their access to humanitarian funding. According to study participants, there is a sense of distrust of WLOs among donors and INGOs, which even appear to be threatened by the prospect of WLOs receiving direct funding, resulting in them further undermining WLOs' credibility and access to resources. Furthermore, donors face challenges funding WLOs directly due to internal restrictions and capacity issues. For example, WLO respondents perceive that there have been instances when donors could have funded WLOs, but they decided it was not worth the effort or they did not have the capacity to do the work required for a small grant. In addition, when WLOs need to go through a due diligence process, this can take a long time and require funding itself.

According to participants, CAFI can also play an important role in influencing INGOs, donors and other stakeholders to make changes that will increase WLOs' access to humanitarian funding. Suggestions included getting more involved with international organizations such as UN Women and UNFPA at the local level to position WLOs (their work and their leadership) in key humanitarian coordination decision-making spaces, and investing in trust-building activities with INGOs, such as the following:

- WLOs can bolster trust by demonstrating transparency in their financial management and reporting mechanisms. Regular audits and clear communication about resource allocation can help overcome concerns about their ability to handle direct funding responsibly.
- Strengthening the skills and knowledge of WLO leaders through training programs and mentorship initiatives can enhance their proficiency in project management, financial planning, and reporting. This will equip them with the tools necessary to effectively utilize direct funding and achieve desired outcomes.
- Building bridges between WLOs and INGOs. Joint initiatives, knowledge exchange programs, and co-creation of projects can foster trust and understanding, dispelling misconceptions and promoting a more collaborative environment.
- Engaging influential actors, such as donors, policymakers, and other humanitarian leaders, in dialogue about the importance of direct funding for WLOs, thus amplifying their voices and perspectives and leading to greater understanding and support.
- Highlighting the impactful work and achievements of WLOs that have received direct funding can serve as a powerful tool for demonstrating their capabilities and effectiveness. This can inspire confidence in their potential and encourage others to support direct funding initiatives.

# Recommendations

This section highlights recommendations for the CAFI team to consider in Phase II, based on the findings above.

## Areas of Focus for Advocacy

Based on the baseline results, the following changes are required to improve WLOs' representation, leadership, and influence in GBV coordination mechanisms and to ensure accountability of the results of these efforts to women and girls in emergencies. These changes require action to be taken by external actors (i.e., CTA leadership, donors, governments); CAFI can continue to play an important role in raising these issues, collaborating with others to identify solutions, and in some cases playing a leadership role in the activities.

### CTA & other GBV Coordination Mechanisms:

- **Improve representation and leadership of WLOs.** Bridge the gap in the number of WLOs involved in coordination efforts, while also ensuring meaningful participation and diverse representation. Within the CTA, review and revise the governance structure to foster greater inclusivity among WLOs and to increase the number of WLOs playing leadership roles.

### CTA Leadership & Signatories:

- **Improve accountability mechanisms related to the implementation of the CTA Roadmap,** including more consistent data collection and transparency.
- **Prioritize WLO application processing:** Streamline and prioritize the review and approval process for new WLO applications. Implement clear timelines and dedicate resources to ensure timely completion.
- **Shift towards a partnership-based approach:** In the operations of the CTA, move away from top-down management and embrace a partnership-based approach that recognizes the expertise and leadership of WLOs.
- **Form regional networks (cross-country and cross-continent)** through a collaboration within the CTA NGO working group to leverage knowledge and experience sharing and to organize advocacy initiatives towards states and donors. This collaboration should involve joint planning, co-creation of solutions, and shared decision-making.

### Donors:

- **Increase humanitarian funding to WLOs for GBV work,** addressing the key barriers that have inhibited WLO access to funding. Consider activities to increase understanding of the actual capacities of WLOs and to explore opportunities to create additional pathways for funding WLOs.

## Support to CAFI Network WLOs

The following recommendations include areas of focus that CAFI Phase II partners should prioritize in their implementation of the project based on the baseline findings.

### Develop a comprehensive and tailored capacity strengthening approach, considering lessons from Phase I:

Continue to prioritize capacity strengthening with a focus on empowering WLOs with the skills and experience needed to address the complexities of gender-based violence effectively and contribute actively to decision-making processes within coordination mechanisms. Due to the variations among country contexts, this will require tailored plans for each country that cover a comprehensive set of topics that are most useful to the WLOs involved.

Based on the lessons from Phase I, consider providing training to new staff and refreshers for others on essential topics previously covered and certification for Training of Trainers (ToT) in order to equip WLOs to take on roles as trainers themselves, enhancing their capacity and increasing reach.

**Prioritize efforts aimed at building the independence and sustainability of WLOs:** As the lack of funding is a critical issue for many WLOs in terms of their ability to participate in GBV coordination mechanisms and overall sustainability, prioritize the three areas of support WLOs identified as most needed: networking opportunities to connect with potential donors and/or funding agencies, mapping of available GBV funding, and fundraising and grant management capacity strengthening. In the development of capacity-strengthening activities, consider areas of institutional capacity strengthening emphasized by WLOs.

In addition, explore avenues for providing financial support to WLOs, enabling their active involvement in coordination mechanisms, projects, and events. This includes allocating overhead funding for WLOs to have better and more flexible resources that will allow them to be more active in the advocacy and coordination working group. It also includes allocating funding for WLOs' participation in global meetings to enable their inclusion whether through CAFI or the CTA as well as including the embassies in the process of supporting WLOs in accessing funds and connecting with other organizations and international workflows.

**Enhance networking opportunities:** In addition to providing networking opportunities with donors, facilitate increased interaction and collaboration among WLOs to leverage collective experiences and expertise. This was a valuable aspect of CAFI Phase I and was mentioned by WLOs in multiple countries as something they would find useful in Phase II. In addition, create opportunities for WLOs to connect with state and global actors (e.g., UN) at the local level, to help them position themselves as key GBV actors to be included and called upon in decision-making spaces.

**Create trust-building initiatives:** Foster trust and understanding between WLOs and other stakeholders (e.g., donors, INGOs, CTA leadership) through dialogue, joint planning, and capacity-strengthening initiatives. This will create a more collaborative and supportive environment for all actors.

**Provide accessible information and regular updates:** Since lack of information is one of the key barriers WLOs face in participating in GBV Coordination Mechanisms and accessing funding, develop clear communication channels to disseminate comprehensive and accessible information on relevant GBV initiatives, resources, and opportunities to WLOs. A mapping of the coordination spaces at the national and subnational level is recommended, in addition to the mapping of funding sources noted above. In addition, provide regular updates (e.g., reports, newsletters) on the CAFI project to ensure that WLOs are well-informed on the project's progress and challenges.

## CAFI Implementation

CAFI Partners and WLOs in the focus country networks identified the following suggestions and expectations of how the CAFI work will be implemented.

**Create a participatory, inclusive, and transparent network:** Continue to represent the ideals CAFI advocates for externally by fostering a collaborative network of WLOs that is based on mutual respect, inclusivity, equal participation, and shared decision-making in Phase II. Consider the suggestion raised by some WLOs to agree on shared values and principles that will guide the work of the network.

**Explore innovative engagement strategies:** To overcome challenges related to participation and representation, continue to explore new ways of engaging with WLOs. This could involve leveraging digital platforms, facilitating accessible meetings, and fostering a sense of belonging among diverse WLOs.

**Provide periodic assessments:** Implementing periodic assessments throughout Phase II will provide real-time feedback, enabling adjustments to strategies and interventions as needed, and ensure that the project remains responsive to evolving needs and challenges. At minimum, consider organizing a mid-term meeting of CAFI partners to assess the overall progress of the project and identify any adjustments required.

**Allow flexibility and adaptation:** As organizations face dynamic political and economic situations, CAFI Phase II should continue to integrate flexibility into its approach. Adaptations to changing circumstances will be crucial to maintaining the relevance and effectiveness of initiatives.

# Annexes

## Annex A. Acronyms

AWO:	Arab Women Organization
CAFI:	Call to Action Field Implementation
CBPF:	Country-Based Pooled Funds
CEDAW:	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
COFEF:	Coalition of Women and Girls against GBV
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
CTA:	Call To Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies
DFJ:	Dynamique des Femmes Juristes
ECHO:	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV:	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS:	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GFFO:	German Federal Foreign Office
HDA:	Himaya Daeem Aataa
IDPs:	Internally Displaced Persons
IGA:	Income Generating Activities
INGO:	International Non-Governmental Organization
LGBTI:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MENA:	Middle East and North Africa
MoSA:	Ministry of Social Affairs
NAP:	National Action Plan
NCA:	Norwegian Church Aid
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA:	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDEF:	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP:	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WLO:	Women-Led Organization

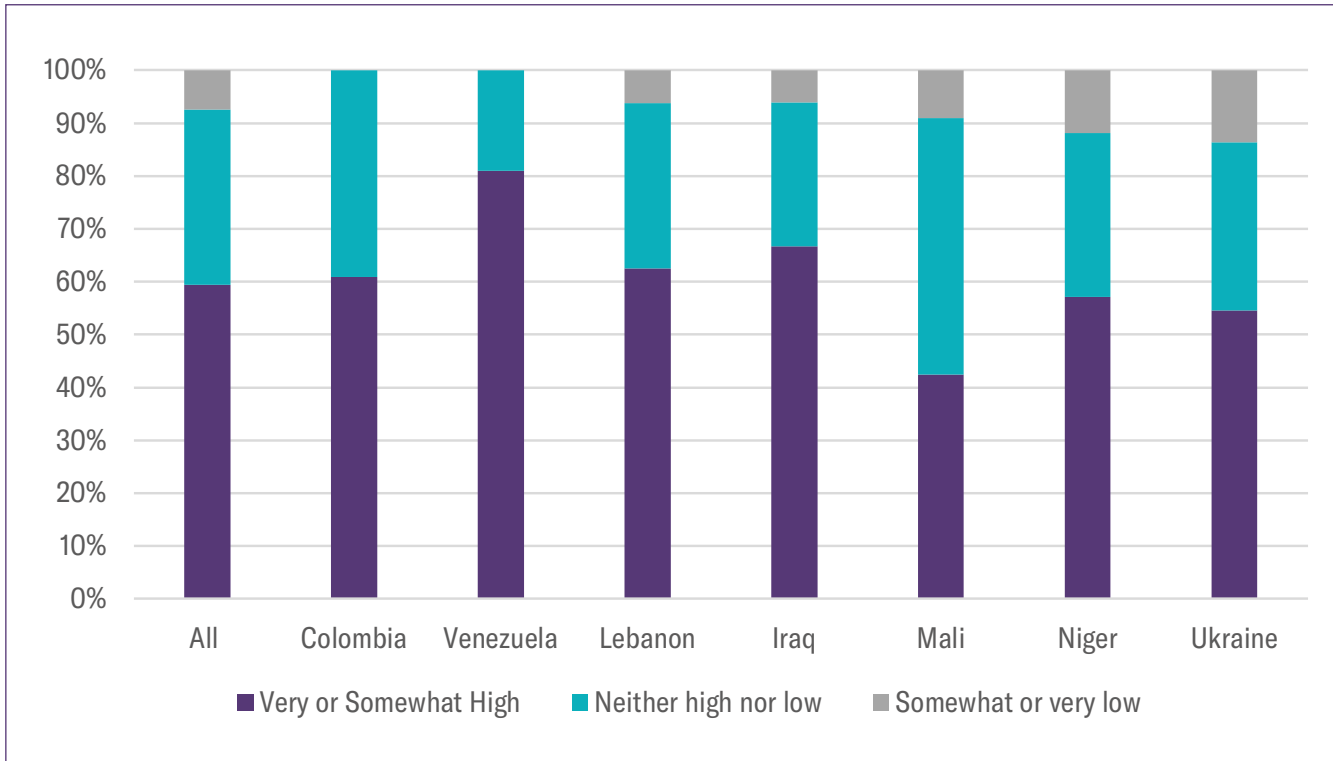
## Annex B. Indicators Tracking Table

Output	Indicator	Baseline
1. Catalyzing increased representation and leadership of women and girls, specifically women's organizations, in decision making structures and the delivery of humanitarian aid	# of WLOs taking a leading role (making remarks, chairing work sessions, facilitating discussions) in CTA meetings	40 WLOs (21%) <i>The actual number is likely much lower due to overreporting to the CTA survey questions.</i>
2. Amplify GBV expertise: Scaling existing capacity of WLOs to prioritize, design, staff, implement and coordinate GBV prevention and response programming, as a core function of humanitarian action	% of WLOs reporting increased GBV technical capacity as a result of capacity-strengthening and cross-learning events during 2023-2025  Baseline: WLO rating of their technical capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very High: 18% (34)</li> <li>• Somewhat High: 42% (79)</li> <li>• Neither High nor Low: 33% (63)</li> <li>• Somewhat Low: 5% (10)</li> <li>• Very Low: 2% (4)</li> </ul>
	# of GBV project proposals submitted by WLOs to CTA signatories during 2023-2025	21 WLOs (11%) <i>It is likely that the actual number is lower, since we know of overreporting in other areas of engagement to the CTA</i>
3. Locally owned CTA collective action addresses the root causes of GBV and coordinate effective	# of WLOs that become CTA global partners	5 <i>The number reported in the survey was 34, but the actual number is 5.</i>
	# of WLOs reporting involvement in CTA NGO working-group	3

**Note:** The data collected from WLOs on their engagement in the CTA appears to be overreported. We believe this represents limited (and in some cases a lack of) understanding among many WLOs of the CTA and/or confusion between the CTA and the CAFI project.

## Annex C.

### Technical capacity of WLOs in the CAFI network on GBV prevention and response programming, by focus country (n=190)



## Annex D. Online survey used during baseline survey

### Introduction

Thank you so much for being part of the Call to Action Field Implementation (CAFI) project! The project works with women-led organizations across Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa to drive change and foster Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response in humanitarian emergencies.

The purpose of this survey is to provide a baseline for the work we will do together over the next two years. The results will be used to inform our detailed planning and to evaluate our progress in later years of the project.

Please be honest and open in your responses. We understand and expect that some of you will have limited experience with and knowledge of the Call to Action (CTA) and other aspects of the project since you are just beginning this work. It is important that we get an accurate summary of our network's current understanding and needs, so we can ensure our project is designed to meet your needs!

Your participation in the survey is completely voluntary. Your individual responses will not be shared with anyone outside of our team. Only compiled summary data of all responses will be shared with others.

Please complete the survey by [add deadline date]. It will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. If you have questions or technical issues with the survey, please contact [add name] at [add email address].

Thank you so much in advance for taking the time to complete this survey!

## Survey Questions

### Basic Information

1. **\*Name of your organization:**
  2. **\*Contact email of your organization:**
- \*Localization of your organization:**
3. **\*City:**
  4. **\*Country\*:**
  5. **\*Name and title of the person in charge of the organization:**

### Representation & Leadership of WLOs in GBV coordination mechanisms

6. **\*How, if at all, has your organization engaged in the following GBV Coordination mechanisms in the last three years?**

	Attended a meeting	Played a leadership or coordination role	No engagement	Not Applicable (N/A)
National government working groups or committees	●	●	●	●
GBV sub-clusters or working groups	●	●	●	●
Regional GBV working group	●	●	●	●
Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies (CTA)	●	●	●	●
Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GIHA)	●	●	●	●
Other:	●	●	●	●



**7. \*What are the primary challenges your organization faces in engaging in GBV coordination mechanisms at the local, national, regional and/or global levels? [choose up to three]**

- No coordination mechanisms exist in my country
- Limited or no information on what GBV coordination mechanisms exist
- Limited or no information on how to engage
- Invitation required (and we have not received an invite)
- Insufficient financial means
- Connectivity issues
- Language barrier
- Cap on the number of WLOs who can participate
- Lack of decision-making power or influence (even when we have a seat at table)
- Insufficient experience and/or expertise (in my organization)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. What support does your organization need to overcome these challenges? [open-ended]**

**9. Which of the following global conferences and/or networking events has your organization participated in over the last three years? [check all that apply]**

- Women Deliver
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)
- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI)
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- European Humanitarian Forum
- Women, Peace and Security
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Call to Action

**10. \*Rate your organization's level of knowledge of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies (CTA).**

- Very high
- Somewhat high
- Neither high or low
- Somewhat low
- Very low

**11. \*How, if at all, has your organization engaged in the implementation of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies in the last three years? [check all that apply]**

- My organization has not engaged in the CTA.
- Made remarks in CTA meeting(s)
- Served as a co-chair in CTA meeting(s)
- Chaired a working session or facilitated a discussion within CTA meeting(s)
- Contributed to advocacy initiatives of partners and signatories of the CTA at national and/or regional levels
- Played an active role in coordination meetings and/or high-level meetings on the CTA at the national level
- Participated in the civil society pre-meeting ahead of the CTA annual meeting
- Participated in the CTA NGO working group
- Participated in an annual CTA Partners meeting
- Participated in the CTA steering committee meeting(s)
- Submitted project proposal(s) to CTA signatories
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- 12. Based on what you know about the CTA, what do you like about the CTA? What gaps or challenges do you see? What would you like to see from the CTA going forward? [open-ended]**
- 13. Which of the following best describes your organization?**
- My organization is a signatory of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies (CTA)
  - My organization has applied to be a signatory of the CTA (but have not yet been approved).
  - My organization is interested in being a signatory of the CTA. We have not yet applied.
  - My organization is not interested in being a signatory of the CTA.

## Contact with Donors & Access to funding

- 14. \*Has your organization been in direct contact with at least one donor on the topic of GBV and women's rights in the last three years?**
- Yes
  - No
- 15. How many applications did your organization submit to GBV funding calls in the last three years?**
- None
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - More than 5
- 16. \*How much, if any, funding did your organization receive from CTA signatories in 2021 and/or 2022 (a list of signatories can be found here)?**
- None - my organization has not received any funding from CTA signatories
  - \$1 - \$10,000 USD
  - \$10,001 - \$50,000 USD
  - 50,001 - \$100,000 USD
  - \$100,001 - \$500,000 USD
  - \$500,001 - \$1 Million USD
  - Over \$1 Million USD
- 17. \*How would you rate your organization's current level of access to humanitarian funding for GBV (e.g., pooled funding, UN agency funding, bilateral donor funding)?**
- Very good
  - Good
  - Acceptable
  - Poor
  - Very poor
- 18. What support, if any, does your organization most need to improve your access to humanitarian funding for GBV? [Choose up to 3]**
- Mapping of available GBV funding
  - Proposal development support
  - Fundraising & grant management capacity building
  - Networking opportunities to connect with potential donors and/or funding agencies
  - Assistance in understanding and meeting donor compliance requirements.
  - Guidance on diversifying funding sources for increased stability.
  - Technical assistance in preparing and presenting funding proposals.
  - Advocacy support (e.g., efforts to raise awareness of organizational needs; support engaging with policymakers and influencers)
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - None of the above - we do not need support in this area

**19. \*Please rate your organization's technical capacity of GBV prevention and response programming.**

- Very high capacity
- Somewhat high capacity
- Neither high nor low
- Somewhat low capacity
- Very low capacity

**20. \*How many staff in your organization and volunteer network have received formal training in topics related to GBV?**

- None
- 1-3
- 4-6
- 7-10
- More than 10

**21. Which of the following areas have staff in your organization and volunteer network received training in? [check all that apply]**

- None - staff have not received training
- GBV Minimum Standards Training
- Case Management
- GBV Referral Pathways
- Overview of GBV (e.g., general concepts, types of GBV, GBV issues)
- Prevention Strategies
- Response and Survivor Support
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Laws and Regulations related to GBV
- Crisis Intervention
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Intersectionality (interconnections of gender, race, class, religion, etc)
- Data Collection and Reporting
- Community Engagement
- Peer Support & Counseling
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**22. Which of the following areas of training/capacity building would be most useful for your organization? Choose up to 5.**

- GBV Minimum Standards Training
- Case Management
- GBV Referral Pathways
- Overview of GBV (e.g., general concepts, types of GBV, GBV issues)
- Prevention Strategies
- Response and Survivor Support
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Laws and Regulations related to GBV
- Crisis Intervention
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Intersectionality (interconnections of gender, race, class, religion, etc)
- Data Collection and Reporting
- Community Engagement
- Peer Support & Counseling
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conclusion

**23. Is there anything else you would like to share with us? [open-ended]**

## Annex E: Semi-structured interview guide used during the baseline for interviews with WLOs in the CAFI focus countries

### Introduction

Thank you so much for making the time to talk with us. This interview is part of the baseline of Phase II of the Call to Action Field Implementation (CAFI) project. The project works with women-led organizations (WLOs) across Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, and the Middle East/North Africa to drive change and foster Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response in humanitarian emergencies.

The purpose of the baseline is to gather information that will inform our detailed planning for our work together in the next two years and establish where we are starting from in key areas of the project, which will help us to evaluate our progress in the future.

There are two ways we are gathering input from our WLO partners - one is an online survey, which your organization should have received, and the second is through interviews [OR a focus group] with key WLOs partners, which allow for more in-depth conversation. The information we gather will be summarized in a country report and included in a baseline report compiling the work of all countries involved in CAFI that will also be shared with our donor.

This interview will take a maximum of 1 hour. Your participation in the interview [focus group] is completely voluntary. Please feel free to tell me if there are any questions you would prefer not to answer. Your responses will remain anonymous with anyone outside of our team. Only compiled summary data of all responses will be shared with others. We will not include your name next to specific responses or quotes, and we will only include your name in the list of interviewees with your permission.

Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

### Interview questions

*Questions with an asterisk (\*) are required. You may change or delete other questions, and or add new questions that are relevant in your context.*

#### Representation & leadership of WLOs in GBV coordination mechanisms

1. **[if you need to ask this question] What GBV coordination mechanisms exist in the territory or territories where your OLM is present?**
2. **\*How, if at all, is your organization involved in GBV coordination mechanisms at local, national, regional, and global level? If you are not involved, what has prevented you from getting involved?**

#### OPTIONAL follow-up questions:

- a. Is there a WLO-centered coordination structure for organizations involved in GBV prevention and response interventions, GBV service provision and/or GBV-focused advocacy initiatives?
- b. Is your organization regularly attending the GBV sub-cluster at national and/or local levels?
  - i. What is your level of satisfaction regarding your participation to the GBV sub-cluster? What are the limits? Do you have any suggestions to share with us?
  - ii. Is the language used in GBV-focused coordination and/or policy meetings a language you are comfortable with?
3. **\*Does your organization have the necessary expertise and means to position yourself, take advantage of and participate effectively in GBV coordination mechanisms? If not, what are the challenges you are facing and your specific needs?**  
*If needed, ask follow-up questions to make sure you understand the challenges and needs.*
4. **\*What do you think would help to address these challenges and needs?**

- a. \*(if not shared) Are there ways we can help to address these challenges and needs through the CAFI project? If so, please share your suggestions.
- b. For WLOs involved in Phase I ONLY: What lessons did we learn from Phase I on how to best promote the representation of WLOs in the CTA and other GBV coordination mechanisms? What adjustments, if any, should we make in Phase II?

## CTA Questions

### 5. **\*How, if at all, has your organization engaged in the CTA coordination mechanism?**

If No, skip to Q6

If Yes, below are optional follow-up questions:

- a. Does your organization have a specific role in the coordination mechanism?
- b. Is your organization part of regional CSO coalitions and/or networks and getting access to CTA resources and meetings?

### 6. **Do you consider that the CTA coordination mechanism is representative, inclusive and giving an adequate space for WLOs to participate? Please explain.**

- a. (if not shared) What are your expectations from the CAFI project in capacity support in this area?

### 7. **How successful do you think the CTA signatories been in implementing global roadmap commitments? What is going well? What adaptations are needed to meet 2021-2025 CTA Road Map commitments?**

## Capacity of target WLOs to prioritize, design, staff, implement and coordinate GBV prevention and response programming

### 8. **\*What do you think are the main strengths your organization has in GBV prevention and response programming? And what are the main challenges your organization faces in implementing and coordinating this work?**

### 9. **\*What type of technical and/or institutional capacity support do you think could help you address these challenges and improve your capacity?**

- a. Are there particular types of capacity support you would like to see provided through the CAFI project? [Ask for specific suggestions if not provided]
- b. For WLOs who were part of CAFI Phase I ONLY: What types of technical capacity sharing support did you find most useful during the first phase of CAFI? Is there anything you would like to see us do more of or that could be improved in Phase II?

### 10. **Is your organization able to access donor and/or humanitarian response funding for GBV work? If so, which donors or funding sources have you received funding from?**

- a. (if not shared) Has your organization ever received funding from CBPF (country-based pooled fund)?
- b. (if not shared) Do you know if WLOs in your country have access to Country-Based Pooled Funds or other funding mechanisms from OCHA, GBV subcluster or other humanitarian organization?
- c. (if not shared) What factors have supported you in accessing funding and/or what challenges have you faced?

## Best Practices in WLO Coordination

### 11. **Based on your experience, what do you think is working well in terms of coordination within the network of WLOs focused on GBV in emergencies at the national and regional levels? And what are the challenges WLOs are facing?**

- a. What recommendations do you have for the coordination of the WLO network going forward?

## Closing

### 12. **Do you have any other suggestions and/or specific expectations you would like to share with us?**

### 13. **\*Do we have your permission to include your name and organization in our list of interviewees in the baseline report? [if they say no, tell them we will list them as anonymous]**

## Annex F: Semi-structured interview guide used during the baseline for interviews with global-level CTA stakeholders

### Introduction

Thank you so much for making the time to talk with us. This interview is part of the baseline of Phase II of the Call to Action Field Implementation (CAFI) project, which is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and led by a consortium of 11 members in ten countries, including CARE, AWO, DFJ, and other women-led organizations. The project works with women-led organizations (WLOs) across Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, Europe and the Middle East/North Africa to drive change and foster Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response in humanitarian emergencies. The aim of the CAFI project is (1) to promote the leadership and representation of women and girls - particularly WLOs - in the CTA and other GBV coordination mechanisms, (2) to increase WLOs access to humanitarian funding for GBV, and (3) address GBV root causes and coordinate effective response and risk mitigation.

The purpose of the study is to establish a baseline for key indicators and core areas of work and to gather information that will inform the detailed planning for our work in the next two years. We are conducting a survey and interviews with Women-led organizations in each of the focus countries for the project, as well as interviewing stakeholders like yourself who are involved in the Call to Action and other GBV coordination mechanisms.

The information we gather from this interview and the other data sources will be summarized in a baseline study report that will be shared with our donor and posted on CARE's website.

This interview will take a maximum of one hour. Your participation in the interview is completely voluntary. Please feel free to tell me if there are any questions you would prefer not to answer. Your responses will remain anonymous with anyone outside of the baseline study team. Only compiled summary data of all the responses will be shared with others. We will not include your name next to specific responses or quotes, and we will only include your name in the list of interviewees in the report with your permission.

Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

## Interview questions

### Introduction

- Please tell me about yourself, including your organization, position, and your involvement in the CTA or other GBV coordination mechanisms?**
  - (If not shared) How long have you been in your position in the CTA (&/or other GBV coordination mechanism)?

### Progress of CTA Implementation at the field level

- \*How successful do you think the CTA signatories been in implementing global roadmap commitments?** [priority question]
  - (if not shared) Are there particular areas where these has been significant progress?
  - (if not shared) What gaps are you seeing in the implementation, particularly when you think about accountability to women and girls in emergencies?
- What have been the main challenges you have faced (in the implementation of the global roadmap)?** [if not shared] What adaptations, if any, are needed to meet the 2021-2025 CTA Road Map commitments?

## WLO Representation & Leadership

4. **\*\*How, if at all, do you think WLOs have contributed to the CTA so far?**
  - \*(if not shared) Are there particular ways WLOs have contributed to the implementation of the CTA Road Map at the field level?
  - (if not shared) How, if at all, have WLOs contributed to the governance of the CTA?
  - (if not shared) How, if at all, have WLOs contributed to the NGO Working Group?
5. **\*What are some of the challenges or gaps you see in terms of the representation and leadership of WLO's in the CTA and/or other GBV coordination mechanisms?**
  - (if not shared) What do you think is needed to address these challenges?
  - (follow-up question for Sabine, if not shared) What have been the barriers to increasing the number of WLOs who are signatories of the CTA? What do you think the CTA can do to accelerate progress on this?
6. **\*What opportunities do you see for WLOs to contribute to the CTA and/or other GBV coordination mechanisms going forward?**
  - What do you think is needed in order for these opportunities to be realized?

## Feedback and Suggestions for CAFI Phase II

7. **Based on what you know about our work in the CAFI project, what do you think we have done well and what could be improved?** [If they are not familiar with the CAFI project and/or say they cannot answer this question, skip to Q9].
8. **\*What suggestions do you have for our work in the next couple of years?**
  - (if not shared) Are there particular ways that we can contribute to improved implementation of the global roadmap at local, national, regional or global levels?
  - (if not shared) Are there particular ways we can better support the representation and leadership of WLOs in the CTA and other GBV coordination mechanisms?

## WLOs' Access to GBV-related humanitarian funding

9. **What are the key challenges to increasing WLOs' access to humanitarian funding for GBV-related work?**  
What is needed to overcome these challenges?

## Conclusion

10. **Is there anything else you would like to share with us?**
11. **\*Are you comfortable with your name being included in the annex of the baseline report as an one of the interviewees?**

# For more information about CAFE globally or to connect with regional and national leads:

## **CAFI Global:**

Helene Bittinger (she/her) / CARE Deutschland e.V.  
Bittinger@care.de / +49 (0) 228 975 63 701

## **CAFI Europe:**

### **Ukraine:**

Iryna Trokhym (she/her) / Center Women's Perspectives  
iryna\_trokhym@women.lviv.ua / +038 032 295 50 60

## **CAFI LAC:**

### **Colombia:**

Erika Veloza M. (she/her) / Executive Director, GENFAMI  
direccion@genfami.org / +57 301 5536639

Luz Helena Rua M (she/her) / National Project Manager, GENFAMI  
proyectos@genfami.org / +57 300 5671992

### **Venezuela:**

Daniella Inojosa (she/her) / CAFI Project Leader, Tinta Violeta  
daniellachinainojosa@gmail / +58 412 3426228

Marieva Caguaripano (she/her) / CAFI Project Coordinator, Tinta Violeta  
tintacafi@gmail.com / +58 424 1055985

## **CAFI MENA:**

### **Iraq:**

Noor Al-Ibadi (she/her) / Baghdad Women Association  
info@bwa-iraq.org / +964 7730081916

### **Lebanon:**

Jeanne Frangieh (she/her) / Himaya Daeem Aataa  
administrator@associationhda.com / +961 3 406 888

## **CAFI WCA:**

### **DRC:**

Claudine Tsongo (she/her) / Dynamique des Femmes Juristes  
claudiakasongo@yahoo.fr / +243 998 09 18 90

### **Mali:**

Oumou Salif Touré (she/her) / Global Media Campaign to End FGM  
(currently in the process of renaming to FemiLead)  
oumousaliftoure@gmail.com / +223 71 73 92 31

### **Niger:**

Assalama Maï Kéllema Gréma Ari (she/her) / Comité des Jeunes Filles Leaders  
cojefil2015@gmail.com / +227 99 97 39 39