



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WEI/Bantwana works with government and private sector partners to design, implement and sustain evidence-based interventions that prevent and respond to gender-based violence at multiple levels.

Our programming empowers women and girls with information on GBV, HIV and AIDS, and connects survivors to post-exposure services and medical, legal, and counselling support through a range of innovative platforms including mobile “Stop the Bus” tours that bring comprehensive response services to the doorstep of survivors; youth-friendly prevention and response communications platforms for girls’ (“Ask Zvipo”); brand ambassadors; shelter and emergency services, facilitating access to post-exposure prophylaxis; transportation vouchers for survivors to access services; a mentoring program; intimate partner violence programming and male peer groups; teacher training to actively redress and report GBV; and more.

Across Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, we reach an estimated 350,000 vulnerable children and their caregivers with our comprehensive programs.

Since 2008, the Bantwana Initiative of World Education’s mission has been to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children and their caregivers and families affected by HIV and AIDS and poverty.

Our prevention and care services include:

GBV Teacher Training and Improved School Environments

WEI/Bantwana works with teachers and school management to prevent and respond to violence against children (VAC) in schools and communities by providing GBV training and creating safe spaces for teachers to identify and address harmful norms that contribute to VAC. Working with teachers addresses the underlying norms that contribute to acceptance of sexual VAC and documents how the teachers are using new-found skills to more effectively identify and support children, and, address sexual violence in schools and communities.

IPV Prevention and Male Peer Groups

WEI/Bantwana implements savings and lending groups (known as LIMCA), providing layered GBV sensitization for men and women who are intimate partners. This innovative platform, part of a research project, provides insight on effective approaches for IPV prevention within existing orphan and vulnerable children programming and contributes to a better understanding of the interplay between individual knowledge and attitudes of both men and women regarding IPV and how these influence and are influenced by gender norms at the community level. Men and women participate in WEI/Bantwana's LIMCA groups and receive training in business skills, literacy, child nutrition and health, child protection, IPV, and HIV prevention. Male peer group sessions are also held to explore similar topics.

Training of Health Service Providers

WEI/Bantwana collaborates with specialized health centers to ensure that survivors of gender based violence are able to access post-rape medical examinations, emergency contraception, STI screening, and HIV testing as well as post exposure prophylaxis. WEI/Bantwana works with Ministries of Health and Child Welfare to strengthen the capacity of health workers with trainings to provide post-GBV care services to victims.

Drop-in Centres for Survivors

WEI/Bantwana collaborates with, or helps to create, emergency drop-in centres to offer much needed psycho social support services to adolescent girls and young women through therapeutic support groups and peer-to-peer support groups. AGYW are also linked to online information services. WEI/Bantwana works with local implementing partners to ensure that survivors are linked to these drop-in centres for treatment and care.

"Stop the Bus" Mobile Access to Services

The "Stop the Bus" innovation is a multi-sectoral outreach intervention designed to bring GBV prevention services directly into communities and immediately link survivors of abuse to medical, legal and counseling support services through a mobile bus. A public relations team travels in advance of the arrival of the bus, bringing GBV messaging into communities to increase demand and uptake of clinical, legal, and psychosocial support services.

Emergency Shelters for GBV Survivors

WEI/Bantwana works with partners to establish safe, emergency shelters that provide survivors with temporary accommodation, counselling, and legal advice. At the shelters, survivors are linked to health facilities for HIV and STI screening, post-exposure prophylaxis, and clinical counselling. Shelters create safe spaces for AGYW to support each other, identify common problems and solutions, and offer peer-to-peer support. AGYW are also counselled by trained social workers. Older AGYW (18-24) are linked to economic strengthening programs to enhance their livelihoods opportunities and financial literacy.

Transport Voucher System for Survivors

Transport vouchers are distributed to GBV survivors to address prohibitive transport costs related to accessing much needed medical services. The vouchers are accessed in communities through selected community volunteers, community case workers and through DREAMS and other collaborating partners.