

Concept note

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2022

"UNiTE! ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS!"

Background

The [16 Days of Activism](#) against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international campaign that takes place every year since 1991. Commencing on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ending on December 10, Human Rights Day, the campaign indicates that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals, institutions and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence.

Every year the United Nations supports the 16 Days of Activism, through the Secretary General's campaign, *UNiTE to End Violence Against Women* (UNiTE). WFP demonstrates its commitment to end Gender-based Violence and gender inequality by joining forces with other UN agencies and other actors and stakeholders to actively participate in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign in all its offices worldwide.

Global focus of 2022 campaign

The theme and activities of the UNiTE Campaign in 2022, will aim to mobilize all UNiTE networks, civil society and women's rights organizations, women – led organizations, the UN system, government partners, human rights defenders, schools, universities, private sector, sports clubs and associations and individuals to become activists for the prevention of violence against women, to stand in solidarity with women's rights activists and to support feminist movements around the world to resist the rollback on women's rights and calling for a world free from VAWG.

The 29th of November, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day is also a day that should be strategically leveraged to celebrate the contributions and role of women rights activists and defenders as well as to call for greater accountability of states to protect women human rights defenders from violence, harassment etc.¹ For more details see UN Women 16-days-of-activism Concept Note.

WFP is part of the multi stakeholders initiative *Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies* (Call to Action), which aim is guaranteeing that every

¹ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/UNiTE-campaign-2022-concept-note-en.pdf>

humanitarian effort includes the policies, systems and mechanisms to mitigate Gender-based Violence risks and to provide safe and comprehensive services to those affected by GBV.²

WFP focus of 2022 campaign

Food insecurity and Gender-based Violence (GBV) are deeply intertwined. WFP recognizes gender inequality and associated power imbalances as a root cause of food insecurity. Evidence has demonstrated that Gender-based Violence (GBV) has a devastating impact on agricultural productivity, caring practices, nutritional status, access to economic opportunities, and access to education and health services – all factors that influence food security. This in turn reinforces discrimination, exclusion and vulnerability to food insecurity and gender inequality. In the past year, global food insecurity has reached staggering proportions. Rising conflict, climate extremes, and economic instability aggravated by the lingering impacts of COVID-19 and the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine are the key drivers.

The number of people who are acutely food insecure or at high risk has soared to a record high of 345 million people in 2022 across 82 countries³ which has been exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and its dramatic ripple effects on food security and energy markets. Women and children are most impacted by food insecurity and its devastating consequences. As of 2021, there are 150 million more women who are food insecure than men in the world, which has increased from 18 million in 2018⁴.

While Gender-based Violence is not limited to violence against women and girls, they are by far more affected than men and boys: one in every three women - around 736 million women worldwide - have experienced Gender – based Violence at least once in her lifetime⁵. Even more alarmingly, 1 woman is killed by someone in her own family every 11 minutes.⁶

As a result, governments, organizations and individuals are recognizing that to achieve sustainable and equitable development, gender equality must be prioritized. The different needs and priorities of women, girls, men and boys in our operations must be assessed, analysed and addressed.

Campaign participation

Offices and partners organizations are invited to adapt the campaign theme to their local context and partner with other agencies and organizations to host events for the campaign. The colour orange is used to show support for the 16 Days, unifying all activities to bring global attention to the initiative. To be more sensitive towards our

² <https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/>

³ 82 countries with WFP operational presence and data available.

⁴ CARE International, Food Insecurity & Gender Equality, 2022

⁵ Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018: global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021

⁶ Killings of women and girls by their intimate partner or other family members, UNODC, 2021.

environment and the climate crisis, this year WFP, in line with the UNiTE global campaign, is not calling upon organizations to illuminate buildings in orange or to do so for a very limited period of time. Alternative initiatives could be to use orange flags and orange inflatables that can be reused in future campaign, wearing orange clothes, and coloring digital spaces with orange.

The objectives of the campaign are:

- **Partner** with UN agencies, governments, public and private organizations, as well as civil society **to create a renewed and stronger commitment and action** on GBV risk prevention and mitigation.
- **Join forces with partners and other stakeholders to raise awareness** on GBV and its root causes, as well as the wider rollback on women's rights.
- **Amplify the voices** of women's rights organizations working to eliminate GBV.
- **Share information** – about actions (programmes, projects, services etc.) that help to prevent and address the risks of GBV and other gender inequalities.
- **Advocate for gender equality and a life without violence** as human rights and as means to prevent any risk of GBV.

In line with the UNiTE campaign main principles⁷, WFP in all its initiatives will:

- Honour and acknowledge women's movements and their leadership in the 16 Days of Activism and in preventing and ending violence against women and girls in general.
- 'Leave No One Behind': Apply a human rights-based approach and focus attention on the most underserved and disadvantaged groups of women and girls experiencing intersecting forms of harm in efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.
- Survivor-centred: Take a respectful and 'do no harm' approach to the telling and/or retelling of survivor stories, only with their informed consent and under conditions in which they feel empowered to exercise their agency. This and the empowerment principles are vital for the engagement of survivor advocates/activists on their own terms. All UNiTE partners must ensure that survivor advocates' rights, safety, dignity and confidentiality are prioritized and upheld.
- Ensuring survivor-centred and empowering approaches.
- Multi-sectoral: Everyone in society has an important role to play in ending violence against women and girls and we all must work together across sectors to address the various aspects of violence against women and girls.

⁷ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/UNiTE-campaign-2022-concept-note-en.pdf>

- Gender Transformative: Fostering critical examination of gender roles, and practices, while seeking to create or strengthen equitable gender norms and dynamics for fundamental, lasting changes for women and girls.

Key WFP campaign messages

- We all have the right to adequate food and a life without violence. WFP says no to Gender – based Violence.
- Gender-based Violence is the most widespread and pervasive human rights violation worldwide.
- Gender-based Violence exacerbates hunger and malnutrition. Hunger and malnutrition exacerbate Gender- based Violence. Food security can help break the cycle.
- When food insecurity rises, women and girls are at the highest risk of hunger and violations of their human rights, including heightened risk of GBV.
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment are essential to prevent and address Gender-based Violence.
- Equitable access and control over food and resources can reduce the risk of Gender-based Violence.
- Women with disabilities are two to three times more likely than other women to experience gender-based violence. To address Gender-based Violence we need to consider intersecting identities.
- We are all part of the solution, we are all activists, WFP says no to Gender – based Violence.

Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) activities

In collaboration with FAO and IFAD, a joint concept note and set of key messages will be developed, the following events (all virtual) will be organized:

Opening ceremony, November 23

Hosting agency: FAO

Main theme: Global crisis and GBV

Format: panel discussion

Middle event, November 29

Hosting agency: IFAD

Main theme: TBC

Format: panel discussion

Closing ceremony, December 8

Hosting agency: WFP

Main theme: Global food crisis and GBV

Format: panel discussion

WFP advocacy package and media campaign

An advocacy package will be developed to support COs and RBx in the campaign implementation. It will include: a Concept note with key messages, posters, a power point presentation, email signature, teams background, social media assets.

Materials will be available in different languages.

Gender Brown Bag webinar series: "Let's all be activists! How WFP says no to GBV"

In coordination with other units, a series of Gender Brown Bags will be organized to share concrete examples of what we can all do as WFP employee to say no to Gender-based Violence.

Key days during the campaign

| Event | Date |
|--|------------------|
| International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women | 25 November 2022 |
| International Women Human Rights Defenders Day | 29 November 2022 |
| World AIDS Day | 1 December 2022 |
| International Day of Persons with Disabilities | 3 December 2022 |
| Human Rights Day | 10 December 2022 |

Acronyms:

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|-------|---|
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| UNiTE | UNiTE to End Violence against Women |
| VaWG | Violence against women and Girls |
| WFP | World Food Programme |