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## GLOBAL USE OF DATA TO COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

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### **Abstract**

It is clear based on a study of global estimates that gender-based violence (GBV) has been experienced by about 70% of women worldwide while about 35% of all women have been affected by domestic violence or intimate partner violence. When faced with such abuse, access to legal and health services becomes essential to women. However, such access has been made nearly impossible by the global pandemic. Women have been shut in houses with the men who abuse them, with no recourse to the outside world. Thus, a contemporary requirement is new methods with which to connect women to service providers, researchers, policymakers, and officials. A global desk research was conducted to identify new methods and technology to be used to collect data and to provide services to abused women. The research showed that popular technology is increasingly being used by service providers and organisations such as the UN and CARE. Although mobile telephones were a preferred method, data collection went beyond text messages and telephone calls to applications on the phones and voice recordings, ensuring the women's safety and allowing them control of what was shared and when. Based on the findings, a model has been proposed for Sri Lanka that draw from global best practices. A cloud-based repository has thus been proposed where instances of GBV and domestic abuse can be logged in by regional police officers to avoid information tampering. To benefit from this system, information should first be collected of occurrences of domestic violence and GBV, which then assists in instances being mapped to predict where resources must be deployed. This may be used in both non-emergency and emergency situations. Such a database of information allows the healthcare and law enforcement officials ample opportunity to deploy resources and assistance in areas requiring the most help.

**Keywords:** Gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, use of data to combat gender-based violence, digitalization of data, mapping gender-based violence