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Zimbabwe: Gender Equality

THE SITUATION:

- Over **1/3** girls experience sexual violence before their 18th birthday
- Crises increase the risks of SGBV during periods of lockdown and restricted movement
- **39%** of women experience physical violence before 15yrs
- **4** key constraints to women's resilience are: poverty and lack in access to healthcare, resources and information
- Just **5.6%** of females are exposed to mass media, males have more than twice this, though it's still a paltry number
- **24.1%** of women have babies before 18yrs
- **32%** of rural households - in a mainly rural nation - belong to the Apostolic Christian sect, who limit women from accessing healthcare and education, and enforces child marriage
- The highly-mobile nature of Zimbabweans means gender-sensitive programming often falls through the cracks
- At around **0.5%** of the National budget, the Ministry of Women's Affairs is chronically under-funded
- Women are less employed than men across their lifetimes
- **USD 2 billion** is forgone from National development budgets per year because of GBV

UNICEF TAKING ACTION ON AYP VOICES

- Gender discrimination continues to exist; even current development programme activities seem to encourage more boys than girls to participate
- More interventions and awareness-raising activities are needed to tackle violence against women and children - especially in homes and communities
- Advocacy by UNICEF (and partners) to Government for more laws and justice for sexual offences and violence.
- To end GBV, better service delivery is needed; proper equipping and training of service providers, e.g., police Victim Friendly Unit, so they can adequately assist victims/survivors and help them seek justice
- The missing link in programming has been the exclusion of parents in education; they must also be educated
- Sexual and reproductive health trainings are wanted for both sexes
- Young mothers crave much more external support: helplines, community centres, education on how to stimulate their babies, easy access back to school and/or income projects

WHAT NEEDS TO BE INVESTED IN, ACCORDING TO AYP?

- The business sector needs to engage for gender-equality in nutrition, equal access to opportunities, financial resources, social services, decision-making at different levels, labour and economic participation and as much digital inclusion as their male counterparts.

VOICES of AYP:

"Sanitary napkins are an issue; they are expensive compared with most people's income"

"Sexual exploitation is a problem, e.g., those gents with economic muscle are taking advantage of girls since their parents can't afford the girls wants"