

# Functionality of Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) desks in Pasig City

Umali, Vanessa D.<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rizal Technological University, Pasig City, Philippines

\*Corresponding author: vdumali@rtu.edu.ph

## ARTICLE INFO

**DOI:**10.46223/HCMCOUJS.soci.en.14.3.3096.2024

Received: November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Revised: January 09<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Accepted: February 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

### *Keywords:*

2030 agenda for sustainable development; barangay VAW desk; gender & development; Republic Act 9262; Pasig LGU local gender and development agenda for the year 2024

## ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to assess the effectiveness of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pasig City in preparing its Local Gender and Development Agenda (GAD) for 2024. The study involved thirty (30) barangay units in Pasig (districts 1 and 2) and how their VAW desks responded to the guidelines set by the DILG as enunciated by Republic Act No. 9262 (Philippine Commission on Women, 2004). The main goal of local community desks is to provide support, protection, and justice to victims of gender-based violence. It's important to note that the functionality and effectiveness of the Barangay VAW Desk may vary from one barangay to another, depending on the local government's available resources, capacity, and commitment. Addressing violence against women involves raising awareness, promoting gender equality, and implementing legal and social measures to prevent and respond to such acts. The units of analysis involved three phases: (1) assessing whether the several national laws addressing violence against women are being adopted and implemented at the city level as intended; (2) assessing the functionality set by DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2017-114 (Department of the Interior and Local Government, 2017); (3) evaluating whether the program has achieved its goals; and (4) whether the outcomes are meaningful and sustainable for Pasig LGU local Gender/Development Agenda (Yalao, 2023). The results showed that the LGU is proactively preparing the local GAD Agenda for the Philippines. The LGU should adopt a multifaceted approach to address the concerning issue of VAW in the eight barangay units with a remark of 50 percent and below.

## 1. Introduction

Creating functional Violence Against Women (VAW) desks requires a comprehensive approach that involves multiple stakeholders, well-defined processes, and resources. VAW desks are specialized units within law enforcement agencies or community organizations that handle cases related to violence against women. The main goal of these desks is to provide support, protection, and justice to victims of gender-based violence. Barangay VAW Desk is a physical facility that addresses VAW and GBV cases gender-sensitively. It serves as a frontline responder to VAW complaints and requests for assistance and shall be managed by a person assigned by the punong barangay. The punong barangay (or barangay chairman) must allocate a specific area within the barangay hall for the VAW (Violence Against Women) desk. The VAW desk is

intended to handle cases related to violence against women and provide support to victims. Ensuring the confidentiality of the case and safeguarding the privacy and safety of the victim-survivor are crucial responsibilities of the punong barangay in handling issues related to violence against women (Joint Memorandum Circular, No. 2010-2) (Department of the Interior and Local Government, 2010).

A VAW Desk is considered functional when actively and effectively fulfilling its intended functions. A VAW Desk serves as a focal point for reporting cases of violence against women within the barangay. It receives complaints and documents relevant information, ensuring confidentiality and sensitivity. It also connects violence survivors with appropriate support services, such as medical assistance, legal aid, counseling, and shelters. They maintain a network of service providers and collaborate with them to ensure survivors receive the necessary assistance.

It's important to note that the functionality and effectiveness of the Barangay VAW Desk may vary from one barangay to another, depending on available resources, capacity, and commitment of the local government. However, the desk serves as an essential local mechanism for addressing violence against women at the grassroots level and providing support to survivors within their communities. Violence against women is a severe and pervasive issue that affects women worldwide. It encompasses various harmful acts, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. This type of violence is rooted in gender inequality and discriminatory attitudes toward women, violating their fundamental human rights. Addressing violence against women involves raising awareness, promoting gender equality, and implementing legal and social measures to prevent and respond to such acts. Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and communities are crucial in combating violence against women.

Many countries have enacted laws to protect women's rights and punish perpetrators of violence. Support services such as helplines, shelters, counseling, and legal aid are provided to survivors of violence to help them recover and seek justice. Education and awareness campaigns challenge harmful gender norms and stereotypes, promoting respect, equality, and consent.

It's essential for society to condemn violence against women and work towards creating a culture of gender equality and respect. By challenging attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate violence, supporting survivors, and holding perpetrators accountable, we can strive for a safer and more equitable world for women.

### **Theoretical framework**

#### *Policy Framework of Functionality of VAW Desk in the Philippines*

The legal framework for the functionality of Violence Against Women (VAW) desks in the Philippines is primarily governed by the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004" (Republic Act No. 9262) (Philippine Commission on Women, 2004). This law was enacted to protect women and their children from all forms of violence and to provide support services to victims.

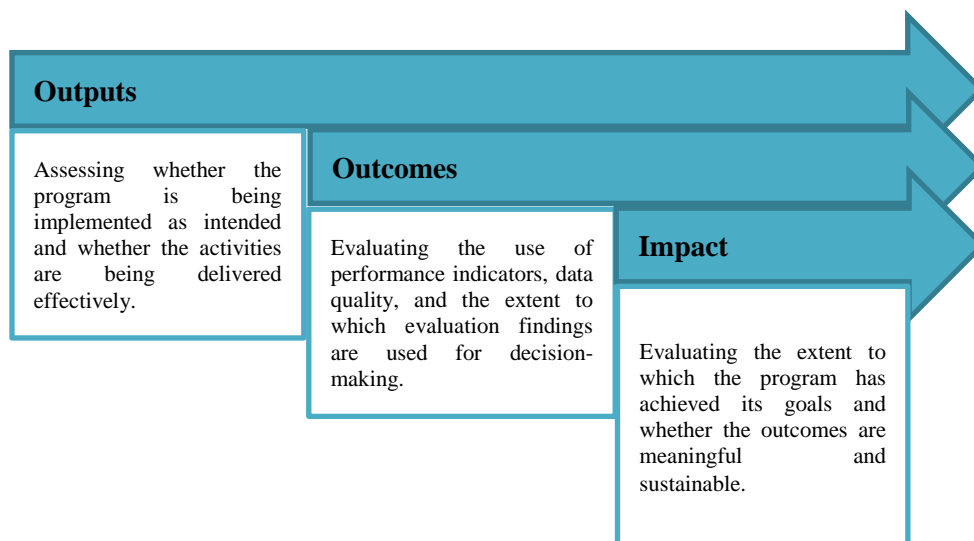
In the Philippines, the policy framework for the protection of the rights of women and children who are victims-survivors of violence includes a combination of international and national laws, as well as guidelines and protocols. These legal instruments aim to address various forms of violence against women and children and provide a framework for prevention, protection, and support services. Some key components of this policy framework in the Philippines include:

The Philippines is a signatory to various international agreements that protect the rights of women and children. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), among others. It is committed to upholding the principles and obligations outlined in these conventions.

The Philippine government has mainstreamed gender and development in its policies and programs, ensuring that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of governance, including efforts to address violence against women and children. It has developed National Action Plans to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Children, which provide a strategic roadmap for the government's efforts to prevent and address violence and provide support to victims.

The policy framework encourages multisectoral collaboration involving government agencies, civil society organizations, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to coordinate efforts and deliver comprehensive support. The government and NGOs in the Philippines provide various support services for victim-survivors, such as shelters, hotlines, counseling, medical care, legal aid, and rehabilitation programs. It includes public awareness campaigns and educational programs to raise awareness about violence against women and children and promote gender equality. Efforts are made to collect data on violence against women and children to inform evidence-based policy development and enhance interventions.

This policy framework in the Philippines is continually evolving to adapt to the changing needs and challenges faced by victims-survivors of violence. It reflects the commitment of the Philippine government and civil society to protect the rights and well-being of women and children and to combat all forms of violence against them. In the context of a program, the term "level of functioning scale" may refer to a tool or measurement framework used to assess the functioning or effectiveness of the program itself. This type of scale is designed to evaluate various dimensions or aspects of the program's performance and impact. It helps stakeholders understand how well the program is functioning, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions regarding program management and resource allocation.



**Figure 1.** Level of functioning scale

Figure 1 shows that the specific components and criteria included in a level of functioning scale for a program can vary depending on the program's objectives, target population, and desired outcomes. Some common elements that may be assessed include:

## **Outputs**

*Program implementation:* Evaluating the fidelity and quality of program implementation, including adherence to protocols, timelines, and standards. This includes assessing whether the program is being implemented as intended and whether the activities are being delivered effectively.

## **Outcomes**

*Monitoring and evaluation:* Assessing the program's monitoring and evaluation practices, including the collection, analysis, and utilization of data for program improvement. This includes evaluating the use of performance indicators, data quality, and the extent to which evaluation findings are used for decision-making.

## **Impact**

*Program outcomes:* Assessing the program's effectiveness in achieving its intended outcomes and impact on the target population or community. This includes evaluating the extent to which the program has achieved its goals and whether the outcomes are meaningful and sustainable.

A level of functioning scale for a program typically involves a structured assessment process, including data collection, analysis, and reporting. The scale can be used to provide a comprehensive assessment of the program's functioning and inform program management decisions, resource allocation, and ongoing improvement efforts.

## **2. Review of related literature**

Violence against women is a significant concern in the Philippines, with various forms of abuse affecting women nationwide. Domestic violence is prevalent in the Philippines, with many women experiencing physical, sexual, and emotional abuse within their own homes. The Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (Republic Act 9262) (Philippine Commission on Women, 2004) was enacted in 2004 to provide legal protection and support for survivors of domestic violence.

Another aspect is sexual violence, including rape and sexual assault, remains a serious problem in the Philippines. The Anti-Rape Law (Republic Act 8353) (Philippine Commission on Women, 1997) criminalizes rape and provides provisions for the prosecution and support of survivors.

In addition, the Philippines is known as a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for various purposes, including sexual exploitation and forced labor. The government has implemented the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (Republic Act 9208) (Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 2003) to combat trafficking and support survivors.

With the widespread use of the internet and social media, incidents of online violence against women, such as cyberbullying, harassment, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images (revenge porn), have increased. The Cybercrime Prevention Act (Republic Act 10175) (Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 2012) contains provisions addressing online offenses, including those related to violence against women.

The same with marital rape, where a spouse is subjected to non-consensual sexual acts by their partner, remains a contentious issue in the Philippines. The country does not have a specific law criminalizing marital rape, although efforts are ongoing to address this gap in legislation.

The Philippine government, along with civil society organizations, has made efforts to combat violence against women. These include establishing support services, helplines, and shelters for survivors, conducting awareness campaigns, and strengthening legal frameworks to protect women's rights. However, challenges such as limited resources, cultural attitudes, and gaps in implementation still need to be addressed to address violence against women in the Philippines effectively.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG, 2030) (United Nation, 2023) is indeed focused on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. It is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main aim of SDG 5 is to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls, eliminate violence and harmful practices, and ensure their full and effective participation in leadership roles and decision-making processes. It also seeks to provide women with equal economic, political, and social opportunities (David, Albert, & Vizmanos, 2018).

Loh (2007 - 2008) also acknowledges the efforts made by some ASEAN countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia to combat gender violence. Loh's recognition of the multipronged approach indicates that these countries are taking comprehensive, multifaceted measures to address the issue. A multipronged approach typically involves implementing various strategies and interventions simultaneously to tackle a complex problem like gender violence.

The findings from Garcia's study in 2020 highlight a significant concern regarding violence against women in the Philippines. The lack of a central data bank to consolidate information from various government services can lead to challenges in accurately understanding the prevalence and nature of violence against women in the country. A central data bank or comprehensive database is crucial for gathering, organizing, and analyzing data on violence against women. Such a system would ideally collect information from multiple sources, including law enforcement agencies, healthcare facilities, social services, and support organizations. It would provide a more comprehensive and reliable picture of the extent and patterns of violence against women.

The World Bank study conducted by Tavares, Recavarren, and Sinha (2019) sheds light on crucial driving factors that can effectively address issues related to Violence Against Women (VAW) at the local level. These factors encompass various aspects of policy, services, and support systems aimed at combating VAW. Allocating sufficient funds and resources to implement legislation specifically targeting VAW is essential. Adequate financial support enables the effective implementation of interventions and programs to prevent and respond to VAW. Establishing dedicated helplines or hotlines that operate 24/7 can offer immediate support and assistance to victims of violence. These hotlines can serve as a critical lifeline for individuals seeking help or reporting incidents. A comprehensive national plan targeting VAW demonstrates the government's commitment to addressing the issue. Such plans provide a strategic framework for implementing coordinated and sustained efforts. By incorporating these driving factors into policies and interventions, governments and relevant stakeholders can make substantial progress in combating VAW locally. It is important to emphasize that these factors are incomplete, and addressing VAW requires a multifaceted and sustained effort involving various sectors of society.

The study by Libre (2017) highlights the critical role of government leadership in mainstreaming Gender And Development (GAD) policies and ensuring the effective delivery of GAD services. Government leadership refers to high-level officials and policymakers' commitment and active involvement in promoting gender equality and integrating GAD principles into all aspects of governance and public service. Government leaders are vital in

formulating and implementing policies that promote gender equality and address gender disparities. They can ensure that GAD considerations are incorporated into national, regional, and local development plans and strategies. Effective leadership can drive the institutionalization of GAD within government agencies and structures. This means creating dedicated units or offices for mainstreaming gender perspectives in all programs and projects.

Regarding the knowledge and understanding of barangay officials (local government unit officials at the village level) on GAD issues, their awareness and comprehension play a significant role in predicting the successful implementation of GAD policies and programs at the grassroots level.

In summary, strong government leadership, particularly in the context of barangay officials' knowledge and understanding, is instrumental in advancing gender equality and fostering the successful mainstreaming of GAD policies and services at both higher administrative levels and local community levels. There are challenges with the adequacy of government services and the emphasis on response rather than prevention. This can limit the effectiveness of interventions and hinder progress in addressing the root causes of VAW (Garcia, 2020). Therefore, amendments to government policies and proper budget allocation are fundamental to the provision of comprehensive and effective services for women and children affected by VAW. Indeed, by addressing the aspects of government leadership, knowledge, and understanding of GAD issues, governments can effectively prioritize the prevention of Violence Against Women (VAW), support survivors, and work towards creating a society that upholds gender equality and human rights. The study by Embate, Ordinario, and Batu (2019) likely underscores the significance of these efforts in combating VAW and fostering positive societal change.

Additionally, the combination of these efforts can create a positive feedback loop. As governments prioritize prevention, support, and gender equality, they send a powerful message that VAW is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This can lead to increased reporting of incidents as survivors feel more empowered to seek help and justice. Simultaneously, as governments provide better support and services to survivors, the perception of the justice system as a reliable avenue for recourse can strengthen.

It is essential to recognize that addressing VAW is a complex and ongoing process, and collaboration between government agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders is crucial. By integrating these aspects into comprehensive strategies, governments can make substantial progress in reducing VAW and creating a safer and more equitable environment for all citizens. For example, the Local GAD Budget Policy aims to promote gender mainstreaming and ensure the integration of gender perspectives in local development plans and budgets. Requiring Local Government Units (LGUs) and government offices to allocate a specific percentage of their budgets to address gender issues and promote gender equality is a significant step towards mainstreaming Gender And Development (GAD) initiatives. This policy measure can have several positive effects on advancing gender equality and empowering women (Mendoza, Ponce, Vilorio, Estrada, & O Porras, 2020). It is important to note that while this policy represents a significant step forward, successful implementation depends on effective monitoring, evaluation, and stakeholder engagement. Regular assessment of the impact of the allocated budget is crucial to determine its effectiveness in promoting gender equality and addressing gender issues at the local and national levels.

The study conducted by Aquino (2017) in two barangays in Quezon City, Philippines, focusing on the UN Women Safe Cities Initiatives Program, highlights the significance of capacity improvement in promoting women's safety and security in urban settings. Capacity

improvement is critical to the UN Women Safe Cities Initiatives Program. By empowering barangay officials and stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills, the program enhances the effectiveness of efforts to create safer urban environments for women in Quezon City. It potentially serves as a model for other areas seeking to address gender-based violence and promote women's safety in urban settings.

### **3. Method**

VAW (Violence Against Women) Desk is an integral part of a community or barangay's efforts to address and combat violence against women. The objective of these desks is to offer support, help, and a safe area for survivors. The effectiveness of a VAW Desk is contingent on its ability to perform these functions efficiently, with a focus on empathy, confidentiality, and collaboration. To attain the objective of this study, the survey method was used. The researcher utilized the normative survey. The researcher also used a descriptive survey approach as a research method to gather and analyze data to describe a particular population, group, or phenomenon. A documentary analysis technique was used in preparing the narrative. It involved systematically examining existing documents and records provided by the Pasig City Statistics Office and DILG Pasig Field Office relevant to the research topic. It aimed to gather data and insights by reviewing and interpreting available information without direct interaction with participants or collecting primary data through surveys or experiments.

The study involved thirty (30) barangay units in Pasig City (districts 1 and 2) and how their VAW desks responded to the guidelines set by the DILG as enunciated by Republic Act No. 9262 (Philippine Commission on Women, 2004).

The units of analysis involved three phases. The initial phase of program implementation (Outputs) consisted of evaluating the fidelity and quality of program implementation, including adherence to protocols, timelines, and standards. This includes assessing whether the several national laws addressing Violence Against Women (VAW) are being adopted and implemented at the city level in the Philippines as intended. The second phase entails monitoring and evaluation (Outcomes), which includes assessing the program's monitoring and evaluation practices, including collecting, analyzing, and utilizing data for program improvement. This cover evaluating the use of performance indicators, data quality, and the extent to which evaluation findings are used for decision-making, like the number of VAW Cases in Pasig City from 2020 - 2022 and the referral network in the case management of VAW victims and survivors. The last phase contains program outcomes (Impact) by means of assessing the functionality set by DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2017-114 (Department of the Interior and Local Government, 2017), whether the program has achieved its goals, and whether the outcomes are meaningful and sustainable for Pasig LGU local Gender and Development Agenda 2024. The researcher used frequency counts and simple percentage calculations to analyze and interpret data.

### **4. Results and discussions**

Pasig City is one of the cities in the Philippines, located in the eastern part of Metro Manila, the National Capital Region. Quezon City and Mandaluyong City border it to the west, Marikina City to the north, Makati City and Taguig City to the south, and the Municipality of Cainta in the Province of Rizal to the east.

Pasig City is known for its dynamic urban development, commercial centers, residential areas, and vibrant business districts. It has experienced rapid growth and modernization recently, attracting businesses and residents alike. The Pasig River traverses the city, a historically significant waterway that played a crucial role in the city's development.

**Table 1**  
2020 Pasig City population

City of Pasig	0 - 14 years old		15 - 19 years old		20 - 59 years old		60 years old and above				
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Bagong Ilog	2,451	2,311	783	786	4,978	5,121	680	898	8,892	9,116	18,008
Bagong Katipunan	180	169	57	58	365	375	50	66	652	668	1,320
Bambang	3,014	2,842	962	966	6,122	6,298	836	1,104	10,934	11,210	22,144
Buting	1,619	1,526	517	519	3,288	3,382	449	593	5,873	6,020	11,893
Caniogan	4,023	3,794	1,285	1,290	8,172	8,407	1,116	1,473	14,596	14,964	29,560
Dela Paz A	2,941	2,773	939	943	5,974	6,145	816	1,077	10,670	10,938	21,608
Kalawaan	4,362	4,112	1,393	1,398	8,859	9,113	1,210	1,597	15,824	16,220	32,044
Kapasigan	806	760	257	258	1,637	1,684	224	295	2,924	2,997	5,921
Kapitolyo	1,893	1,785	604	607	3,845	3,955	525	693	6,867	7,040	13,907
Malinao	872	822	278	279	1,770	1,821	242	319	3,162	3,241	6,403
Manggahan A	13,712	12,929	4,379	4,396	27,852	28,651	3,804	5,021	49,747	50,997	100,744
Maybunga	5,421	5,111	1,731	1,738	11,011	11,327	1,504	1,985	19,667	20,161	39,828
Oranbo	630	594	201	202	1,280	1,317	175	231	2,286	2,344	4,630
Palatiw	2,678	2,525	855	859	5,440	5,596	743	981	9,716	9,961	19,677
Pinagbuhatan	22,176	20,909	7,081	7,109	45,042	46,335	6,152	8,121	80,451	82,474	162,925
Pineda	2,651	2,499	846	850	5,384	5,539	735	971	9,616	9,859	19,475
Rosario	9,035	8,519	2,885	2,896	18,351	18,878	2,506	3,308	32,777	33,601	66,378
Sagad	1,031	972	329	330	2,094	2,154	286	377	3,740	3,833	7,573
San Antonio	3,097	2,920	989	993	6,290	6,471	859	1,134	11,235	11,518	22,753
San Joaquin	1,927	1,817	615	618	3,914	4,026	535	706	6,991	7,167	14,158
San Jose	205	194	66	66	417	429	57	75	745	764	1,509
San Miguel	4,517	4,259	1,443	1,448	9,176	9,439	1,253	1,654	16,389	16,800	33,189
San Nicolas (Pob.)	308	291	98	99	626	644	86	113	1,118	1,147	2,265
Santa Cruz	812	765	259	260	1,649	1,696	225	297	2,945	3,018	5,963
Santa Lucia	6,499	6,127	2,075	2,083	13,200	13,578	1,803	2,380	23,577	24,168	47,745
Santa Rosa	150	141	48	48	304	313	41	55	543	557	1,100
Santo Tomas	1,363	1,285	435	437	2,768	2,847	378	499	4,944	5,068	10,012
Santolan	7,770	7,327	2,481	2,491	15,783	16,236	2,156	2,845	28,190	28,899	57,089
Sumilang	782	737	250	251	1,588	1,634	217	286	2,837	2,908	5,745
Ugong	3,284	3,097	1,049	1,053	6,671	6,863	911	1,203	11,915	12,216	24,131

Source: PhilAtlas (2024)



As of my last update in Pasig Statistics for the year 2020, it is essential to note that the global sex ratio at birth is approximately 105 males to 100 females, meaning there are slightly more male births than female births. However, this ratio can vary by city and region.

When looking at the overall population of males and females in Pasig City, factors such as life expectancy and other demographic trends come into play. Women in Pasig City between 60 years old and above tend to have a longer life expectancy than men, with a difference of 10,050. This led to a higher proportion of women in the total population, particularly in older age groups. It's essential to consider that population demographics can change over time due to various factors such as birth rates, mortality rates, migration, and other demographic events.

### ***Program implementation***

It is great to hear that several national laws addressing Violence Against Women (VAW) are being adopted and implemented at the city level in the Philippines. This kind of localization and enforcement of laws can significantly impact communities and help ensure that women's rights and safety are protected across different regions of the country.

The Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act No. 9710) (Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 2009), mentioned earlier, is a vital national law addressing VAW and providing a comprehensive framework for promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights. Its implementation at the city level demonstrates a commitment to addressing VAW issues on a broader scale.

Besides the Magna Carta of Women, other national laws that deal with VAW in the Philippines include:

- Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act (Republic Act No. 9262) (Philippine Commission on Women, 2004): This law focuses on protecting women and their children from violence, abuse, and exploitation. It provides legal remedies and support services for victims of VAW.
- Sexual Harassment Act (Republic Act No. 7877) (Philippine Commission on Women, 1995): This law addresses sexual harassment in the workplace, educational institutions, and other settings, making it illegal and punishable.
- Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (Republic Act No. 9208) (Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 2003): This law addresses human trafficking, which often affects women and children disproportionately. It aims to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators.
- Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act (Republic Act No. 8505) (Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 1998): This law ensures that victims of rape receive medical, legal, and psychological support throughout the process.
- Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (Republic Act No. 7610) (Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 1992): Though not specific to women, this law protects children from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, which can be essential in preventing violence against girls.

When these national laws are adopted and implemented at the city level, it shows a commitment to addressing VAW comprehensively and providing a safer environment for women in various communities. It also demonstrates the Philippines' efforts to align with international

commitments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to gender equality and women's rights.

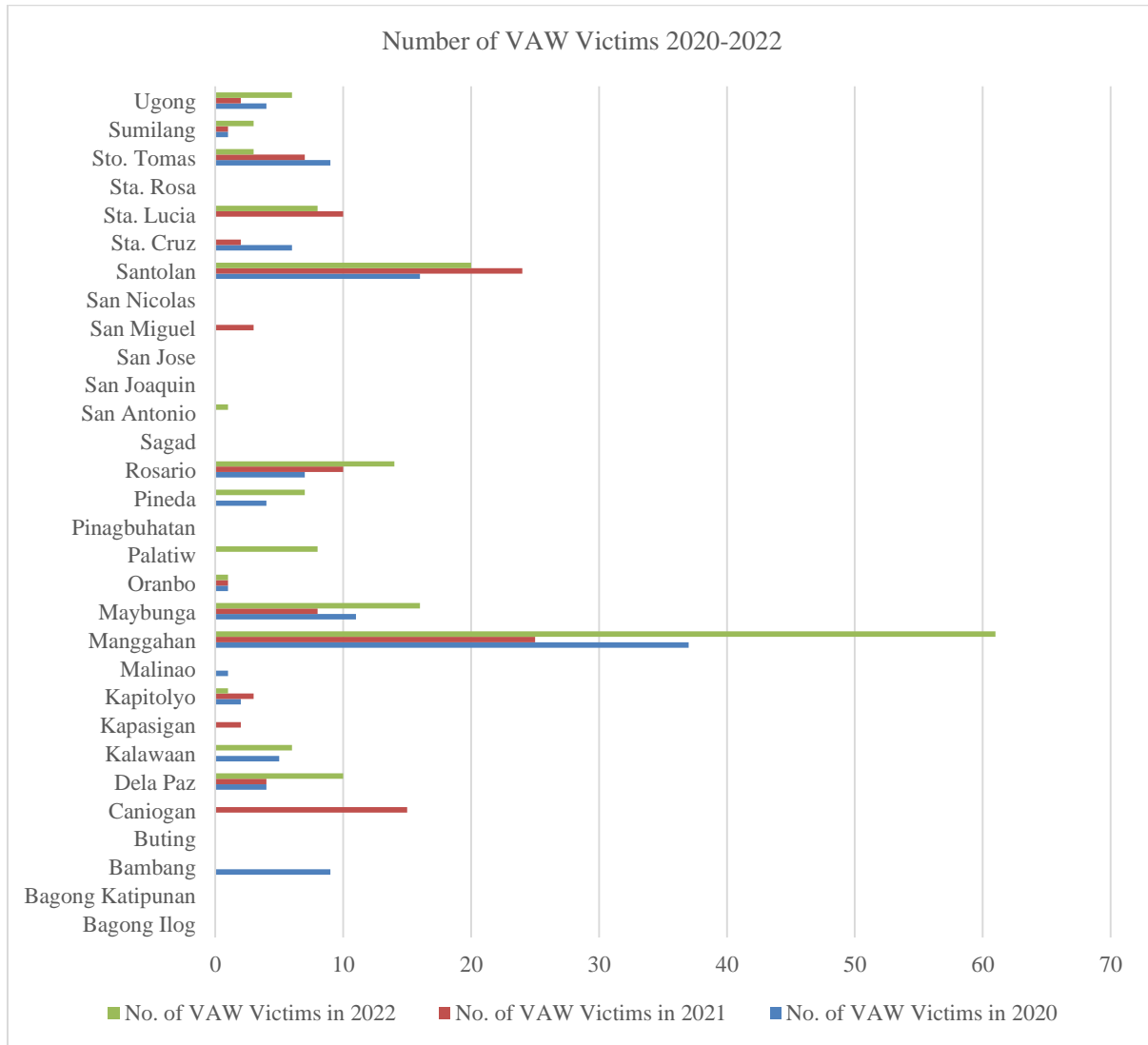
***Monitoring and evaluation***

**Table 2**

VAW cases in Pasig (2020 - 2022)

Barangay	Total No. of VAW Victims (2020 - 2022)	TYPES OF VIOLENCE			
		Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Psychological / Emotional Abuse	Economic Abuse
Bagong Ilog	17	6	1	10	2
Bagong Katipunan	0	0	0	0	0
Bambang	94	55	0	33	16
Caniogan	61	23	0	17	21
Dela Paz	133	62	0	56	18
Kalawaan	146	54	0	66	26
Kapasigan	8	2	0	3	3
Kapitolyo	43	17	0	14	12
Malinao	8	7	0	0	0
Manggahan	643	158	8	344	115
Maybunga	217	76	8	112	38
Oranbo	32	15	1	3	13
Palatiw	53	25	2	1	9
Pinagbuhatan	148	55	3	72	36
Pineda	55	38	4	0	13
Rosario	268	121	1	184	57
Sagad	29	17	1	7	5
San Antonio	17	9	1	5	2
San Joaquin	5	3	0	1	1
San Jose	3	1	0	3	0
San Miguel	53	28	2	16	8
San Nicolas	8	4	1	3	4
Santolan	371	129	0	170	90
Sta. Cruz	52	33	1	8	10
Sta. Lucia	141	54	3	58	39
Sta. Rosa	5	0	1	1	3
Sto. Tomas	64	27	2	26	7
Sumilang	13	4	4	0	3
Ugong	90	33	5	40	18

Source: Pasig City Field Office (DILG NCR)



**Figure 2.** Number of VAW Cases in Pasig City from 2020 - 2022

From January 2020 to December 2022, the number of VAW cases reported to each barangay in Pasig City appears in Figure 2. During that period, 2022 had the most reported VAW cases with 165, while 2020 and 2021 tied with 117 had the fewest recorded VAW cases. 123 VAW victims were reported in Barangay Manggahan. In contrast, zero incidents of VAW violence were reported in Bagong Ilog, Bagong Katipunan, Buting, Pinagbutahan, Sagad, San Joaquin, San Jose, San Nicolas, and Sta. Rosa. Psychological or Emotional Abuse is the most commonly reported type of violence, accounting for 1,260 complaints between 2020 and 2022. Physical Abuse came in second with a rate of 1,065. Economic Abuse is ranked third, with Sexual Abuse receiving the lowest score.

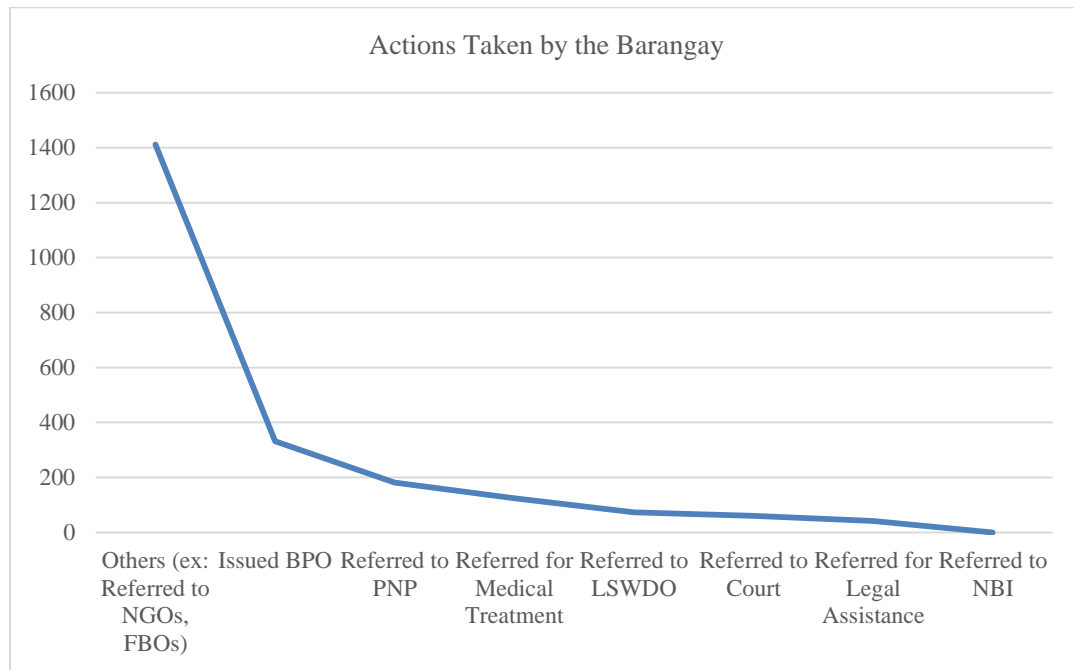
There are several reasons why psychological or emotional abuse might be more commonly reported among couples. Psychological or emotional abuse can be more subtle and challenging than physical abuse. It may involve manipulation, control, verbal threats, intimidation, gaslighting, or undermining a person’s self-worth. Victims might be more aware of these behaviors and more likely to report them. Unlike physical abuse, emotional abuse may not leave visible marks or bruises, making it challenging for outsiders to detect. However, it does not make it any less harmful, and victims may feel more empowered to report it when they realize it is recognized as a form of abuse.

**Table 3**

Referral network in the case management of VAW victims and survivors (2020 - 2022)

Barangay	Total No. of VAW Victims	Issued BPO	Referred to LSWDO	Referred to PNP	Referred to NBI	Referred for Medical Treatment	Referred for Legal Assistance	Referred to Court	Others (ex: Referred to NGOs, FBOs)
Bagong Ilog	17	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
Bagong Katipunan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bambang	94	4	0	3	0	4	6	0	63
Buting	24	6	4	7	0	0	3	1	7
Canioan	61	19	0	4	0	13	7	5	13
Dela Paz	133	17	0	12	0	1	2	1	66
Kalawaan	146	13	3	1	0	9	9	3	78
Kapasigan	8	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Kapitolyo	43	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	25
Malinao	8	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2
Manggahan	643	51	18	30	0	42	3	4	411
Maybunga	217	13	10	7	0	3	1	7	81
Oranbo	32	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	17
Palatiw	53	5	0	0	0	7	0	0	13
Pinagbuhatan	148	105	0	52	0	14	0	1	40
Pineda	55	7	3	5	0	4	0	0	26
Rosario	268	32	0	11	0	18	2	31	96
Sagad	29	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
San Antonio	17	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
San Joaquin	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
San Miguel	53	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	3
San Nicolas	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
Santolan	371	14	1	15	0	5	1	2	259
Sta. Cruz	52	1	7	2	0	0	1	0	30
Sta. Lucia	141	7	0	1	0	1	3	0	81
Sta. Rosa	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sto. Tomas	64	5	15	6	0	2	3	0	32
Sumilang	13	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	6
Ugong	90	12	0	6	0	0	0	1	33

Source: Pasig City Field Office (DILG NCR)



**Figure 3.** Actions taken by the barangay

It is essential to recognize that effective strategies require ongoing evaluation, collaboration, and a commitment to fostering a safe and equal society for all individuals. Figure 3 shows that the NGOs and FBOs received a high rate of 1,412 referrals in helping the VAW victims. It is worth noting that NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and FBOs (Faith-Based Organizations) play a crucial role in helping victims of Violence Against Women (VAW). Many NGOs and FBOs focus on women's rights, gender equality, and combating VAW. Their expertise in these areas allows them to provide targeted and specialized support to victims. Also, they often have a more grassroots approach and are deeply embedded in communities. They can reach out to vulnerable populations and remote areas where formal support services might be limited.

Second to the list is the Barangay Protection Order (BPO), which gathered a score of 332 for 2020 - 2022. BPO is a legal measure in the Philippines designed to provide immediate protection and assistance to victims of Violence Against Women (VAW) at the community level. It is issued by the Barangay (a local government unit) to safeguard the rights and safety of the victim and prevent further harm. The BPO process is designed to be accessible and user-friendly, allowing victims to seek immediate protection without complicated legal procedures. Obtaining it is generally free of charge, making it accessible to victims regardless of their financial situation. It can be issued quickly, providing immediate relief and protection to victims in urgent situations.

Philippine National Police took the third spot with a score of 181, followed by Medical Treatment with 124 referrals, and the Local Social Welfare Development Office obtained a rate of 73. The lowest to get are Referral to Court with a rate of 60 and Referral for Legal Assistance with a rate of 42. Some potential reasons for the low referral rates could be that in some communities, VAW cases are initially handled through informal mechanisms like mediation or family intervention rather than formal legal processes. Victims may prefer this route to avoid further conflict or for cultural reasons. Also, legal proceedings can be costly, and VAW victims may lack the financial resources to pursue court actions, especially in cases where legal aid services are limited or unavailable. VAW cases often rely on testimonies and evidence that can be challenging to obtain, making the burden of proof more difficult for victims to satisfy.

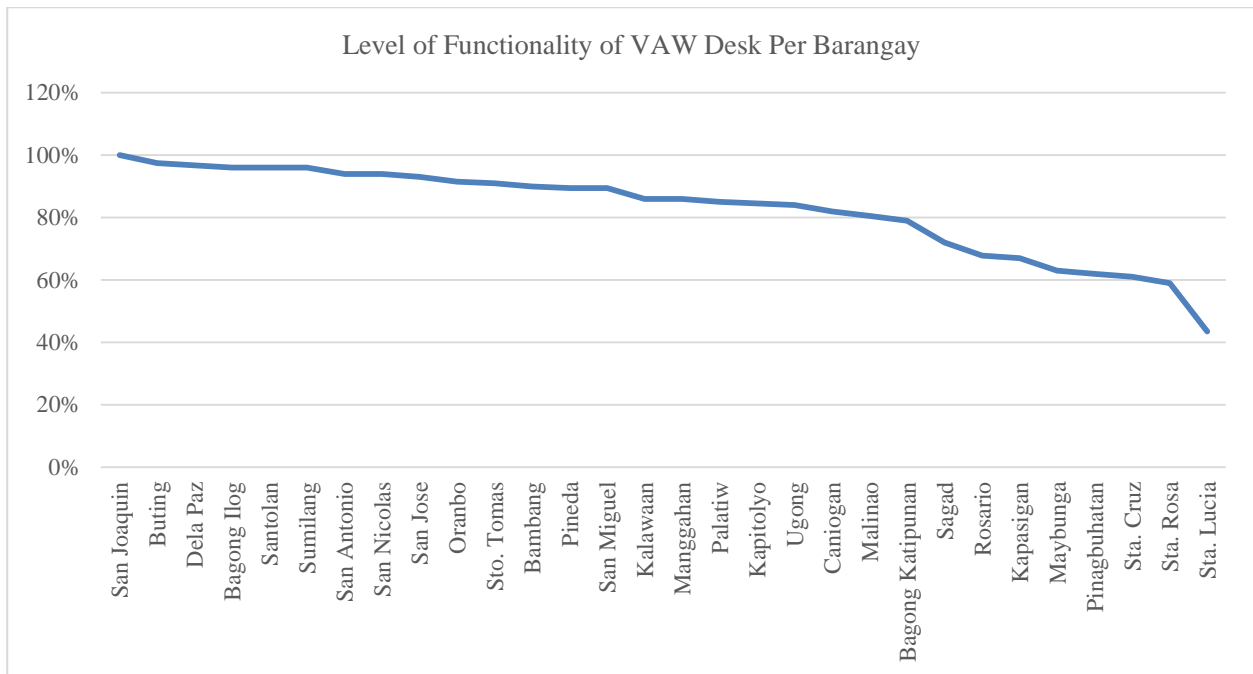
**Table 4**

Functionality of Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Per Barangay (2020 - 2022)

<b>Barangay</b>	<b>Overall Rating 2020 - 2022</b>	<b>Level of Functionality</b>
Bagong Ilog	96%	Ideal
Bagong Katipunan	79%	Mature
Bambang	90%	Ideal
Buting	97.50%	Ideal
Caniogan	82%	Ideal
Dela Paz	96.75%	Ideal
Kalawaan	86%	Ideal
Kapasigan	67%	Mature
Kapitolyo	84.50%	Ideal
Malinao	80.50%	Ideal
Manggahan	86%	Ideal
Maybunga	63%	Mature
Oranbo	91.50%	Ideal
Palatiw	85%	Ideal
Pinagbuhatan	62%	Mature
Pineda	89.50%	Ideal
Rosario	67.75%	Mature
Sagad	72%	Mature
San Antonio	94%	Ideal
San Joaquin	100%	Ideal
San Jose	93%	Ideal
San Miguel	89.50%	Ideal
San Nicolas	94%	Ideal
Santolan	96%	Ideal
Sta. Cruz	61%	Mature
Sta. Lucia	43.50%	Progressive
Sta. Rosa	59%	Mature
Sto. Tomas	91%	Ideal
Sumilang	96%	Ideal
Ugong	84%	Ideal

\*Legend: Basic - 20% and below, Progressive - 21 to 50%, Mature - 51 to 80%, Ideal - 81 to 100%

Source: Pasig City Field Office (DILG NCR)



**Figure 4.** Level of Functionality of Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Per Barangay (2020 - 2022)

DILG Memorandum Circular (No. 2017-114) (Department of the Interior and Local Government, 2017), dated August 30, 2017, provides guidelines for monitoring the functionality of Violence Against Women (VAW) Desks in every Barangay (local government unit) in the Philippines. The monitoring and evaluation process outlined in the circular aims to promote accountability and continuous improvement in the functionality of VAW Desks throughout the Philippines. These guidelines include the level of functionality of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk in a Barangay (local government unit). This refers to how well it operates and performs its designated roles and responsibilities in addressing cases of violence against women.

Figure 4 represents the data I acquired at the DILG Pasig field office. Barangay San Joaquin, Buting, Dela Paz, Bagong Ilog, Santolan, Sumilang, San Antonio, San Nicolas, San Jose, Oranbo, Sto. Tomas, Bambang, Pineda, San Miguel, Kalawaan, Manggahan, Palatiw, Kapitolyo, Ugong, Caniogan, and Malinao have obtained the highest percentage for 2020 - 2022. By obtaining an Ideal remark, these barangays followed the requirements and guidelines set by DILG Pasig. Being ideally functional means that they actively and effectively fulfilled their intended functions, which includes the availability and accessibility of the VAW Desk during office hours. Moreover, they maintained proper documentation of cases, reports, and referrals, ensuring the confidentiality and security of sensitive information.

Further, they have established coordination and referral mechanisms with relevant agencies, such as law enforcement, health services, legal aid, social welfare, and NGOs, to ensure victims receive comprehensive support. Correspondingly, these barangays engaged in public awareness campaigns, community education, and advocacy to promote awareness about violence against women and the services they offer. Lastly, they invested in regular training and capacity building for their personnel to enhance their skills and knowledge in handling VAW cases.

***Program outcomes*****Table 5**

Pasig LGU local Gender and Development Agenda for the year 2024

<b>Training</b>	<b>Advocacy</b>	<b>Others</b>
Identify a focal point system that the local government can utilize in effectively crafting policies and ensuring compliance with its future implementation	To provide gender-responsive health and social services to Pasiguenos by 2028	Improvement of database management systems in gender-responsive services
Facilitate institutional change through the promotion and provision of equal rights and opportunities among people of all genders	Establish accurate impact analyses of all gad programs by the end of 2024	Strengthened information, education, and communication campaigns on gender-focused programs
Strategic planning workshop aimed to make gender-responsive programs, projects, and activities that would promote and integrate gender equality and inclusion in the city	Increase the competency of gad implementors by 2024	

A GAD Agenda is a crucial framework that outlines the LGU's plans and strategies to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and the overall well-being of all genders within the community. Based on the result- twenty (22) barangay units received an ideal remark, seven (7) barangay units secured a mature remark, and one (1) obtained a progressive appraisal from the DILG office.

It is commendable to hear that the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pasig is proactively preparing its Local Gender And Development Agenda (GAD Agenda) for 2024. A local GAD Agenda reflects the commitment of the LGU towards promoting gender equality, empowering women, and addressing gender-based issues within the city. These results motivated Pasig City to strengthen their assessment of the cultural remarks and disparities within the local context to identify areas like barangay Sagad, Rosario, Kapasigan, Maybunga, Pinagbuhatan, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa and Sta. Lucia that requires more attention and improvement. Also, to reinforce gender mainstreaming and strategies to integrate gender perspectives into all aspects of the LGU's policies, programs, and projects to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of all genders.

**5. Conclusions & recommendations**

For eight (8) barangay units that received a remark of 50 percent and below, the Pasig city GAD office may need to engage the local community in creating awareness about VAW. This can be achieved through community dialogues, awareness campaigns, workshops, and education programs. Strong leadership at the local level is crucial for addressing VAW. Local authorities must prioritize the issue, allocate resources, and establish policies and programs that effectively address VAW. Political will is necessary to drive change and sustain efforts over time.

Collaboration among various stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and educators, is vital.



These stakeholders can pool resources, expertise, and networks by working together to develop comprehensive and coordinated responses to VAW.

Building the capacity of local service providers, including healthcare professionals, police officers, social workers, and teachers, is essential. Training programs can enhance their knowledge and skills in addressing VAW, improve service delivery, and promote survivor-centered approaches.

The same with identifying priority areas mentioned where gender equality efforts could be nourished as well- such as education, health, employment, violence prevention, and economic empowerment. Similarly, Pasig City will undertake specific actions and interventions to address gender-related challenges and promote women's rights and gender equality.

Preparing a Local GAD Agenda demonstrates the LGU's commitment to addressing gender disparities and advancing the rights and welfare of all its constituents. By integrating a gender perspective into its policies and programs, the LGU can create a more inclusive and equitable city that benefits everyone, regardless of gender identity. It's essential to involve the community and ensure the participation of women and other marginalized groups in formulating and implementing the GAD Agenda, as their lived experiences and insights are crucial in making the initiatives effective and relevant.

In addition, establishing reliable data collection systems at the local level will help understand the prevalence and patterns of VAW within the community. Research and data analysis can provide evidence for informed decision-making, resource allocation, and monitoring of the effectiveness of interventions.

The same is true for developing and strengthening support services for survivors of VAW, such as helplines, counseling services, shelters, legal aid, and medical assistance, is crucial. Moreover, establishing effective referral networks among service providers ensures survivors receive comprehensive support.

Having comprehensive laws and policies that address VAW is essential. Local authorities should ensure the effective implementation of existing laws, advocate for policy reforms when needed, and collaborate with law enforcement agencies to hold perpetrators accountable.

Allocating sustainable funding to support interventions addressing VAW is crucial. Local governments should dedicate resources to prevention programs, support services, awareness campaigns, capacity building, and data collection. When integrated and implemented effectively at the local level, these critical driving factors can contribute to a comprehensive and sustainable response to VAW. It is crucial to tailor strategies to the local context, considering cultural norms, specific challenges, and available resources within the community.

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