



SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIMENTARY COMMITTEE
ON
PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF
GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASES IN ZAMBIA 2017-2020

MAY 2022

Contact:

Nalucha Nganga Ziba
Country Director
P.O Box 51407
Lusaka
Cell: 0977616899

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS2

1.0 ABOUT ACTIONAID.....3

2.0 BACKGROUND3

3.0 INTRODUCTION3

3.1 Gender Based Violence in Zambia3

**4.0 SCOPE AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT
ON THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION OF GENDER BASED CASES4**

**5.0 ANALYSIS OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT
AND DISPOSAL OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASES IN ZAMBIA 2017-20186**

6.0 CONCLUSIONS27

ABBREVIATIONS

7NDP	Seventh National Development Plan
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
INTOSAI	International Organisation for Supreme Audit Institutions
ISSAI	International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions
MCDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MPAs	Ministries, Provinces and Agencies
NPA	National Prosecution Authority
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
OSC	One Stop Centre
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
ZLDC	Zambia Law Development Commission
ZPS	Zambia Police Service

1.0 ABOUT ACTIONAID

ActionAid Zambia is a national organization working to end poverty and injustice in Zambia. ActionAid Zambia (AAZ) is a member of the ActionAid International Federation which works in 44 countries across the globe. AAZ works on five (5) priorities areas namely: Women and Girls Socio-Economic Empowerment, Civic Participation and State Accountability, Promoting Resilient Livelihoods and Climate Justice, Transformative Women-Led Emergency Preparedness, Response and Prevention and Youth led Alternatives.

Our vision is a ‘A just, equitable and sustainable Zambia in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity’ and the mission is ‘To achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people’s organisations, activists, social movements, and supporters’. In fulfilling its mandate, ActionAid Zambia works with various stakeholders such as women and youth groups, civil society organisations, government agencies to mention but a few. ActionAid works in Nalolo, Sesheke, Mpulungu, Mbala, Chipata and Nakonde.

2.0 BACKGROUND

In accordance with its constitutional mandate as well as the international standards for supreme Audit institutions (ISSAIS 4000), the Office of Auditor General (OAG) conducted a performance audit on the management and disposal of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases during the period 2017-2020.

The objective of the audit was establishing whether government programmes and operations are conducted in accordance with the concepts of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Audit also included a reflection of the implications of the management and disposal of GBV cases in the attainment of the [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) No. 5](#) - Achieving Gender Equality.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This submission is made to comment on the audit Report major fundings and to suggests measures which would ensure the recommendation enclosed are successfully implemented, as requested by the Committee on National Guidance and Gender Matters. The submission starts by presenting an overview of GBV in Zambia.

3.1 Gender Based Violence in Zambia

The [Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011](#) defines gender-based violence as “any act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to a

person, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” However, mostly, GBV has a greater negative impact on women and girls due to their subordinate status in traditional societies.

According to [UN Women](#), Zambia has one of the highest rates of sexual and gender-based violence in the world, with 47 percent of women aged 15-49 years having experienced some form of physical violence in their lifetime (in country data from the [2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey](#)).

Official data for the period under scrutiny (see table below) show an alarming trend, of an overall increased incidence of GBV, and in particular of violence against women and girls.

Reported Gender Based Violence Cases 2017-2020						
Year	Female	Girls	Male	Boys	Total	Percentage
2017	13,576	3,449	3,663	816	21,504	
2018	13,389	3,398	4,234	1,052	22,073	3%
2019	14,811	4,909	4,164	1,237	25,121	14%
2020	14,875	4,866	5,080	1,549	26,370	5%

Source: [Zambia Police Service - Victim Support Unit Statistics](#)

This growing trend has been confirmed also by more recent [data](#), collected by the Zambia Police Service after the completion of the Report. The restrictions brought by COVID-19 pandemic, confining people in their homes, greatly contributed to a rise in domestic and gender-based violence (GBV) as reported by civil society organisations like [Civicus](#). Compared to 2019, the GBV cases reported in 2020 increased by over 1,000 cases, affecting mostly women and children.

As a signatory of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resolution, Zambia has committed to the achievement of gender equality and to empower all women and girls. The SDG 5 has three specific targets aimed at ending violence against women (VAWG) and girls, i.e., end all forms of discrimination and VAWG everywhere and in the public and private sphere respectively, and eliminate all harmful practices, including child marriage.

4.0 SCOPE AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION OF GENDER BASED CASES

The Auditor General’s Performance Audit report on the management and disposition of Gender Based Violence cases between 2017 and 2020.

The objective of the audit was to assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which the ZPS, MoH, NPA and the Judiciary were collectively managing and disposing of reported GBV cases, with a specific focus on the following objectives:

- i. To assess the extent to which the ZPS had ensured the establishment of Victim Support Units (VSUs), provision of professional counselling and timely investigation of reported GBV cases at Police stations and posts.
- ii. To establish whether the hospital based OSCs efficiently provided prompt and comprehensive multi-disciplinary services to victims of GBV.
- iii. To ascertain whether the NPA had put in place measures to ensure that GBV cases were prioritised and victims of GBV familiarised with the court procedures.
- iv. To determine whether the Judiciary had put in place effective measures to ensure that there is timely disposal of reported GBV cases and ensure the welfare of victims during court proceedings.

5.0 ANALYSIS OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE CASES IN ZAMBIA 2017-2018

1. Zambia Police Service – Victim Support Unit

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>i. Forensic Equipment and tools required for gathering evidence to aid investigations of GBV cases</p>	<p>i. 28 of the 29 Police Stations visited faced challenges in carrying out investigations as they did not have adequate forensic equipment and other tools required for collecting evidence in court (sexual crime kits, reagents for DNA machine, swabs and bottles for semen collection, special envelopes for evidence collection and cameras.</p>	<p>i. The Zambia Police Service-VSU should prioritize available resources to secure forensic equipment and tools required for evidence collection to ensure the prompt investigation of cases and reduction in the number of cases carried forward as a result of pending investigations.</p>	<p>i. As ActionAid Zambia, we call upon Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs on the need to increase budgetary allocation towards the Zambia Police Service-VSU for them to procure equipment that would increase capacity to for timely detection and collection of evidence related to Gender Based Violence. Further, we feel government can lobby cooperating partners to help finance procurement of essential equipment to support the VSU. This will go a long way in safeguarding the welfare of women and girls who are the most vulnerable to GBV cases</p>

1. Zambia Police Service – Victim Support Unit

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>ii. Dedicated VSU officer at police stations and police posts</p>	<p>ii. Shortage of VSU Officers in most police posts to handle GBV cases such as sexual assault. Of the 305 established VSU positions, only 137 were filled. The shortage of manpower resulted in officers not able to adequately provide specialized services to victims of GBV</p>	<p>ii. To ensure the welfare of GBV victims throughout the process from reporting to disposal of cases, the ZPS should prioritize the allocation of available resources by ensuring that VSU positions are filled in accordance with the approved staff establishment to curb the shortage of manpower at the police stations and posts.</p>	<p>ii. In agreement with the Office of the Auditor General, ActionAid Zambia believed that government through the Ministry of Home Affairs need to make recruitment of the vacancies urgently and especially at the most VSUs that need to be filled as per establishment. Further, government need to focus concentration of VSU officer at police posts to address the problem of SGBV at the community level.</p>

1. Zambia Police Service – Victim Support Unit

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>iii. Specialized training/competencies in GBV case management</p>	<p>iii. Lack of specialized training in the multi-disciplinary management of GBV and counselling. In addition, in Mongu, Kabwe, Kasama, Wusakile and Mufulira police stations, VSU officers needed specialized training in psychosocial counselling, human trafficking, child protection, trauma counselling, multi-disciplinary training and investigation of GBV, forensic training and general domestic violence. Further, 24 of the 29 police stations including their police posts had VSU officers not having specialized training in GBV, and therefore officers could not provide required professional counselling to victims of GBV.</p>	<p>iii. The ZPS should ensure that the training curriculum includes aspects of GBV such as the multi-disciplinary approach to managing GBV cases as well as comprehensive counselling skills to enable officers to manage the reported GBV cases comprehensively and effectively.</p>	<p>iii. Government as a matter of urgency need to facilitate development of a multidisciplinary curricula that will be compulsory to all police recruits at all police colleges and training facilities. In addition, government need to support the police service to implement Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for officers to remain abreast with ever changing dynamics of GBV.</p>

1. Zambia Police Service – Victim Support Unit

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>iv. Supportive environment in which GBV cases are managed</p>	<p>iv. Lack of dedicated counselling rooms makes the process of providing specialized counselling to victims of GBV a challenge due to lack of privacy.</p>	<p>iv. To ensure that the trauma of victims is reduced during the investigation process, the ZPS should provide a conducive environment to allow for privacy for all victims of GBV including child victims, to enable them to open up to narrate their ordeal and subsequently recover from the trauma.</p>	<p>iv. The victims and survivors of GBV must be protected at all costs, thus there is need for the Zambian government to support the Zambia Police Service, through allocating more resources in the budget to construct dedicated, as well as expand on the existing infrastructure rooms for handling GBV cases of GBV need to be protected. Creation of an enabling environment that preserves the dignity, including privacy of women and girls must be done without delay.</p>

1. Zambia Police Service – Victim Support Unit

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
v. Safe spaces for victims of GBV	v. Lack of shelter to save as safe spaces for victims of GBV contribute to increases contact with perpetrators of GBV cases thereby leading to increase in numbers of GBV cases being withdrawn as victims are continuously exposed to those who abused or defiled them.	v. The ZPS should continue engaging the MCDSS in identifying places of safety for victims of GBV. This will ensure that victims do not withdraw cases as most victims would withdraw cases due to influence from the perpetrators.	v. Government, through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare need to be supported with resources through increased budgetary allocations for the setting up of centre where victims of GBV can be kept for safety away from alleged perpetrators of GBV until such cases are disposed of or determined in the courts of law. This will reduce on the number of GBV cases being withdrawn.

1. Zambia Police Service – Victim Support Unit

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
vi. Adequacy and presence of programmes to increase awareness and sensitization of GBV among community members	vi. There is inadequacy in terms of programmes to raise awareness and sensitization of among community members on the part of the Zambia Police Service-VSU	vi. The ZPS should increase sensitization programmes within the communities on the importance of reporting GBV cases early which aids in prompt collection of forensic evidence to be used in court.	vi. Government, through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare need to be supported with resources through increased budgetary allocations for the setting up of center where victims of GBV can be kept for safety away from alleged perpetrators of GBV until such cases are disposed of or determined in the courts of law. This will reduce on the number of GBV cases being withdrawn.

2. Ministry of Health – One Stop Centre

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
i. Availability of Multi-Disciplinary Personnel	i. Interviews with personnel at One Stop Centres revealed that health facilities did not have adequate staff to complement the full set of multidisciplinary	i. MoH should enhance coordination with institutions such as ZPS to ensure that required multi-disciplinary personnel are made available at the OSC;	i. AAZ recommends training and recruitment of health personnel to curb the shortage of health personnel to handle GBV cases.

	<p>personnel. The personnel required at the One Stop Centers included Medical Practitioners, Psychosocial Counsellors, Paralegal and VSU police officers. The Paralegal and victim support police officers were unavailable in more than a third of OCSs.</p> <p>Interviews and physical inspections at the One Sop Centres revealed that eleven (11) out of twenty-eight (28) OSCs visited representing 39% did not have a paralegal officer. According to interviews with available staff at OSCs the non-availability of personnel, such as the paralegal officer was due to the Ministry of Health having not employed personnel to occupy the positions.</p> <p>At the OSCs where the paralegal officers were available, support was received from cooperating partners such as Zambia Centre for</p>	<p>It also should engage relevant stakeholders such as ZCCP and WILDAF to secure support that will ensure availability of paralegals in the OSCs considering that most of the paralegals were supported by the donors communities.</p>	<p>AAZ recommends prioritizing the OSCs in terms of staffing because certain cases like defilement and rape need prompt action and skilled staff to handle the cases non availability of trained personnel can lead to mismanagement of cases.</p> <p>Government should allocate funds and engage stakeholders to recruit more paralegal officers in all OSCs to curb the shortages.</p> <p>The OSCs need well-coordinated shift allocations to ensure that there are always qualified staff at the centre. Cooperating with relevant stakeholders such as CSO's to engage interns or volunteers to beef up staff shortages in the centers. There is also needed to ensure that services such as psychological support, care, HIV testing, HIV -post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)</p>
--	--	--	---

	Communication Programme (ZCCP), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and World Vision		and linkage to HIV treatment are made readily available at all times. This would easy management of GBV cases and help improve provision of quality services in the OSCs. Basic trainings should also be extended to the community and traditional leaders who are the first to interact with the victims.
--	--	--	--

2. Ministry of Health – One Stop Centre			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
ii. Provision of Prompt and Comprehensive Medical Services to Victims of GBV	ii. Interviews and physical inspections conducted revealed that OSCs did not provide prompt and comprehensive medical services, such as medical examinations, access to PEP, the provision of emergency contraceptives and follow up services among others. The provision of these services was affected by the following factors:	ii. MoH should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that available resources are allocated for the provision of adequate medical equipment - Train available medical personnel to operate the equipment for carrying out physical examinations on victims of GBV. 	ii. We suggest that there is need to allocate more resources for procurement of medical equipment in all OSCs to improve quality and procurement of medical supplies like HIV test kits. Non availability of HIV testing kits can compromise the quality of services offered to GBV victims, this can also include screening for risks of sexually transmitted infections from the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unavailability of medical equipment to screen survivors of GBV - management of medical consequences of GBV cases – provision of PEP to sexual survivors of GBV - victims of sexual GBV non administered with PEP. Per is only administered to victims who report cases within the recommended time of 72 hours for HIV prevention and 120 hours for prevention of pregnancies - follow- Up / monitoring mechanisms for GBV survivors placed on PEP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen follow-up mechanisms to ensure victims of GBV strictly adhere to the administration of PEP. 	<p>victims especially in the cases of rape. All laboratory machinery and testing samples should also be always made available following the Auditor Generals recommendations. We also recommend the training of frontline staff on how to operate medical equipment with refresher trainings to be kept abreast with changes in the sector and technology. Zambia needs to share lessons learned and best practices with other counties in the southern region. AAZ recommends increased sensitization campaigns about the 72hrs window for PEP as a tool to reduce HIV and AIDS infection rates related to GBV. Considering this period, it is very important to keep track of the cases and manage them within this time frame.</p> <p>Furthermore, AAZ recommends the involvement of Community-based victim</p>
--	--	--	--

			support initiatives may help to overcome follow up constraints. The engagement of men and boys is critical and proven effective in GBV prevention and response, as well as securing better outcomes for the community.
--	--	--	--

2. Ministry of Health – One Stop Centre

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>iii. Provision of Conducive Environment for Counselling Sessions</p>	<p>iii. Physical inspections of the OSCs revealed that twelve (12) out of twenty-eight (28) facilities representing 43% did not provide conducive environment for counselling. The facilities did not have a counselling room to provide privacy to victims of GBV. This was due to inadequate space in the OSCs visited.</p> <p>The psychosocial counsellors were required to share office space with other multidisciplinary personnel such as the paralegal officers, the OSCs coordinators</p> <p>Further, the availability of child friendly facilities at OSCs was a challenge.</p> <p>In addition, all facilities visited indicated that staff had not received special training in forensic management which</p>	<p>iii. MoH should provide a conducive environment to allow for privacy for all victims of GBV including children to ensure that the trauma of victims is reduced during the process. This will be essential in helping victims to narrate their ordeal and subsequently recover from their trauma.</p>	<p>iii. GBV is a hinderance to the attainment of gender equality and the realization of the social and economic goals of Zambia, as it erodes the confidence of the survivors that they can contribute to development goals. AAZ recommends that counselling rooms should be made available in all OSCs and should be strategically placed to avoid the intimidation of survivors from perpetrators. Counselling is a form of ‘talk therapy’. It is a process where an individual, couple or family meet with a trained professional counsellor to talk about issues and problems that they are facing in their lives. Professional counselling is confidential and non-judgmental.</p> <p>We recommend the use of counselling services provided</p>

	<p>was critical to ensuring that evidence collected from the victims was admissible in court.</p>		<p>by CSO's that are strategically placed and provide confidentiality and places which has less traffic. MoH can work with stakeholders to establish or refurbish rooms that could be independent and not communal.</p> <p>According to the World Health Organization, health is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." And victims of GBV their mental, psychological, and social well-being is affected and as such need spaces where they can be counselled well without interferences. There is need to increase resources for provision of proper counselling rooms which are very conducive according to the recommendations from the Auditor General reports.</p>
--	---	--	--

			Government should allocate resources to train staff found in One Stop Centres on forensic management. This can also do with through the engagement of other stakeholders and cooperating partners
--	--	--	---

3. National Prosecution Authority

Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>i. Consideration of GBV Victims during Prosecution</p>	<p>Prosecution of cases involving child victims was a challenge due to the lack of child friendly courts, and prosecutors not receiving specialized GBV trainings.</p>	<p>Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that needs of child victims are prioritised during the prosecution of GBV cases such as child friendly facilities and counselling of victims to avoid cases being withdrawn.</p>	<p>Prosecution of Child GBV cases should be prioritised and prosecuted within a specified timeline. AAZ recommends 24 hours based on the delicate composition of children. Laws to support this should be put in place. Child Trauma psychologist and counsellors should be assigned to each child. To support staffing in the Ministry of Community Development and Social welfare,</p> <p>CSO's specializing in child counselling and provision of shelter's should be mapped and accredited to support psychological services.</p> <p>There is need to assign resources to support the child counselling services</p>

National Prosecution Authority			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Remarks/Suggestions Zambia
ii. Cooperation with stakeholders	Multi-Disciplinary teams (MDA) coordinated by the NPA were present in only 3/11 district offices.	There is a need to provide prosecutors with the relevant specialised training to enable them to manage and prosecute reported GBV cases.	AAZ supports the Auditor Generals recommendation for prosecutors to be provided with relevant specialised training on GBV to wholly and efficiently support the specificity of GBV cases. We recommend enhanced and deliberate Cooperation with stakeholders to allow for effective use of available resources to train prosecutors to wholistically support GBV cases

National Prosecution Authority			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Remarks/Suggestions Zambia
iii. Provision of the Witness Fund	Funds for ferrying witnesses to and from the court were not available at the required time to ensure the presence of witnesses during court hearings, which delayed the disposal of GBV cases.	The NPA should ensure that the Witness Fund is made available when required to make available witnesses on time to avoid delays in prosecuting GBV cases.	There is need to reinforce availability of the witness fund as stipulated in the National Prosecution Act No.34 provides for the establishment of the Witness Management Fund. Specific resources should be made available to acquire vehicles and for support costs to make readily available, transportation of witnesses

The Judiciary			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
iv. Establishment of Fast Track Courts and Court Room Infrastructure	GBV matters of a civil nature were resolved within the stipulated twenty-eight (28) days as required by the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011. However, the Act did not cover GBV matters of a criminal nature, which could not be fast tracked.	The Judiciary should put measures in place which will expedite the establishment of conventional, fast track and user-friendly courts in places where there are no courts to ensure access to justice for all in a timely manner	We support the Auditor General's recommendations, in addition, we believe that due to the nature of criminal investigations and trials, amendments to the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 should include quick response mechanism for medical reports and timelines for generating such reports so as to capture data of cases involving sexual violence and actual bodily harm on time. It will also require increasing the establishing of special courts for timely disposal of GBV cases of criminal nature. The style in which Juvenile courts have been established can be emulated and this will allow for additional training of Magistrates, Prosecutors and legal aid service providers.

The Judiciary			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Zambia Remarks/Suggestions
<p>i. Establishment of Fast Track Courts and Court Room Infrastructure</p>	<p>Out of 188 Magistrates from the fifty-nine (59) courts in the country, 63.8% were allocated to hear GBV cases. However, 20.3% of the courts had only one (1) Magistrate who was required to hear all cases, including the GBV ones. This shows that despite the rising numbers in the recorded GBV cases, disposal of GBV cases has not been prioritised considering the numbers of Magistrates who have been allocated in these courts</p>	<p>The Judiciary should expeditiously roll out the in-house training plan to ensure that all magistrates required to hear GBV cases are provided with the necessary skills.</p>	<p>With the creation of the long awaited Emoluments Commission which was already established in Article 231 of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016 and the enactment of the Emoluments Commission Act No. 1 of 2022, we recommend that the Judiciary submit its report to the Emoluments Commission citing inadequate human resource as an institutional weakness and request for more funding so as to create positions at Magistrate level and lift the burden of having a few Magistrates. This recommendation is from our understanding that the Subordinate Court in Zambia is the busiest court and the first court of instance for most cases, there is need to increase its capacity to handle cases, especially GBV cases that require urgent attention.</p>

The Judiciary			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Remarks/Suggestions Zambia
ii. Specific Training in GBV	Only 40.3 % Magistrates undertook specialized short-term training for dealing with GBV cases.	The Judiciary should provide submissions to the relevant bodies which include MOJ or the ZLDC regarding amendments to the law in respect of timelines in which GBV criminal cases should be disposed of as well as the list of offences to be regarded as GBV cases and the procedures to be followed in hearing GBV matters.	We recommend that the Judiciary partners with civil society organisations that have available technical and financial resources to support training of Magistrates and other key Judiciary staff that interact with GBV victims. In addition to this, the Judiciary should create platforms for Judicial continuous profession development, bearing in mind that GBV trends are ever changing and there is rich jurisprudence in other jurisdictions that could assist Magistrates in handling various GBV scenarios. The in-house and continuous professional development should not only

			target Subordinate Court Magistrates but also Local Court Magistrates who interface with GBV cases that may be unreported in the communities. .AAZ recommends that the Judiciary partners with the Gender desk at the office of the Vice President as the desk is better placed to offer this technical support.
--	--	--	--

The Judiciary			
Audit Focus Area	Audit Findings	Office of the Auditor General Recommendations	ActionAid Remarks/Suggestions
			Zambia

<p>iii. Availability of Court Interpreters during GBV case hearing</p>	<p>Interviews with Magistrates at all the courts visited revealed that there was lack of standard interpretation-translation services in the Judiciary. There were either no court interpreters or an inadequate number of court interpreters at twenty-three (23) courts.</p>	<p>The Judiciary should continue collaborating with other stakeholders in the criminal justice system through the Communication, Cooperation and Coordination Initiative (CCCI) to ensure efficient functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure timely disposal of GBV cases</p>	<p>Court interpreters are officers of the court, there is need for language training as most court interpreters end up losing the witness's testimony in interpretation and this makes the trial unfair for the litigants, offending Article 18 of the Constitution on the right to a fair trial.</p> <p>Further, there is need to prioritize the recruitment of interpreters in the Judiciary as interpretation is a key component of the right to a fair trial.</p>
---	--	---	---

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Gender-based violence, and in particular violence against women and girls has been a growing concern in recent years, as the number of violent accidents has grown steadily and GBV has now reached endemic level within Zambian society. As highlighted by the Office of the Auditor General Performance Report, tackling GVB is paramount to achieve gender equality and for the realisation of the social and economic goals of Zambia has set for itself in the 7 National Development Plan (7NDP).

It is the concerted view of ActionAid Zambia that performance issues raised in the report and recommendations provided for by the audit team must be considered for the effective protection of women and girls against gender-based violence as well as for the sustainable development of the Zambian society as a whole.