# Gender-Based Violence in Schools and Girls' Education: Experimental Evidence from Mozambique *


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**Abstract**

Gender-based violence (GBV) at schools is a pervasive problem that affects millions of adolescent girls worldwide, but there is little evidence on how to deter GBV in schools and how this affects girls' education. We evaluate an intervention aimed to increase the capacity of school personnel to address GBV and to improve students' awareness and proactive behaviors. We randomized exposure to the intervention as well as whether the student component was targeted to girls, boys, or both. We find a reduction in violence perpetrated by teachers and school staff against girls in all treated schools, regardless of the targeted students' gender. Using administrative records, we show that in schools where girls were targeted, there was an increase in their school enrollment, largely due to an increased propensity for GBV reporting by victims. Our findings suggest that effectively mitigating violence to improve girls' schooling requires a dual approach: deterring potential perpetrators and fostering a proactive stance among victims, such as increased reporting.



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# 1 Introduction

*"Education has a unique potential to generate an environment where attitudes condoning violence can be changed and non-violent behavior can be learned. From children's early years, schools are well placed to break patterns of violence and provide skills to communicate, to negotiate and support peaceful solutions to conflicts. For many children, however, the school environment represents a very different universe, where they may be exposed to violence and may also be taught violence."*

*—Marta Santos Pais*
*Former UN Secretary General on Violence against Children*

Gender-based violence (GBV) toward adolescents is a pervasive and multifaceted issue, potentially contributing to pronounced gender gaps in educational attainment (World Bank, 2018). [1] GBV may involve a range of perpetrators, including peers, community leaders, teachers, and school staff (UNICEF, 2019). Particularly concerning is the vulnerability of young adolescents, who may lack the cognitive and emotional maturity to recognize and address GBV, thus perpetuating a cycle of victimization. For instance, GBV in schools may increase the risk of early-pregnancy and early-marriage. Compounding this issue are the societal normalization of GBV and the lack of accountability of potential perpetrators. Despite the pervasive nature of GBV in schools and its implications for economic development, there is no causal evidence of its effects on education. Moreover, effective strategies to address GBV within educational settings are under explored.

In this paper, we examine how creating awareness and strengthening support systems for GBV in primary schools affect the educational outcomes of adolescent girls. Our study is set in Mozambique, where GBV in schools is alarmingly prevalent. According to UNICEF (2018), about 70% of students believed that girls were exposed to sexual violence by teachers, yet only 20% of students knew how to seek

[1] Recent estimates show that globally over half of all children—1 billion children, ages 2–17 years—experienced violence of which GBV is a major component (Hillis et al., 2016). World Health Organization et al. (2014) estimates that globally 12 percent of girls and 8 percent of boys are subject to sexual violence.

support. To address this issue, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF in Mozambique, we designed and evaluated an intervention aimed at increasing awareness and improving responses to GBV among school personnel and students. The intervention comprised two components. The first component, 'GFP training', trained teachers previously appointed by the Ministry of Education to address GBV in schools. Known as Gender Focal Points (GFPs), these teachers received comprehensive training to enhance their ability to provide an effective response to cases of GBV within their schools. The second component, 'student training', provided GBV training to students in the last two years of primary school (i.e., grades 6 or 7), who are typically 13 or 14 years old. The student training involved four guided discussion sessions with short videos and activities that deliver a GBV curriculum. Sessions were facilitated by the GFPs and provide information about the types of actions that constitute violence, the reasons why violence is not acceptable, how to seek support, and examples of proactive behaviors.

We evaluate the intervention with a clustered-randomized controlled trial involving 326 primary schools in the Sofala Province. Following a baseline survey of students in each school, we randomly selected 239 schools to receive the GFP training and 88 schools to remain as controls. To shed light on the mechanisms by which the intervention could reduce GBV, we cross-randomized among the treatment group, the targeting of the student training across schools. In particular, by training only girls or boys, we explore whether changes in the proactive behaviors of potential victims (girls) or changes in the behavior of bystanders and/or potential perpetrators (boys) contribute to reducing GBV. Specifically, among the treated schools, in 76 schools, only girls received training (treatment 1), in 83 schools, only boys were trained (treatment 2), and in 80 schools, both girls and boys were trained (treatment 3). We administered follow-up surveys to the students, GFPs, and teachers in each school one year after the intervention. We collected information about adolescents' experiences related to GBV as well as their classmates' experiences. In addition, to understand the effects on reporting and GFPs' actions, we surveyed GFPs and obtained administrative data from the central helpline where victims could report GBV. Finally, to shed light on whether GFPs were able to deter violence committed by teachers, we also surveyed teachers about their knowledge of GBV laws and associated punishments.

We find that improving the capacity of key school personnel to deal with GBV reduced the prevalence of violence perpetrated by teachers and school staff in all treated schools. We find that a year after the intervention ended, girls in all treated schools were 67% less likely to report having experienced violence by teachers/school staff in the last month. In particular, girls in treated schools were less likely to report that they were forced to perform sexual acts by a teacher or school staff compared to girls in the control group. The fact that we observe a reduction in violence by school staff in all treatment arms, regardless of the targeting of the student training, suggests that the training of GFPs (which was implemented similarly in all treated schools) played a key role. In line with this, we find that GFPs proactively deterred GBV in all treated schools. In aprticular, GFPs were more engaged in discussing GBV with students (of both genders) and teachers, and were more diligent in reporting incidents to school authorities. These results highlight the importance of building the capacity of key school personnel to deter GBV in schools.

While the intervention also targeted dating violence, we find no significant effects on reducing violence perpetrated by boys against girls. We speculate several potential explanations for this result. First, dating relationships were relatively uncommon among students, potentially limiting the scope for the intervention to influence behaviors. Second, while the intervention improved students' ability to identify dating violence, it did not lead to changes in their attitudes toward gender-based violence (GBV). Finally, Gender Focal Points (GFPs) lacked formal mechanisms or legal tools to address dating violence among adolescents—unlike cases of violence perpetrated by school staff, which could be reported to authorities or community leaders—reducing the potential for deterrence

We then ask whether the reduction in GBV by teachers or school staff translates into better schooling outcomes for girls. Using administrative records, we find that girls in schools where girls were trained, are 10% more likely to be enrolled in school relative to the control group at the endline. While the effect in schools where only boys were trained is positive, it is small and imprecisely estimated. Additionally, we examine effects on learning outcomes using standardized tests administered during the endline survey to evaluate girls' math and reading skills. We do not find any significant effects on girls' test scores.

To understand why reductions in GBV lead to higher school enrollment rates

when the intervention targets girls, we explore how the effectiveness of GFP training interacts with the gender focus of the student training. Notably, in schools where the intervention targeted only girls, we find that students were more likely to approach the GFP to report violence. Moreover, GFPs' awareness and use of the national helpline where children can report GBV cases was significantly higher in these schools. Since a child victim's presence on the call is required to lodge a formal complaint against a perpetrator, we interpret this finding as an indication of proactive behaviors among girls in schools where they received training. Supporting this interpretation, we find that in these schools where girls were treated, GFPs were more likely to report GBV cases to the school council, which involves parents, community leaders, and principals. While we do not have data on teachers' actual punishment, we analyze teachers' perceptions of GBV penalties using teachers' endline survey. We find that school personnel in treated schools, particularly in those where girls were trained, were more likely to associate stricter penalties for GBV cases. Finally, we find some evidence that girls are less likely to feel unsafe at school due to the intervention in schools where only girls were trained.

We also validate these findings using administrative data from the central helpline that victims need to call in order to report GBV cases. We find that districts with treated schools are more likely to experience a surge in calls for gender violence after the intervention. While before the intervention, control and treated schools had similar number of calls, we find that in treated districts, the calls start increasing after the intervention. In fact, we see an increase in calls that are converted to assistance, thus, leading to formal investigations.

In light of our findings, we posit that reductions in GBV within contexts marked by asymmetrical power dynamics, such as schools, can lead to improved schooling outcomes when both perpetrator deterrence and victim proactivity are present. Specifically, in the context of teacher-perpetrated sexual violence against female students, the proactive measures taken by GFPs in addressing GBV serve as a deterrent to potential offenders, helping to reduce incidents of violence. However, for the deterrence effect to positively impact girls' educational attainment, it is crucial that girls themselves engage in proactive behaviors, such as formal reporting. This allows school authorities to take necessary actions against perpetrators and rebalance the teacher-student dynamic.

We conduct four different checks to rule out that these results are driven by a change in reporting or social desirability bias. First, we use an indirect measure of violence where students were asked if they witnessed or heard of any violence toward girls in their school, finding a similar effect. Second, to test whether social desirability bias is driving the results, we estimate the heterogeneity of the treatment effects with respect to respondents' social desirability at baseline. We find no significant heterogeneity along this dimension, suggesting that social desirability bias does not drive the results. Third, we do not find any evidence of a change in students' reporting of violence pre-2021 – i.e., prior to the start of the study, suggesting that results are not driven by recall bias and reporting bias. Finally, the fact that we do not find a reduction in dating violence or attitudes, which the intervention also targeted, suggests that results are unlikely to be driven by experimenter demand effects.

Our study makes several contributions to the literature. We speak to the recent literature in economics studying how GBV affects women's socioeconomic outcomes (e.g., Borker, 2022; Amaral et al., 2023; Sanin, 2021; Siddique, 2022; Chakraborty et al., 2018). We are closely related to Adams-Prassl et al. (2024), who show how experiencing rape can have considerable adverse effects on employment and mental health in Finland and how an effective criminal system can mitigate these long-term effects. We complement this research by showing how sexual abuse at school during adolescence can lead to increased school dropout rates among girls, affecting long-term human capital accumulation in developing countries.

We also contribute to the growing literature on the causal effects of school violence on schooling outcomes (e.g., Devries et al., 2015; Karmaliani et al., 2020; Gutierrez et al., 2018; Romero et al., 2020; Romero and Sandefur, 2021; Alan et al., 2021; Smarelli, 2023; Alan and Kubilay, 2025). Recent research shows that direct and indirect exposure to domestic violence decreases grades (Carrell and Hoekstra, 2010), and interventions preventing GBV among mothers can improve schooling outcomes (Sviatschi and Trako, 2023). However, evidence on the direct impact of one's own experiences of GBV on education is more limited. Our contribution lies in demonstrating that by reducing violence by teachers against adolescent girls in schools and holding perpetrators accountable, we can foster greater educational investment and human capital development among girls. Our study also offers insights into effec-

tive strategies for addressing GBV in schools, such as equipping school personnel with the necessary training to address and manage GBV issues effectively within the school environment.

Our study also relates to the recent literature studying the dynamics of GBV at the workplace (Adams-Prassl et al., 2023) and the role of social and other forms of sanctions (Glaeser et al., 1996). We contribute to this literature by pointing out how, in contexts with asymmetrical power dynamics, a top-down approach involving authorities combined with a horizontal approach can effectively reduce violence and increase socio-economic outcomes. The top-down approach targets violence perpetrated by individuals in positions of power, relying on formal mechanisms to deter and address abuse through greater institutional accountability. In contrast, the horizontal component empowers agents to recognize and report incidents of violence. Our findings suggest that in the school context, the effectiveness of the authority-led approach to improve the educational outcomes is contingent upon the ability of the student-focused component to promote the reporting necessary to trigger institutional responses and ensure accountability for perpetrators. Thus, in situations of GBV occurring within asymmetrical power dynamics, such as teacher-student interactions, reducing violence and achieving positive economic outcomes requires more than just the deterrence of perpetrators by school personnel. It also requires proactive actions from victims, enabling the school authorities to take punitive measures against the perpetrators. Understanding these dynamics is paramount for determining the most cost-effective strategies for implementing policies that mitigate GBV.

Finally, we contribute to recent studies that have evaluated the effectiveness of interventions aimed at empowering girls and women, specifically examining the impact of targeting girls versus boys in different interventions aimed toward empowering girls/women (e.g., Andrew et al., 2022; Cassidy et al., 2023; Fiala et al., 2022; Shah et al., 2023). We contribute to this literature by demonstrating how, also in the school context, there are gender specific complementarities between interventions inducting changes at the individual level and interventions targeting violence at higher level of aggregation such as the family, the school, or the community.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we describe our study's context and provide details on the intervention along with our evaluation strategy, Section 3 describes the data, and Section 4 presents the empirical findings. Section 5

concludes.

# 2 Intervention

## 2.1 Motivation

Mozambique has made considerable progress in improving primary school enrollment rates and narrowing the gender gap, with net enrollment for both boys and girls in primary education surpassing 90% in 2018. Despite these achievements, there is a steep decline in secondary level enrollment rates. In 2019, gross secondary-school enrollment rate was 32% (World Bank Development Indicators, 2024).

Gender-based violence (GBV) has been identified as one of the main risk factors leading to school dropouts for girls by Mozambican institutions and NGOs. According to a recent report by UNICEF (2018) in Mozambique, 64.5 and 59.5% of male and female secondary students, respectively, reported being aware of sexual violence in their schools. Moreover, 52% of students reported teachers as the perpetrators of sexual abuse and violence, and 12% of students reported knowing other students who dropped out due to sexual abuse and harassment. However, a very small share of students were aware of mechanisms to address GBV at school.

With this concern in mind, we partnered with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF in Mozambique to design and implement a curriculum aimed at specifically addressing GBV in schools: *Está na Hora de Agir* (It's Time to Act).

## 2.2 The Curriculum: *Está na Hora de Agir*

The intervention *Está na Hora de Agir* consists of two components. The first component involves a top-down approach providing GBV training to teachers appointed by the Ministry of Education to address gender-related issues within the school known as Gender Focal Points (GFPs).[2] The second component of *Está na Hora de Agir* consists of a student training that follows a curriculum designed to improve students' knowledge about GBV and encourage proactive responses. Henceforth, we refer to these components as the *'GFP training'* and the *'student training'*.

[2]The Gender Focal Point (GFP) role existed prior to our intervention, and we had no influence over the appointment of the GFPs who participated in the study.

Both trainings approached GBV by examining it through the perspectives of three distinct actors: victims, bystanders, and perpetrators. The overarching objective was to cultivate an understanding that individuals can take proactive steps against GBV, irrespective of their role in a given situation. Participants were exposed to these concepts through interactive and engaging activities, including games, dances, songs, videos, and group work, aimed at facilitating comprehension and retention of the material.

The intervention was implemented by the local NGO Girl Child Rights (GCR),[3] in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF in Mozambique. In particular, GCR assisted with GFP training, but once they were trained, GFPs were on charge of independently implementing the student's training and intervention. This implementation feature of our intervention was deemed essential given the interest in scaling-up the program, and the fact that a large set of schools were in very remote areas.

**GFP Training:** The GFP training aimed at improving GFPs' awareness about GBV and enhancing their capacity to address and manage GBV incidents within their schools. It encompassed a range of activities, including group exercises focused on the concept of GBV and how it differs from other forms of violence, different ways in which GBV can occur, victim support mechanism (Figure A.1), and GFPs' role in the intervention (Figure A.2). Particular emphasis was given to how to report violence. Following UNICEF's guidelines, GFPs were instructed to initiate reporting of GBV cases through the national toll-free children's helpline, 116, *Linha Fala Criança* (LFC).[4]

GFPs were also trained to deliver the student training component and received a detailed instruction manual to conduct the discussion sessions. The GFP training was delivered in two days, complemented with one-to-one review sessions and

[3]GCR is a leading Mozambican NGO working on youth and female empowerment and children's rights. Operating since 2008, it has extensive expertise working with communities and children to generate awareness around GBV, violence toward children, and children's rights. For more information see `https://gcr.org.mz`. GCR also manages Mozambique's national toll-free children's helpline, Linha Fala Criança (116), which provides support and a platform to report incidents of violence.

[4]Anyone seeking assistance with children's cases of GBV can call the LFC. Upon receiving a call, the helpline conducts a preliminary investigation to gather enough evidence before referring to formal institutions (e.g., police, social services). For a call to move to the formal referral stage, the victim's consent is required (except in cases of rape). LFC also maintains a list of trained professionals and NGOs in order to be better equipped to provide local assistance to victims. For a detailed description of the GBV referral and response protocol, see Appendix A.A.III.

GCR's on-site support during the student training. The implementing organizations covered the costs of participating in the training (including transport, accommodation, and per diem subsistence costs). The training was well attended. 236 GFPs from the 239 treatment schools attended the training, corresponding to a 98.9% attendance rate.

**Student training:** The student training consisted of four sessions of two hours each, taking place during the school day and on the school's premises. During the meetings, the GFPs showed short videos, played introspection and reflection games, and led a discussion among the participating students.

Two animated videos were specifically developed for the intervention.[5] The first covered sexual harassment, depicting situations of male students harassing a female student, followed by a male teacher inappropriately touching and harassing a female student. The video then showed the victim seeking support from her friends, family, and, ultimately, the GFP. It concluded with details on how students can seek help. Figure A.3 provides sample screenshots from this video. The second video covered physical and emotional violence. It first depicted a situation in which a male student gets frustrated after losing a football game in school and pushes his girlfriend. This was followed by another situation in which another male student gets angry and shouts at a female student. Figure A.4 provides sample screenshots from this video.

The videos were followed by discussions moderated by the GFP, covering the following topics: the type of actions constituting violence, consequences of violence, why violence is not acceptable, how to seek support, proactive behaviors for victims, survivors, and bystanders. After each session, the GFP assigned a game or activity for students to prepare for the next session. In Figure A.5 and Table A.3, we show the attendance rates by session. The rate of attendance was approximately 85% and similar across treatment groups.

[5]The inclusion of animated videos was motivated by recent evidence that video-based edutainment interventions can effectively instigate social change, including on behaviors around fertility, domestic violence or early marriage (La Ferrara et al., 2012; Banerjee et al., 2019a,b; Green et al., 2020; Cassidy et al., 2023). Furthermore, the videos ensure consistency in the curriculum delivered during the student training.

## 2.3 Experimental design

In order to evaluate the intervention, we implemented a clustered randomized controlled trial in the province of Sofala. The study was conducted in 7 (out of 13) districts of Sofala: Beira, Dondo, Buzi, Nhamatanda, Chibabava, Cheringoma, and Maringue. These districts were selected based on considerations of accessibility and security. We aimed to include the universe of primary schools within these 7 districts in the study. However, due to the remote nature of the context and susceptibility to climatic disruptions such as cyclones and floods, 326 out of the 340 schools could be included in the project. This corresponds to 96% of the primary schools in the area.

The randomization was stratified by district and baseline prevalence of school-based violence. For the latter, we used baseline information on the school-level prevalence of violence in the past month. For each district, we classified schools as high violence whenever the school violence level (as reported by the students in our sample) was equal to or greater than the district median. Within each stratum, we randomly allocated eligible schools to one of four groups: treatment 1 (T1), treatment 2 (T2), treatment 3 (T3), or control.

The GFP training was implemented in all treatment schools, while the targeting of the student training was randomized across the various treatment arms. In the T1 group (76 schools), only girls were included in the student training. In T2 (83 schools), only boys received the student training. In T3 (80 schools), both boys and girls participated in the student training. In the control group (87 schools), no GFP training occurred and no students received the training.

The group size for the student training varied, depending on the school type. In T1 and T2 schools, the target group size was 14 girls or boys, respectively. In T3 schools, where the training included both genders, typically 14 girls and 14 boys participated. All selected students were identified at baseline as eligible for the intervention, specifically being 6th or 7th graders who were attending the school. Figure 1 summarizes the experimental design, while Figure 2 shows the location of the schools included in the study, with their treatment assignments.[6]

[6]To ensure the experimental design was followed, we implemented a thorough monitoring system. First, we provided color-coded T-shirts for each GFP in the treated schools, which they were instructed to wear during the student training sessions.Second, we asked the GFPs and GCR staff to take a photo in front of the school on the day of the discussion session. If the session included any videos, the video projector provided for the purposes of the intervention should have been visible in

# 3 Data

## 3.1 Student's data

We collected baseline and endline survey data from adolescents who were eligible to participate in the student training, as well as administrative data on their school records. Our student sample consists of a representative sample of boys and girls who were attending grade 6 or 7 at the time of the intervention. The baseline sample consisted of 9,107 pupils: 4,605 boys and 4,502 girls.

The baseline survey was conducted between May and September 2021, wherein face-to-face interviews were carried out at the school premises during regular school hours. The endline survey was conducted in two waves. In the first phase, we tried to reach and survey the students in schools. In the second phase, we tried reaching students who could not be reached in the first wave. The interviews in this second phase were conducted in adolescents' households. The first wave of the endline survey was conducted from June to November 2022, 8–12 months after the intervention. This survey was conducted in all primary schools from the baseline sample, as well as in 71 secondary schools located within the study districts to accommodate students who may have transitioned to secondary education during the study period. In this first wave, we reached 6,401 (70%) of the 9,107 students in the baseline sample. The second wave of the endline survey was conducted between September and October 2023. By the end of the second phase, we were able to track 83% of the baseline sample. The tracking rate was 82% among girls and 84% among boys. There was no significant difference between the tracking rate in treated schools and the control groups (see Table A.1 in the Appendix).[7] Figure 3 provides a visual summary of the project's timeline.

All interviews secured consent from the school, parents, and participating children. Interviews were conducted in complete privacy, and data collection was refrained from in instances where privacy could not be ensured. Enumerators of the

the photo. We also asked GFPs and GCR staff to take pictures of the discussion board at the end of the session. All of the photos were required to display the date and the time.

[7]While there is no significant difference between tracking rates in treatment and control schools, girls in T1 and T3 schools were significantly more likely to be resurveyed compared to girls in T2 schools. This implies that for outcomes reported by girls, comparisons of treatment effects across treatment arms should be interpreted with caution. For boys, the tracking rate was similar in all treatment and control arms.

same sex as the respondent conducted the interviews. Prior to fieldwork, all enumerators and the field staff underwent training in conducting interviews on sensitive topics, as well as on crisis response management and stress situations, following World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines (World Health Organization, 2001, 2016). The project received ethical clearance from the National Bioethics Committee of Mozambique, Princeton University, and Trinity College Dublin. The project also counted with extensive guidance from UNICEF and its GBV experts. In Appendix A. we provide a description of the different mitigation strategies taken during the course of data collection.

The interviews with adolescents lasted for about 60 minutes. After obtaining informed consent from the respondents, the surveyors proceeded to a set of introductory questions on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondent and their household. Next, they inquired about the respondents' perceptions of the prevalence and frequency of different forms of violence toward their classmates, followed by a battery of questions about respondents' own experiences of GBV and whether they witnessed episodes of violence experienced by other girls in their class. The questionnaire also included questions about the acceptability of violence and attitudes toward it. At the end of the survey, respondents were asked to report how they felt while discussing violence with the enumerators. Additionally, the endline questionnaire included standardized math and reading tests, based on the Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA) and Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA), which were adapted for the Mozambique context by Chimbutane et al. (2022).

In order to measure the prevalence of GBV, the survey included a module based on WHO's Violence Against Women instrument (Ellsberg et al., 2005), adapted to the Mozambican school context. Rather than a revival of violence from a given perpetrator, we designed the questions as a behavioral characterization of violence episodes from a range of potential perpetrators (e.g., the intimate partner, classmates, teachers, other school staff), offering the students multiple opportunities to disclose their experiences (see Appendix Section E.I for details). Whenever the respondent reported having experienced a form of violence, we inquired whether it took place in the last month or in the previous year. Motivated by the importance of sexual abuse by teachers and other school staff in the local context and its salience in the intervention, our survey instrument included a separate module on adolescents' experiences

of sexual abuse by school staff.

Given the sensitive nature of the outcomes we measure, reporting bias was an important consideration. To address this, we adopted several approaches. First, in addition to the direct survey questions, we asked all respondents in our sample about their perceptions of violence experienced by girls in their class (*turma* in Portuguese). While respondents may find it difficult to disclose their own experiences of violence, they may find it easier to report it indirectly when asked about other girls in their class.[8] Second, following Dhar et al. (2022), we collected information on respondents' social desirability based on the module of Crowne and Marlowe (1960). We use this module to identify respondents with higher social desirability at baseline and test if the treatment effects differ for individuals particularly inclined to please others. Third, we asked respondents to retrospectively report any violence they experienced before 2021 (i.e. prior to the intervention) both at the baseline and at the endline surveys. We use this information to check if respondents in treated schools become differentially more or less likely to disclose any violence they experienced prior to the intervention.

Table 1 reports descriptive statistics for girls in our sample at baseline by treatment group. On average, 34% of the girls in our sample reported having ever experienced violence by another student, while 11% reported having experienced violence by school staff. In terms of the type of violence, 44% reported having ever experienced emotional violence, 34% reported physical violence and 23% reported having experienced sexual violence. These numbers demonstrate the high levels of violence against girls in our context. Comparing baseline descriptive information across the various treatment and control groups we find that, while there are some statistically significant differences, overall, the number of hypothesis tests where we reject the null of equal differences is less than 10%. This implies that any differences could be driven by chance. As such, we conclude that the randomization was successful in achieving baseline balance.[9]

[8]Such third-party reporting (TPR) methods are widely used in the reporting of sensitive issues such as abortion (see Giorgio et al. (2021); Owolabi et al. (2023) for the conventional TPR methods). Our measure is similar to anonymous third-party reporting (ATPR), with the advantage that we delimit the denominator among a well-defined network.

[9]Table A.2 reports corresponding summary statistics and balance checks for the boys' sample. Similar to the girls' sample, we find significant differences in fewer than 10% of the pairwise comparisons of the various treatment arms.

## 3.2 Other data

To better understand whether our intervention induced changes in GFPs' behaviors and to detect changes in students' reporting of GBV, we conducted an endline survey with the GFPs. The survey included questions about their activities in the school and whether they reported GBV cases to authorities, and occurred between July and October 2023.[10] To understand whether teachers increased their knowledge of penalties related to GBV, we conducted a short survey with teachers between June and September of 2022, during wave 1 of the endline survey. Finally, we secured data on the calls to the *Linha Fala Criança* helpline and cases investigated by them, from 2020 to 2023. We received information at the call level including the date of the call, district of caller, the caller's age and the type of issue. In addition, we also received information on all investigation cases from 2020 to 2023.[11]

# 4 Results

## 4.1 Estimation

To assess the effects of the intervention, we estimate:

$$Y_{icd} = \alpha + \sum_{k=1}^{3} \beta_k T_{cd}^k + Y_{icd}^0 + \theta_d + \gamma X_{icd} + \epsilon_{icd}, \tag{1}$$

where $Y_{icd}$ is the outcome of interest at endline for respondent $i$ who was attending school $c$ in strata $d$ at baseline, $T_{cd}^k$ is a an indicator equal to 1 if school $c$ was assigned to treatment group $k$ (where $k = 1, 2, 3$) and 0 otherwise, $\theta_d$ are randomization strata fixed effects (i.e., district $\times$ high-GBV dummies), $Y_{icd}^0$ is the baseline level of the outcome variable. Whenever the outcome variable is self-reported (as opposed to outcomes based on administrative records or test scores), we control for $X_{icd}$ – respondent's social desirability score as measured at the baseline survey. Under the identifying assumption that the control group forms a valid counterfactual

[10] We were not able to collect baseline information on the GFPs. In Table A.4, we use GFPs' predetermined characteristics that should not have been affected by the intervention (e.g. age, gender, place of birth, schooling level) to test for balance in covariates. Once again, we find that fewer than 10% of the differences are significant. As such, we can conclude that the GFPs in control schools constitute a valid counterfactual for those from the treatment schools.

[11] We do not know the address of the caller or any other information besides their district.

for the treatment groups, $\beta_k$ provides the causal effect of the intervention when only girls ($k = 1$), only boys ($k = 2$), or both genders ($k = 3$) were included in the student training.

Since the randomization was conducted at the school level, we cluster the standard errors by school. To take into account multiple hypothesis testing, we group outcomes that test the same hypothesis in families and correct the $p$-values using the procedure proposed by Benjamini et al. (2006). This allows us to control the *false discovery rate* within families of outcome variables. We correct the $p$-values by treatment arm and group the outcomes into families as specified in the table notes.[12]

## 4.2 Violence against girls

We begin our analysis by examining the impact of the intervention on the prevalence of violence experienced by adolescent girls in the school environment. In Table 2 we focus on episodes of violence occurring in the month preceding the endline survey, a year after the intervention started. We distinguish between incidents perpetrated by fellow students, presented in columns 1-2, and those by teachers and other school staff, shown in columns 3-4. Recognizing the sensitive nature of the topic, our analysis encompasses both self-reported incidents by girls (columns 1 and 3), and reports from bystanders (columns 2 and 4), the latter asking all respondents about their perceptions of violence toward other girls in their class. This approach helps mitigate the potential reporting bias inherent in self-reported data, offering a broader perspective on the actual prevalence of violence.

Estimates in Table 2 show that the intervention does not significantly impact violence experienced by girls from other students but does reduce violence perpetrated by teachers or school staff. In particular, in column 3, we find that girls in T1 schools are 0.8 percentage points (ppt) less likely to report having experienced violence from teachers or other school staff in the last month. Compared to the control group, where 1.2% of the girls report having experienced such violence, this corresponds to a 67% reduction in the prevalence of violence perpetrated by teachers or school staff. The point estimates for the treatment effects in T2 and T3 schools are also negative but less precisely estimated, although they are not significantly different from the

[12]In Appendix C. we describe the three minor deviations from the pre-analysis plan.

effects of T1.

**Addressing reporting bias:** To assess the sensitivity of the treatment effects on GBV with respect to reporting bias, we conduct a number of robustness checks. First, the results for bystander reporting measures in columns 2 and 4 closely mirror those observed in columns 1 and 3. Reassuringly, these results suggest that our findings are unlikely to be driven by reporting bias. Column 2 shows no significant impact of the intervention on violence from other students toward girls. Conversely, column 4 indicates a statistically and economically significant reduction in violence from teachers or staff toward girls. Respondents were 0.8–0.9 ppt less likely to report that girls in their class were subjected to violence from teachers or staff during the last month, a large effect compared to the control mean of 1.7%. While we cannot reject the null of equality of treatment effects across the treatment arms, only the effects of T1 and T3 are precisely estimated at conventional levels and robust to adjusting for multiple-hypothesis testing.[13]

As another robustness check for reporting bias, we assess the sensitivity of our estimates with respect to respondents' social desirability at baseline. Following Dhar et al. (2022), at baseline, we collect information on respondents' social desirability. Based on a survey module used in the psychology literature (Crowne and Marlowe, 1960), we identify respondents with higher social desirability at baseline, allowing us to test for whether treatment effects differ for individuals particularly inclined to please others. Appendix Table A.5 reports the heterogeneity of the treatment effects on violence against girls, analyzed by respondents' social desirability at baseline. Overall, our analysis does not indicate that the results are driven by respondents with higher social desirability. The interaction terms suggest that the differential effect of T1, T2, or T3 schools with respect to respondents' social desirability is statistically insignificant. Finally, it is important to note that collecting our endline data a year after the intervention helps minimize experimenter demand effects.

As a third check for reporting bias, we asked respondents to retrospectively report any violence they experienced before 2021 both at endline and baseline. Using this information, we check whether the intervention made respondents more or less

[13]We also examine the responses of boys about violence against girls, finding that in T1 schools, they report less violence by teachers. This result is especially reassuring given that boys did not receive the informational treatment in these schools, and thus, experimenter demand effects are less likely to occur.

likely to disclose violence during the same reference period. If the intervention leads to differential reporting bias, then we expect respondents in treated schools to be differentially more or less likely to disclose any violence they experienced prior to 2021 (i.e. prior to the intervention). In Appendix Table A.6, we check for any significant differences in reported violence before 2021, and we find that there are no significant differences in this change between the treatment and control schools. This is reassuring as it rules out the possibility that reporting bias could be driving our finding that the intervention reduced violence perpetrated by school staff.

In the Appendix, we also analyze if the intervention affected adolescents' experiences of sexual abuse by teachers and other school staff. Table A.8 shows a reduction in forced sexual violence in all treated schools. The magnitude of the reduction mirrors the previous results and is consistent with qualitative evidence and previous surveys highlighting that teachers are more likely to commit sexual violence toward girls in comparison to boys.

To summarize, we find that in all treatment schools, violence perpetrated by teachers or school staff toward girls declined by 67%. In particular, in treated schools, girls report being less likely to be forced to perform sexual acts by teachers.

### 4.2.1 Potential mechanisms

**GFP engagement to prevent violence against girls —** Given the similar effect found in all treatment arms, these results point to GFP training as a key factor in deterring violent behaviors toward girls from teachers and school staff. Using data from the GFP surveys, in Table 3, we assess whether the intervention affected GFPs' activities. Column 1 shows that GFPs in all treatment arms were significantly more likely to talk about GBV-related topics to students in their schools. In column 2, we see that the GFPs in all treatment groups were significantly more likely to report cases to the school authorities, with an increase of 9–12 pp across the treatment arms. This is a substantial rise compared to the control group, where only 8% of GFPs said they reported any cases.

**Girls' proactive behavior and GFP responses—** We also explore whether the training of girls led to an increase in reporting to GFPs and, as a result, better management of violence cases. In Table 3 column 3, we find that a larger share of students report GBV cases to GFPs, especially in schools where girls received the

training. We then explore if, by increasing the direct report of violence cases by victims, GFPs can address cases faster by involving parents and the community and potentially punishing teachers. To do so, we analyze whether GFPs took steps to support victims of violence upon receiving reports. In columns 4 and 5 of Table 3, the outcome variables are dummy variables equal to 1 if the GFP knew about the helpline (column 4) and was able to provide the correct number for the LFC helpline (column 5).

We find that GFPs in all treated schools were more likely to report that they knew about the LFC helpline. However, column 5 shows important differences across treatment arms in terms of GFPs' likelihood to provide the correct number for LFC. In control schools, only 15% of GFPs knew the correct number, highlighting a significant gap in essential knowledge among GFPs not exposed to the intervention. Relative to the control group, GFPs in T1 schools were 24 pp more likely to know the correct number, corresponding to a 160% increase. The GFPs in T2 and T3 schools were also more likely to know the helpline number, but the effects are smaller (12 pp and 10 pp for T2 and T3, respectively) and less precisely estimated. Given that one of the key responsibilities of the GFPs was to guide victims of violence to the helpline, the results in column 5 indicate that the intervention successfully improved the GFPs' ability to support victims. This improvement was especially significant in cases where the student training was exclusively provided to girls (T1).[14] In Appendix F., we provide qualitative evidence from our interviews with teachers and GFPs that shed light on how the role of GFP and training of girls helped to increase reporting.

Consistent with these results, column 6 of Table 3 shows that the GFPs in T1 schools were 15 pp more likely to have talked to or shared GBV material with teachers, which includes information about GBV and the associated penalties. Moreover, we find that when girls received the training, GFPs were also more likely to have talked about GBV cases to the school council, which includes the parents and community leaders (column 7). The treatment effects in column 7 correspond to a 16 pp increase relative to the control group, where only 38% of the GFPs declare talking to

[14]Even in T1 schools, less than half of the GFPs could provide the correct number for the helpline. One reason for this might be the brief duration of the GFP training (only two days) and because it occurred nearly one year before the endline survey.

the school council.[15] In line with such results, our teacher survey shows that teachers in treated schools, particularly in those where girls were trained, were more likely to know about GBV laws and associate stricter penalties with GBV incidents related to sexual acts with children (see columns (1) and (2) in Appendix Table A.7).[16]

This evidence suggests that both GFPs and students play a vital role in altering the social sanctions around GBV, ultimately lowering GBV in schools. Theoretically, GBV can be deterred through social sanctions, such as a change in the expectation of proactive behaviors by others (Glaeser et al., 1996). We argue that GFPs, by increasing awareness and their willingness to report harmful behavior, contributed to a reduction in victimization by perpetrators.

To illustrate this point, we analyze administrative records from the LFC.[17] Using a difference-in-difference model, we show that in districts where the intervention occurred in comparison to neighboring districts, there was an increase in calls for information and for assistance– see Figure A.6.[18] The increase in calls for assistance and cases provides evidence that a greater number of GBV calls began receiving a formal investigation near treated schools - Panel (c) in Figure A.6. In fact, by looking at LFC annual reports, we find that 80% of the calls become cases where there is a formal investigation involving the school and the community. Investigations of calls would require that social workers engage with schools, family, victims, and relevant legal authorities to provide adequate psychosocial, health, and legal support to the

[15]According to our conversations with GFPs since the school council involves the parents and community leaders, GFPs were more likely to report GBV if they had the victims' report. When GFPs did not have the report of the victim but were suspicious of a case, they would inform school authorities only or ask for guidance from LFC.

[16]As a placebo check, Columns (3)-(5) of Appendix Table A.7 show that the intervention did not change teachers' knowledge about laws that are unrelated to GBV.

[17]Due to a lack of information on the geolocation of calls we are unable to exploit variation across schools.

[18]In particular, we estimate a generalized difference-in-difference model, comparing the number of calls across districts served by the intervention and neighboring districts in the period before and after the start of the intervention. Our sample covers calls from 20 districts (7 treated + 13 control), observed over the course of 20 bi-months. We aggregate the data at district for every two months to minimize noise in the time-series. We estimate $Y_{dt} = \alpha + \beta_1 T_d \times Post_t + \beta_2 T_d + \beta_3 Post_t + \theta_d + \gamma_t + \mu_d t + \epsilon_{bt}$ where $Post_t$ is a dummy that takes the value 1 for the bi-months after the month of August - the start of the intervention in every district; $T_d$ is a dummy variable that takes the value 1 if a call comes from a district where the intervention took place, and 0 for calls coming from neighboring districts. The specification includes district fixed-effects, bi-month dummies, district-bimonthly linear trends, and bootstrapped standard errors are clustered by district. The figures present the estimated $\beta_1$ coefficients and 95% confidence intervals for the pre and post period bi-months in the sample.

victim. As a result, communities - and perpetrators - are also more likely to become aware of the prevailing social sanctions with respect to GBV.[19]

**Identification of GBV and attitudes towards it—** To understand the lack of effects on violence perpetrated by students, using the students' survey, we look at whether attitudes and identification of violence changed due to the specific training component toward students. While we find that students improved their identification of violence due to the intervention, we find no evidence of their attitudes towards violence changing (see Tables 4 and 5).[20] We highlight that, in line with the literature, changes in attitudes may not be necessary for changes in violence. In fact, a reduction in GBV may result from action changes such as reporting (Green et al., 2020; Donati et al., 2022), while leaving attitudes unchanged.

**Summary of mechanisms—** Overall, our findings suggest that the GFP training component successfully improved GFPs' capacity to address GBV in their schools and heightened their ability to support victims of violence. Notably, the reporting of victims and GFPs' familiarity with the helpline's correct number significantly improved only in schools where the training was exclusive to girls. Given that a victim's consent is essential for the lodging of a formal complaint by the LFC helpline, we interpret this result as suggestive evidence that girls became more proactive in formally reporting incidents of violence when they received targeted training.

## 4.3 Violence against girls and schooling

We now look at whether the reduction in violence by teacher and school staff led to an improvement in girls' educational outcomes. To capture school enrollment, we use administrative data from primary and secondary schools in the study districts. The dependent variable in column 1 of Table 6 is a dummy variable equal to one if the girl was enrolled in a primary or secondary school in the study districts at the

[19]This mechanism is in line with evidence from Uganda in the context of intimate-partner violence among adults. Green et al. (2020) show that awareness of the costs of IPV, not only changes the reporting behavior of victims but also increases the perceived social sanctions of others in the community.

[20]The absence of changes in attitudes, combined with qualitative evidence indicating that most of the increase in reported violence involved teacher-perpetrated cases, may explain why we do not observe a reduction in violence perpetrated by boys.

time of our endline survey, and zero otherwise.[21] In columns 2 and 3, we examine girls' learning outcomes using standardized tests administered during the endline data collection.

Column 1 shows that in schools where only girls received training (T1 schools), there was a 5.7 pp increase in the likelihood of girls being enrolled at endline, corresponding to a nearly 10% rise in enrollment relative to the control group, where the enrollment rate was 61%. For T3 schools, where both genders were trained, the increase in girls' enrollment was also positive, at 4.4 pp, suggesting a similar effect size to T1. However, the effect of T3 is less precise at conventional levels, indicating we cannot definitively conclude the treatment effects are identical across T1 and T3. In contrast, the treatment effect for T2 is economically smaller (1.6 pp) and imprecisely estimated, with the test of equal treatment effects between T1 and T2 being marginally insignificant (p-value of 0.16).

In terms of their learning, we do not find any significant impact on girls' performance in math or reading (in Portuguese) scores. While the point estimates are generally positive, they are imprecisely estimated. One difference to note across the various treatment arms is that girls in T1 schools seem to do slightly better in reading compared to girls in T2 schools. The difference between the two arms is marginally significant, with a p-value equal to 0.069.

Overall, the results in Table 6 show that girls' enrollment increases in schools where girls received student training. When considered alongside our findings on violence against girls, these results suggest that while targeting boys alone may have a comparable effect on reducing violence, targeting girls is more effective in both reducing violence and increasing girls' school enrollment. In the context of the intervention's top-down (authority-led) and horizontal (student-focused) components, we interpret these findings as evidence that teacher training (for GFPs) plays a key role in reducing GBV by deterring potential perpetrators. However, to translate reductions in GBV into improvements in girls' educational attainment, it may be necessary to complement top-down approach with student-focused interventions that engage potential victims.

[21] Given that we only have administrative records from schools in study districts, if the intervention affected the adolescents' likelihood to migrate out of the study area, this may bias our estimates. The fact that we did not find evidence of differential attrition between the treatment and control groups at endline suggests this is unlikely (see Table A.1).

Based on our findings, we argue that in asymmetrical power dynamics, the reduction in GBV leads to improved economic outcomes for victims when two conditions are met: (i) potential perpetrators are deterred, and (ii) victims are proactive in reporting incidents. In the specific context of teacher-student sexual violence in Mozambican schools, the active involvement of GFPs in addressing GBV and imposing sanctions on perpetrators acted as a deterrent. However, for the deterrent effect to positively impact girls' educational attainment, girls must report violence, which is more likely to happen when they receive the student training component.

Three pieces of evidence support our hypothesis. First, the observed increase in knowledge about the helpline among GFPs in T1 suggests a higher likelihood of them initiating such reports, which in turn requires the child's consent to initiate a formal process. In addition, in T1 schools, GFPs were significantly more likely to report the incident to the school council, which includes parents and community leaders, increasing the social sanction to perpetrators. Second, teachers in T1 schools show a more pronounced awareness of laws protecting children's rights and the legal consequences of engaging in sexual acts with minors. Third, compared to their counterparts in T2 and T3 schools, girls in T1 schools express greater comfort discussing GBV issues as seen in Table A.9.[22]

Thus, by proactively engaging in formal reporting of abuse by teachers or school staff, girls who have experienced abuse can play a crucial role in in removing such perpetrators from the educational setting. This, in turn, helps restore a healthy dynamic between teachers and students, fostering a safer learning environment.[23]

# 5 Conclusion

In this study, we investigate how violence against girls in schools affects their educational outcomes in the context of Mozambique. To do so, we design, implement, and evaluate an intervention aimed at enhancing the capacity of school personnel to address gender violence (GFP training) and promoting proactive behaviors among

[22]In Table A.9, we test for treatment effects on how respondents felt while talking about violence with the enumerators. The results show that girls in T1 schools were significantly more likely to report that they felt "Good" and less likely to feel "Bad" or the "Same" compared to the control group and to girls in T3 schools.

[23]Consistent with this interpretation of the results, we find that girls in T1 schools are less likely to report feeling "very unsafe" at school (see Table A.10).

students regarding gender violence (student training). Our analysis indicates that such an intervention can attain a significant reduction—by 67%—in the prevalence of violence by teachers and school staff toward girls. Remarkably, this reduction is consistent across schools regardless of whether the student training targets girls only, boys only, or both; underscoring the role of improving the capacity of key school personnel to address gender violence. However, we find that for the reduction in violence to positively influence educational outcomes, girls must receive the student training component of the intervention. Our analysis of administrative records indicates that in schools where girls received the training, the intervention leads to a 10% increase in girls' school enrollment.

We interpret these findings as highlighting the necessity of a dual approach to mitigating violence and improving girls' schooling. Such an approach should involve deterring potential perpetrators and fostering proactive behaviors among victims, particularly through increased formal reporting of gender-based violence. We posit that within contexts characterized by asymmetrical power dynamics, such as schools, reductions in GBV can enhance economic outcomes by combining perpetrator deterrence with victim proactivity to sanction abusers and restore power balance.

The paper's results have broad policy implications. The intervention cost USD 19.42 per student, and we estimate the marginal cost per student to be USD 10.39.[24] While estimates of the cost of sexual violence by teachers are very challenging to obtain, to put it in perspective, UNICEF estimates that violence towards children in countries in East Asia and the Pacific costs 2% of the region's GDP per year (UNICEF, 2015). Sexual violence alone costs USD 39.9 billion. In the U.S., the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, states that rape leads to USD 122,000 in costs per victim and nearly USD 3.1 trillion to the economy over the lifetime of victims (Peterson et al., 2017). Evidence from these other settings suggests that the benefits outweigh the costs of preventing GBV through the public education system.

Based on our findings in Sofala, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF plan to scale up the intervention to other provinces. The authors of this paper are advising and having several discussions with them on how to improve the capacity of GFPs and adolescent girls to deal with GBV. In addition, given our results on teachers'

[24]The marginal cost calculation only accounts for the training component since the costs associated with the curriculum development are fixed costs.

abuses, the Ministry of Education is working to pass a law for a teachers' code of conduct about sexual harassment.

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Figure 1: Experimental design

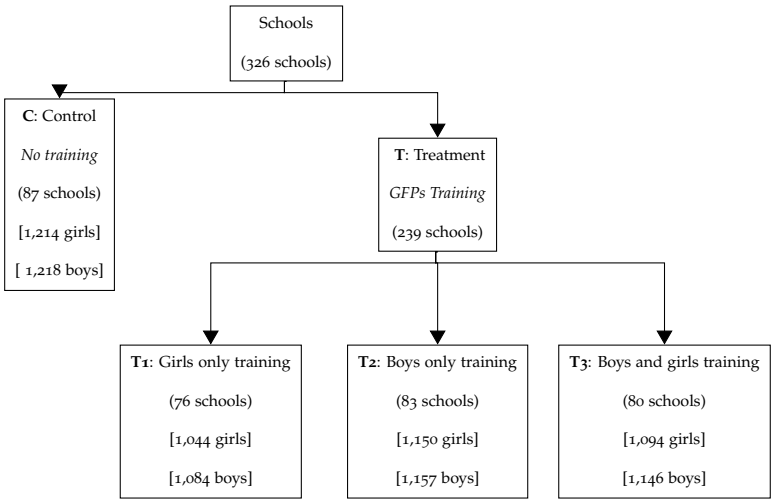


Figure 2: Map of study area and schools, by treatment status

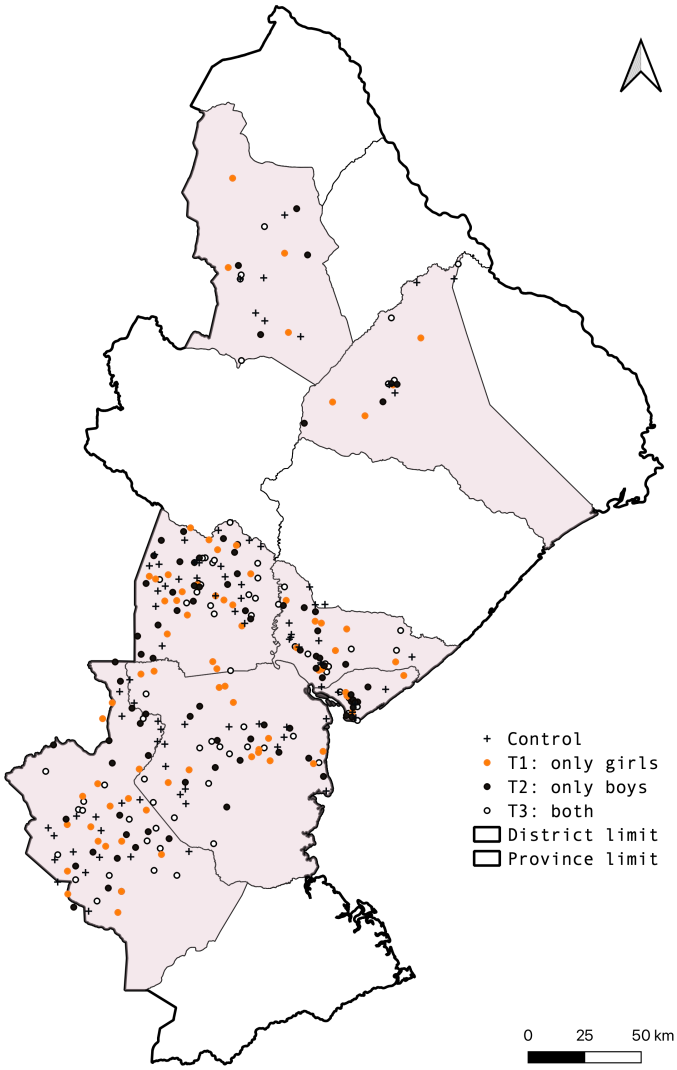



Figure 3: Project timeline

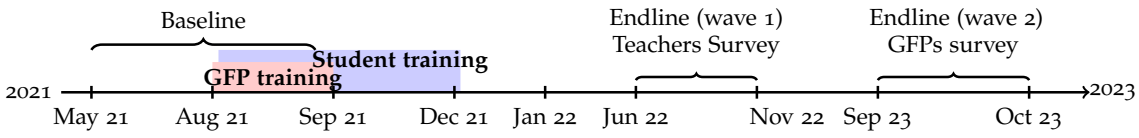


Table 1: Baseline descriptives and balance tests

| | (1) **Control** Mean (SD) | (2) **T1** Mean (SD) | (3) **T2** Mean (SD) | (4) **T3** Mean (SD) | (5) **T1-C** | (6) **T1-T2** | (7) **T1-T3** | (8) **T2-C** | (9) **T2-T3** | (10) **T3-C** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Panel A: Violence in the last month* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Violence by a student (self-rep.) | 0.290 | 0.287 | 0.284 | 0.271 | 0.971 | 0.846 | 0.378 | 0.831 | 0.477 | 0.403 |
| | (0.454) | (0.452) | (0.451) | (0.444) | | | | | | |
| Violence by teachers/staff (self-rep.) | 0.094 | 0.059 | 0.051 | 0.051 | 0.034 | 0.678 | 0.727 | 0.005 | 0.974 | 0.009 |
| | (0.292) | (0.235) | (0.221) | (0.221) | | | | | | |
| Emotional violence | 0.363 | 0.386 | 0.361 | 0.348 | 0.211 | 0.264 | 0.027 | 0.890 | 0.316 | 0.392 |
| | (0.481) | (0.487) | (0.481) | (0.477) | | | | | | |
| Physical violence | 0.254 | 0.263 | 0.249 | 0.261 | 0.566 | 0.493 | 0.684 | 0.950 | 0.753 | 0.824 |
| | (0.436) | (0.440) | (0.433) | (0.439) | | | | | | |
| Sexual violence | 0.171 | 0.182 | 0.169 | 0.149 | 0.444 | 0.583 | 0.086 | 0.893 | 0.242 | 0.227 |
| | (0.376) | (0.386) | (0.375) | (0.356) | | | | | | |
| Violence against girls by a student | 0.184 | 0.176 | 0.208 | 0.169 | 0.801 | 0.171 | 0.577 | 0.290 | 0.052 | 0.433 |
| | (0.388) | (0.381) | (0.406) | (0.375) | | | | | | |
| Violence against girls by teachers/staff | 0.042 | 0.027 | 0.022 | 0.031 | 0.153 | 0.588 | 0.653 | 0.042 | 0.302 | 0.305 |
| | (0.201) | (0.162) | (0.147) | (0.173) | | | | | | |
| *Panel B: Other outcomes and socio-demographic characteristics* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | 13.497 | 13.457 | 13.555 | 13.336 | 0.549 | 0.198 | 0.310 | 0.458 | 0.015 | 0.083 |
| | (1.434) | (1.504) | (1.448) | (1.420) | | | | | | |
| No education, mother | 0.430 | 0.420 | 0.409 | 0.369 | 0.750 | 0.659 | 0.146 | 0.433 | 0.337 | 0.061 |
| | (0.495) | (0.494) | (0.492) | (0.483) | | | | | | |
| Secondary+ education, mother | 0.089 | 0.099 | 0.100 | 0.113 | 0.565 | 0.960 | 0.725 | 0.625 | 0.702 | 0.350 |
| | (0.285) | (0.299) | (0.300) | (0.317) | | | | | | |
| No education, father | 0.234 | 0.220 | 0.223 | 0.211 | 0.941 | 0.986 | 0.683 | 0.950 | 0.640 | 0.603 |
| | (0.424) | (0.415) | (0.417) | (0.408) | | | | | | |
| Secondary+ education, father | 0.165 | 0.204 | 0.213 | 0.202 | 0.259 | 0.822 | 0.878 | 0.153 | 0.692 | 0.294 |
| | (0.371) | (0.403) | (0.410) | (0.402) | | | | | | |
| Younger siblings | 0.853 | 0.866 | 0.862 | 0.847 | 0.564 | 0.968 | 0.375 | 0.498 | 0.294 | 0.797 |
| | (0.354) | (0.341) | (0.345) | (0.360) | | | | | | |
| Older brothers | 0.725 | 0.754 | 0.727 | 0.728 | 0.193 | 0.264 | 0.418 | 0.912 | 0.795 | 0.706 |
| | (0.447) | (0.431) | (0.446) | (0.445) | | | | | | |
| Older sisters | 0.708 | 0.751 | 0.708 | 0.701 | 0.066 | 0.114 | 0.081 | 0.852 | 0.862 | 0.997 |
| | (0.455) | (0.433) | (0.455) | (0.458) | | | | | | |
| Ever had a partner | 0.046 | 0.055 | 0.048 | 0.042 | 0.446 | 0.600 | 0.251 | 0.817 | 0.495 | 0.621 |
| | (0.210) | (0.228) | (0.213) | (0.201) | | | | | | |
| Has a partner | 0.031 | 0.043 | 0.035 | 0.033 | 0.299 | 0.542 | 0.357 | 0.632 | 0.709 | 0.937 |
| | (0.174) | (0.202) | (0.184) | (0.179) | | | | | | |
| Initiation Rituals | 0.285 | 0.321 | 0.308 | 0.290 | 0.203 | 0.759 | 0.234 | 0.309 | 0.359 | 0.906 |
| | (0.452) | (0.467) | (0.462) | (0.454) | | | | | | |
| Test score: Math | 0.051 | 0.122 | 0.074 | 0.149 | 0.416 | 0.732 | 0.710 | 0.638 | 0.477 | 0.234 |
| | (0.968) | (0.921) | (0.994) | (0.919) | | | | | | |
| Attitudes: Violence | 0.540 | 0.561 | 0.495 | 0.516 | 0.515 | 0.004 | 0.206 | 0.036 | 0.136 | 0.556 |
| | (0.499) | (0.497) | (0.500) | (0.500) | | | | | | |
| Attitudes: GBV | 0.338 | 0.313 | 0.317 | 0.291 | 0.319 | 0.925 | 0.640 | 0.253 | 0.691 | 0.146 |
| | (0.473) | (0.464) | (0.466) | (0.455) | | | | | | |
| Attitudes: Dating violence | 0.644 | 0.639 | 0.631 | 0.619 | 0.771 | 0.565 | 0.807 | 0.353 | 0.739 | 0.577 |
| | (0.479) | (0.481) | (0.483) | (0.486) | | | | | | |
| Social desirability score | -0.010 | 0.043 | -0.012 | 0.075 | 0.366 | 0.503 | 0.838 | 0.772 | 0.347 | 0.238 |
| | (1.001) | (0.962) | (0.995) | (0.982) | | | | | | |

*Note*. All information refers to the baseline survey. The sample is restricted to girls who were tracked and resurveyed at endline. Columns 1-4 display the mean and standard deviation of the variable of interest among girls in control, T1, T2, and T3 schools respectively. Columns 5-10 display p-values based on a regression of the variable of interest on treatment dummies, controlling for randomization strata with standard errors clustered at the school (unit of randomization) level.

Table 2: Effects on prevalence of violence against girls

| | Perpetrated by Students | | Perpetrated by Teachers or Staff | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Self reported | Reported by others | Self reported | Reported by others |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Girls (T1) | 0.005 | -0.002 | -0.008$^{**}_{\star\star}$ | -0.009$^{**}_{\star\star}$ |
| | (0.022) | (0.011) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.005 | 0.002 | -0.004 | -0.008$^{*}$ |
| | (0.020) | (0.010) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| Both (T3) | 0.018 | 0.005 | -0.006 | -0.009$^{**}_{\star}$ |
| | (0.021) | (0.011) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T2 | 0.613 | 0.678 | 0.216 | 0.586 |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T3 | 0.253 | 0.779 | 0.706 | 0.557 |
| $H_0$ : T2 = T3 | 0.567 | 0.511 | 0.406 | 0.930 |
| Mean Control | .184 | .088 | .012 | .017 |
| Obs. | 3471 | 7096 | 3471 | 7096 |

*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district $\times$ high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variables in columns 1 and 3 are indicators of whether the respondent reported experiencing any type of violence in the past month from other students in the school (column 1) or from teacher or school staff (column 3). The dependent variables in columns 2 and 4 are an indicator of whether the respondent reported witnessing any type of violence against girls in the past month from any other student in the school (column 2) or any teacher or school staff (column 4). All specifications control for the baseline value of the dependent variable and social desirability score at baseline. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \; p < 0.1$, $** \; p < 0.05$, $*** \; p < 0.01$ for unadjusted $p$-values and by $\star \; p < 0.1$, $\star\star \; p < 0.05$, $\star\star\star \; p < 0.01$ for $p$-values that are adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing. When correcting the $p$-values for multiple hypothesis testing, we group the outcomes in two families: by other students (1–2) and by teachers & staff (3–4).

Table 3: Effects on GFPs

| | Outlined activities | | | Activities upon reporting | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Talks to students | Report to school authorities | Students' reporting GBV | Knows how to contact the helpline | Knows number of the helpline | Engage with teachers | Report to school council |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| Girls (T1) | $0.342^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | $0.122^{**}_{\star\star}$ | $0.098^{**}_{\star\star}$ | $0.529^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | $0.236^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | $0.151^{*}_{\star\star}$ | $0.162^{**}_{\star\star}$ |
| | (0.074) | (0.058) | (0.043) | (0.068) | (0.069) | (0.081) | (0.077) |
| Boys (T2) | $0.312^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | $0.124^{**}_{\star\star\star}$ | 0.050 | $0.325^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | $0.117^{*}_{\star}$ | 0.023 | 0.082 |
| | (0.071) | (0.051) | (0.034) | (0.074) | (0.062) | (0.076) | (0.074) |
| Both (T3) | $0.278^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | $0.094^{*}_{\star\star}$ | 0.003 | $0.392^{***}_{\star\star\star}$ | 0.100 | 0.113 | 0.117 |
| | (0.071) | (0.051) | (0.025) | (0.075) | (0.063) | (0.077) | (0.078) |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T2 | 0.711 | 0.975 | 0.314 | 0.004 | 0.113 | 0.109 | 0.287 |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T3 | 0.661 | 0.611 | 0.169 | 0.380 | 0.811 | 0.237 | 0.645 |
| $H_0$ : T2 = T3 | 0.429 | 0.665 | 0.026 | 0.054 | 0.077 | 0.638 | 0.572 |
| Mean Control | .214 | .083 | .024 | .274 | .155 | .417 | .381 |
| Obs. | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 |

**Notes**:Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district × high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variable in column 1 is an indicator equal to 1 if the respondent talked to students at school about GBV topics. In column 2 it is an indicator equal to 1 if the respondent reported GBV cases to the school authorities. In column 3 it is an indicator equal to 1 if the student reported GBV to the GFP. In columns 4 and 5 it is an indicator equal to 1 if the respondent knew how to contact the helpline and could state the correct number for the *Linha Fala Criança* helpline. In column 6 it is an indicator equal to 1 if the respondent shared material or talked to teachers at school about GBV issues. In column 7 it is an indicator equal to 1 if the respondent reported GBV cases to the school council. All the activities occurred in the past academic year. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \; p < 0.1$, $** \; p < 0.05$, $*** \; p < 0.01$ for unadjusted $p$-values and by $\star \; p < 0.1$, $\star\star \; p < 0.05$, $\star\star\star \; p < 0.01$ for $p$-values that are adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing. When correcting the $p$-values for multiple hypothesis testing, we group the outcomes in three families: outlined activities (1–2), students' reporting (3), activities upon reporting (4–7).

Table 4: Effects on adolescents' identification of violence

| | (1) Both vignettes as violent | (2) All 7 items correct | (3) Proportion of correct items |
|---|---|---|---|
| Girls (T1) | 0.039$^{**}_{\star}$ | 0.005$^{**}_{\star}$ | 0.007 |
| | (0.018) | (0.002) | (0.008) |
| Boys (T2) | 0.030$^{*}$ | 0.004$^{*}$ | -0.003 |
| | (0.016) | (0.002) | (0.007) |
| Both (T3) | -0.002 | 0.002 | -0.002 |
| | (0.017) | (0.002) | (0.008) |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T2 | 0.617 | 0.521 | 0.181 |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T3 | 0.057 | 0.533 | 0.915 |
| $H_0$ : T2 = T3 | 0.025 | 0.255 | 0.228 |
| Mean Control | .225 | .002 | .454 |
| Obs. | 7128 | 7061 | 7061 |

*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district $\times$ high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses.All specifications control for the social desirability score at baseline. The dependent variable in column 1 is an indicator variable of whether the respondent is able to correctly identify two vignettes depicting GBV as very violent (see Appendix E.II.1). The dependent variables in columns 2 and 3 are based on the correct identification of four GBV items and three non-GBV items in Appendix E.II.2). The outcome in column 2 is an indicator variable of whether the respondent correctly identifies all seven items. The outcome variable in column 3 in the proportion of items correctly identified. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \ p < 0.1$, $** \ p < 0.05$, $*** \ p < 0.01$ for unadjusted $p$-values and by $\star \ p < 0.1$, $\star\star \ p < 0.05$, $\star\star\star \ p < 0.01$ for $p$-values that are adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing. When correcting the $p$-values for multiple hypothesis testing, we group all 3 outcomes in one family.

Table 5: Effects on adolescents' attitudes toward violence

| | (1) Acceptability violence | (2) Acceptability GBV | (3) Dating violence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Girls (T1) | -0.008 | 0.005 | 0.017 |
| | (0.021) | (0.021) | (0.020) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.009 | -0.011 | -0.011 |
| | (0.021) | (0.022) | (0.020) |
| Both (T3) | -0.029 | -0.006 | -0.011 |
| | (0.021) | (0.021) | (0.021) |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T2 | 0.972 | 0.467 | 0.177 |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T3 | 0.324 | 0.801 | 0.990 |
| $H_0$ : T2 = T3 | 0.307 | 0.624 | 0.183 |
| Mean Control | .518 | .347 | .512 |
| Obs. | 7102 | 7081 | 7112 |

*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district $\times$ high school-level violence) fixed effects. All specifications control for the social desirability score at baseline. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variable is an indicator of whether the respondent considers any of the four statements in Appendix E.III reflecting violence to be acceptable (column 1), considers any of the eight statements reflecting GBV to be acceptable (column 2), or whether they agree with any of the seven statements reflecting gender norms around dating violence (column 3). All specifications control for the baseline value of the dependent variable. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \ p < 0.1$, $** \ p < 0.05$, $*** \ p < 0.01$ for unadjusted $p$-values and by $\star \ p < 0.1$, $\star\star \ p < 0.05$, $\star\star\star \ p < 0.01$ for $p$-values that are adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing. When correcting the $p$-values for multiple hypothesis testing, we group all 3 outcomes in one family.

Table 6: Effects on girls' schooling

| | | Test scores | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Enrollment | Math | Portuguese |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Girls (T1) | 0.057$^{**}_{\star}$ | 0.004 | 0.094 |
| | (0.029) | (0.068) | (0.061) |
| Boys (T2) | 0.016 | 0.020 | -0.013 |
| | (0.027) | (0.065) | (0.064) |
| Both (T3) | 0.044 | 0.033 | 0.009 |
| | (0.028) | (0.063) | (0.065) |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T2 | 0.160 | 0.812 | 0.069 |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T3 | 0.326 | 0.829 | 0.731 |
| $H_0$ : T2 = T3 | 0.653 | 0.655 | 0.156 |
| Mean Control | .607 | -.008 | -.015 |
| Obs. | 4258 | 3483 | 3483 |

*Note:* The dependent variable in column 1 is an indicator of whether the respondent was enrolled at school at the moment of the interview and was interviewed. In column 2 the dependent variable is the math standardized test score based on the proportion of correct answers, and in column 3 it is the Portuguese standardized test score based on the proportion of correct answers. The construction of the dependent variables in columns 1 and 2 differs only for secondary schools. All specifications control for randomization strata (district $\times$ high school-level violence) fixed effects. In addition, specifications in columns 2 and 3 control for the baseline value of the dependent variable. Statistical significance is indicated by $*$ $p < 0.1$, $**$ $p < 0.05$, $***$ $p < 0.01$ for unadjusted $p$-values and by $\star$ $p < 0.1$, $\star\star$ $p < 0.05$, $\star\star\star$ $p < 0.01$ for $p$-values that are adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing. When correcting the $p$-values for multiple hypothesis testing, we group the outcomes in two families: school enrolment (1) and test scores (2–3).

# Appendix

# A. Ethics, Implementation, and Intervention Content

The research had two study branches that required interactions with human subjects: (i) training and interviewing Gender Focal Points, and (ii) surveying students. Following Asiedu et al. (2021), below we describe how we addressed various ethical concerns to ensure the safety, privacy, and referral of all study participants. All activities were developed by the researchers jointly with UNICEF Mozambique and GCR. The implementation of the study was also completed by the MINEDH as part of a pilot initiative on the professional development of teachers. The research team operated has advisor of the implementation process, and monitored some of the activities.

## A.I Policy Equipoise and Scarcity

Asiedu et al. (2021) argue that ethical randomization of participants to different treatment conditions requires either (1) policy equipoise (i.e., that there is "uncertainty regarding participants' net benefits from each of the study relative to the other arms and [relative] to the best possible policy which participants could have access") or (2) scarcity (i.e., that "no participant can be predicted to be worse off in any arm of the study than under counterfactual policy," there is "scarcity of the resources required for the arms in which participants are better off," and "all ex-ante unidentifiable participants have equal moral or legal claims to the scarce programs"). We consider that in our case, both conditions are met for the reasons outlined below.

**Policy equipoise.** In this paper we concluded that there is significant uncertainty and policy interest with respect to the net benefits for teachers and students from being enrolled in the study relative to the others. Previous evidence - discussed in the main paper - did not identify studies with any indication of potential negative effects to either teachers or students. In addition, teachers in our context are already embedded in a system where they are responsible to manage gender and GBV issues in schools. In addition, the school curriculum of students enrolled in grades 6 and 7 currently cover aspects related to GBV. As a result, ex-ante we do not identify that there could be adverse effects from attending a training sponsored the MINEDH. In addition, the added benefits of the policy evaluation are reasonably justified given the potential for scale-up of the intervention.

**Scarcity.** As discussed in the paper there are two sources of uncertainty that justify the method of choice of the study. First, existing evidence is unclear about the potential net benefits of school-based interventions to address GBV. Second, the most suitable audience to target - girls only, boys only or both - in the intervention is

unclear. In other words, there was policy equipose, and ex ante, our study design did not favor one specific policy intervention over others.

In the context of this study we sampled all primary schools in the districts involved in the study. As a result, teachers and students were randomly allocated to either the treatment arms or the control arm. Therefore, all participants had ex ante equal claims to the patrolling interventions.

## A.II Research Team's Role

The researchers were involved in the design of the curriculum of the intervention, overseeing the implementation of the teachers' training, and the experimental design. The research team was also responsible for securing funding for the study and hiring and training key personnel working on the study. The implementing partner for our study was the Direcção Provincial da Educação da Provincia (DPEP) de Sofala, the local representation of MINEDH at the provincial level, and GCR. These partners have extensive experience in the topic and in implementing interventions on sensitive topics with children. The MINEDH is also the public institution responsible for the management of well-being of students in schools.

## A.III Potential Harms to Participants and Non-Participants

We undertook this study against a backdrop of a policy of equipoise, and hence ex ante, there was uncertainty regarding the potential benefits or unintended consequences across experimental arms. Given the prior expertise of the implementing agencies and the underlying school curriculum, we hypothesize thet GBV would decrease as a result of the treatments.

We also deliberated carefully about the potential risks from our the interventions to participants, and enumerators. Below we we enumerate the steps taken to mitigate the risks.

**Risks to GFP's:**

- Emotional and psychological stress from the consumption and reflection of sensitive concepts of the intervention.
- Potential emotional and psychological stress associated with a greater awareness of students experiences of GBV, and from activating the referral process.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

- The curriculum was developed jointly with the partners, it was piloted, and was subject to IRB revisions. Through this work the curriculum achieved a balance between exposure of sensitive concepts, and reflection over these in groups and with their peers.

- Training: Comprehensive training was provided on the different concepts and teachers were guided through the safety protocols in use in Mozambique.
- Support services: Teachers had frequent access to GCR paralegals - trained staff to work on GBV issues - to address any issues they faced with the implementation, referral of GBV cases by students, and to refer or use of legal aid, medical care, counseling, and temporary shelters. Prior to each session, teachers also had a discussion session with the appointed GCR staff to resolve any issues they could be facing. The district, provincial and national GFP were part of the implementation process, and there was an institutional commitment to support GFPs in schools throughout the course of the implementation and after.
- Peer support: Within a district, we created WhatsApp groups for all GFPs to exchange their experiences. This was done in order to provide peer-to-peer support during the implementation.
- Identification and cooperation: Identification cards and letters from the DPEP, MINEDH, and the local IRB were provided upon contact with schools to ensure cooperation and legitimacy of the study.

**Risks to Students:**

- Discomfort or distress from participating in surveys.
- Concerns about confidentiality and data security.
- Emotional and psychological stress from the consumption and reflection of sensitive concepts of the intervention.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

- Consent and withdrawal: All survey participants were informed about their right to consent, withdraw, and skip questions without repercussions. We also gathered parental consent to conduct the surveys.
- Confidentiality: Surveys were conducted in schools and in a private space to ensure confidentiality and data security.
- Field protocol: Enumerators were trained in gender norms, GBV concepts over the course of a week, and were trained on the World Health Organization protocol to collecting GBV survey data from children. Male students were interviewed by male enumerators and female students by female enumerators.

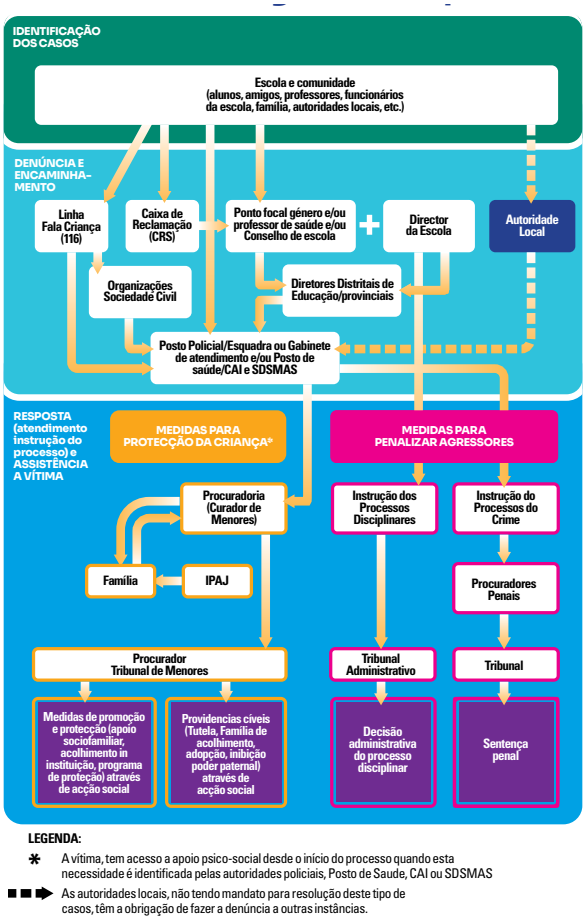
- Support services following the completion of surveys: Students were informed about the possibility to seek support, in case they needed, upon the completion of surveys. This information entailed sharing information about the LFC and GFP to those who disclose instances of violence.

- **Referral and response services during the intervention:** We followed a simplified version of the multi-sectoral mechanism of support to victims of GBV. This tool was developed by UNICEF – see Figure A.1 – and aims to connect victims to institutional, legal and health services trained to provide GBV support. Under this system, GFPs were guided through the different tools, their role in it, and how they must refer students who are victims of GBV. GFPs were instructed to seek victim consent prior to reporting. They could also call LFC helpline to seek guidance on how to proceed with respect to situations they were struggling to address within the school. The system was covered in the training and it was part of the manual shared with teachers. In practice, GFPs were instructed to use the hotline service since this was in many cases the only closely available option, and it was also the most simple tool to discuss and practice during sessions. With students seeking support on GBV we shared information on the first and most easily accessible tool to seek support i.e., the GFP, and information on the helpline LFC.

  When it comes to response systems, once a case is reported to the hotline, trained LFC case-workers review the information. When a call is verified to be a true report of GBV, case-workers initiate a process of investigation where further information is collected on the victim, situation and perpetrator. Victims are then referred to support systems that are close to where they reside. Case-workers that are part of - and vetted by - LFC provide support to victims in person. If the victim consents to pursue legal action, the perpetrators are then dealt by the legal system. The MINEDH is not an integral part of the referral system, but after discussions with case-workers and LFC teams, it was mentioned that during the course of an investigation, MINEDH officials and other school teachers may become aware that there is a GBV investigation taking place.

  It is important to emphasize that LFC is a free service available in the province and is targeted to responses to GBV issues. LFC operates with trained GBV teams, is linked with a network of NGOs and other institutional support systems to refer and respond to GBV in the province. LFC case-workers are trained by UNICEF on the GBV referral system and other GBV response techniques.

Figure A.1: UNICEF's victim support mechanism




*Notes:* The figure displays UNICEF's victim support mechanism used for the GFP training of the Está na Hora de Agir intervention.

**Risks to enumerators and other support staff:**

- Emotional distress from recalling or discussing experiences of GBV.
- Safety risks during the survey process.
- Breach of confidentiality and privacy.

**Mitigation Strategies:**

- Informed consent: There was clear communication about the study's purpose, risks, and the right to withdraw or skip questions.
- Privacy measures: We ensured that surveys were conducted in private settings, and stopped them if privacy was compromised.

- Anonymity and data security: We ensured that all the data were anonymized and encrypted, with separate storage of anonymization and decryption keys.
- Safety protocols: The enumerators and respondents could stop the interview at any point if their safety was compromised.
- Field protocol: Enumerators were trained in gender norms, GBV concepts over the course of two weeks, and were trained on the World Health Organization protocol to collecting GBV survey data from children.
- Ethical Oversight: There was continuous monitoring by the research team to ensure adherence to ethical standards and protocols.

## A.IV Conflicts of Interest and Intellectual Freedom

The researchers involved in this study have no financial or non-financial conflicts of interest to disclose. This study was funded by the J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative, Overdeck Fund at Princeton University, the Leibniz Association, UNICEF, GIZ, and Weiss Foundation. The researchers did not receive any personal compensation tied to the outcomes of the research.

The researchers had full autonomy in designing the study, collecting and analyzing data, and reporting the findings. There were no restrictions imposed by the funding agency, institutions, government bodies, or any other external parties on the intellectual freedom and academic independence of the researchers to conduct this study and disseminate the results. The study was approved by the National Education Council presided by Conceita Sortane, Minister of Education and Human Development at the time.

## A.V Feedback to Participants

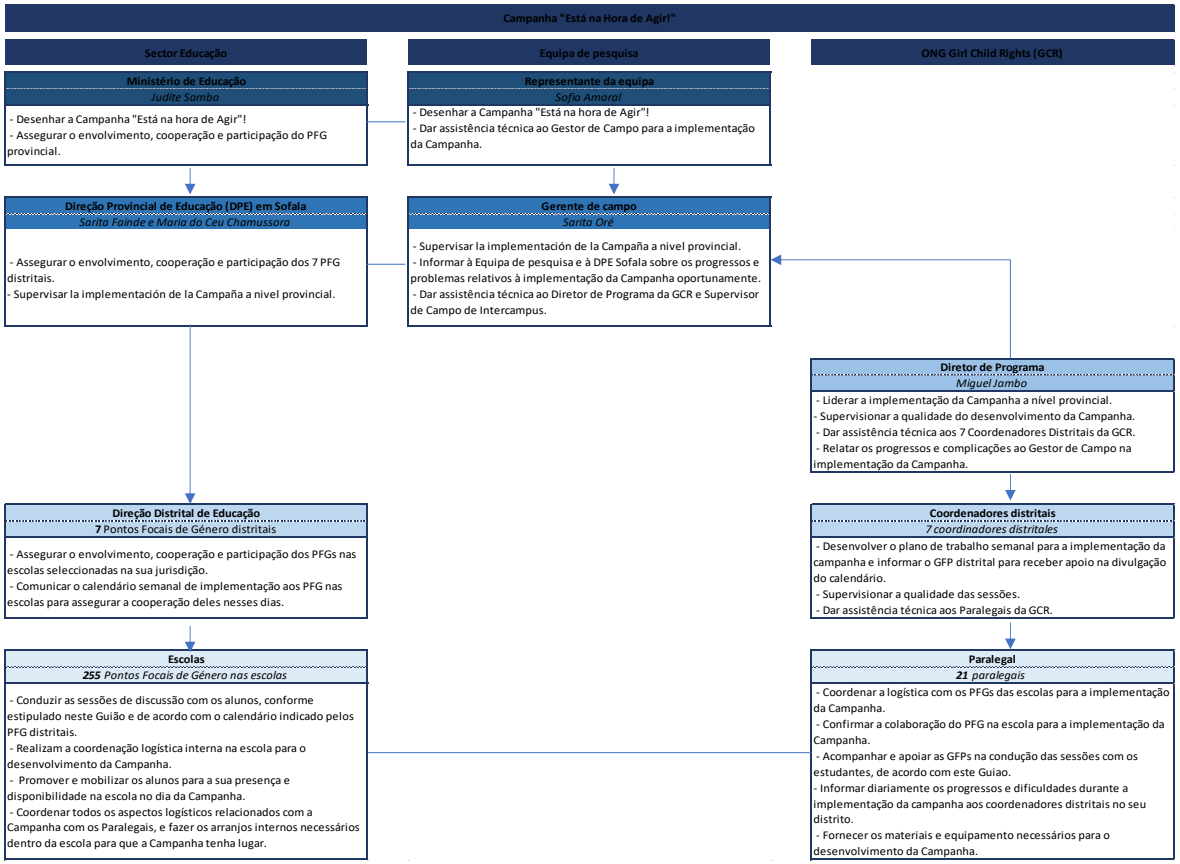
Our study's primary objective is to better understand the prevalence gender-based violence in schools and to inform policies about the most effective policies to address it. As a result, the findings from the study have been shared with the MINEDH, UNICEF, GCR, and through regular meetings with the main stakeholders in the Education sector in the country.

## A.VI Foreseeable Misuse of Research Results

The study's results have strong internal validity, and owing to our study design, the effect sizes across all our specifications are fairly reliable to inform policies in the districts of the study. While the findings from our research can be useful in other settings, we would like to draw caution against generalizing our results in other contexts. Beyond this, we do not foresee any plausible risks of the results being misused.

# B. Appendix – Intervention details

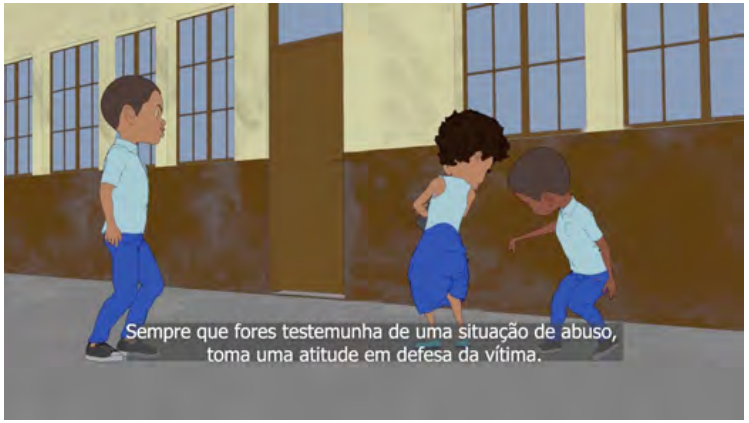
Figure A.2: Role of GFPs in Está na Hora de Agir




*Notes:* The figure displays the organizational chart provided to GFPs during GFP training. The bottom left panel specifies the GFP engagement role with students and their provision of logistic support to the intervention's implementation.

Figure A.3: Sample screenshots from first animated video

(A) Screenshot 1




(B) Screenshot 2



(C) Screenshot 3




(D) Screenshot 4




*Notes:* The figure displays screenshots from the first animated video that was developed and used as part of the intervention. The video starts with an example of a situation where two male students lift the skirt of a female student (screenshot 1) followed by a male teacher who inappropriately rubs a female student's shoulders during class (screenshot 2) and then touches her private parts after class (screenshot 3). The video then shows the female student discussing the situation with the GFP (screenshot 4) and shows that the teacher perpetrating the GBV loses his job as a result. The video concludes with the slogan Está na Hora de Agir ("It's Time to Act") and the number for the Linha Fala Criança helpline.

Figure A.4: Sample screenshots from second animated video

(A) Screenshot 1




(B) Screenshot 2




(C) Screenshot 3




(D) Screenshot 4




*Notes:* The figure displays screenshots from the second animated video that was developed and used as part of the intervention. The video starts with an example of a situation where a male student pushes a female student because he is frustrated after losing a football game in school (screenshot 1). This is followed by another male student who is emotionally abusive to a female student because he jealous of her (screenshots 2 and 3). The video concludes with the slogans "Tu tens o poder" ("You have the power") and Está na Hora de Agir ("It's Time to Act") and the number for the Linha Fala Criança helpline.

# C. Appendix – Deviations from the Pre-Analysis Plan

The study was pre-registered with AEA (ID: AEARCTR-0008361) under the title "Gender-based Violence and School Achievement" before the intervention was completed. We identify three minor deviations from the pre-analysis plan:

1. List experiments: Initially, we planned to use list experiments to address potential measurement error concerns associated with self-reports of GBV. However, the list experiments were focused on dating violence and not on violence perpetrated by teachers. As mentioned in the paper, we do not detect changes in dating violence, and we also observe a very low percentage of dating within this population. As a result, we refrained from using this information.

2. Perceived costs to perpetrators of GBV: We had planned to test the effect of the intervention on measures of the perceived costs to perpetrators of GBV. This measure was constructed using a vignette on dating violence. As mentioned in the paper, we do not detect changes in dating violence, and we also observe a very low percentage of dating within this population. As a result, we refrained from using this information, as the hypothetical scenario described in the vignette did not seem suitable to capture the outcome we had initially envisioned.

3. Calls to the hotline: We intended to test the effect of the intervention on calls made by students and teachers to the LFC. This objective was listed under the first primary outcome. Unfortunately, the marker for school location was not filled during the screening process of calls by GCR call handlers. Due to this issue, we are unable to match calls to the treatment assignment.

# D. Appendix –Additional Tables and Figures

Table A.1: Attrition

| | (1) All | (2) Girls | (3) Boys |
|---|---|---|---|
| Girls (T1) | -0.020 | -0.024 | -0.016 |
| | (0.022) | (0.025) | (0.024) |
| Boys (T2) | 0.010 | 0.024 | -0.004 |
| | (0.023) | (0.027) | (0.024) |
| Both (T3) | -0.033 | -0.037 | -0.028 |
| | (0.022) | (0.025) | (0.025) |
| Observations | 8558 | 4258 | 4300 |
| Control mean | 0.178 | 0.192 | 0.165 |
| P-value T1=T2 | 0.168 | 0.061 | 0.599 |
| P-value T1=T3 | 0.516 | 0.582 | 0.633 |
| P-value T2=T3 | 0.054 | 0.017 | 0.330 |

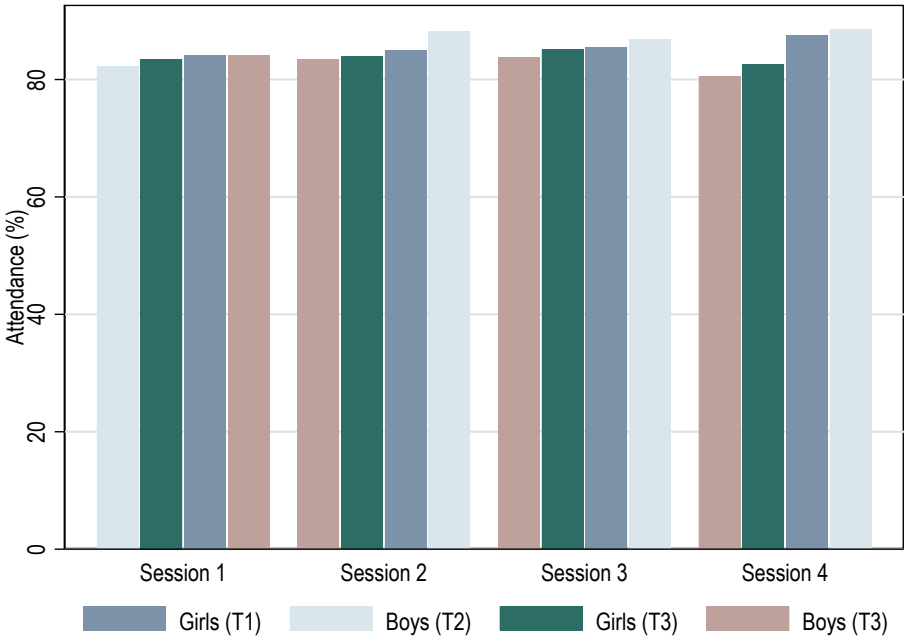
*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on OLS models with randomization strata (district $\times$ high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variables are indicators =1 if the respondent could not be re-surveyed at endline. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \ p < 0.1$, $** \ p < 0.05$, $*** \ p < 0.01$.

Table A.2: Baseline descriptives and balance tests for boys

| | (1) **Control** Mean (SD) | (2) **T1** Mean (SD) | (3) **T2** Mean (SD) | (4) **T3** Mean (SD) | (5) **T1-C** | (6) **T1-T2** | (7) **T1-T3** | (8) **T2-C** | (9) **T2-T3** | (10) **T3-C** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Panel A: Violence in the last month* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Violence by a student (self-rep.) | 0.246 | 0.242 | 0.238 | 0.264 | 0.926 | 0.794 | 0.561 | 0.857 | 0.396 | 0.479 |
| | (0.431) | (0.429) | (0.426) | (0.441) | | | | | | |
| Violence by teachers/staff (self-rep.) | 0.039 | 0.040 | 0.040 | 0.035 | 0.852 | 0.988 | 0.615 | 0.842 | 0.608 | 0.744 |
| | (0.193) | (0.196) | (0.195) | (0.183) | | | | | | |
| Emotional violence | 0.387 | 0.362 | 0.374 | 0.395 | 0.455 | 0.632 | 0.324 | 0.836 | 0.648 | 0.769 |
| | (0.487) | (0.481) | (0.484) | (0.489) | | | | | | |
| Physical violence | 0.195 | 0.182 | 0.200 | 0.205 | 0.619 | 0.337 | 0.274 | 0.618 | 0.940 | 0.543 |
| | (0.396) | (0.386) | (0.400) | (0.404) | | | | | | |
| Sexual violence | 0.135 | 0.159 | 0.163 | 0.155 | 0.104 | 0.716 | 0.594 | 0.059 | 0.376 | 0.210 |
| | (0.342) | (0.366) | (0.370) | (0.362) | | | | | | |
| Violence against girls by a student | 0.126 | 0.145 | 0.138 | 0.129 | 0.262 | 0.824 | 0.399 | 0.306 | 0.483 | 0.754 |
| | (0.332) | (0.353) | (0.345) | (0.335) | | | | | | |
| Violence against girls by teachers/staff | 0.020 | 0.022 | 0.024 | 0.025 | 0.679 | 0.773 | 0.779 | 0.492 | 0.985 | 0.479 |
| | (0.139) | (0.148) | (0.154) | (0.156) | | | | | | |
| *Panel B: Other outcomes and socio-demographic characteristics* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | 14.229 | 14.090 | 14.151 | 14.059 | 0.308 | 0.547 | 0.797 | 0.611 | 0.351 | 0.179 |
| | (1.698) | (1.709) | (1.681) | (1.650) | | | | | | |
| No education, mother | 0.397 | 0.414 | 0.380 | 0.411 | 0.712 | 0.432 | 0.994 | 0.647 | 0.394 | 0.684 |
| | (0.490) | (0.493) | (0.486) | (0.492) | | | | | | |
| Secondary+ education, mother | 0.051 | 0.078 | 0.070 | 0.090 | 0.092 | 0.631 | 0.822 | 0.186 | 0.477 | 0.055 |
| | (0.219) | (0.268) | (0.256) | (0.287) | | | | | | |
| No education, father | 0.195 | 0.251 | 0.155 | 0.200 | 0.022 | 0.001 | 0.041 | 0.127 | 0.149 | 0.922 |
| | (0.396) | (0.434) | (0.362) | (0.400) | | | | | | |
| Secondary+ education, father | 0.129 | 0.154 | 0.174 | 0.174 | 0.444 | 0.524 | 0.541 | 0.159 | 0.979 | 0.167 |
| | (0.336) | (0.361) | (0.380) | (0.380) | | | | | | |
| Younger siblings | 0.869 | 0.869 | 0.844 | 0.863 | 0.770 | 0.156 | 0.583 | 0.253 | 0.387 | 0.791 |
| | (0.338) | (0.338) | (0.363) | (0.344) | | | | | | |
| Older brothers | 0.765 | 0.770 | 0.752 | 0.741 | 0.673 | 0.398 | 0.103 | 0.686 | 0.467 | 0.249 |
| | (0.424) | (0.421) | (0.432) | (0.438) | | | | | | |
| Older sisters | 0.723 | 0.748 | 0.715 | 0.713 | 0.161 | 0.098 | 0.039 | 0.869 | 0.758 | 0.642 |
| | (0.448) | (0.434) | (0.452) | (0.453) | | | | | | |
| Ever had a partner | 0.144 | 0.133 | 0.156 | 0.145 | 0.740 | 0.237 | 0.667 | 0.347 | 0.553 | 0.855 |
| | (0.351) | (0.340) | (0.363) | (0.352) | | | | | | |
| Has a partner | 0.081 | 0.071 | 0.085 | 0.085 | 0.711 | 0.368 | 0.566 | 0.552 | 0.846 | 0.762 |
| | (0.273) | (0.258) | (0.279) | (0.278) | | | | | | |
| Initiation Rituals | 0.066 | 0.061 | 0.057 | 0.076 | 0.749 | 0.631 | 0.215 | 0.401 | 0.074 | 0.335 |
| | (0.248) | (0.239) | (0.231) | (0.265) | | | | | | |
| Test score: Math | -0.001 | -0.014 | 0.062 | 0.093 | 0.725 | 0.242 | 0.176 | 0.396 | 0.839 | 0.301 |
| | (0.998) | (0.979) | (0.983) | (0.929) | | | | | | |
| Attitudes: Violence | 0.491 | 0.471 | 0.476 | 0.458 | 0.366 | 0.804 | 0.999 | 0.476 | 0.805 | 0.362 |
| | (0.500) | (0.499) | (0.500) | (0.498) | | | | | | |
| Attitudes: GBV | 0.281 | 0.320 | 0.290 | 0.264 | 0.249 | 0.265 | 0.114 | 0.947 | 0.645 | 0.701 |
| | (0.450) | (0.467) | (0.454) | (0.441) | | | | | | |
| Attitudes: Dating violence | 0.592 | 0.578 | 0.535 | 0.553 | 0.523 | 0.158 | 0.512 | 0.024 | 0.376 | 0.143 |
| | (0.492) | (0.494) | (0.499) | (0.498) | | | | | | |
| Social desirability score | -0.031 | -0.041 | -0.041 | 0.011 | 0.939 | 0.894 | 0.385 | 0.844 | 0.329 | 0.471 |
| | (0.981) | (0.970) | (0.973) | (1.013) | | | | | | |

*Note*. All information refers to the baseline survey. The sample is restricted to boys who were tracked and resurveyed at endline. Columns 1-4 display the mean and standard deviation of the variable of interest among boys in control, T1, T2, and T3 schools respectively. Columns 5-10 display p-values based on a regression of the variable of interest on treatment dummies, controlling for randomization strata with standard errors clustered at the school (unit of randomization) level.

Figure A.5: Intervention take-up




*Notes:* The figure displays the attendance rate to the intervention sessions, according to student's gender and treatment group.

Table A.3: Intervention compliance

| | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Girls (T1)=1 | 0.838*** | 0.854*** | 0.852*** | 0.874*** |
| | (0.017) | (0.016) | (0.016) | (0.015) |
| Girls (T1)=1 × Boy | -0.839*** | -0.855*** | -0.853*** | -0.875*** |
| | (0.017) | (0.016) | (0.016) | (0.016) |
| Boys (T2)=1 | 0.000 | -0.001 | -0.000 | -0.000 |
| | (0.002) | (0.004) | (0.005) | (0.005) |
| Boys (T2)=1 × Boy | 0.813*** | 0.872*** | 0.860*** | 0.874*** |
| | (0.019) | (0.013) | (0.013) | (0.014) |
| Both (T3)=1 | 0.840*** | 0.847*** | 0.862*** | 0.840*** |
| | (0.017) | (0.014) | (0.015) | (0.020) |
| Both (T3)=1 × Boy | 0.004 | -0.002 | -0.014 | -0.025* |
| | (0.015) | (0.015) | (0.017) | (0.015) |
| P-value T1 (Boy) | 0.813 | 0.773 | 0.833 | 0.776 |
| P-value T2 (Boy) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| P-value T3 (Boy) | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Mean control girls | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Mean control boys | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| N. Clusters | 326 | 326 | 326 | 326 |
| Observations | 8,546 | 8,543 | 8,536 | 8,539 |

*Note:* Dependent variable in each column indicates whether the student attended the corresponding training session.

Table A.4: Balance test for GFPs

| | Age | Gender=male | Born in Sofala | Born in Beira | University grad. | Years in school | GFP in 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| Girls ($T_1$) | -0.173 | 0.027 | 0.041 | 0.058 | -0.063 | 0.407 | 0.062 |
| | (0.983) | (0.070) | (0.056) | (0.077) | (0.055) | (0.697) | (0.045) |
| Boys ($T_2$) | -0.383 | -0.135** | 0.019 | 0.071 | 0.038 | 0.267 | 0.058 |
| | (0.931) | (0.061) | (0.057) | (0.077) | (0.059) | (0.677) | (0.044) |
| Both ($T_3$) | -0.083 | 0.071 | -0.015 | 0.017 | -0.034 | 0.311 | 0.080* |
| | (0.971) | (0.070) | (0.060) | (0.075) | (0.058) | (0.700) | (0.043) |
| Observations | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 | 318 |
| Control mean | 35.05 | 0.27 | 0.83 | 0.38 | 0.25 | 6.77 | 0.88 |
| P-value T1=T2 | 0.82 | 0.01 | 0.69 | 0.87 | 0.07 | 0.84 | 0.91 |
| P-value T1=T3 | 0.93 | 0.55 | 0.33 | 0.60 | 0.59 | 0.89 | 0.61 |
| P-value T2=T3 | 0.74 | 0.00 | 0.56 | 0.49 | 0.23 | 0.95 | 0.52 |

**Notes**: Dependent variables are as follows: column 1: Age, column 2: Gender (male = 1), column 3: Born in Sofala Province, column 4: Born in Beira district, column 5: Education: University graduate, column 6: Years as teacher in this school, column 7: was a GFP in 2021.

Table A.5: Effects on prevalence of violence against girls, by social desirability

| | Perpetrated by Students | | Perpetrated by Teachers or Staff | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Self reported | Reported by others | Self reported | Reported by others |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| Girls (T1) | 0.005 | -0.002 | -0.008** | -0.009** |
| | (0.022) | (0.011) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| Girls (T1) × SDB | 0.013 | 0.016* | 0.001 | -0.004 |
| | (0.019) | (0.009) | (0.003) | (0.004) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.005 | 0.002 | -0.004 | -0.008* |
| | (0.020) | (0.010) | (0.005) | (0.004) |
| Boys (T2) × SDB | 0.020 | 0.004 | 0.006 | -0.003 |
| | (0.019) | (0.010) | (0.005) | (0.004) |
| Both (T3) | 0.018 | 0.006 | -0.005 | -0.010** |
| | (0.021) | (0.011) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| Both (T3) × SDB | 0.014 | -0.010 | 0.000 | -0.003 |
| | (0.017) | (0.010) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| Observations | 3471 | 7098 | 3471 | 7098 |
| Control mean | 0.184 | 0.088 | 0.012 | 0.017 |

*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district × high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variables in columns 1 and 3 are indicators of whether a girl reported experiencing any type of violence in the past month from any other student in the school (column 1) or any teacher or school staff (column 3). The dependent variables in columns 2 and 4 are indicators of whether the student reported witnessing any type of violence against girls in the past month from any other student in the school (column 2) or any teacher or school staff (column 4). SDB is the respondent's social desirability score at baseline. All specifications control for the baseline value of the dependent variable. * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01.

Table A.6: Change in reported violence against girls pre-2021

| | Perpetrated by students | Perpetrated by teachers or staff |
|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) |
| Girls (T1) | 0.000 | 0.001 |
| | (0.022) | (0.008) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.021 | 0.012 |
| | (0.022) | (0.008) |
| Both (T3) | -0.014 | 0.001 |
| | (0.021) | (0.009) |
| Observations | 3470 | 3470 |
| Control mean | -0.023 | -0.017 |
| P-value T1=T2 | 0.327 | 0.156 |
| P-value T1=T3 | 0.498 | 0.950 |
| P-value T2=T3 | 0.740 | 0.151 |

*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on OLS models with randomization strata (district × high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variables are based on retrospective questions about violence the respondent experienced before 2021. We generate indicators of whether the respondent reported experiencing any type of violence from other students in the school or from teacher or school staff based on her responses at baseline and at endline surveys. We then take the difference between the endline and baseline indicators so the outcome is the *change* in reported prevalence of violence pre-2021. All specifications control for respondent's social desirability score at baseline. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \ p < 0.1$, $** \ p < 0.05$, $*** \ p < 0.01$.

Table A.7: Knowledge about laws and sentences related and unrelated to GBV

| | GBV Laws and Sentences | | Laws not concerning GBV | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Girls (T1) | 0.211*** | 2.639** | 0.057 | 0.014 | -0.084 |
| | (0.063) | (1.171) | (0.058) | (0.016) | (0.066) |
| Boys (T2) | 0.123** | 0.629 | 0.037 | -0.005 | -0.047 |
| | (0.055) | (1.201) | (0.053) | (0.011) | (0.065) |
| Both (T3) | 0.066 | 3.633** | -0.025 | -0.003 | -0.058 |
| | (0.064) | (1.674) | (0.062) | (0.012) | (0.071) |
| Observations | 551 | 168 | 551 | 551 | 551 |
| Control mean | 0.28 | 10.56 | 0.20 | 0.01 | 0.27 |
| P-value T1 = T2 | 0.15 | 0.07 | 0.72 | 0.18 | 0.54 |
| P-valueT1 = T3 | 0.04 | 0.49 | 0.19 | 0.26 | 0.70 |
| P-value T2 = T3 | 0.35 | 0.04 | 0.29 | 0.81 | 0.87 |

*Note:* (1) is a dummy variable = 1 if the person declares to know the Law on the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights (Law No. 7/2008) or declares to know sentence (in years) for sexual acts with children under 16, with or without consent; (2) Years of sentence for sexual acts with children under 16, with or without consent, according to the person; (3) knows about law of Domestic Violence Perpetrated Against women Act (2009); (4) knows about the Labour Law (Law No. 23/2007). (5) knows the Civil Registration Code 2004. * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01.

Table A.8: Sexual Violence by Teachers

| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Girls (T1) | -0.008* | -0.002 | -0.002 | -0.002 | -0.004 | -0.002 | -0.002 |
| | (0.005) | (0.005) | (0.003) | (0.004) | (0.004) | (0.004) | (0.004) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.008* | -0.008** | -0.002 | -0.004 | -0.004 | -0.003 | -0.004 |
| | (0.005) | (0.004) | (0.003) | (0.004) | (0.004) | (0.003) | (0.003) |
| Both (T3) | -0.008* | -0.006 | 0.004 | -0.005 | -0.006 | -0.004* | -0.004 |
| | (0.005) | (0.004) | (0.004) | (0.004) | (0.004) | (0.003) | (0.003) |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T2 | 0.946 | 0.049 | 0.923 | 0.432 | 0.938 | 0.721 | 0.461 |
| $H_0$ : T1 = T3 | 0.990 | 0.447 | 0.078 | 0.979 | 0.666 | 0.689 | 0.952 |
| $H_0$ : T2 = T3 | 0.953 | 0.323 | 0.096 | 0.418 | 0.629 | 0.418 | 0.442 |
| Mean Control | .011 | .009 | .004 | .007 | .008 | .006 | .007 |
| Obs. | 3305 | 3284 | 3333 | 3201 | 3333 | 3284 | 3323 |

**Notes**: Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district $\times$ high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. Dependent variables in column 1-7 are dummies equal to 1 if the respondent said a teacher or school staff has done the following to her in the past month: Column 1 'Forced you to perform sexual acts?', Column 2 'Touched you in a way that made you uncomfortable?', Column 3 'Kissed or forced you to kiss him/her?', Column 4 'Made you take off your clothes?', Column 5 'Took off his/her clothes?', Column 6 'Made you touch your own private parts?', Column 7 'Made you touch his/her private parts?'. All specifications control for the baseline value of the dependent variable and social desirability score at baseline. Statistical significance is indicated by $* \ p < 0.1$, $** \ p < 0.05$, $*** \ p < 0.01$ for unadjusted $p$-values and by $\star \ p < 0.1$, $\star\star \ p < 0.05$, $\star\star\star \ p < 0.01$ for $p$-values that are adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing. When correcting the $p$-values for multiple hypothesis testing, we group all outcomes in one family.

Table A.9: Feelings when talking about GBV with enumerator

| | Good | Bad | Same |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (1) | (2) | (3) |
| Girls (T1) | 0.042* | -0.011 | -0.031* |
| | (0.024) | (0.015) | (0.017) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.035 | 0.029 | 0.005 |
| | (0.026) | (0.018) | (0.018) |
| Both (T3) | 0.013 | -0.002 | -0.011 |
| | (0.023) | (0.015) | (0.018) |
| P-value T1=T2 | 0.002 | 0.032 | 0.037 |
| P-value T1=T3 | 0.195 | 0.569 | 0.246 |
| P-value T2=T3 | 0.056 | 0.086 | 0.376 |
| Mean control | 0.782 | 0.070 | 0.148 |
| N. Clusters | 325 | 325 | 325 |
| Observations | 3,721 | 3,721 | 3,721 |

*Note:* Regression coefficients are based on OLS models with randomization strata (district × high school-level violence) fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variable is an indicator of whether the student has felt good (column 1), bad (column 2), or same (column 3) while talking about violence with the enumerator. * p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01.

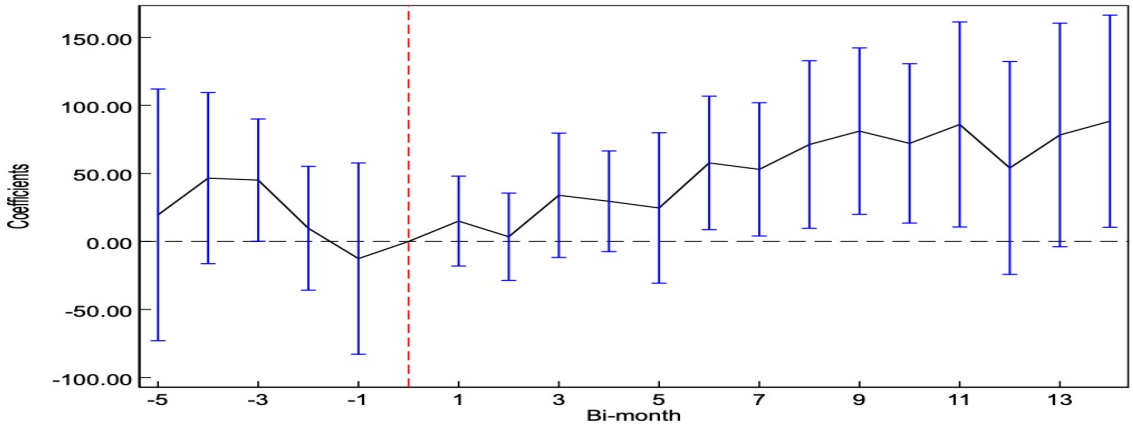
Table A.10: Effects on girls' perceptions of safety at school

| | (1) Very safe | (2) More or less safe | (3) Very unsafe |
|---|---|---|---|
| Girls (T1) | 0.027 | -0.002 | -0.025* |
| | (0.031) | (0.028) | (0.014) |
| Boys (T2) | -0.005 | 0.023 | -0.017 |
| | (0.032) | (0.030) | (0.014) |
| Both (T3) | 0.057* | -0.047* | -0.010 |
| | (0.031) | (0.028) | (0.015) |
| Observations | 3483 | 3483 | 3483 |
| Control mean | 0.65 | 0.29 | 0.06 |
| P-value T1=T2 | 0.28 | 0.38 | 0.53 |
| P-value T1=T3 | 0.31 | 0.09 | 0.27 |
| P-value T2=T3 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.61 |

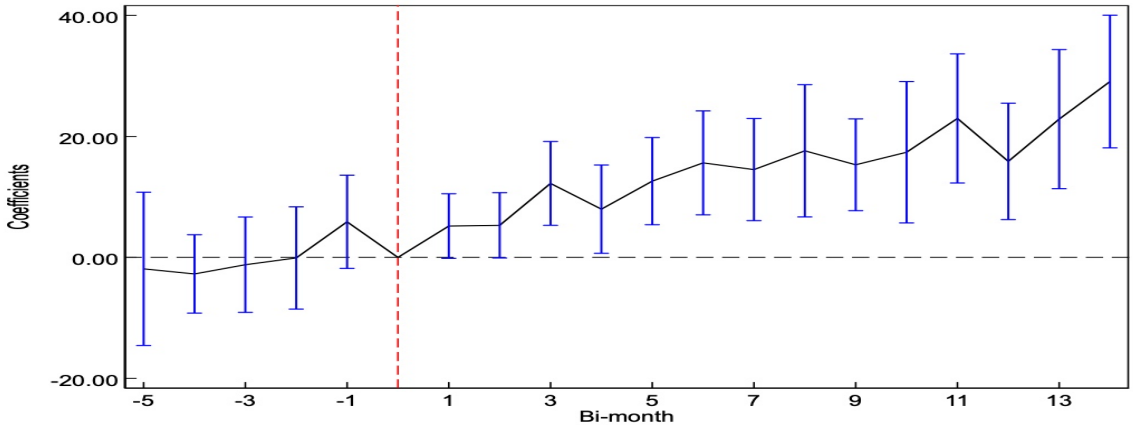
**Notes**: Regression coefficients are based on ANCOVA models with randomization strata (district × high school-level violence) fixed effects. All specifications control for the social desirability score at baseline. Standard errors are clustered at the school level in parentheses. The dependent variables are indicators for whether the respondent said she felt "very safe" (column 1), "More or less safe" (column 2), or "Very unsafe" (column 3) at school. All specifications control for the baseline value of the dependent variable. * p<0.10, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01.

Figure A.6: Event Study - Effects on calls to *Linha Fala Criança (LFC) and cases*

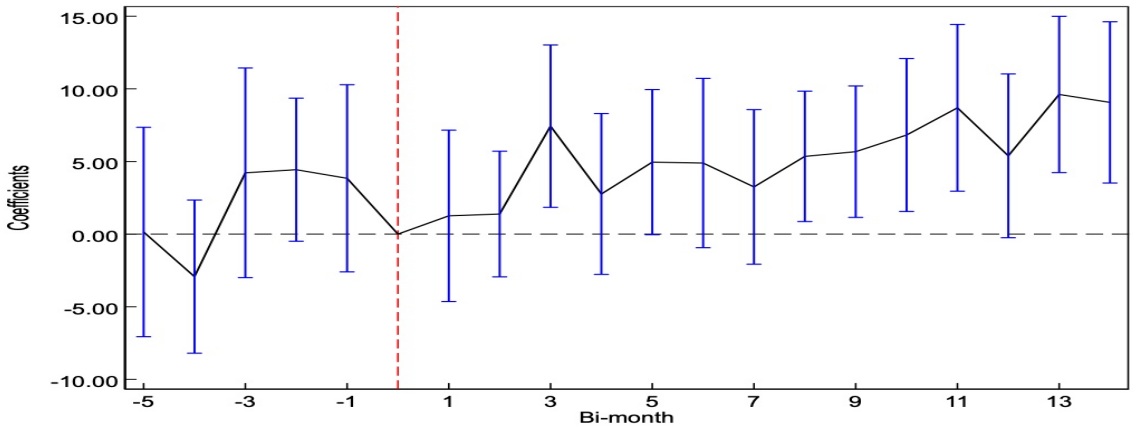
(a) Total calls




(b) Calls for assistance




(c) Cases




**Notes:** These graphs plot the coefficient obtained from a regression of the outcomes on the interaction between the presence of the intervention *Está na Hora de Agir* in the district and dummies for the bi-months leading up to the start of the intervention and bi-months after its introduction. Control districts are those geographically bordering the treated districts. Each bar represents the estimated coefficients and the capped vertical line shows the estimated 95% bootstrapping confidence interval. Covariates include district fixed effects, bi-month fixed effects and district linear trends.

# E. Appendix – Survey Instruments and Data Collection Protocols

## E.I Prevalence of violence

To measure the prevalence of violence during the past month, we asked respondents if they ever experienced any of the following. If they said "Yes," we asked when was the last time they experienced this. If the last time the respondent experienced any of these was within the past month, we coded the prevalence of any violence as 1 and 0 otherwise.

1 Insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself?

2 Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?

3 Did things to scare or intimidate you?

4 Threatened to hurt you or a friend of yours?

5 Hit you or threw something that could hurt you?

6 Pushed you or pulled your hair?

7 Punched you or hit you with something else that hurt you?

8 Kicked you, dragged you or spanked you?

9 Showed you his/her private parts or pretend to show himself to you?

10 Made nasty comments/expressions/looks/whistles at you?

11 Stalked you in a way that made you uncomfortable?

12 Groped/touched you in a way that made you uncomfortable?

13 Looked at you in a way that made you uncomfortable?

14 Made sexual comments to you in a way that made you uncomfortable?

15 Pulled your skirt/pants/shorts?

## E.II Identification of violence

We use three indicators to measure adolescents' ability to identify violent acts.

1. The first indicator is based on the following two vignettes:

Vignette 1. Ana and José are two students at the school. They are on their first date and are going to a community social gathering together. José spends the whole time talking to an old girlfriend. After José and Ana leave, Ana gets angry and gives José a shove. He is sore but does not need medical attention.

Vignette 2. Maria and Pedro are two students from the same school. They have been together for a month and are getting to know each other. They both went to a community meeting where they both drank a beer that someone offered them. After they leave, Maria gets very angry and hits Pedro. He is hurt and needs a bandage. This kind of thing has happened several times before.

After the vignettes were read out to the respondents, they were asked to report to what extent they thought this situation was violent or abusive. They could answer "Very violent," "More or less violent," "Slightly violent," or "Not violent at all." The indicator was coded as 1 if the respondent found both situations "Very violent" and 0 otherwise.

2. The second and third indicators are based on a series of questions describing various situations. The respondent was asked to report if they thought the situation constituted GBV or not. The specific situations are the following:

   a. A group of students is tugging on a girl's skirt.
   b. A female student yells at a male student because he has different ideas.
   c. A teacher uses a female student's pen without asking.
   d. A male student insults a female student because he thinks her outfit is racy.
   e. A teacher slaps a student if he doesn't pay attention.
   f. A teacher pretends to show his private parts (parts that are normally not shown) to a female student.
   g. A girlfriend pushes her boyfriend because she is jealous.

   The correct answer should be that items a, d, f, and g constitute GBV and items b, c, and e do not. We then generate one indicator that is equal to 1 if the respondent identified all of these items correctly as being GBV or not, and a second indicator that is the proportion of items they identified correctly.

## E.III Attitudes toward violence

We use three indicators to measure adolescents' attitudes toward violence:

1. **Acceptability of violence:** An indicator equal to 1 if the respondent considers the use of violence as being "acceptable" in any of the following situations:

- A student insults/humiliates another student if they argue or have a disagreement.
- A teacher threats/hurts/scares a student if they argue or have a disagreement.
- A student pushes/slaps/hits/kicks another student if they argue or have a disagreement.
- A teacher pushes/slaps/hits/kicks a student if he/she is not behaving as the teacher expects (e.g., not paying attention, disrupting the class).

2. **Acceptability of GBV:** An indicator equal to 1 if the respondent considers the use of violence as being "acceptable" in any of the following situations:
   - A student shows or simulates showing his/her intimate parts to another student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A teacher shows or simulates showing his/her intimate parts to a student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A student stalks/stares at another student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A teacher stalks/stares at a student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A student touches/gropes another student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A teacher touches/gropes a student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A student makes comments or sexually harass another student if he/she likes her/him.
   - A teacher makes comments or sexually harass a student if he/she likes her/him.

3. **Dating violence:** An indicator equal to 1 if the respondent agrees with any of the following statements:
   - What boys want should take priority over what girls want when there is no money in the house.
   - If a boy likes a girl, he should be able to kiss her even if she doesn't want to.
   - If a boy likes a girl, he should be able to touch her even if she doesn't want to.
   - A boyfriend takes care of his girlfriend by controlling where she goes and who she sees.
   - A boyfriend has the right to have sex with his girlfriend even when she says no.
   - In a relationship, the guy should always have the last word, even if it is not right.

– If girls wear short skirts or drink alcohol at a party, they are asking to be mistreated or abused.

## E.IV Social desirability index

Our social desirability index is identical to the index used by Dhar et al. (2022), which is based on Crowne and Marlowe (1960). In particular, each respondent was asked to state if the following statements are true or false for themselves:

1. It is sometimes hard for me to go on with my work if I am not encouraged.
2. I sometimes feel resentful when I don't get my way.
3. On a few occasions, I have given up doing something because I thought too little of my ability.
4. There have been times when I felt like rebelling against people in authority even though I knew they were right.
5. No matter who I'm talking to, I'm always a good listener.
6. There have been occasions when I took advantage of someone.
7. I'm always willing to admit it when I make a mistake.
8. I sometimes try to get even rather than forgive and forget.
9. I am always courteous, even to people who are disagreeable.
10. I have never been upset when people expressed ideas very different than my own.
11. There have been times when I was quite jealous of the good fortune of others.
12. I am sometimes irritated by people who ask favors of me.
13. I have deliberately said something that hurt someone's feelings.

The social desirability index sums how many of the responses are the socially desirable ones. More specifically, we create dummy variables equal to 1 if the respondent responded "False" to items 1–4, 6, 8, and 11–13; and "True" to items 5, 7, 9, and 10. The social desirability index is the mean of these 13 dummy variables, standardized with respect to the control group.

# F. Appendix – GFPs' Interviews

Our findings show that the reporting of victims and GFPs' familiarity with the helpline's exact number significantly improved only in schools where the training was exclusive to girls (Table 3). Our conversation with the GFPs indicate that GFPs in T1 were more aware of the LFC number because girls reported more cases of GBV:

*"Teachers had more GBV cases to consult or report. They always called the Linha Fala Criança."*

*"Teachers remember [the LFC number] more because it was something that was usually used, so they ended up being more connected to the number."*

We also learned how GFPs were constantly approaching students and teachers to talk about GBV and involving the community:

*"And if the teacher grabbed the child's butt and hugged the child, we explained that type of behavior was not acceptable [...] I told the students that if anything happened, they should come and talk to me[...] Yes, and I will also forward it to the bosses (school council). [By involving the community], the teachers already feared punishment. "*