

# Engaging Schools and Communities to End School-Related Gender-Based Violence



## EDC Approach to Preventing and Responding to SRGBV

EDC recognizes that learning and positive social and emotional development are maximized when school spaces are safe and nurturing.<sup>1</sup> In our programs, we promote learning environments free from school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV),<sup>2</sup> as well as health and environmental threats to learners' and educators' safety and well-being. Many EDC programs align with a whole school approach to prevent and respond to SRGBV.<sup>3</sup> EDC believes that preventing and responding to SRGBV requires evidence-informed, contextualized programming that engages students and their families, teachers, education authorities, community leaders, social service

providers, and relevant government institutions. The following examples highlight EDC's work to prevent and respond to SRGBV and gender-based violence (GBV) across a variety of age ranges and programs.



## Community Action to Prevent SRGBV

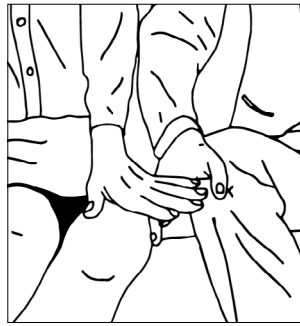
Through the USAID-funded *Accelerated Quality Education for Liberian Children Activity*, EDC's work to address SRGBV includes:

- A **gender analysis** to obtain information about the drivers of SRGBV and adapting the Education in Conflict and Crisis Network **Safe Learning Environment (SLE) Assessment** for information about learner experience with SRGBV and teacher and learner perceptions on school safety issues
- Development of a **Parent Teacher Association (PTA) training series** to address SRGBV in schools and communities, resulting in a set of PTA-led community activities to apply training topics. Representatives from the Ministry of Education, police, county gender coordinators, and community social and health workers participated in trainings
- **Teaching and learning materials and related training** to promote knowledge about SRGBV prevention and response to learners, teachers, principals, and other educators
- **Collaboration with Search for Common Ground** to design theater and radio dramas that promote community awareness and action related to SLE and SRGBV

1 RTI International. (2016). Conceptual framework for measuring school-related gender-based violence. Washington, DC: U.S. Agency for International Development.  
2 SRGBV: "acts or threats of sexual, physical, or psychological violence occurring in and around school, perpetrated as a result of gender norms and stereotypes, and enforced by unequal power dynamics" (UNGEI. [n.d.] A whole school approach to prevent school-related gender-based violence. Retrieved from <http://www.ungei.org/Whole-School-Approach-to-Prevent-SRGBV-Minimum-Standards-Framework-UNGEI.pdf>)  
3 Ibid.

## Classroom-Based Approach to Prevent SRGBV

In South Africa, EDC works with the Department of Basic Education, through the USAID-funded *South Africa School-Based Sexuality & HIV Prevention Education Activity*, to address SRGBV through these activities:



- **Commission reports** from research partner HEARD on SRGBV and gender and power that influenced activity work
- **Develop scripted lessons for grades 4–12** addressing prevention and response to SRGBV and GBV
- Include SRGBV and GBV topics in **trainings and orientations** for teachers, school management teams, education officials, school governing boards, and parent groups
- **Work with government institutions, NGOs, and schools** to establish linkages to youth-friendly health and psychosocial services
- **Participate in the USAID DREAMS** (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe) partnership to provide girls in activity schools with the opportunity to attend camps and other programs addressing SRGBV and GBV

## Engaging Youth to Prevent GBV

Through the USAID-funded *Mali Education Recovery Support Activity (ERSA)*, EDC addresses GBV and SRGBV through the following activities:

- Work with GREFFA (local gender-specialist NGO) to conduct a **baseline study** on the gender context, existing initiatives for promoting gender equity, and preventing GBV
- Develop a **gender strategy** and train project and local NGO staff on gender-related topics
- Provide 70 youth centers with a **poster kit and radio broadcasts on gender and GBV** for youth club meetings
- Conduct a **survey of regional organizations that provide GBV services; train NGO staff, community coordinators, and community relay agents** to conduct GBV referrals to service providers at the community level



**Salma, 19, is from Gao, a region experiencing conflict in northern Mali.**

Her parents removed her from school after one year of basic education, and she was married to a cousin when other children her age were in grade 6. When ERSA started a literacy and workforce development program in her town, Salma joined. She began to learn about themes related to gender, GBV, and living peacefully together, in addition to improving her literacy skills. Through this opportunity, Salma became a community leader with clear objectives as a survivor of GBV: to prevent early marriage and raise awareness about GBV. With the members of her club, she talks to community members about GBV and its consequences and is regularly appointed by other women to represent them in the decision-making bodies of the village.

EDC is committed to promoting student and educator safety and eliminating SRGBV to maximize the learning potential of children and youth. If you would like to learn more about this work, contact Amy Deal, [adeal@edc.org](mailto:adeal@edc.org).



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