



GENDER EQUALITY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION: APPROACHES, RESULTS, OUTLOOK.

Helpcode is committed to improving the living conditions of girls and boys, women and men in the communities where it works, recognising that persistent and deep-rooted gender inequalities in these contexts continue to generate **significant disparities in access to rights and opportunities**.

In particular, girls and women face specific barriers that limit their wellbeing, the full realisation of their rights, and their ability to make informed decisions about their own lives.

Helpcode adopts a **gender-transformative and intersectional approach**, recognising that “women” and “men”, as well as “girls” and “boys”, are not homogeneous

categories.

Opportunities and risks vary depending on the combination of gender, age, level of education, place of residence, health status, social role and proximity to centres of power.

For this reason, we integrate into all our interventions an analysis of the root causes of exclusion – including social and gender norms – avoiding simplified categorisations and

working to transform them in a structural and participatory way.

This makes it possible to promote development processes that are genuinely inclusive, equitable and sustainable, and to ensure responses that strengthen dignity, self-determination and access to rights.

In Mozambique, Helpcode works across two areas to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women and girls, combining long-term empowerment with protection in crisis settings:

- **Long-term development interventions**, aimed at structurally transforming power relations and economic, social and educational conditions in the communities where it works;
- **Humanitarian interventions**, focused on the prevention of and immediate response to gender-based violence, with particular attention to the protection of women and girls in crisis settings.

AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Long-term development

Helpcode promotes economic empowerment and the transformation of gender relations through an integrated set of approaches:

- **Agriculture as a technical entry point for making gender inequalities visible and addressable**

In agricultural projects, differences in gender roles linked to socio-cultural norms immediately emerge as factors that negatively affect productivity, women's ability to fully participate in activities (for example in terms of available time, access to productive inputs, and mobility), and economic benefits. Our approach makes it possible to address gender inequalities as technical and efficiency obstacles, rather than as private or family matters – making the transformation legitimate, shared and non-conflictual.

- **Activation and leadership of women as agents of change**

Through methodologies based on awareness, solidarity and collective mobilisation – such as solidarity camps and community dialogue spaces – Helpcode strengthens women's presence in community decision-making processes. This work is carried out together with local feminist organisations to ensure cultural relevance and full social acceptability, while also engaging men in building change.

Humanitarian response

In Cabo Delgado province, Helpcode works across three complementary areas to prevent and respond to gender-based violence:

- **Prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence, through:** risk analysis (safety audits), activation of community protection mechanisms, awareness-raising and training, and the participatory identification of concrete solutions (e.g. solar lighting, distribution of solar panels and locks to improve household security, community first-aid training, and distribution of dignity kits).

- **Response to gender-based violence and psychosocial support,** through the identification and management of GBV cases within the integrated approach set out in Mozambican legislation, the construction and management of Women and Girls' Safe Spaces, psychological response and community psychosocial support activities, and structural coordination with Social Services, law enforcement, and actors in the health and justice systems.

- **Economic empowerment as a lever for protection and GBV risk mitigation:** safe pathways for women survivors of violence, including literacy and micro-business training, protected kits/vouchers, integrated technical and psychosocial support, monitoring of family dynamics, and the involvement of men to prevent secondary risks.

- **Economic empowerment as genuine autonomy**, not just income. Economic empowerment pathways are designed to give women real access to, and control over, resources: functional literacy, entrepreneurial training, access to productive assets, kits defined together with beneficiaries, and personalised support. Women choose whether to operate individually or as a family, with no models imposed from outside.
- **Sustained engagement with institutions and local leadership.** We work from the outset with District Services and local authorities so that gender transformations do not remain isolated, but are fully embedded within economic and social governance structures. A recent example is the training provided to institutions in Manica province on promoting gender-sensitive businesses.
- **Education as a preventive lever against early marriage and school dropout.** Helpcode simultaneously improves educational quality, protection and school retention, making schools central places for preventing discrimination. It links education to food security by promoting local supply chains for school meals, reducing the economic drivers behind girls' withdrawal from school or early marriage.



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