**STUDY PROTOCOL ABSTRACT**

**Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Global Fund-Supported Health Facilities: Screening Challenges and Women's Perspectives in Kenya and Tanzania**

**Background**

Domestic violence (DV) during pregnancy and postpartum is a distressing issue with far-reaching consequences for maternal well-being and infant health. Approximately 1 in 5 women experience domestic violence during pregnancy or within the first year after giving birth, with 20% of those with perinatal mental health conditions experiencing suicidal thoughts or self-harm tendencies (WHO 2020). Furthermore, the repercussions extend beyond the mother's mental well-being with detrimental effects on the developing foetus, potentially leading to low birth weight, preterm birth, and other adverse pregnancy outcomes. While pregnant and post-partum women across all income settings experience DV, those living in low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMIC) have at least a 50% higher likelihood of experiencing DV than those living in high-income countries. Despite various studies on domestic violence, research exploring the prevalence of domestic violence during pregnancy and postpartum in low-income settings and corresponding interventions is inadequate. This study will address this gap by investigating the prevalence of domestic violence during pregnancy and postpartum in facilities supported by the Global Fund in Kenya and Tanzania.

**Methods**

The PhD will employ a mixed-methods study design. A convenience sampling method will be used, employing a semi-structured questionnaire, Abuse Assessment Screen (AAS), and WHO multi-country study questionnaire for data collection. The study population will consist of pregnant women aged 18 years and above who attended antenatal clinics at Healthcare Centres in Kenya and Tanzania. A qualitative study will be conducted to explore the barriers and facilitators to the assessment of DV by trained healthcare workers and in-depth interviews with women attending ANC/PNC to understand their perception of the assessment they are receiving. Data generated from the completed questionnaire will be analysed for simple frequency, percentage, and Chi-square analysis using SPSS.

**Expected outcome**

The prevalence of DV among the participants will be determined. Findings from the study will contribute to filling the gaps in current knowledge, offering significant insights into the prevalence of DV and appropriate interventions and implementation of policy directives by relevant stakeholders towards reducing its incidence.