



Gender-based violence and mining in the energy transition

How data shapes GBV prevention, response and accountability

Abbi Buxton | April 2026

What this deck aims to do

- **Challenge** incident-based approaches to understanding GBV risk
- **Expose** how corporate data systems can overlook key drivers of harm
- **Distinguish** incident, structural and lived experience data
- **Show** how integrating insights supports prevention and accountability
- **Open space** for dialogue, shared learning and research partnerships

This project has begun by focusing primarily on corporate actors and their data systems. Further partnership is needed to understand local civil society data practices and how these can be further integrated.

Why GBV data matters in the energy transition

Data shapes what is seen, what is done and who is accountable

What is visible = What is recognised

What is understood = What actions are taken

What is measured = Who is held accountable

In mining, GBV risks are often known informally –
decisions based on formal data can misrepresent risk,
limit action and distort accountability.

Data gaps limit visibility and accountability

- GBV risks are often **hidden or underreported**
- Decisions are often based on **incomplete or partial data**
- Accountability is limited by **what is measured and reported**

For example, in mining contexts:

GBV reporting may capture serious incidents but overlook everyday harms. When metrics focus on incidents, they miss how harmful norms and structural inequalities drive risk.

Better data leads to better outcomes

- Reveals **where harm occurs** and who is at risk
- Improves **decision-making across the system**
- Strengthens **accountability and just outcomes**

For example, in mining contexts:

Better data reveals risk hotspots (transport routes, contractor camps)

Identifies those most at risk (informal, low-paid workers)

Enables strengthened prevention and accountability across the sector

Better data requires safe and responsible approaches

- **Data collection** must not create risks for workers and communities
- **Reporting channels** must protect confidentiality and build trust
- **Community knowledge** must be prioritised – safely and ethically
- **Data must be used** to prevent harm and not just report incidents

Without safeguards, data collection and use can reinforce harm rather than prevent it.

The limits of corporate data systems

What corporate data systems prioritise – and may overlook

What is prioritised

- Formal quantitative data
- Institutional reporting systems
- Standardised indicators

What is overlooked

- Lived realities and everyday experiences
 - Power dynamics and social norms
 - Context-specific risks
-

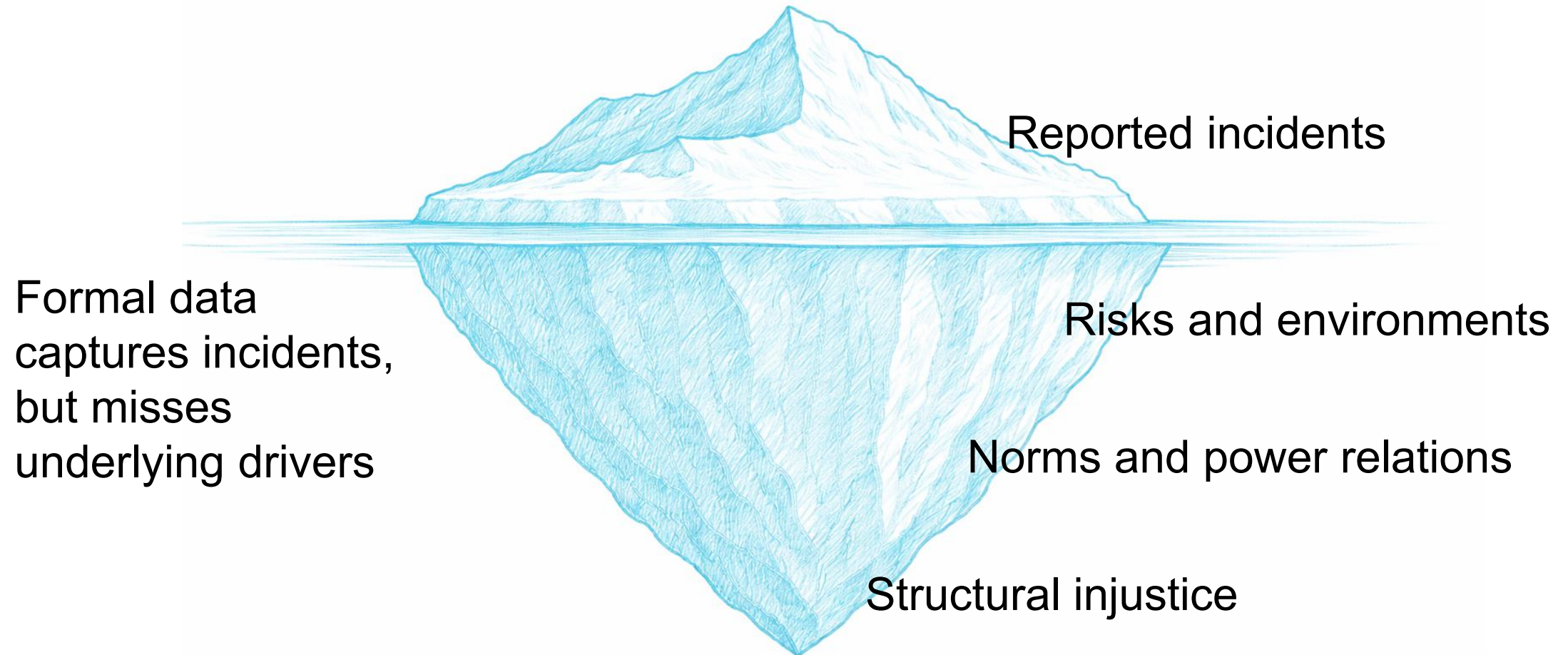
Data is shaped by systems and power

Lived realities are often excluded from decision making

Institutional systems shape what is collected

Power dynamics dictate what is reported

Most GBV risk is invisible in formal data systems



What sits beneath reported GBV incidents

Risks and enabling environments

Conditions in and around mine sites
Gendered labour hierarchies
Weak reporting and safeguards

Norms and power relations

Normalisation of violence and exploitation
Harmful masculinities and workplace cultures
Stigma and barriers to reporting

Structural injustice and extractive systems

Economic dependence on mining
Land dispossession and unequal benefits
Marginalisation of Indigenous and local communities

These drivers are rarely captured in formal data systems.

**Expanding what counts
as data for GBV**

Understanding GBV risk requires different types of data

Incident data (reactive)

- Shows what has happened
- Makes harm visible
- Often underrepresents the scale and patterns of GBV

Structural data (preventative)

- Explains why it happens
 - Identifies risks and drivers
 - Reveals how systems, norms and power relations drive risk
-

**No single data type is sufficient –
Together they reveal risk and enable prevention.**

The GBV data ecosystem in mining: a corporate-facing view

What is counted

Grievances
Incident reports
Regulatory reports

Formal sources

What is studied

Employee surveys
Human rights and social
impact assessments

What is experienced

Lived realities of workers and
communities
Everyday interactions and
observations
Informal reporting and local
knowledge

Informal sources

Both corporate and civil society actions may use formal and informal sources. Dialogue can connect insights across this ecosystem to fully understand GBV and its drivers.

Informal data is critical but often overlooked by corporate actors

- **Everyday conversations** and observations
- **Lived experience** and community knowledge
- **Informal reporting** and local narratives

These sources may be central to how community-based and women-led organisations understand and respond to GBV.

For example, in mining contexts this may include rumours about unsafe transport routes, women's groups reporting harassment near sites, and worker concerns about unsafe accommodation.

What informal data reveals

System gaps

- Barriers to reporting
- Gaps in access to services and support

Risk patterns

- Who is most affected
- Where risks occur

Social dynamics

- Norms, stigma and acceptance of violence
- Trust or distrust in systems

Often the first signal of GBV risk – revealing risks, gaps and dynamics missed in formal data.

Without intersectional data, the most vulnerable remain invisible

- How risks **differ** across groups and contexts
- Who is **excluded** from reporting and support
- How inequalities **compound**

For example, in mining contexts:

Young migrant women in informal economies face different risks

Women in contract and low-paid roles face higher risks

Racialised workers face heightened exposure and barriers to reporting

Data is shaped by power and whose voices are included

- **Community knowledge** can be undervalued in corporate decision-making
- **Women-led organisations** may be absent from corporate data systems
- **Lived experience** may not systemically inform prevention and response

Local organisations should help shape what is collected, how it is interpreted and how it is used.

**From data to
action**

Better GBV data changes what action is possible

From reacting to incidents —————> **To preventing risk**

From isolated cases —————> **To systemic understanding**

From partial data —————> **To inclusive, intersectional insight**

From top-down decisions —————> **To community-informed action**

What different data reveals in a mining operation

Scenario

A mining site reports low GBV incidents

Formal data shows

- Few reported cases
- No major red flags in risk assessments

Informal data reveals

- Harassment near transport routes
- Low trust in reporting systems
- Community discuss incidents but don't report

Structural data explains

- Male-dominated workforce and contractor influx
- Women earn less and are rarely promoted
- Norms discourage reporting and normalise harassment

Combining data sources improves response and enables prevention.

What different data reveals in a mining community

Formal data shows

- Police and health services show limited cases
- Limited demand for GBV support services

Informal data reveals

- Women rely on informal networks, not formal services
- Fear of stigma and retaliation prevents reporting
- Incidents widely known but rarely disclosed formally

Structural data explains

- Economic dependence on mine-linked livelihoods
- Social norms tolerating certain forms of violence
- Weak or inaccessible support services

Understanding community realities reveals barriers to support and where systems must change.

What better data use looks like in practice

For companies

- Identify high-risk sites, roles and workplace dynamics (e.g. contractor camps, transport routes, shift work)
 - Strengthen trusted reporting systems and survivor support
 - Design safer workplaces and community engagement
-

For communities

- Make lived experience visible in decisions that affect them
 - Improve access to trusted support pathways (e.g. local women's groups and networks)
 - Strengthen accountability of companies and local actors
-

For governments and standards bodies

- Target policy and enforcement in high-risk sectors (e.g. safety inspectors in the mining sector)
 - Strengthen safeguards across supply chains
 - Embed GBV into ESG, due diligence and certification
-

Key tensions in GBV data that shape what action is possible

Formal versus informal

Quantitative versus qualitative

Incident versus structural

Standardisation versus context

Accountability versus safety

Whose knowledge counts?

What gets prioritised?

Response versus prevention

Comparability versus relevance

Visibility versus protection

What is measurable ≠ what matters most

What needs to change in corporate GBV data systems

Expand what counts as valid data – beyond reported incidents

Value informal and community-based knowledge as critical evidence

Integrate incident, structural and lived experience data

Shift from measuring harm to understanding and preventing risk

**Incident-focused corporate reporting can
obscure systemic GBV risk.**

Better data doesn't just improve visibility –
it changes what action is possible.

Further research and resources

Proposed next steps: dialogue and integration

Map practice	Explore how companies and local civil society collect, interpret and use GBV information
Convene dialogue	Compare insights with companies, women-led organisations and researchers, and identify gaps
Test integration	Co-design and test ways to connect insights to prevention, response and accountability

**The value: a fuller picture of risk, shared learning
and better-informed action.**

Questions for dialogue and further research

What do different actors collect and value – and what does each approach miss?

How can local civil society and women-led organisations shape the research and dialogue?

How can different insights inform joint action?

Who decides what is shared and how it is used, and how are safety and accountability protected?

Resources and references

Buxton (2025) *Understanding GBV and critical minerals mining* <https://www.iied.org/22610iied>

→ Overview of GBV in critical minerals mining

CARE (2024) *GNLA Methods Brief* <https://www.carenigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Gender-Norms-Learning-Agenda-Final-Report.pdf>

→ Approaches for researching gender norms and GBV-related data

Prevention Collaborative *Finding Good Data* <https://prevention-collaborative.org/about-violence/finding-good-data/>

→ Practical guidance on identifying and assessing quality GBV data

SVRI *Research Impact* <https://www.svri.org/research-impact/>

→ Link to free online course and guide on maximising the impact of research on sexual violence

SVRI *Vicarious Trauma Guidelines* <https://www.svri.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/SVRIVicariousTraumaGuidelines.pdf>

→ Guidance for safeguarding researchers and those working on GBV

UNFPA *Improving the Gathering of GBV Data to Inform Humanitarian Response* <https://arabstates.unfpa.org/en/publications/beyond-numbers-improving-gathering-gender-based-violence-data-inform-humanitarian>

→ Roadmap for producing GBV analysis in high-risk contexts

UN Women (2025) *Intersectional feminism: What it means and why it matters right now*

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/explainer-intersectional-feminism-what-it-means-and-why-it-matters>

→ Explains how overlapping inequalities shape GBV risk and experience

What Works to Prevent Violence Evidence Hub (*community-based approaches*) <https://ww2preventvawg.org/evidence-hub>

→ Evidence on effective, community-based approaches to preventing violence

WHO (2016) *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Intervention Research on Violence Against Women*

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241510189>

→ Core principles for safe, survivor-centred GBV data collection