

# 6. OTHER TRENDS AND ISSUES



Impact of the rise in the cost of living continued to be a major challenge for organisations delivering domestic abuse services over the past year.



**40.9%** of women in refuge reported that the perpetrator had **increased the use of economic and financial abuse** since the higher cost of living began.



The impact of increased economic abuse and the increased cost of living has been profound for survivors. **Over half** (53.5%) of survivors in refuge and a third in CBS services were left **unable to afford food** and many were unable to keep up with debt repayments (11.6% in CBS services, 20.3% in refuge).



Experiences of economic abuse included **limiting the survivors access to money** (18.6% in CBS services, 36.0% in refuge), and **restricting or controlling survivors' access to essential resources** such as food and clothing (15.0% in CBS services and 33.8% in refuge).

Annual survey respondents reported on the impact they had experienced over the past year as a result of international conflicts, and particularly the escalation of conflict in Gaza and Israel.



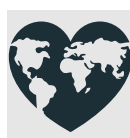
Some respondents described concerns that the **conflicts** had created **deeper divisions** in their own local communities and noted the **trauma** that the **instability** had caused amongst both the survivors they supported as well as their staff.



Many annual survey respondents highlighted how conflicts throughout the world **disproportionately affect women and children** and regularly exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.



For some, there had been **significant impact from the conflict on demand for their services**, and particularly the number of survivors with NRPF or without the Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC).



Respondents **emphasised global solidarity** for women and girls affected by international conflicts and humanitarian crises, over the past year.