UNDERSTANDING ‘SAFETY’ FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS: MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND OUTCOMES OF GBV RISK MITIGATION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2019
Cape Town, South Africa

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WELCOME!
## Agenda

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<th>Understanding GBV risk mitigation in emergencies</th>
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## Learning objectives for you

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<th>Build knowledge</th>
<th>on GBV risk mitigation and how to contribute to reducing the risks of violence.</th>
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<td>Identify</td>
<td>how to integrate GBV risk analysis and risk mitigation measures into programming.</td>
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<td>Practice</td>
<td>approaches to monitor the effectiveness of GBV risk mitigation interventions in emergencies.</td>
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Learning objectives for us

Unpack what ‘safety’ means.

Identify what has been done in other settings to understand and measure safety and the reduction of GBV risks.

Gather insights on the potential pathways between GBV risks and sector-specific outcomes for women and girls.
FROM A GBV PERSPECTIVE, WHAT IS SAFETY?
Safety means different things to different sectors, but there are similarities.
UNDERSTANDING GBV RISK MITIGATION IN EMERGENCIES
GBV in emergencies

- Sexual violence
- Intimate partner violence/domestic violence
- Forced/child marriage
- Denial of resources and opportunities
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual exploitation and abuse
- Verbal, emotional, psychological abuse
- Sex trafficking
- Etc.
Examples: risks of GBV in humanitarian settings

- Failure to address factors that contribute to violence such as long-term loss of skills, livelihoods and economic opportunities
- Lack of meaningful and active participation and leadership of women in decision-making processes such as peacebuilding, disaster management etc.
Examples: risks of GBV in humanitarian settings

Community

- Overcrowded shelters/camps/settlements that lack privacy and secure physical infrastructure
- Lack of access to education
- Lack of economic alternatives for affected populations, especially for women, girls and other groups
- Lack of accessible and trusted services for survivors
- Inadequate housing, land and property rights for women, girls and others
Examples: risks of GBV in humanitarian settings

- Lack of safe access to basic survival needs and supplies (e.g. food, water, shelter, fuel, hygiene supplies etc.)
- Gender-inequitable distribution of family resources
- Lack of knowledge/awareness that humanitarian assistance is free and codes of conduct for humanitarian personnel
GBV PREVENTION
• What: interventions to prevent GBV from first occurring
• How: address root causes

GBV RISK MITIGATION
• What: reducing the risk of exposure to GBV
• How: address contributing factors

GBV RESPONSE
• What: interventions to address the consequences of GBV after it has happened
• How: through specialized services
GBV risk mitigation is...

Service delivery
(including staff/volunteers, programs, coordination, operations etc.) that...

1. Does not cause or increase the likelihood of GBV,
2. Proactively facilitates and monitors vulnerable groups’ access to services and
3. Is responsive to GBV risks in the environment.

GBV risk mitigation is for all humanitarian actors across all sectors
Characteristics of a GBV risk mitigation approach

■ Critical role and responsibility of non-GBV specialists to identify and reduce GBV risks relevant to their programming

■ GBV risk mitigation as part and parcel of a sector’s work – not an additional task

■ Incorporation of GBV risk mitigation measurement in sector outcomes and monitoring

■ Action to mitigate GBV risks can occur immediately from the onset of an emergency
Filling a gap: global guidance for GBV risk mitigation in emergencies

- Practical guidance on how to reduce GBV risks throughout programme cycle
- Target audience: non-GBV specialists

www.gbvguidelines.org

Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action
Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery

- Camp coordination/management
- Child protection
- Education
- Food and agriculture
- Health
- Housing, land and property
- Livelihoods
- Nutrition
- Shelter, settlements
- Water, sanitation, hygiene
- Logistics
Risk mitigation example: directing traffic to separate male and female latrines in South Sudan

Even when space, capacity and funds are limited, there is always something that you can do.
Core question

How do we know if GBV risk mitigation is working?
What we are **NOT** measuring

- How many incidents of GBV have occurred
- Attempting to actively identify/document GBV cases in the community
- Interviewing survivors, perpetrators or witnesses/bystanders
- Documenting detailed information about individual survivors or perpetrators
Key concept: tip of the iceberg
GBV Risk Mitigation = good, safer programming

Integrating GBV risk mitigation is about achieving better, safer 
programming that provides equal access to life saving 
services while seeking to reduce any harmful and unintended 
consequences.
Where we’re headed

- GBV risk mitigation now commonly accepted as part of quality programming but gaps remain in **how to measure effectiveness**

- 2-pronged approach:
  - Safety perceptions
    - Likelihood of using a latrine at night
    - Willingness to travel to a nutrition center
  - Sector-specific outcomes
    - Reduction in open defecation
    - Attendance of girls in schools
What we’re thinking about:
Feeling “safe” is relative. Responses are subjective and can vary greatly depending on question wording.

- Reported safety perceptions vary depending on the respondent
- A given respondent’s answers can fluctuate
- Difficult (impossible?) to isolate safety/risk related to an individual intervention or sector from other environmental factors
- “I feel safest in my home”
- “Do you feel safe?” vs. “Do you fear?”
What we’re thinking about:
Methodology considerations

- How to measure what hasn’t happened?

- Do No Harm: What is safe and ethical for non-GBV specialists to measure and ask across a variety of contexts?

- Narrowing questions to one concrete intervention (lights, locks, distribution location, etc.) vs. more general, open-ended discussions

- What is considered “valid” data for interagency processes, donors, etc.?

- Pros and cons of complementing qualitative feedback with more “objective” indicators
What we’re thinking about:
Potential unintended consequences

- Creating more space for local women and girls to get their voices heard vs. the realities of their day-to-day life

- Aiming for manageable data analysis vs. allowing flexibility for participants to steer the process

- Differences of opinion within communities → safety issues

- Could interpretation of results backfire?
Discussion

1. What examples are you aware of with regards to measuring perceptions of safety in emergency and non-emergency settings?

2. How can humanitarian response engage in more meaningful participatory approaches keeping in mind the potential burden on those providing services and those receiving services?
BREAK
PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MONITORING GBV RISK MITIGATION
Tools for your toolbox

AAAQ Framework

Safety Audits re-imagined
AAAQ Framework

Availability
Accessibility
Acceptability
Quality

Disaggregate by age, sex and disability at minimum.

More disaggregation, better analysis.
## FOOD SECURITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVAILABILITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports including food assistance.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ACCESSIBILITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Safety concerns related to distance and route to be travelled to distribution sites, work sites and agriculture or livestock activities for women, girls and other groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are ration cards being issued? Can women and other groups be issued cards directly?</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCEPTABILITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ratio of male to female food security staff and frontline workers working directly with affected population, including in positions of leadership.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are women and other groups involved in decisions about food/asset baskets and planned agriculture or livestock activities?</td>
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<th>QUALITY</th>
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<td>Satisfaction with food assistance disaggregated by sex and age.</td>
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Source: IASC GBV Guidelines Food Security and Agriculture Thematic Area Guide
FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH SUDAN
What is a safety audit for non-GBV programming?

A simple, practical way to collect information related to GBV-related safety risks → analysis and advocacy with relevant actors
Safety audits in emergencies

- Originally applied to camp settings but can be adapted to other settings (urban/rural), situations (including preparedness) and/or facilities.

- Can be used by any sector or multiple sectors.

- Can be incorporated into regular assessment/monitoring activities to track changes over time.
Safety audit components

- **Observation (mandatory):** Walk around a camp, community or facility and visually identify potential safety risks

- **Consultation (recommended):** Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and/or Key Informant Interviews (KII) regarding access challenges and/or safety concerns

Joint safety audits involving multiple sectors can be particularly effective.
Compiling, analyzing and using safety audit data

Quantitative calculations and/or qualitative descriptions

Coordination/advocacy with relevant actors

“Women reported they do not feel comfortable leaving their shelter after dark.”

“66% of assessed shelters lacked lockable doors.”
Somalia multi-sector safety audit 2017 & 2018: Methodology

- Observation and discussion with communities
- Focus on camp design/layout, shelter, WASH, security and other services
- Audited 38 sites across 4 districts

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<tr>
<th>WASH</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Is the water point located inside the site?</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the water point located more than 500 metres from shelters?</td>
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<td>Are there separate latrines/bathing facilities for males and females?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do latrines/bathing facilities have locks on the inside of the doors?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the latrines/bathing facilities well lit?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are latrines located more than 50 metres from shelters?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are latrines and bathing facilities built of solid material (wood, metal, etc.)?</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the average wait for water longer than one hour?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do people queue for water before sunrise or after sunset?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the average wait time for the latrines more than 10 minutes?</td>
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Somalia safety audit findings: camps/shelter

- Fewer than 10% of assessed sites had a protective wall/barrier
- 34% of assessed sites had military presence nearby
- Lack of space to move between shelters
- 95% of shelters lacked private sleeping areas
LOOKING AHEAD
Looking ahead: key questions

■ How do we know that GBV risk mitigation actions result in real change? Are they in fact mitigating risk?

■ Is the combination of safety perceptions and sector outcomes sufficient to understand effectiveness?

■ How do we interpret data on perceived safety?
  - Tension between:
    ■ Improvement of perceived safety due to risk mitigation actions
    ■ Increase in safety concerns due to increased trust with service providers, awareness of the issues and perceived utility of talking about these issues
What’s ahead?
Research Partnership: understanding and measuring the effectiveness of GBV risk mitigation

■ **Phase 1 (2019)**
  - *Systematic desk review*
    - GBV risk mitigation measurement modalities, including evaluation, in humanitarian contexts
    - Landscape of evidence that links GBV risks to sector-specific outcomes
    - Existing tools and measures used to assess outcomes related to GBV risk and mitigation activities
    - *Develop a methodology package for piloting safety measurements; “levels” of measurement*

■ **Phase 2 (2020)**
  - *Piloting of methodology package*
  - *Explore feasibility of operational research related to GBV risk mitigation*
What’s ahead?
Operational partnerships to implement GBV risk mitigation throughout the program cycle

Key components

- Practitioner-led learning and knowledge generation
- Targeted capacity-building and mentorship for practitioners (on-site and remote)
- Safe and accountable humanitarian programs for women, girls and other groups
- Centering participation and leadership of women and girls in crisis

Nuts and bolts

- 12 months
- UNICEF + 2 operational agencies
- 3 – 4 locations; 2 – 3 program areas
- Inter-agency collaboration
Additional tools and resources:

GBV Guidelines Knowledge Hub

The Knowledge Hub is a living repository of tools, resources, research and multi-media on GBV risk mitigation strategies in emergencies. Designed for non-GBV specialists, materials in the Knowledge Hub are collected from and submitted by all sectors across settings on their approaches to making programming safer. Interested in contributing to the Knowledge Hub? Send your materials to srastogi@unicef.org and gbv.guidelines@gmail.com.

Search

Search Documents

Region

Any

Contributor

Any

Language

Any

Women's protection and empowerment in WASH activities
GBV Guidelines Knowledge Hub: Sample resources

- Global Shelter Cluster guidance on dignified shelter and non-food item distributions
  - www.sheltercluster.org/gbv

- Oxfam research and case studies on sanitation lighting and GBV risk

- IOM Women’s Participation Toolkit
  - womenindisplacement.org
THANK YOU!
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