What is safety?
Understanding and measuring the effectiveness of gender-based violence risk mitigation in emergencies

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SVRI Forum 2019, Cape Town
What is GBV risk mitigation?

Identifying and reducing the risk of exposure to gender-based violence by addressing contributing factors

Example: Magumeri LGA in Borno State, Nigeria and access to nutrition services

With attention to gender, age and other social considerations, engagement and consultation process to better understand:

1. How to place OTP sites in convenient, reachable and safe locations;
2. How to deliver services in a culturally appropriate manner for women, girls, boys with a diversity of needs and protection concerns; and
3. Community perceptions of existing interventions.

Role of women-led community groups, women leaders and female staff.

INTEROS GBV risk mitigation and nutrition project with capacity-building support from UNICEF and GBV Guidelines.
GBV risk mitigation: a priority in emergencies

- Articulation of humanitarian principles and core value to promote and protect the rights of communities affected by crisis

- Inaction and/or poorly designed programming can cause further harm, create additional barriers and perpetuate cycles of violence

www.gbvguidelines.org
Recurring questions from frontline workers

What is the effect of GBV risk mitigation?

How do I know if risk mitigation actions are working?

What is the impact on my program outcomes?
Priority action #1: Build out the toolkit on monitoring and measuring GBV risk mitigation for practitioners

Field-based efforts to:
1. Break down the components of safety
2. Measure changes in perceptions of safety of women and girls

- High-quality consultations with women and girls
- Safety audit methodology
- Data analysis with a GBV risk lens
- Adapted AAAQ framework to GBV risk mitigation
- Sector-specific assessment and monitoring tools
Measuring perceptions of safety: WASH and GBV in Malakal, South Sudan, 2014 - present.

Safety audit methodology and a latrine checklist for privacy/dignity.

Credits: Malakal WASH partners, UNICEF South Sudan.
Measuring perceptions of safety: WASH and GBV in Malakal, South Sudan, 2014 - present.

Directing latrine traffic. Even when space, capacity and funds are limited, there is always something that you can do.

Credits: Malakal WASH partners, UNICEF South Sudan.

- **Comprehensive safety audit tool**
  - Open-ended questions
  - Two components: observation and consultations
  - Broader scope of issues
  - Appropriate for more in-depth data collection and analysis

- **Simplified safety audit checklist**
  - Yes/No questions
  - Observation only
  - Narrower scope of issues
  - Appropriate for quick overview of key safety concerns

**Breaking down the components of safety: Multi-sector safety audits in Somalia, 2017 – present.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample findings: site layout</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protective physical structure around site (fencing)</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space to walk between shelters and other structures</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public lighting</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space for women/girls to gather</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable HHs in safe locations</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
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A collective effort

... and more.
Priority action #2: Fill the gaps in knowledge on the links and pathways between potential GBV risks, safety and sector-specific outcomes

**Nutrition and GBV**

**Systematic desk review** on GBV and nutrition from March to June 2018, covering 20 parameters and yielding 32 studies.

Women and girls who experienced any form of IPV more likely to have stunted (12 studies), underweight (7 studies) or low birth weight/too small for gestational age (10 studies) children.

Potential increased risk of early cessation of exclusive breast feeding or early initiation of mixed feeding.

Critical implications for the health and well-being of women, girls and boys (i.e. child mortality, poor maternal health outcomes, iron deficiency anemia in mothers and children).
### Food security and GBV in emergencies

**Availability**
Leer, Unity State, South Sudan. 2014. Women traveled 10 to 14 days to gather food for their families from the closest towns known to have food.

**Access**
- Unsafe routes and locations of food and nutrition sources
- Women and girls tend to have limited control over/access to resources
- Changing household dynamics and tensions

**Utilization**
- Burden of malnutrition among adolescent girls (10 – 19 years)
- Intra-household dynamics and preferential feeding
- Complex manifestations of multiple forms of malnutrition for women and girls

**Stabilization**
- Housing, land and property barriers
- Access to credit, financial institutions and markets
- Limited, reduced coping options available to women and girls
- Increased vulnerabilities to climate change, drought, floods etc.
What’s ahead?

Research Partnership: understanding and measuring the effectiveness of GBV risk mitigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1 (2019)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Systematic desk review</td>
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<tr>
<td>• GBV risk mitigation measurement modalities, including evaluation, in humanitarian contexts</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Landscape of evidence that links GBV risks to sector-specific outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Existing tools and measures used to assess outcomes related to GBV risk and mitigation activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop a methodology package for piloting safety measurements; “levels” of measurement</td>
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<th>Phase 2 (2020)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Piloting of methodology package</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Explore feasibility of operational research related to GBV risk mitigation</td>
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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
- Measuring effectiveness of GBV risk mitigation on sector-outcomes

Nuts and bolts

- 12 months
- UNICEF + 2 operational agencies
- 3 – 4 locations; 2 – 3 program areas
- Inter-agency collaboration
Thank you!
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