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Addressing specific human rights and protection concerns in humanitarian contexts

Dr. Lina Abirafeh

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Introduction

- During and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, A humanitarian action has the purpose of:
 - Saving lives
 - Alleviating suffering
 - Maintaining human dignity
 - Prevent and strengthen preparedness



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Introduction

- First, let us dissect as to why natural disasters create a more complex box for human rights:
 - Situations creating challenges
 - Inciting less attention to the need for human rights protection
- Post Disasters:
 - Human rights challenges
 - Lack of safety and security
 - Gender based violence
 - Unequal access to basic goods and services
 - Abuse
 - Neglect and exploitation of children...etc.



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Experience has shown that pre-existing vulnerabilities and patterns of discrimination usually become exacerbated in situations of natural disasters.

Such as GBV...



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Introduction

- The strategic planning for the humanitarian assistance should be from a protection perspective.
- The protection mechanisms, should not be the same:
 - Not everyone is affected the same way
 - Facing the same consequences



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Gender Based Violence during emergencies



WHAT'S DIFFERENT FOR WOMEN IN EMERGENCIES?

- More dangerous - existing vulnerabilities & inequalities exacerbated
- Women deliberately targeted
- GBV increases - communities disrupted, populations moving, no systems of protection, lack of support services
- Emergency services must be flexible, contextual, adaptive – not same as non-emergency services
- GBV interventions are NOT an add-on – they are essential from onset of all emergencies



WHAT IS GBV?

- Violence directed against any PERSON because of social roles – gendered identity – what it means to be male or female
- Imbalance of power – abuse of power
- Affects more females than males
- Not all males are perpetrators
- Not all females are “victims”



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GBV BASICS

- 1 in 3 worldwide
- Different forms: sexual, physical, emotional, economic
- Exists everywhere – cuts across all barriers
- IPV most common – but does our funding/work reflect this?
- Also: how do people understand what is/is not violence?



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WHAT TYPES OF GBV ARE THERE?

6 core incident types:

1. Rape

2. Sexual assault

3. Physical assault

4. Forced marriage

5. Denial of resources, opportunities & services

6. Psychological/emotional abuse



WHY DO WE HAVE A DUTY TO RESPOND?

- GBV = violation of human rights
- **Human rights treaties & declarations** = country agreements
- Guidelines for why & how to prevent & respond
- **National laws** to end GBV (or key types) = legal & political foundation for our work at country level
- BUT - not systematically enforced, people don't know about them, gap between policy & practice



GLOBAL IMPERATIVE

- Global guidance, goals, declarations, conventions from CEDAW (1979) to SDGs (2015)
- UN SCR on women, peace, & security
- Global movements & activism:
 - 16 Days of Activism
 - Orange the world
 - V-Day: One Billion Rising
 - UNiTE Campaign





HOW CAN WE RESPOND?

5 things a survivor of GBV needs:

HEALTH CARE

SAFETY & SECURITY

COUNSELING

LEGAL AID

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUPPORT



FORMS OF GBV IN EMERGENCIES (GBViE)

- Sexual violence – most immediate & dangerous
 - Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)
- Sexual exploitation & abuse (SEA)
- Trafficking & forced prostitution
- Forced marriage
- Harmful traditional practices
- Intimate partner violence



DUTY TO RESPOND...





IASC GBV GUIDELINES

- 1. Reduce risk = GBV prevention & mitigation in all aspects of humanitarian response**
- 2. Promote resilience = strengthen systems to prevent & mitigate – & ensure access to support**
- 3. Aid recovery = support capacities to create lasting solutions**





ASSUME GBV IS TAKING PLACE...

- GBV is happening everywhere
- GBV is underreported everywhere

All humanitarian personnel have the responsibility to:

- (1) Assume GBV is taking place
- (2) Treat it as a serious & life-threatening protection issue
- (3) Take actions described in the Guidelines to minimize GBV risk through their sectoral interventions

**Regardless of the presence or absence of concrete
“evidence”**



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WHO ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR?

Main audience: programmers who are **not** GBV specialists

1. Government
2. Humanitarian Coordinators
3. Humanitarian Country Teams/Inter-Cluster Working Groups
4. Cluster/Sector Lead Agencies
5. Cluster/Sector Coordinators
6. GBV Coordination Mechanisms



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ELEMENTS OF ACTION

1. Assessment, Analysis & Strategic Planning
2. Resource Mobilization
3. Implementation
4. Coordination with Other Humanitarian Sectors
5. Monitoring & Evaluation

Guidelines focus on prevention & mitigation
MORE THAN response – why?



PREVENTION & MITIGATION

Prevention = Actions to stop GBV from occurring

- Education & awareness-raising
- Gender equality
- Engaging communities – especially men & boys

Mitigation = Actions to reduce risk of exposure to GBV

- Safe access to shelter, water/sanitation, food & NFIs
- Lighting, security patrols, etc.



HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM CYCLE

- GBV actions integrated throughout HPC
- Preparedness + 5 Elements
- 2 Enablers:
 - Coordination
 - Information Management





PREPAREDNESS

- Identifying potential risks & vulnerable groups
- Establishing risk mitigation measures – minimizing consequences
- Enhancing capacity for systematic response
- Contingency planning
- Protocols & policies
- Prevention services & supplies

Preparedness is continuous – if not responding, we should be preparing!



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DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Prevention + preparedness + response + recovery
- Linked to GBV prevention & response
- Capacities to prevent & respond to GBV are fundamental to reducing risk
- Engage women in efforts to reduce disaster risk – also as decision-makers



PEACEBUILDING & TRANSITION

- GBV does not end when the emergency ends – new forms may emerge, work must continue
- Prioritize recovery – to restore/improve services, livelihoods, living conditions
- Promote prevention & protection
- Ensure sustainability of GBV interventions - ensure funding for this



GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

2012:

- Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (UK + UN)

2013:

- Safe from the Start (USA)
- Call to Action (UK)

2015:

- Call to Action Road Map (global – with rotating leadership)

CALL TO ACTION
on Protection from
Gender-based Violence
in Emergencies

ROAD MAP 2016-2020
September 2015



HUMANITARIAN CLUSTER SYSTEM

- Strengthens humanitarian response - predictability, accountability & partnership
- Cross cutting: gender, HIV&AIDS, human rights, environment
- Protection Cluster - Areas of Responsibility (AoRs):
 1. **GBV**
 2. Child protection
 3. Housing, land & property
 4. Mine action





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GBV AOR

- Global forum co-led by UNFPA & UNICEF
- Promotes comprehensive & coordinated programming to prevent & respond to GBV in emergencies:
 1. Supporting life-saving services
 2. Building knowledge & capacity
 3. Establishing norms & standards
 4. Advocating for action, research, accountability – global & local



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INTEGRATING GBV ACROSS OTHER CLUSTERS

- CCCM: women's center/tent, safe living areas for single women
- WASH: separate facilities in different areas, safe water points
- Nutrition: safe breastfeeding space, information-sharing on services
- Livelihoods: programs for survivors & those at risk
- Health: services & supplies for survivors
- Education: teachers trained to mitigate risk
- Food Security: prevent SEA & transactional sex, safe distribution
- Shelter: safe distribution of shelter/NFIs, female-friendly spaces
- Telecomm: hotline for survivors, text messages for services & support



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GBV COORDINATION MECHANISMS

- Mainstreaming GBV throughout humanitarian response
- Supporting development of SOPs
- Developing information systems for coordination
- Developing IEC materials
- Making appeals for GBV funding
- Building capacity of GBV partners
- Conducting assessments, data collection, monitoring, & knowledge management
- Conducting advocacy

A coordination mechanism is only as strong as its members!



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A glimpse of the situation in Lebanon



A glimpse of the situation in Lebanon

- The domestic violence law (no. 293) was passed on April 1st 2014.
- The new law establishes:
 - Important protection measures
 - Related policies
 - Court reforms
- But leaves women at risk of marital rape and other abuse.



A glimpse of the situation in Lebanon

- Since the law on the protection of women and families was only issued in 2014,
- And it did not have a precedent as for the protection of women being subjected to GBV,
- No data was found in relation to humanitarian response during:
 - Lebanese civil war (between 1975 and 1990)
 - July 2006 war



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Questions?