COVID-19 and its Impact on Gender

ADEDE ROSE
Gender Officer
1. Overview
2. FAO Approach
   - Policy on gender impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and nutrition
   - FAO Response plan on COVID-19
3. Implementation at the field level
Overview - Findings on the effect of COVID-19 on Women

1. Increase in GBV (98% reported by women, 2% by men) - UNFPA (April-June 2020)

Types of prevalent GBV:
❖ Physical Violence 41%
❖ Emotional Abuse 23%
❖ Rape 15%
❖ Denial of Resources 11%
❖ Forced Marriage 6%
❖ Sexual Assault 4%

2. Impact on women livelihoods (WFP, FAO & IFAD (Nov 2020), FSNMS Round 26)
❖ Restricted movement
❖ Decrease in crop production levels

3. Shocks
❖ High food prices 31.97%
❖ Reduced income 20.23%
❖ Loss of employment for any household member 8.99%

4. Coping Mechanism
❖ Sale of assets 18.56%
❖ Engaging in additional income generating activities 22.86%
❖ Received assistance from friends & family 20.19%
❖ Reduced food consumption 32.49%
❖ Reduced non-food consumption 12.09%
FAO’s work amidst COVID-19 is based on:

I. Gender impacts of COVID-19 and Equitable Policy responses in Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition

II. Strategy on responding to Food Security amidst COVID-19
1. Putting in place measures to address gender-based violence through
   - Undertaking Risk Analysis
   - Raising awareness on possible risks
   - Strengthening capacity of partners

2. Investing in women’s leadership and supporting their formal and informal networks to contribute to the COVID-19 response
   - Establishing quotas and targets for women’s participation and leadership local-level committees
   - Enhancing women’s leadership skills and self-confidence to ensure their effective participation
   - Raising awareness within institutions working on the COVID-19 response

3. Adopting special measures to support rural women’s economic activities in the agri-food value chains
   - Putting in place financial services support mechanisms targeting rural women’s economic activities as producers, processors, traders and entrepreneurs
   - Facilitating men and women smallholders’ access to markets by addressing mobility constraints, transportation restrictions and market disruptions
   - Protecting and supporting women’s income-generating opportunities and labour-market participation

4. Reduction of women workload- Focus on technologies
FAO South Sudan Strategy on *Mitigating the effects of COVID-19 to protect food security and livelihoods*

Centred around 4 pillars

- Social Protection and Agriculture
- Nutrition and Gender sensitivity
- Strengthened Grievance Redress mechanism
- Awareness creation on COVID-19
Implementation at field level

- FAOSS has shifted some of its implementation modality to focus on cash transfers.

- Increased focus on production and nutrition at least **1,500 women** in Abiemhom County, Unity benefited from nutrition vouchers since July 2020.

- Focus on reducing Gender-based violence (GBV), with frequent safety audits conducted at project locations to ensure women’s safety with regard to movement to distribution points, market locations, farm locations, water points and generally within their communities.
Internal agreement between FAO and UNFPA to collaborate in addressing basic needs and upholding women and girls protection and dignity in south Sudan

Shifting from manual to digital process in cash transfer **thus increasing efficiency and reducing time for waiting for women**

Strengthened Grievance Redress mechanism – Dedicated Hotline for GBV/PSEA

Disinfection of major markets to protect women from COVID-19 (Juba, Wau)

Enhancing the productive capacity of women through cash initiatives
Thank You for Listening