WFP marking the 16 days of Gender based violence

WFP’s perspective, on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected gender inequalities

25/11/2020
What is GBV?

Umbrella term

• Any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will, in form of behavior that is meant to control, manipulate or hurt using physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or economic strategies with the intention to show superiority over another person, using position held or strength of power and in the process, they deny others the right to fully develop their self-potential.

In most patriarchal societies men are in control of power, decision making frontiers, and women are the ones looking after the home
Forms of GBV

Physical
• Bodily harm, ie beating, kicking, punching, burning, arm-twisting, etc.

Psychological
• Words or actions that destroy or harm a person’s belief in themselves.

Economic
• Withdrawal of financial support, total control of family finances, running up bills for which the victim is responsible, forbidding employment/occupation.

Sexual
• Forcing the victim to do indecent acts, forced prostitution, withholding sex.
GBV Tree

What are the root cause of GBV
GBV Violence can be reflected through:

- Deliberate killing
- Wounding
- Torture
- Sexual violence
- Domestic violence
- Threat or fear
GBV risk related to WFP assistance during COVID-19 pandemic at the communities.

• GBV: The situation may present new, gendered risks of exploitation, abuse and violence for women and children, this include:
  • increased risks of infection,
  • vulnerability due to loss of means of livelihoods,
  • lack of access to education for girls (who may be forced to leave school to undertake caregiving duties).
  • inadequate access to other basic services.
  • Restrictions on mov’t and other contingency measures, food shortages and increased food and nutrition insecurity places women and girls under heightened pressure and expose them to intimate partner violence on negative coping mechanisms, such as resorting to transactional sex, sexual exploitation and abuse and early and forced marriages.

• Double ration sizes, changes in livelihoods and access to food assistance, result in women spending longer time travelling with food or making multiple trips to take all their ration home. This heightens their exposure and increases likelihood to attacks,
Feedback from communities gathered by WFP indicates experiences of:

- Assault, rape and abduction travelling to and from food and nutrition distribution or assistance points;
- Assault, rape and abduction travelling to and from food related activities including firewood or water collection;
- Domestic / intimate partner violence increases;
- Increased reporting of early and forced marriages (children and/or women).
Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: during COVID 19

• During the COVID-19 outbreak, women and children are at higher protection risks with schools closed, limited access to health services, etc. Experiences from previous epidemics suggest that restrictions on movement and other contingency measures create opportunities for sexual exploitation against women and children.
Child Protection: related to COVID-19 and psychosocial distress

- Stigma and discrimination related to COVID-19 may make children more vulnerable to violence and psychosocial distress. The numbers of unaccompanied and separated children may also increase, and alternative arrangements for psychosocial, educational, and family support may be needed. Disruption of livelihoods and closure of schools may place children at risk of forced recruitment or other negative coping mechanisms. For assistance plans must take into account the direct and indirect risks that children may be exposed to.
Population movement: amidst COVID 19 and GBV

• It is possible that population movement may increase across South Sudan as individuals and communities continue to be displaced due to conflict, intercommunal violence, cattle raiding, food insecurity and other drivers of displacement; returnees may continue to arrive in South Sudan or relocate within South Sudan, and; new waves of displacement or movement might occur as a result of suspension of humanitarian assistance or in relation to COVID-19. Migrants, IDPs and refugees may face particular risks, as they may be confined to camps and settlements, or living in urban areas with overcrowding, poor sanitation, and overstretched or inaccessible health services and food distribution points.
Family separation, marriages, deaths, illness and births:

• It is likely that during COVID-19 we will see significant changes to household family composition due to health issues arising out of the virus (e.g. isolation or fatalities) that require WFP flexibility in who within a household can collect their assistance. In addition, standard household demographic changes due to births, marriages, separations and death will continue to be a norm across South Sudan.
Accountability to Affected Populations and Monitoring:

- All persons have a right to timely and accurate information, full and active participation and access to complaint and feedback mechanisms. During COVID-19 accurate information is critical – both for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of everyone in South Sudan, to ensure communities understand the changing humanitarian operations.
- Limited participation of women due to lack of communication means example, mobile phones during monitoring and assessments done on line amidst COVID 19
GBV and Persons with disabilities: during COVID 19

• Persons requiring help due to long-term difficulties require specific support and attention to access humanitarian assistance. They may face particular protection risks during the COVID pandemic, including abandonment, abuse, further marginalization, limited support, difficulty accessing audience specific information and resources, including nutritious foods which deteriorate their nutritional status and health condition. By making use of enablers (such as support services in camps, facilitated access to food distribution points, or acquisition of assistive devices), persons with disabilities can improve their individual resilience.
Meaningful access to assistance and basic services: during COVID

- The anticipated operational reduction of humanitarian assistance is likely to result in exacerbation of existing needs for not only food, but other basic household and individual items.
- It is possible that there will be increased reports or experiences of food diversion either as a coping mechanism for other needs, or due to coercion / pressure.
- There is also likely to be an increase in reports of lost or stolen cards.
Increased food and basic service needs: due to COVID 19

It is likely that there will be an increase in the food and nutrition needs of the population of South Sudan due to increased food and nutrition vulnerability of current caseload plus emerging vulnerabilities as a result of COVID-19 and related measures. Women are forced to sell their bodies in order to support their families.
Key Messages

If you encounter a situation of GBV, you can report and you can be reported to:

• Country office management
• Anyone within the WFP office that you trust
• A health center, One stop Shop, or GBV referral system (e.g. IRC)
• WFP says NO TO GBV and DO NOT HARM!
• The point is – find where you feel safe and confident to speak up!
Questions?

Thank you for your attention!