



Women, War and Displacement:

A review of the impact of conflict and displacement on gender-based violence

A report by The Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence

Published November 2016, Ireland.
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Gender-based violence is a universal outrage rooted in many factors including poverty, conflict, and climate change, and while some achievements have been made, violence and coercion are increasing at global level, in particular in zones of conflict. The eradication of gender-based violence remains a great ethical and global challenge of our age.

President Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland and Patron of the Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence, 2015

Foreword

In his opening address at the 70th UN General Assembly, Ban Ki Moon said that we were living in a time of “turmoil and hope”. Turmoil - because conflict has now become a major driver of poverty, with more people displaced than any time since the Second World War, causing truly breath-taking levels of human suffering. Hope - because world leaders had gathered to forge solutions and adopt the new development Agenda 2030. In truth, the ambition of a more equal, poverty free world will never be realised in a conflict-ridden world.

More than a decade ago, the Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (ICGBV) was formed as a response to the systematic and horrific sexual violence and abuses that were suffered by so many women in Darfur, Sudan and other conflicts. Darfur was yet another wake-up call to the world that something needed to be done.

Those of us working in there at the time felt powerless to prevent the daily rape of women leaving camps in search of firewood. Ultimately, solutions were found - fuel efficient stoves reduced the reliance on firewood by 50%, and additional peacekeepers were assigned to accompany groups of women who left the camp. There are always solutions, but Darfur stood out as a stark example of how all-pervasive gender-based violence is in times of conflict and displacement. How even the most mundane of daily tasks such as collecting firewood incurs a risk of such brutality.

That was 11 years ago, and the work of the Consortium - which brings together Irish human rights, humanitarian and development organisations, academic institutions, Irish Aid and the Defence Forces, has grown and extended. Today ICGBV membership organisations are operating GBV related programmes in over 45 countries. Much has been

achieved, within the consortia and across the sector. Today, GBV policy is more mainstreamed and GBV programming in emergencies is now recognised as a life-saving action. The silence that surrounded GBV, and the reluctance of international agencies to address it is steadily being overcome. GBV has greater visibility, credibility and leadership within organisations.

There is however no room for complacency or self-congratulation. GBV is a problem in every country across the globe with no exceptions. Today, a staggering one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime—a pandemic of global proportions. GBV is the most pervasive, yet least recognised, human rights violation in the world.

While Darfur itself continues to be hugely challenging, in the intervening years, the level of abuse that we witnessed and that horrified us back then is now being eclipsed in terms of scale and depth in a growing number of conflicts across the globe.

We live at a time when, in no small part due to the increasingly protracted nature of conflict, more people are displaced, than at any time in recent memory. Millions of people have been forced to flee their homes and are living precariously, struggling to survive on their own, or with the support of an over-stretched and under-resourced humanitarian life-line. The level of continued violent conflict across the globe - from South Sudan to Syria, from Central African Republic to the Democratic Republic of Congo - where civilians are both entangled and targeted, means that women and girls are suffering the ravages of sexual violence in conflict at an unprecedented rate.

Conflict is the antithesis of development. It destroys homes, hospitals, farms and factories. It kills, maims and devastates the lives of individuals and their families. This is what conflict visibly does. But the more hidden horrors of conflict are equally pervasive. It increases the risks and vulnerability of all, in particular women and girls, becomes a cauldron of violence, rape, enslavement and repression. It forces women into early marriage and exploitation, into decisions they should never have to make. It robs them of their dignity, their hopes and their future. GBV is estimated to affect over 70% of women in the context of crises, who then may face the additional trauma of stigma and shame, as a result of being a victim of such violence.

This paper illustrates the connection between conflict, displacement and gender-based violence, in a world where declining respect for international law, human rights, impunity and collapse of law and order are leaving women and girls increasingly exposed to all forms of GBV. Importantly, the paper highlights positive examples of diverse and innovative work on the ground from the Consortium members who are at the forefront of pioneering ways to combat violence against women and girls. Collectively, these initiatives are making a significant difference, but they need to be amplified at national and international level.

More than a decade after Darfur, the ICGBV renews its commitment to learn, to innovate and to up-scale its programmes that strive to combat GBV in development and humanitarian settings. Further, the ICGBV prioritises five actions at a policy and political level that are both urgent and essential requirements if we are to make progress towards a safer and more equal world.



The current extent of global conflict and displacement means that there is a critical need to address GBV in humanitarian responses at a fundamental level. Responses to conflict and displacement must be anchored in a recognition that the experience of conflict and displacement is gendered. The stories of the women, men, girls and boys described in this paper are a testament to that. Their experiences, their suffering, and the suffering of so many others, demand a comprehensive response to GBV.

The paper argues that we do not need more policies, but compliance with those that already exist and greater accountability in relation to the failure to implement these. It calls for a significant injection of funding into protection and GBV programmes – areas that are traditionally underfunded.

It calls for conflict, the single largest driver of crises, poverty and displacement, to come centre stage at a key policy level. We need constructive ways to bring peace

and to address the problem of protracted displacement. Solutions are not easy, but we cannot consign millions of men, women and children to live half lives in refugee or displaced camps for decades, surviving on an insufficiently funded humanitarian life-line.

These calls to action need to be urgently implemented. The current deficit of humanity means we cannot wait. The words of Christine Karumba, a courageous advocate who survived the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, remind us of the brutality of this moment, the fierce urgency that is needed to address the plight of so many women and girls caught up in conflict.

‘Women are dying two types of death – a physical and an emotional death. The physical death is when you are no longer alive to walk the earth, and the emotional death is when you no longer see signs of hope and are dead inside. Rape is used by militia groups and soldiers as a weapon of terror that destroys

not only individuals but whole communities. So often, women and girls are raped, mutilated, and kept as sex slaves, and then they are turned away from their families and left without hope for their future. Without this hope, they cannot survive.

But I’ve learned that no matter how hopeless a situation may look, change is possible, and leadership makes that possible. This leadership is not about one individual – it is about the collective’

Suffering demands urgency. Urgency demands collective action. Right now.

Dominic MacSorley
Chair, Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence



‘Clearly we live in a world where the capacity to prevent conflicts and to resolve them in a timely fashion is practically non-existent... conflicts themselves become more unpredictable, and it’s becoming more and more difficult for humanitarian agencies to have access to the people caught up in them’¹

António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary General Designate

1. UNHCR (2015) Global conflicts and human displacement: 21st Century challenges, speech delivered by António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Available at: www.unhcr.org/admin/hcspeeches/55ba370f9/global-conflicts-human-displacement-21st-century-challenges-delivered-antonio.html

Conflict, Displacement and Gender-Based Violence

‘During war nothing is easy, there is no good direction to go. If you are going to be killed it might as well be on the islands. If you go to Bentiu you can be killed, if you try to move along the river they will also attack you. You don’t know what side they are from. They will attack you and you fear they will rape or kill you’.²

Displaced woman,
Unity State, South Sudan

² Concern Worldwide (2016) Unity State Contextual Analysis, South Sudan. Name removed for anonymity.

By the end of 2015, there were over 65 million people displaced as a result of conflict, violence and persecution.³

Reversing the broader global trend towards peace since the Second World War, the intensity of armed conflict has increased exponentially in the last five years, an increase that has led to a remarkably high level of forced displacement and suffering.⁴

From 2010 to 2015, 15 conflicts either broke out or were reignited – from Syria to Yemen; Somalia to Afghanistan; South Sudan to the Lake Chad Region.

The nature of global conflict has also changed. Conflicts between nation states have largely been replaced with armed conflicts within national borders, involving clashes between non-state armed groups and governments or between different armed groups. At the same time, some of the world's most active conflicts such as the civil wars in Yemen and Syria, have become internationalised, with foreign individuals and nation states taking prominent roles in the fighting.

As the world's population grows and cities expand, conflict is increasingly played out in densely populated urban areas, leading to the destruction of hospitals and other essential services, siege and starvation of populations, and the deliberate targeting of non-combatants.⁵ Recent years have seen repeated violations of International Humanitarian Law and the proliferation of indiscriminate attacks on civilians.⁶

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of deaths from armed conflict more than trebled, with civilians making up 78% of casualties.⁷

Syria accounts for the largest proportion of these deaths, however ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan, North East Nigeria/Lake Chad Region and elsewhere are all contributing heavily to the rising human cost of war across the globe.

The amplified scale and intensity of armed conflict in recent years has resulted in a breath-taking increase in forced displacement, with a surge of almost 23 million people between 2011 and 2015.⁸

Global Displacement⁹

- 65.3 million people forcibly displaced globally. **Women and girls represent 50% of this population.**
- 21.1 million refugees
- 40.8 million internally displaced persons.
- 3.2 million asylum-seekers
- 28 million children currently displaced by conflict
- 12.4 million people were newly displaced by conflict or persecution in 2015
- On average, 24 people were forced to flee their home each minute in 2015
- **86% of the world's refugee population is being hosted in developing countries**, creating significant pressure on national resources to meet basic needs and ensure the safety of these displaced people.
- Prolonged and renewed armed conflicts mean there are few opportunities for safe return or repatriation. **The average duration of displacement during protracted refugee situations is now 26 years.**

Gender-Based Violence

Anyone can be affected by GBV: women, men, girls, boys, of every age and background. Gender-based violence against men and boys is often hidden, and while statistics on gender-based violence against men are harder to find, men and boys in conflict settings can be vulnerable to forced recruitment (into gangs or armed forces), illegal detention and torture. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and inter-sex (LGBTI) people can also be particularly vulnerable during conflict. However, though GBV also affects men and boys, the proportion of women and girls affected by GBV is higher.¹⁰

3 UNHCR (2016) Global Trends in Forced Migration, P2

4 International Institute for Strategic Studies (2016) Armed Conflict Survey 2016 Press Statement. Available at: www.iiss.org/en/about%20us/press%20room/press%20releases/press%20releases/archive/2016-3b31/may-2fc6/armed-conflict-survey-2016-press-statement-9243

5 International Committee for the Red Cross (2016) Interview with Kathleen Lawland, head of ICRC Arms Unit. Transcript Available at: <http://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2016/05/24/explosive-weapons-populated-areas-interview-icrc-head-arms/>

6 InterAction (2016); Civilians Under Fire: Restore Respect for International Humanitarian Law; 2.

7 Action on Armed Violence (2015): Explosive States: Monitoring Explosive Violence in 2014;3

8 UNHCR (2016) Global Trends in Forced Migration, P5

9 UNHCR Global Trends in forced displacement Report 2016 and UNICEF 'Uprooted - The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children' Report 2016.

10 Call to Action (2015) on Protection from GBV in Emergencies The Action Plan, 2016-2020, P6

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) refers to any act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships. It includes physical, emotional or psychological and sexual violence, and denial of resources or access to services. Violence includes threats of violence and coercion.

Persons of concern are often at heightened risk of SGBV during emergencies. This can be due to a number of factors, including the sudden breakdown of family and community structures after forced displacement.¹¹

The threats of GBV are manifold and include, but are not limited to:

- Conflict related sexual and physical assault,
- Sexual abuse and physical assault,
- Abduction,
- Trafficking,
- Early marriage,
- Denial of basic rights such as access to education, property, health services,
- Economic abuse,
- Domestic and intimate partner violence,
- Social exclusion and discrimination,
- Coercion,
- Exploitation,
- Verbal abuse and harassment
- Female genital mutilation.(FGM)

If GBV is understood as a manifestation of underlying structural societal norms of inequality, the experience of GBV in conflict and displacement is often an extreme form of this, amplified when existing protective structures have been eroded or wiped out, creating the conditions where women's vulnerability to violence and exploitation becomes ever more acute.

Gauging the true prevalence of GBV is difficult, particularly in times of conflict and displacement but in many crisis settings, GBV is estimated to affect over 70% of women, who in turn may be affected by the after effects of stigma and shame, often associated with being a victim of such violence.¹²

While both deliberate and indiscriminate sexual violence and physical harm are increasingly prevalent within conflict settings, other forms of gender-based

violence are also exacerbated throughout all stages of the displacement cycle including, transit, short-term displacement and during resettlement. A number of the more notable ways in which GBV can become manifest in situations of conflict and displacement include:

- **Vulnerability:** Displaced women and girls living in camps or host communities face higher risks of gender-based violence linked to the lack of privacy in overcrowded collective shelters and disintegration of family and community networks.¹³
- **Access to services:** Women and girls who have been subjected to sexual violence must often deal with vastly inadequate services for medical and psychological support as well as the risk of stigma and social exclusion from within their own communities. They may also face significant cultural, language, and administrative barriers in accessing a range of supports from health to legal services during displacement.¹⁴
- **Labour and associated risks:** Cultural norms and women's perceived higher mobility compared to men in some situations of protracted displacement can often mean that they bear a disproportionate responsibility for labour and food security. For instance, in many displacement camp settings it has been repeatedly observed that women's higher mobility for firewood collection outside of the camp, associated with a reduced risk of death relative to men, exposes them to a higher risk of physical or sexual assault.¹⁵
- **Exploitation:** Frequent resource constraints and the inability to meet basic needs for food or shelter exposes women and children to heightened risk of exploitation and human trafficking.¹⁶ A recent study of displaced populations has found that when households are under severe economic pressure and worried about safety of their daughters, rates of early marriage have increased dramatically as a protection measure.¹⁷ Amongst other negative consequence, early marriage often results in deprived access to education, contributing to lifelong deprivation of choice and opportunity for girls and women.¹⁸

13 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2015) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery- Shelter, Settlement and Recovery. P39-40

14 European Parliament Directorate General for Internal Policies- Policy Department for Citizen's Rights and Constitutional Affairs (2016) 'Female refugees and asylum seekers: the issue of integration'. P48

15 Women's Refugee Commission (2009) 'Refugee Girls: The Invisible Faces of War. P13-14

16 United Nations University (2016) Fighting Human Trafficking in Conflict: 10 Ideas for Action by the United Nations Security Council, P6

17 Women's Refugee Commission (2016) 'A Girl No More: The Changing Norms of Child Marriage in Conflict'. P13 & 18

18 Save the Children (2014) Too Young to Wed: The growing problem of child marriage among Syrian girls in Jordan, p1

11 UNHCR Emergency Handbook: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Prevention and Response)

12 Global Protection Cluster (2016) Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility 2015-2016 In Review and Looking Ahead, P3

Women and girls will continue to be left behind if their voices are not heard, their capabilities not recognized and their opportunity to participate in and to lead decision-making denied. Women and girls may suffer multiple forms of discrimination in a crisis if they are displaced, migrants, in an ethnic minority, single mothers, stateless or have disabilities. Discrimination also often leaves them without access to crucial health-care, legal, and psychosocial services and safe and sufficient livelihood opportunities. In some crisis settings, gender-based violence affects over 70 per cent of women. The social stigma and shame that are attached, along with insufficient access to health-care services, often lead to a second wave of neglect and suffering.

One Humanity: Shared Responsibility (WHS Secretary General's Report)

- **Domestic Violence:** For men, the combination of loss of control and trauma as a result of exposure to violence during conflict combined with the sense of frustration, boredom and helplessness can in turn contribute to heightened levels of domestic violence.¹⁹

In an immediate sense, rape and other forms of sexual violence are often systematically and strategically employed as a weapon of war, used as a brutal and horrific method to foster terror, to assert dominance, subjugate women and destabilise their communities.²⁰

Pervasive and increasingly common, these particularly visible and extreme manifestations of GBV are only part of the multiple, degrading and destructive forms of GBV that women caught up in conflict and displacement are vulnerable to.

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda

'Girls and women suffer disproportionately from this crime and this is not by accident; when you attack a mother, a wife, a sister or a daughter you are attacking the very fabric of society. By assaulting girls and women you wreak havoc on society, weaken the resistance of an opposing side, and ensure that communities will struggle to recover from the devastating repercussions of sexual violence long after the conflict has ended.'²¹

A recognition of the disproportionate impact of war on women and girls, and the importance of their involvement in the peace process, was the primary impetus for the adoption of UN Resolution 1325 by the Security Council in October 2000. In addition to calling on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in conflict, the resolution urged UN member states to increase women's representation at all decision-making levels for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. The Resolution has since become an organising framework for UN organisations and peacekeepers, nation states and NGOs around the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which focuses on advancing the components of Resolution 1325. These recommendations were further developed in 7 subsequent resolutions, including Resolution 1820, which focuses on sexual violence in conflict and Resolutions 1888 and 1889, which focus on peacekeeping and women's participation in peace processes, respectively.

Yet 16 years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325, there are many aspects of its vision that remains vastly unfulfilled aspects of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. By the end of 2015, women made up just over 3% of UN Peacekeeper troops.²² A 2012 review of progress on the Women Peace and Security Agenda found that women continue to represent a striking low number of negotiators and signatories to peace agreements. Just 4% of signatories in 31 major peace processes between 1992 and 2012, were women.²³

This is despite evidence to show that, when women are included in peace agreements, there is a higher chance that peace negotiations will come to agreement, that they will be implemented and that

19 UNHCR (2015) Culture, Context and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Syrians: A Review for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Staff Working with Syrians Affected by Armed Conflict. P18

20 Overseas Development Institute (2013) The fallout of rape as a weapon of war: The life-long and intergenerational impacts of sexual violence in conflict. ODI briefing paper, available at: www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8990.pdf

21 DFID (2013) DFID Blogs Sexual Violence in Conflict by Zainab Bangura. Available at: <https://dfid.blog.gov.uk/2013/11/12/sexual-violence-in-conflict/>

22 UN Security Council (2016). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, Article 24

23 UN Women (2012) Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence. P1

they will last.²⁴ This negative trend has continued up to now, with the most recent Secretary General's report on Women Peace and Security noting that 'participation and leadership in peace and security efforts have stagnated or are even regressing in many areas, including post-conflict governance, peacekeeping, and within the very leadership of the United Nations.'²⁵ Such exclusion invariably leads to a failure to adequately address women's concerns, such as sexual and gender-based violence, women's rights and post-conflict accountability.

Funding barriers to GBV prevention and response programming

The nature of preventing and responding to GBV is multi-faceted and nuanced. However one significant barrier to scale up and replication of GBV programming within humanitarian settings in particular is the consistent lack of adequate long-term funding resources and the lack of data on funding for GBV in emergencies.²⁶

Protection in emergencies is consistently underfunded, with funding for protection in humanitarian appeals failing to reach 50% in any year over the last eight years²⁷. A 2013 report described some of the difficulties faced when attempting to secure funding for protection and found that: 'Within UN agencies and NGOs, protection often struggles to gain recognition in relation to competing priorities that might be seen as closer to the core institutional mandate, or more likely to elicit public/donor interest and support'²⁸. **In his statement to 40 world leaders in Istanbul this year, President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins highlighted that in 2015 just 0.5% of humanitarian funding was spent on addressing gender-based violence.**²⁹ Accurate data on such spending remains scarce and the ICGBV welcomes that the OECD has signed the Call to Action on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, and will focus on providing data on GBV prevalence and funding to combat GBV.

24 International Peace Institute (2015) Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes P12

25 UN Security Council (2016). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, Article 108

26 US Department of State (2014) Call to Action Progress Reports September 2014. UNOCHA Progress Report. Available at: <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/policyissues/issues/c64406.htm>

27 Based on UNOCHA Data from 2009-2016, available at: <https://ftsbeta.unocha.org/appeals/overview/2016>

28 Global Protection Cluster (2013) Placing protection at the Centre of Humanitarian Action- Study on Protection Funding in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies, p 42

29 President of Ireland (2016) Media Library- Speeches: Speech at World Humanitarian Summit High level Leaders' Roundtable 7: Women and Girls- Catalysing Action to Achieve Gender Equality





From Beijing to New York:

The Development of Policy Approaches to Respond to the Needs of Displaced Women and Girls

“The fear of violence including harassment, is a permanent constraint on the mobility of women and limits their access to resources and basic activities. High social, health and economic costs to the individual and society are associated with violence against women. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into subordinate positions.....”³⁰

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995

30 UN Women (2015) Women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs>

In September 2016, 21 years after Beijing, global leaders came together at the United Nations Migration Summit in New York to attempt to forge a more united and robust response to the escalated levels of displacement resulting from conflict in the world right now. The meeting also kick-started a process of developing global compacts on the movements of refugees and migrants, to be consolidated over the next two years.

As the process of developing these dual global compacts progresses, civil society action groups have already voiced their concern that there is a need for tangible implementation mechanisms to deliver on the commitments made in the Outcome Document for the Summit, the New York Declaration, in September.³¹

These compacts, if achieved, will have been born primarily out of necessity, arising out of the urgency of humanitarian need that has emerged from the current global level of conflict and displacement. However, they are rooted in a broader normative framework of development and humanitarian policy that has emerged over the last number of years, and a legal framework of protection that has advanced since the Second World War, most notably through the Convention of 1951 and Protocol of 1967 relating to the Status of Refugees.

Several articles of the New York Declaration recognise the need to provide a gendered response to displacement.³² This is rooted in a series of international agreements that recognise the unequal status of women in all societies, and that outline the necessity to adopt measures to prevent GBV, including, most prominently:

- The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women;
- The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions relating to Women Peace and Security and sexual violence in conflict.

The international recognition on the need to address GBV, as highlighted in these agreements, has helped contribute to the inclusion of GBV in the central agreements of the post 2015 development agenda, as outlined below.

31 Action Committee (2016) '2nd Consolidated civil society feedback on the 2nd-draft of the outcome document and the Global Compact on refugees from organizations on the Action Committee. Available at: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/ga/documents/2016/20July2016/ICMCADEnetwork_20July2016.pdf

32 United Nations General Assembly (2016) New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, articles 22, 31 & 60

Gender Equality in the Post 2015 Development Agenda

The Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030, negotiations for which were co-facilitated by Ireland and Kenya, follow on from the Millennium Development Goals. They serve to frame the overall development agenda for UN member states, UN institutions, NGOs and other development actors for the next 15 years.

The 2030 Agenda, is an ambitious framework and achieving peace (SDG 16) and gender equality (SDG 5) are central tenants within it. Moreover, many sub-targets of the other 15 Goals specifically recognise women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution.³³ Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, which did not include combatting violence against women and girls, the SDGs specifically target the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

Perhaps the most significant facet of the goals are their universality. They apply to everybody, including refugees, IDPs and stateless people.

Sustainable Development Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – the 'standalone' gender goal

- 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.3** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

GBV in Humanitarian Action

The 2030 Agenda provided a broad basis for 'One Humanity: Shared Responsibility', the UN Secretary General's Report published in the lead up to this year's World Humanitarian Summit, which contained specific calls for how international actors must address current humanitarian needs, outlined in five core responsibilities. GBV is addressed directly under the second core responsibility which states that

33 UN Women (2015) Women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs>

‘Among the most appalling crimes is sexual and gender-based violence. Perpetrators must be held to account and the rampant impunity witnessed in conflicts around the world must be stopped. States that have not already adopted national legislation in line with international norms on the rights of women, including outlawing all forms of violence against women and girls, must do so without delay. National justice systems must be strengthened to investigate and prosecute gender-based violence, as part of a long-term effort to end discrimination against women and girls in institutional and cultural structures, both in times of peace and of crisis. Demanding and resourcing such efforts must be a top priority for international, national and community leaders.’³⁴

This in turn was followed by ‘In Safety and Dignity’, the Secretary General’s report on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, that was published in September ahead of this year’s Migration Summit. Within this report, the Secretary General calls on member states to do more to address root causes of large movements of people; to adhere to obligations under existing legal frameworks and to apply the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement³⁵ to protect people who have been forcibly displaced within their national borders. Crucially, the report recognises the specific heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence on the journeys of those who have been displaced, and the particular challenges that women and girls may face in transit including ‘psychosocial stress and trauma, health complications, physical harm, and injury and risks of exploitation’.³⁶

Responding to the rapidly expanding scale of global humanitarian needs, these reports and the summits to which they were attached, have generated a framework at an international level aimed at addressing the most devastating aspects of ongoing humanitarian crises. The extent to which their ambition will be successfully translated into action remains largely to be seen as of now, but they have already served to galvanise humanitarian and development actors around a common agenda and vision for action.

Finally, the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, held in 2014, was the largest gathering ever on the issue of sexual violence in conflict, and helped highlight the issue on the world’s stage, though the commitments made at the summit went largely unfulfilled.³⁷

Calls to address GBV that are contained in these reports and summits are very welcome from the perspective of the ICGBV, as are a recognition of the need to place prevention, protection and response mechanisms to GBV at the centre of development, humanitarian, and migration/refugee response frameworks.

These agreements have helped consolidate an international consensus on the recognition of a need to address GBV. They have been complimented by more practical, actionable guidelines that help further understand the complexity of GBV and the steps necessary to respond to GBV in humanitarian situations. In 2013, the Call to Action and subsequent Road Map on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies, established an operational framework for stakeholders from Government, INGOs and UN agencies to transform the way GBV is addressed in emergencies and address the failure of humanitarian actors in comprehensively promoting, protecting and respecting the rights of affected populations, particularly women and girls .

The 2015 Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Action and the UNFPA Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-based Violence in Emergencies provide practical guidance on improving prevention, mitigation and response to GBV in emergencies.

The Call to Action and Roadmap has, in the last few years, mobilised UN agencies, NGOs and others to commit to addressing GBV comprehensively in emergencies. The IASC guidelines provide a grounded, practical operative framework with which to do this.

More recently in December 2015, the Resolution on Sexual and Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response adopted at the 32nd Council of the Red Cross and Red Crescent addressed sexual violence in armed conflict and GBV in disasters and other emergencies and was undoubtedly significant as it was adopted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent and by 190 of their national societies and respective governments, providing clarity and momentum on addressing GBV at the level of the world’s largest humanitarian network.

The New York Declaration: Beginning a larger process

The promotion of the Inter Agency Standing Committee GBV Guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in humanitarian action is evidence of increasing recognition that efforts to improve prevention, mitigation and response to GBV in all sectors of humanitarian response must be improved. That sentiment is echoed in the New York Declaration, and much of the calls that are made in the Declaration, such as the call for deeper engagement with civil society to address the needs of the displaced³⁸; the call to ensure that the basic health needs of women

34 United Nations General Assembly (2016) One Humanity: Shared Responsibility: Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit. Article 66

35 UNOCHA, June 2001, The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

36 United Nations General Assembly (2016) In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. Report of the Secretary General, article 32

37 Guardian (2016) Plan to tackle sexual violence during wars ‘at risk without Hague’. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/apr/12/plan-to-tackle-sexual-violence-during-wars-at-risk-without-hague>

38 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, article 61

and girls are met in displacement³⁹; and the clear and explicit call to 'address gender-based violence to the greatest extent possible'⁴⁰. These all echo the programme approach recommendations of the ICGBV.⁴¹

We will ensure that our responses to large movements of refugees and migrants mainstream a gender perspective, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and fully respect and protect the human rights of women and girls. We will combat sexual and gender-based violence to the greatest extent possible.

New York Declaration (Article 31)

However, the Declaration does not go into detail on the mechanisms for implementation; in the specifics that would make the commitments to displaced people realisable. There is broad reiteration of the rights of the displaced, including those that are enshrined in the 1951 Convention on Refugees, and those outlined in the Agenda 2030, but there is a distinct lack of specificity with regard to how the commitments, including those on addressing GBV, will be turned into obligations.

The impetus for the High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants was to lay out a vision for how to go beyond the current structures of responding to large movements of refugees and migrants, precisely because they had been found wanting in so many regions. Moreover, the Declaration states a commitment to address the root causes of displacement. Looking forward, more work will need to be done to create a roadmap to implement the commitments laid out in the summit. The challenge now is to translate these commitments into practice and action.

There is also considerable room and opportunity for more focus on tangible and durable solutions for the displaced, and how they are to be related into the existing structures of humanitarian action. In the effort to prevent and respond to GBV, these specifics are crucial.

The Road to Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants - A Gendered Perspective	
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1951	Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
1967	Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
1979	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
1990	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
1993	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
1994	Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará)
1995	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
2000	Millennium Development Goals UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security
2003	Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
2008-2015	UN Resolutions 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 & 2242 on Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Women's Role in Peace Making and the Women Peace and Security Agenda
2013	Call to action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies
2015	Agenda 2030: The Sustainable Development Goals
2016	- One Humanity: Shared Responsibility - World Humanitarian Summit - In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants
2016	New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
	- Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration - Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees

39 Ibid. Article 83

40 Ibid. Article 31

41 Joint Consortium of Irish Human Rights Humanitarian and Development Agencies and Development Cooperation Ireland (2005) Gender-Based Violence, a Challenge To Action

The Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence:

‘A healthy society is, by definition, unachievable if it is based on the marginalisation of women and girls. We cannot achieve the Secretary General’s ambitious Agenda for Humanity, if we are not successful in addressing and eliminating, disempowerment, inequality, and gender-based violence.’

Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland & Patron of the ICGBV,
Address to the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, 2016

The ICGBV was formed in response to a growing consciousness among Irish organisations of the need to address the high prevalence of sexual violence being reported as a result of the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. The Consortium has evolved into a unique collaboration between Irish humanitarian and development organisations, academic institutions, and the government departments of Irish Aid and the Irish Defence Forces, who are working together to develop a coherent and coordinated response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in their work in development and humanitarian settings.

Over the past decade the Consortium has produced a series of publications that have promoted an understanding of the scale and dynamics of GBV, provided guidance to institutionalise approaches to GBV programming, and focused on sustaining positive momentum around United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security

Today, in the face of massive humanitarian needs, where conflict and displacement have reached unprecedented levels, and women and girls are being disproportionately affected, the ICGBV recommits to build leadership to support a shared vision of a world free from gender-based violence.

Committing to Action

Specifically, at this year's World Humanitarian Summit, the ICGBV membership made individual commitments, as well as a collective commitment to:

- Support the Call to Action and its Road Map on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies,
- Implement the IASC Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action by 2018, and ensure that all of its members' humanitarian responses are informed by gender and protection analysis

Calls to Action

The next two years may prove to be of crucial importance in forging a stronger, more coordinated response to displacement as a result of conflict. The ICGBV sees a number of areas that must be of immediate concern not only to those who are involved in the development of global compacts on refugees and migrants, but in the response to conflict and displacement more broadly.

1. Urgently and systematically address the root causes of conflict and displacement

Genuine efforts to respond to displacement must strive to address the root causes of conflict, inequality and poverty. The scope and ambition of the SDGs will be immediately and continually undermined if there is no fundamental reform to the existing systems of international conflict mitigation and arbitration. Without urgency, displacement and suffering will continue unabated.

2. A global coordinated approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in conflict and displacement

There is clear global momentum with regard to ensuring humanitarian responses are gendered. Of all 32 core commitments outlined at the World Humanitarian Summit, the core commitment to ensure humanitarian programming is gender-responsive received the third highest number of endorsements⁴². International actors must now make explicit, detailed commitments on protecting displaced women and girls from GBV at all stages of displacement.

3. Increase involvement of women in peace-making and peacekeeping

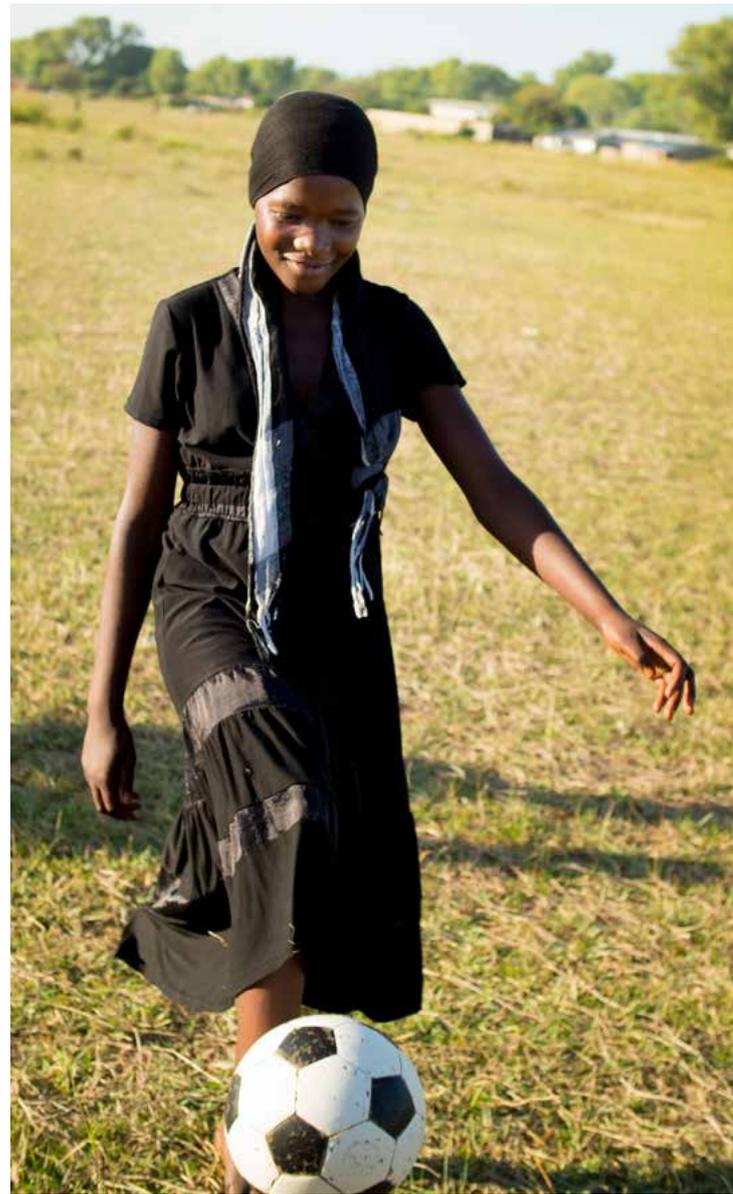
The passing of UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions was a significant milestone in the recognition of the unique and disproportionate impact of conflict on women; and the importance of women's participation in decision-making in conflict and post-conflict situations. This is a central tenant of UNSCR 1325 and 16 years after the resolution was adopted, there must be a far greater international effort to ensure women are involved in peace negotiations in a meaningful way.

4. Sign and implement the Call to Action and its Roadmap on the prevention of GBV in emergencies

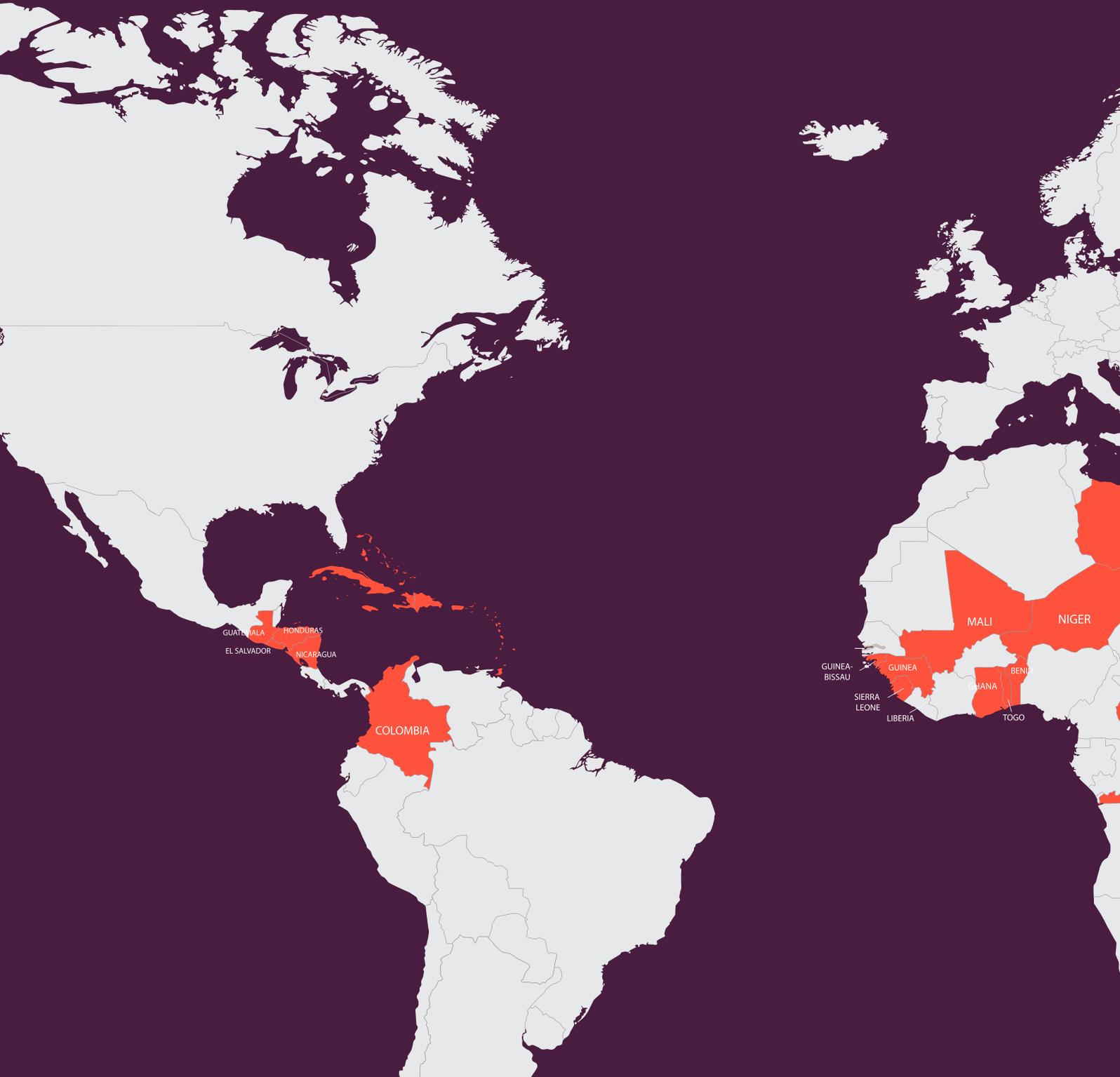
The ICGBV calls on international actors to sign on to the Call to Action and its Roadmap on the prevention of GBV in emergencies, which includes the provision of multi-faceted programme approaches to addressing GBV, and to ensure that all of their humanitarian operations are in compliance with these guidelines by 2018.

5. Increase financing for GBV prevention, protection and response programming.

Funding gaps, which prevent a significant barrier to scale up and replication of GBV programming within humanitarian settings, must be closed. In addition, financing for the global compacts must be underpinned by a recognition that GBV prevention, protection and response programming is a lifesaving action in humanitarian response and must be prioritised accordingly.



Case Studies of Women and Girls Displaced by Conflict



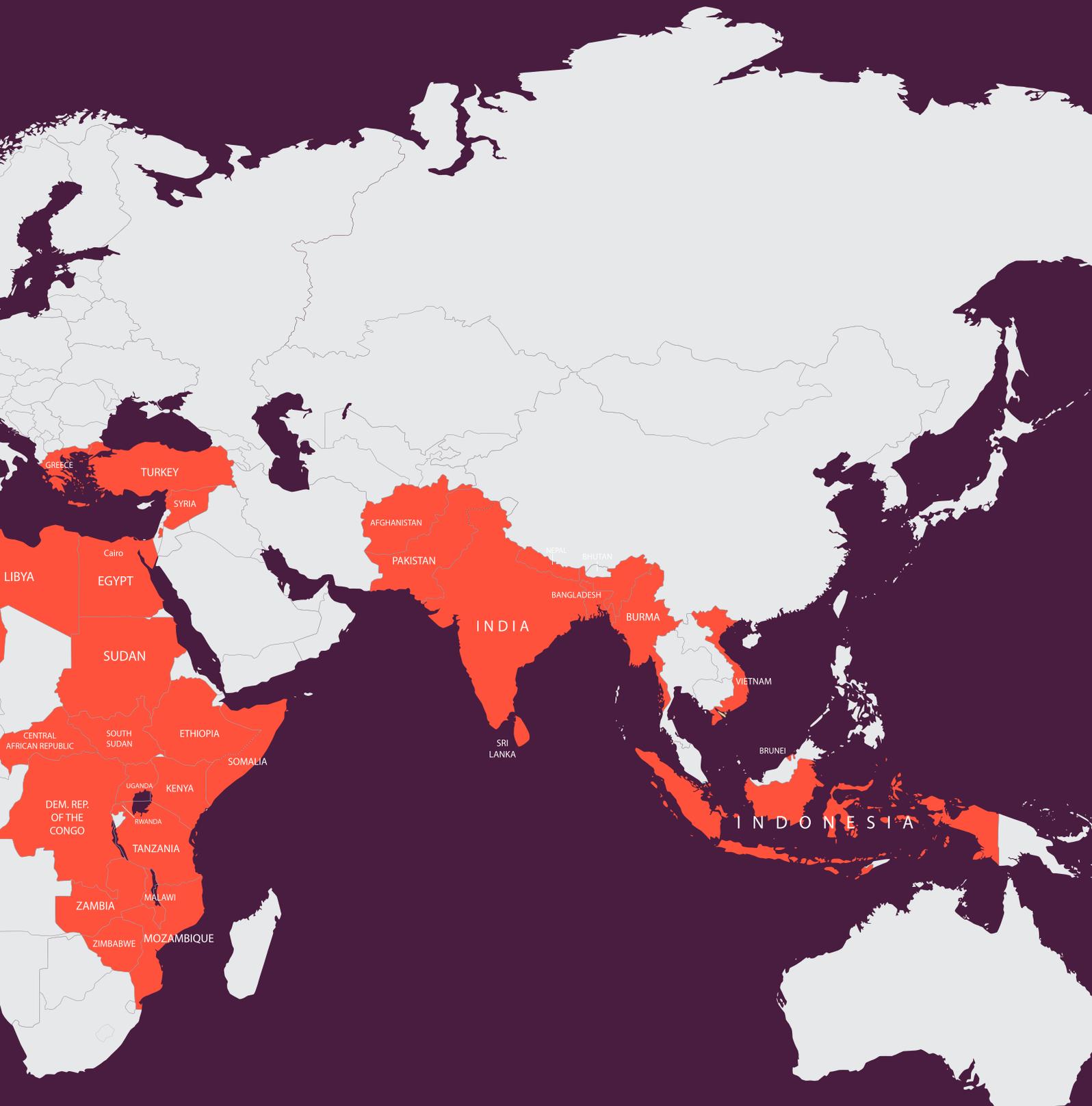
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
EL SALVADOR
NICARAGUA

COLOMBIA

GUINEA-BISSAU
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA
GUINEA
GHANA
BENIN
TOGO
MALI
NIGER

The collective experience of the membership of the ICGBV illustrates the diversity of steps necessary to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in situations of protracted displacement caused by armed conflict. The countries highlighted here show the geographic dispersal where ICGBV members work on programmes aimed at addressing GBV.

Taken from a broad range of locations, the case studies shown in the following section illustrate the multi-faceted nature of some of these programmes in situations of displacement.



Christian Aid and Partners

Response to GBV in Shabunda and Mwenga, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo continue to endure what is one of the most protracted humanitarian crises on earth. While sporadic violence and pronounced humanitarian need is found across parts of the DRC, the eastern part of the country remains most affected, with more than 1.6 million IDPs, mostly fleeing violence and armed conflict.⁴³ This ongoing violence in eastern DRC exposes women, men and children to gender-based violence and other protection related risks. Every month, more than 200 women and girls are sexually abused in Shabunda and Mwenga.⁴⁴

Christian Aid, through its partner SARCAF, are responding directly to this widespread exposure to GBV in the region. The response is multi-faceted and holistic: providing initial psychosocial first aid; counselling services; logistical and financial support for medical follow up; and economic and legal support in the latter stages of response.

Programme Components & Impact

- **Psychosocial support in Listening Houses:** Small rooms in houses are used to receive and counsel survivors and provide a safe space to protect survivors against reprisals from perpetrators and to prevent stigmatization. Each counselling centre has a psychosocial assistant or a focal point trained on psychological care for victims of gender-based violence.
- **Medical Support:** Hospitals with the capacity to provide care for survivors of sexual violence are only present in larger cities in DRC. If survivors require medical follow up, the programme supports them by paying the transport and food costs and a relative to accompany them if necessary.
- **Economic and Reintegration:** Over 70% of survivors of sexual violence are abandoned by their husbands and forcibly removed from their families, exacerbating their trauma and poverty. However due to education campaigns and survivor reintegration efforts, this has decreased from 95% 4 years ago. In more extreme cases, a psychosocial assistant organises family reconciliation mediation. The programme provides training on income generating activities and establishes microfinance groups to help members save and access credit. Survivors have found that economic activity has helped them to re-integrate into their families and communities.

This approach illustrates the value of a comprehensive response to GBV that considers the most effective ways of addressing survivors' needs in the timeline after they have experienced sexual assault. It highlights the need for robust medical and psychosocial support but also the sometimes overlooked necessity of having economic and other social supports to help minimise the ongoing effect of GBV and the continued suffering of women's a result of sexual assault.

Cecilia's Story

Cecilia, 40 years old, came to the SARCAF office, Shabunda counselling center in February 2016, asking for help. She told her story to the psychological assistant who received her. In June 2015, more than 15 men from an armed group attacked her house and demanded money. 5 men raped her and four others raped her daughter while others took and destroyed the property she had. Cecilia fled to seek safety but on the way her daughter died from her injuries. Cecilia buried her daughter at a local church in Shabunda. She arrived at SARCAF with her three remaining children, all hungry and distressed. After the psychological assistant listened to her story and provided her with immediate psychological first aid, he referred her to the General Hospital. She spent more than 3 months in Shabunda hospital receiving treatment for injuries and infections. Cecilia joined the MUSO of Kitete in her neighborhood and received financial support. She decided to invest in sewing. Her husband has still not returned but she is managing to feed her children every day and is planning to send them to school.

43 UNOCHA (2016) DRC - Overview of the humanitarian needs in 2016 (French) p3

44 Extrapolated from 2015 UNHCR protection monitoring report 2015, which reported that 3000 cases of sexual violence occurred in all South Kivu.

Irish Red Cross

work to address all forms of Violence in Dadaab Refugee Camp, with a focus on GBV

Dadaab is known as the largest refugee camp in the world, with over 330,000 refugees hosted at a site in the North East of Kenya.⁴⁵

In 2011, the Kenya Red Cross Society took over the coordination of two of the biggest camps in the Dadaab refugee complex. In the sprawling camps, home to 80,000 people, women and girls are at a significant risk of gender-based violence.

The Kenyan Red Cross, supported by the Canadian and Irish Red Cross Societies launched a violence prevention initiative in the two camps in 2013. The project worked with the refugee community to create an environment free of violence; to deal with violence when it arose in the camp and help change attitudes and practices towards violence. The project also targeted staff and volunteers working in the camp to help them review and where necessary revise their practices and services regarding gender-based and interpersonal violence.

“We went block-by-block in the camp working with fellow refugees to organise self-protection committees, establish male-led non-violence clubs and create safe spaces for women” -Mary, a refugee from South Sudan and Kenya Red Cross volunteer.

Impact

Through information dissemination to the community on violence, referral mechanisms, and clinical care for rape survivors, the community is now more aware of their rights and where to seek help.

The programme also worked with the authorities, armed and security forces and other weapon-bearers to ensure that these actors respect, promote respect for, include and implement the norms of International Humanitarian Law and other internationally recognised standards relating to sexual violence in armed conflict.

Three years after the programme started, an independent review showed incidents of violence had fallen by 77 per cent and more than 80 per cent of those taking part had changed behaviour linked to violence.

45 UNCHR (2016). As of July 31st 2016, the number of registered refugees at Dadaab was 338,043 Available at: <http://data.unhcr.org/horn-of-africa/region.php?id=3&country=110>

ActionAid Hellas

Adapting to changing needs in Greece

The increased restrictions on refugee movement in Europe mean people are spending longer periods in overcrowded transit locations. This has led to a progressively deteriorating humanitarian situation with regard to women's vulnerability to sexual assault and exploitation in overcrowded camps.⁴⁶

In response, ActionAid Hellas has established women centred protection programmes on Lesbos island and in Schisto and Skaramangas camps in the Attica region around Athens. The programmes in each site have been adapted to reflect the needs of displaced women that are staying for a prolonged period of time in the camps. The issues identified include an increased risk of gender-based violence linked to the lack of privacy in overcrowded collective shelters, disintegration of family and community networks, and insufficient income to meet basic needs. Many women have also experienced sexual or gender-based violence during transit or at their point of origin. There are also significant cultural, language, and administrative barriers in accessing services from health services to legal services.

Women Friendly Spaces

The programme provides psychosocial support to women facing trauma as a result of the conflict they fled, their journey and their displacement. In specially designed women friendly spaces, services offered are:

- A protected environment where women can share their problems and gain respite.
- Psychological first aid, including individual case management and referral through social workers, psychologists, and interpreters as well as group counselling.
- Distribution of dignity kits.
- Referral for medical, legal, and shelter assistance.
- Social mobilization and resilience building activities including interpretation, information, initiatives to build resilience and help people cope through skill building activities such as language lessons, financial literacy, crafts etc.

Impact

Since heavy restrictions on refugees' onward travel through the EU were put in place this year many refugees have become stranded in Greece. In this time, the project has impacted the most vulnerable women's lives by providing protection, psychosocial support and a chance to access services and information that due to their circumstances they did not have access to.

- Over 1,500 individual women visited ActionAid's Women Friendly Spaces in both locations in that period.
- 3,700 psychosocial sessions including Psychological First Aid sessions were held in that period.
- Over 900 referrals and referral follow-ups were conducted to services outside the camps.
- 797 women participated in empowerment activities

The Arts and Crafts activities on Lesbos culminated in an exhibition by the women of their work in the square of Mytilini town, while in Attica a play was written and performed by the Afghan women of Schisto camp describing their journey and experiences. Titled "The Journey Continues" it was performed for the public as part of the "European Cultural Days" festival organized by the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports. Some of the programme participants reflected on their situation in the camps.

Through implementation of this programme, Action Aid has identified the following lessons learnt:

- The importance of a flexible approach that allows a programme to adapt to changes in context, particularly tailoring the programme to emerging needs such as higher demand for psychosocial support.
- The need for well established relationships with host authorities and civil society.
- The importance of co-operation and co-ordination to address challenges such as overcrowding and shortage of space and inconsistencies in service delivery.

46 Guardian Article 'Prisoners of Europe': the everyday humiliation of refugees stuck in Greece. Published: 7/9/16. Available at: www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/06/prisoners-of-europe-the-everyday-humiliation-of-refugees-stuck-in-greece-migration



“Life in the camp is very hard. One day is like a lifetime. We want to feel our humanity and to have our respect.”

Syrian woman, Kara Tepe Camp, Lesbos

“We have a team here. We talk amongst us, what our situation is here. It helps us a lot.”

Afghan woman, Schisto camp, Attica Region, Greece.

“The atmosphere changed after you came and we started with the activities and the groups. You are looking after us. My husband at some point decided that we will go back to Afghanistan. This is when I tried to take my own life. Now at the ActionAid sessions we talk about our burdens and we unload our souls...No one cares about Afghans and what is going on in my country. I have seen decapitations with my own eyes. There is a secret war for 30 years in Afghanistan and no-one cares.”

Afghan woman, Schisto camp, Attica Region, Greece.

Concern Worldwide

Prevention of Domestic Violence in Lebanon; Engaging Men and Boys

As the war in Syria has descended into the world's deadliest conflict, almost five million people have fled to surrounding countries.⁴⁷ Protection concerns for over a million Syrian refugees in Lebanon continue to increase. Of 1,048,275 registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon as of March 2016, 80% are women or children.⁴⁸ Continued displacement and lack of access to work and other coping mechanisms has led to a loss of hope amongst many men and resulted in frustration and negative coping mechanisms.⁴⁹

In this context, many women have become increasingly vulnerable to domestic violence, and early marriage.⁵⁰ A UNICEF survey carried out in 2016 revealed that child marriage among Syrian refugees in Lebanon had soared to 39 per cent compared to 13 per cent in pre-conflict Syria.⁵¹ The same survey indicated that attitudes towards acceptance of domestic violence are particularly high in the Akkar district of Northern Lebanon which borders neighboring Syrian and is hold to a large amount of Syrian refugees.⁵²

Concern's Engaging Men programme has a specific focus on preventing and alleviating sexual exploitation and sexual violence. This is done through dialogue on: concepts and practices of masculinity; the positive and negative use of male power; and education on how gender norms can affect men such that they are harmful to women but also to men and boys themselves.

The programme is based around a 12-week training course structure that uses activities and exercises to understand gender roles and gender relations, gender roles in action, cycles of violence, violence against women and sexual violence, non-violent communication and men as nurturers and caregivers. The programme employs a prevention-focused, community-based approach to help reduce GBV and build up overall community structures.

Impact

The 2016 evaluation of the Engaging Men programme highlighted a number of significant impacts including:

- The programme facilitated a safe emotional space for men to meet collectively to talk about their problems and to become more attuned and reflective about their relationships with their wives and children.
- Men reported it provided them with a reason and avenue to leave the house; it provided them with a chance to socialize, feel some sense of belonging and expand their social network; and offered some degree of relief from mounting psychological distress and pressure.
- Within their families, results indicated many men expressed greater empathy towards their wives and their needs and increased dialogue and positive time spent with children.

47 UNHCR (2016) Syrian Regional Refugee Response Portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

48 ibid

49 UNHCR (2015) Culture, Context and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Syrians: A Review for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support staff working with Syrians Affected by Armed Conflict, p39

50 Amnesty International (2016) 'I want a Safe Place' Refugee Women from Syria Uprooted and Unprotected in Lebanon', p41 & 50

51 UNICEF 2016) Baseline Survey. Available at: <https://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=11355>

52 ibid



Khadija and her husband enrolled in the workshop courses run by Concern. The sessions helped her understand what was happening in her family and she enjoyed the comradery with the participants. She said her husband's mood improved after going to the sessions and the community project, which was built into the session, made him feel in control of his life again.

Kahija's Story

Kahdija, a mother of five boys and two girls, lives in a crowded informal settlement on the outskirts of Halba, in the Akkar province of Northern Lebanon. It contrasts sharply with the comfortable home she shared with her husband and their five children in Al Qusayr, about 35km south of Homs. They were forced to flee with their extended family to Lebanon three years ago. Since then, all their life savings have gone on rent for their temporary home. The family has undertaken severe debt, which has in turn created extremely tense conditions in her home.

“Because of the rent situation, because of the pressure from the landlord, and because we and the children were hungry, he began to get depressed. He was shouting at us then he began the hitting, beating, arguing with me all the time....”

Khadija and her husband enrolled in the workshop courses run by Concern. The sessions helped her understand what was happening in her family and she enjoyed the comradery with the participants. She said her husband's mood improved after going to the sessions and the community project, which was built into the session, made him feel in control of his life again. She believes the programme has helped to improve relations with her husband. Kahdija says they sit down together to discuss their problems and try and talk things through unlike before.

World Vision Ireland

Promoting Gender Equality and Education to Prevent GBV

More than 1.6 million people are internally displaced across South Sudan, in addition to 786,000 people who have fled to neighbouring countries since December 2013.⁵³ Most displaced children have not received any formal education since December 2013 and many have been exposed to numerous forms of violence such as recruitment by armed groups, acute physical violence and a high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence.

World Vision puts a strong emphasis on working with communities to reinforce the value of women and men, girls and boys, and the significance of their contribution to their families, communities and society in all settings, including emergencies and fragile contexts, to build peaceful and sustainable societies based on gender equality. In order to do so, child well-being, its education and protection is at the heart of every endeavour. World Vision recognises that child wellbeing cannot be achieved without addressing the barriers to gender justice, and as such, puts a strong emphasis on working with communities to reinforce the value of women, men, girls and boys and the significance of their contribution to their families, communities and society in all settings.

In South Sudan, World Vision has been delivering a programme funded by Irish Aid which illustrates how it is possible to tackle the two main causes of GBV: gender inequality and discrimination through protection and education for internally displaced children (3-17) and their respective families and communities implemented with two underlying principles: promoting gender equality and GBV prevention through education for boys, girls, women and men.

Overall, the programme believes and promotes the idea that IDPs, particularly women and girls, are the active and effective agents of change capable of contributing towards the betterment of the community they live in. Education and Protection programmes that promote gender equality, protection and prevention of GBV at their core are vital for helping women and girls in fragile communities unlock their potential in creating sustainable and peaceful environments.

Impact

The programme has integrated a number of approaches to deliver on these underlying principles as follows:

- The formation of girls clubs in March 2016, aimed at empowering women with a greater knowledge of gender equality, GBV, protection, and the importance of education.
- The recruitment and training of both male and female teachers and volunteers from within the community, to ensure robust engagement of men and boys.
- Close partnership between the NGOs in the field, at local, regional, national and international levels, which led to a Protection Working Group focused on Child Protection and GBV.
- Capacity building training for staff, volunteers, women's groups and parents associations, around child protection, GBV, gender equality, girl's education and early marriage to create a protective environment for all children carried out by all the different members of the community.
- The involvement of religious leaders to be agents of social change. Though religious leaders were not targeted directly in this particular programme, the World Vision team recognised their roles as valuable members of the community and they were engaged through members of parent teacher associations. They actively worked to disseminate messages on child marriage and the importance of girls' education during Sunday Church services.

53 International Organisation for Migration (2016) Update- 6/9/16. Available at: <https://southsudan.iom.int/media-and-reports/press-release/conflict-continues-drive-displacement-south-sudan>



Teresa's Story

Teresa, is 24 years old and has been displaced twice in her life as a result of conflict in South Sudan. When she first entered the camp in Melut county, she didn't see many opportunities for education and thought that there was widespread gender inequality at the camp, with most men spending their days idle while women were responsible for collecting firewood, cooking, cleaning and looking after children. In August 2015, she applied to be a teacher at the Irish Aid supported education project and started working as a volunteer assistant teacher. After three months, she became a teacher in one of the Early Child Development centres. Since April 2016, Teresa has been working with World Vision South Sudan as a Food Monitor and is now happy to be working in the area of nutrition and supporting her son.

“I want my child to get better education and become a good citizen of South Sudan. I want the world to support South Sudan to get peace. Let our children go to school and get better education. Because of lack of education people are fighting for many years in South Sudan.”

Trócaire

Empowering Girls through Women Friendly Spaces in Pakistan

Growing evidence shows that in times of humanitarian crisis, both in conflict or following natural disasters, child marriage rates increase, with a disproportionate impact on girls.⁵⁴ Displacement frequently increases child marriage as a negative coping mechanism and the practice can also perpetuate other forms of gender-based violence, often leading to a lifetime of disadvantage and deprivation for girls and women.⁵⁵ Trócaire responds by focusing on women's voice and participation, women's education, and on women's economic empowerment.

Trócaire's partner United, Motivation, Education and Empowerment for Development Foundation (UMEED) established women friendly spaces in Peshwar, North West Pakistan. The project provides women, including those displaced by regional conflict, with a safe space where they can get client centred emotional and psychosocial support, education to reduce the incidence of early marriage, and also opportunities for income generation activities and life skills.

A female protection officer, together with social mobilisers, carries out home visits to encourage women and girls to attend these women friendly spaces. The project team explain the purpose of women friendly spaces and assure them on security, safety and other concerns. Male family members are also invited to community meetings to discuss the project's activities.

Within these spaces, women and girls meet other girls of a similar age and they discuss their concerns, whilst exchanging their skills on embroidery, cooking and stitching. The Trócaire and UMEED Foundation partnership also coordinates other service providers to arrange sessions on life skills, provide psychosocial support through different recreational activities and arrange skills training for income generation.

Impact

The project is an example of working with a diverse mix of local service providers, through a local organisation, to provide girls with a range of opportunities that have been denied as a result of displacement, and the cultural norms that dominate women's lives.

Education provides a myriad of opportunities for girls, from self-confidence and social stability to earning opportunities and better health outcomes. These methods of empowering girls, by offering them opportunities to gain skills and education, providing support networks, and creating 'safe spaces' where they can gather and meet outside the home, can have multiple social benefits, changing norms and attitudes and helping them to assert their rights.

54 Women's Refugee Commission (2016) A Girl No More: The Changing Norms of Child Marriage in Conflict P13

55 http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58008.html



“I feel now I am changed. I feel more positive about life...before I came here, I was afraid, as I did not have the courage to speak with others. But now I can do this, I have confidence. I feel safe here and I feel like I am with friends”

Rabla's Story

Rabia is a 16 year old girl from Bara Agency in North West Pakistan. Her family was displaced to Peshwar as a result of military operations against non-state actors. Rabia enjoyed school but could not continue her studies after 4th grade. Belonging to the traditional Pashtun culture, she is not allowed to move freely outside of her home. Rabia was engaged to be married at the age of 12, and following the marriage, her in-laws were strictly against her continued education. A female Protection Officer visited Rabia's home to encourage the women in her family to attend women friendly space. Rabia and her mother wanted to join but her father and uncle did not allow them. After the project team explained the purpose of women friendly spaces and invited Rabia's father and uncle to a community meeting to discuss the projects activities, Rabia was allowed to attend a women friendly space.

At this space, she meets other girls her age and they discuss their concerns, whilst exchanging their skills on embroidery, cooking and stitching.

Oxfam Ireland

Establishing Community Protection Committees in Uganda

Oxfam supports a rights-based approach to gender justice that involves addressing the consequences, and also the causes, of gender inequality and GBV. This is done by very deliberately putting women's rights at the heart of all activities. In practice, this means promoting widespread changes in attitudes and beliefs about gender power relations.

In Uganda, Oxfam works with South Sudanese refugees to promote protection of communities in displaced settings by supporting the establishment of Community Protection Committees. These committees, comprised of equal numbers of men and women from both displaced and host communities, are trained on basic human rights, supported to identify protection issues in their communities, and develop plans to address these issues. These plans may include acting as mediators in a local dispute, making a referral to a specialist service provider (e.g. medical/psychosocial support in the event of sexual violence, or advocating with local authorities or NGOs for support to their right to protection). Each Committee has a dedicated Women's Forum, a safe space for confidential discourse on matters of concern to women and girls.

The Community Protection Committees represent an important platform for cross-cultural dialogue and understanding of protective norms.

Of particular concern to another committee was the issue of girl's access to education. The contents and frequency of distribution of hygiene kits to refugees, which included sanitary pads, were insufficient to meet the needs of menstruating women and girls. As a result, girls often stayed away from school thereby affecting not only the quality of their education, but

also as a consequence, their life choices. The Women's Forum of one Protection Committee recognised that this increased the risk of girls being forced into early marriage as a survival strategy.

At the same time, an Oxfam income generation initiative for refugees provided training on the making of reusable sanitary towels using materials available in the nearest large market. Members of the committee sold some of the towels as part of their income generation but most reusable sanitary towels were distributed to women and girls in their community, allowing girls to attend school with dignity. Now these girls are teaching others how to make them. Women's Forum members then went to schools (Uganda's favourable open door policy allows refugees to attend primary school for free), actively engaging teachers and students on the benefits of a girl's right to education.

Impact

- Through the committees, refugees from South Sudan are sensitised to Uganda's legal framework on domestic violence and child marriage.
- Focus group discussions held with a number of Committees reported that known incidents of violence had dropped "by more than 50%" and one Committee reported that its representation had prevented the marriage of two child brides.

The Oxfam engagement with Community Protection Committees shows the importance in identifying often overlooked barriers to women's access to education- the knock on effect of having insufficient hygiene provisions and how this can eventually lead to negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage.

Irish Aid

GBV prevention and response efforts: from policy to action at the local level.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence is a core priority of the Irish Aid programme, and is at the centre of its work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Ireland's policy on international development (2013), *One World, One Future* recognises that GBV is a major abuse of human rights which undermines victims' health, well-being and livelihoods. Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance Policy (2015) reiterates Ireland's commitment to addressing GBV and recognises the particular vulnerabilities and needs of women and girls in emergencies, noting that attention to gender must be an essential part of every humanitarian operation. Ireland is committed to continuing to play an active role in research, policy development and funding to address GBV.

Irish Aid works closely with civil society organisations and governments on GBV issues in many of our key partner countries. At a global level, Ireland supports the UN Women-administered Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. The Government of Ireland engages in international advocacy to raise awareness on gender equality and the importance of protecting women and children in emergencies. For example, Ireland is a member of the Call to Action and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade plays a lead co-ordination role in the implementation of Ireland's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

One important piece of work in recent years has been the effort by humanitarian actors to challenge the myth that GBV is an unavoidable part of conflict, thereby ensuring that efforts to tackle it are put in place. Important learnings from our partnership with the International Rescue Committee have fed into flagship advocacy reports such as "Are we there yet?" This paper has been used in key international fora, including at a 2015 EU Council working party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAF) meeting. The paper helped to advise Member States on the importance of preventing and responding to GBV in emergencies; and in advocacy efforts to engage EU countries to join the Call to Action. The Government of Ireland played a prominent role in ensuring the views of Irish humanitarian stakeholders were considered in the World Humanitarian Summit, advocating for the inclusion of women and girls as a standalone outcome.

Other aspects of Irish Aid's efforts in this area focus on targeted funding for NGO programming on GBV in emergencies and deployments of specialised gender and protection capacity – through Ireland's Rapid Response Corps, Gender Standby Capacity Project and Protection Standby Capacity Project. We work with a range of government and civil society partners at community, national and international level to tackle

both the causes and the effects of GBV, and to ensure that policies are in place and are implemented. Our work aims to build awareness of the rights of women and expand women's engagement in the economic, social and political spheres. It also seeks to engage men and boys on gender related issues.

We also support organisations that help survivors of GBV. For example, we provide funding directly to the members of the Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence who operate GBV related programmes in over 40 countries, as well as supporting response and prevention work through our strategic multi-annual partnership with the International Rescue Committee.

Irish Aid, through its partnership with NGOs supports community-based approaches, where women and girls, play a key role in the design of GBV interventions, while at the same time building the skills, knowledge and capacity of local actors and early responders in GBV preparedness and response techniques. Such work includes community-led advocacy work, awareness raising and identification of community safeguards to increase safety and security for women and girls. Response activities, for example those implemented by the International Rescue Committee, ensure the establishment of GBV survivor-centred services within the community. These services include identification of safe spaces for survivors and mapping of referral pathways and protection services so survivors are informed on the best course of action available to them. It also includes training of health professionals so they can correctly respond to the needs of GBV survivors, and the provision of case management and psychosocial support services to help survivors with their overall wellbeing.



Defence Forces Ireland

Gender Perspective in Operations

The Defence Forces are fully committed to the principles and practice of UNSCR 1325 the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the UN Secretary General's Zero Tolerance on SEA Bulletin (October 2003).

The steps taken by the Defence Forces to include a gender perspective are comprehensive. The Defence Forces (DF) employ a Gender Advisor in its Headquarters who is responsible for the overall education and implementation of a gender perspective in all military training and operations. Gender Advisors are also located in each Brigade and Formation and are responsible for overseeing that a gender perspective is implemented within their area of operations. All induction and career courses include a Gender Perspective Brief which includes material on gender equality, UNSCR 1325, Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

Pre-Deployment Training

Mandatory pre-deployment training includes lessons on SEA which includes a UN video 'To Serve with Pride', Standards of behavior on UN, NATO and EU missions. Troops are provided with Tac Aide Memoir on Codes of Conduct for Blue Helmet and a DF Code of Conduct. Pre-deployment training culminates in a ten day Mission-Readiness Exercise in which GBV scenario based training is incorporated. The training and education delivered by United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) includes: Gender-Based Violence, Conflict Related Sexual Violence, the Implementation of a Gender Perspective into the Operational Planning Processes, and establishing specific gender-related functions for troops on the ground, such as training gender focal points (GFPs) prior to overseas deployment.

Military Operations

Adopting a gender perspective is no longer an optional add-on for the military commander, it is now an operational imperative. Security assessments, plans and analysis must include thorough considerations of women's contributions to community resilience, sustainable peace, and local security.

The framework of UNSCR 1325, a central pillar of which is 'Protection, Relief and Recovery', provides a policy background and helpful starting position for this approach. Women and girls, their needs, their participation, their experiences, their strengths and their voices are key to achieving sustainable and durable peace in countries ravaged by conflict and war. At all stages of the planning process and operations a gender perspective in peacekeeping is vital if interventions are to be relevant, effective and responsive to the needs of women and girls, boys and men.





Women, Peace and Security: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

Adopted in 2000, UNSCR 1325 recognises the adverse disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls, as well as their role in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacebuilding and governance.

The resolution calls on member states and all parties to armed conflict to adopt a range of recommendations including:

- Take special measures to protect women and girls from violence in armed conflict, particularly sexual and gender-based violence.
- Reaffirm and emphasise the important role that women play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace-building.
- Consider the special needs of women and girls in designing and administering refugee camps.

The resolution has since become an organising framework for UN organisations and Peacekeepers, nation states and NGOs around the women, peace and security agenda, which focuses on advancing the components of resolution 1325. As of May 2016, 60 nations have created a National Action Plan on implementing UNSCR 1325.

Gender in Naval Operations in the Mediterranean Sea

Responding to increased numbers of people fleeing conflict across the Mediterranean, the Irish Navy has conducted an ongoing search and rescue mission in the region since 2015. Prior to deployment, gender focal point (GFP) training was carried out with 6-8 members of each ship's crew. GFPs are briefed on their role and responsibilities under UNSCR 1325 and associated Security Council resolutions on Women Peace and Security. They receive information on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and what to look out for when dealing with migrants, many of whom are vulnerable. They are also given a brief to disseminate to the entire crew on the zero tolerance policy with regards to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse employed by the Defence Forces. The ship capacity must also take into account family units, wash facilities, sanitary needs and cultural/religious norms.

Plan International Ireland

Protecting women and girls from violence and abuse in the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic (CAR) has been beset by intermittent conflict for the last 20 years but in the aftermath of a coup d'état in 2013, fighting intensified and took on more ethnic and religious dimensions. By 2014, violence had reached unprecedented levels, displacing entire communities or trapping others in so-called enclaves surrounded by opposing militia groups.⁵⁶

Gender based violence has been a central facet of the conflict with UNCHR reporting that in 2015, at the peak of the conflict, there were more than 60,000 cases of sexual and gender-based violence registered in the first 10 months of that year.⁵⁷ That is equivalent to about 100 reported cases a day. In addition, the conflict has resulted in the deterioration of the already weak economy and education system, forcing more women to resort to transactional sex. The collapse of the judicial system in most parts of the country has resulted in widespread impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence.⁵⁸

The district of Ouham, in the north west of CAR, is one of the most affected areas by conflict, with incidents of militia attacks and inter-communal violence, and some of the highest levels of internal displacement.⁵⁹ Plan International uses a gender sensitive approach in its programming, recognizing that girls are often more vulnerable and at a greater risk of abuse in conflict situations, and the Plan programme in the area of Ouham was aimed at improving the protective environment and educational prospects for girls and boys affected by conflict.

Through the utilisation of Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) alongside established community based child protection mechanisms, Plan supported and strengthened community's capacity to prevent and respond to child protection concerns. Informal community based child protection committees (entitled RECOPE) were established and supported to lead communities in awareness raising, to identify girls and boys with protection issues and to refer them to the relevant service providers.

GBV was discussed with community leaders and RECOPE committees to help communities identify, prevent and support survivors of SGBV, both in domestic and public settings. Communities and individuals learned to prevent, identify, support and refer children traumatised by association with armed groups or at risk of recruitment. Training and support was also provided to local authorities in order to respond to cases of abuse and work with RECOPE committees on preventing further abuse in schools, on the way to schools and in community and family settings.

The programme utilised an integrated education and protection approach which take into consideration the needs of vulnerable girls, boys and adolescents affected by the conflict in CAR, as well as the protection needs of caregivers and female education staff.

Impact:

- Programme activities contributed to increased safety for children and their caregivers, as well as awareness on how to identify and respond to community protection needs, with focus on children and their caregivers and taking into account the specific needs of girls and boys.
- Awareness raising campaigns and peace promoting activities at community levels have helped local communities to prevent further recruitment of children by armed groups and support girl integration into formal schooling. Children and families distressed or traumatised received psychosocial and specialised individual assistance, which helped them rebuild their lives.
- While still a long way to conflict resolution, peace building components contributed to intercommunal dialogue and mitigation of protection risks. As outlined by one child in a focal group discussion;

“During the crisis, we children all had the idea to be rebels; to revenge our dead parents and our destroyed property - but thanks to this project we have found the path of education and have learned to forget violence”.

56 Insight on Conflict (2014) Central African Republic Profile. Available at: <https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/central-african-republic/conflict-profile/>

57 UNHCR (2015) Human Rights Day: Abuses rife in Central African Republic. Available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/5669a3a66.html>

58 Global Protection Cluster (2013) Gender-Based Violence in a Forgotten Conflict: Recommendations for the Central African Republic

59 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2015) Central African Republic IDP Figures Analysis as of 21 August 2015. Available at: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/sub-saharan-africa/central-african-republic/figures-analysis>

Emelie's Story

Emelie is a young girl aged 17 with a reserved character. She lost her father at an early age and her mother, a subsistence farmer was merely managing to make ends meet for the family. Emelie grew up with her aunt in a locality called Mbaiki, 107 km from her community where she attended school until she was 10. Following the death of her aunt's husband, she was forced into marriage at the age of 13 with a young man with whom she now has a daughter.

As a result of violence in the home; she abandoned her husband after 4 years of living together and started farming to take care of her daughter.

Plan International carried out many awareness raising activities on the rights of the child and the importance of child protection during conflict, along with the other activities of the project.

Emelie was one of those who attended the awareness raising activities. After listening to the messages, she decided to join the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) activities supported by Plan.

For six months, she has been learning new things at the CFS. As she declares:

“I have got new ideas from the CFS activities. As you can see, I did not know how to knit before. I learnt this through our animator at the CFS. Another thing I learnt at the CFS is to forget about the terrible things that happened to us during the conflict. I was full of rage and have always thought about vengeance, but after the discussion on how to live in peace with one another, the rage I had has disappeared”.

GOAL

Response to conflict affected communities in Diffa Region, Niger

The scale of violence in North East Nigeria has increased dramatically in the last three years, with Boko Haram now considered the most deadly extremist organisation the world in terms of the number of deaths they have caused.⁶⁰ This violence has led to the displacement of more than 2.4 million people in the region, many of whom have now been displaced several times.⁶¹ This displacement as a result of violence has compounded the suffering of those in the Lake Chad region, which has already seen great suffering due to climate change and a lack of resources for a population that has expanded rapidly in recent years.⁶²

Women and children make up the majority of the region's displaced people and UNFPA estimates that a considerable amount of the women who are displaced are pregnant putting them in urgent need of antenatal, maternal and post-partum care. Lack of access, insecurity and underfunding has led to the under provision of basic supplies and this has been exacerbated by the arrival of this year's rainy season, which caused an increase in diarrheal and respiratory tract diseases, as well as an increase in the incidence of malaria and even cholera. Women, who are often unaccompanied, are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence when going to retrieve water.⁶³

Against this backdrop, GOAL has begun expanding its programme in the Diffa region of Southern Niger, where an estimated 240,000 displaced people have fled over the border from Northern Nigeria. In February 2016 GOAL began the distribution of emergency kits to vulnerable persons in Diffa region, including those who have been affected by the conflict in Northern Nigeria. The kits contain basic essential items- soap, jerry cans, blankets, and mosquito nets - but for some beneficiaries it was the first time they had access to anything like this since they had been uprooted by the conflict.

GOAL complimented this distribution work by working with the local health system. In an effort to strengthen a system that had been stretched to cope with the arrival of vulnerable families, GOAL supported the District Health Office with two additional nurses to provide primary healthcare and midwifery services in the Diffa region, and also provided 2 additional staff for Expanded Programme on Immunisation outreach activities.

60 Institute for Economics and Peace (2015) Global Terrorism Index, p2

61 Reuters Foundation (2016) Lake Chad Basin is world's most neglected humanitarian crisis - U.N. aid chief. Available at: <http://news.trust.org/item/20160524181019-53nxy/>

62 ACTED (2015) In the Lake Chad Region, populations are trapped between climate change and insecurity <http://www.acted.org/en/lake-chad-basin-populations-are-trapped-between-climate-change-and-insecurity>

63 UN News Centre (2016) Niger: UNICEF reports more than 240,000 uprooted from homes in Diffa region. Available at: www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54284#.V8W4nfrL-s

Impact

- The training provided by the programme and the secondment of nurses in the region helped minimise the potential shock to the health system from the increased demand on services from the high influx of refugees and IDPs.
- The provision of jerry cans reduced the frequency of water collection and the risks of GBV that go with it
- increased reach of the Government of Niger's cold chain supply for an estimated additional population of 8,000 IDPs and refugees who have settled in the health facility catchment area.
- The GOAL programme is an example of one that is designed to meet the basic needs of those that have been displaced by conflict, focussing on the most vulnerable. Women's reproductive health needs are particularly acute in this region right now and the intervention is targeted to support government efforts to meet these needs.

Falmata's Story

Falmata is a 34-year old mother, originally from Northern Nigeria. Last year the conflict forced her and her daughter to flee from their home village of Chétimari town on North East Nigeria, finding refuge in the small village of Koublé, in the Diffa region of Niger.

Her daughter recalled how one day, she came home from working on the farm to find houses in the village burnt down by Boko Haram. Although their house still stood, Falmata did not feel safe to stay. She also had no information on the whereabouts of her husband. She looked around her home thinking about what she could take, as she would have to take only what she could carry. After some time, she got news that her husband had been killed by members of Boko Haram. The family now live in a small makeshift house in Koublé, and survive on less than 1 USD a day and help from the humanitarian actors. The kit that she received contains basic items that are essential for her and her family.

Gorta Self Help Africa

Gorta Self Help Africa (GSHA) appreciates that Gender-Based Violence is deeply rooted in structural relationships of inequality and the power imbalance that exists between men and women, boys and girls. As such, GSHA strives to reduce GBV in their programming with small holder farmers by fostering activities that promote family discussion and mutual understanding of issues such as gender roles and responsibilities, unequal relationships and workloads.

GSHA have adopted the Family Life Model (FLM) as an approach to help counteract gender inequality. This is a localised and integrated approach that articulates the relationship between the family aspirations and the necessary resources to meet them. The FLM aims

to encourage the family to be an agent of change and transformation in the community and society by challenging traditional notions of gender roles and responsibilities. It strives to ensure that the family makes decisions together, sharing resources and their benefits fairly. GSHA's research has shown that this model helps to ensure greater family harmony and peace in the household between all of its members, creating an environment where decisions are made jointly and there is more equal control over available resources, often leading to a reduction in GBV. Prevention is GSHA's core area of concern as they strive to reduce physical, sexual, psychological and economic GBV recognising that every person should have the right to be free from physical, emotional and psychological harm.

Kimmage Development Studies Centre Providing Development Practitioners with a Better Understanding of GBV

Kimmage Development Studies Centre has facilitated training for development practitioners for 40 years. Over the past number of years Kimmage DSC has developed three GBV related courses through their Open and Distance Education programme and the membership of the Consortium has been in the development of a specific course on understanding and addressing GBV in development contexts. The course is designed to provide development practitioners with a better understanding of GBV and the capacity to develop more considered responses to GBV. It has already reached hundreds of participants in over 40 countries.

Photo captions

Cover Image: A displacement camp, on the UN base in Bentiu, South Sudan. This camp is home to over 47,000 people who have fled their homes because of fighting. Photo: Crystal Wells.

Page 6: Twenty year old Nancy Adjumani has spent almost all her life in a refugee settlement in Uganda. Her mother fled the camp during Sudan's civil war. Photographer: Alexia Webster/Panos Pictures for Concern Worldwide.

Page 13: Teenagers taking part in a programme that aims to educate them in matters of gender, reproductive health, and relationships. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Children act out a play about gender equality in a primary school in Kigali. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Page 14: A flooded marketplace in the Bentiu Protection of Civilian sites in October 2014. Photo: Colm Moloney

Page 21: A participant in Concern's Skillz programme in Nkhotakota, Malawi. Using the established Grassroots Soccer curriculum, the programme is designed to engage young people through the medium of soccer and to help educate them in gender related issues.

Women sort through sacks discarded at a general food distribution in protection of civilian (PoC) site one in UN House, a UN base on the outskirts of Juba, South Sudan. Photo: Concern Worldwide

Page 27: Winter clothing distribution. Moria Camp, Lesvos. Photo: Action Aid

Skill building activities for women and adolescent girls. Schisto Camp, Attica Region. Photo: Action Aid

Page 29: Kahdija Seifdin, Northern Lebanon. Photo: Concern Library

Syrian refugees listen to Concern Protection Field Officer Rami Fares, unseen, during a gender-based violence session in which he engages men in Tal Abbas in Akkar, north of Lebanon. Photo: Dalia Khamissy

Page 31: Teresa, South Sudan. Photo World Vision

Page 33: Participants in Trócaire's protection project for displaced communities in Peshawar, UMEED Foundation. Photo: Trócaire

Page 35: A gathering of displaced women, men and children in Mogadishu, Somalia listens to an IRC health worker (Peter Biro/IRC). Picture from an Advocacy Brief published in 2015; "Responding to GBV in the Horn and East Africa's Emergency Settings Lessons from the Field".

Page 36: Irish Navy rescue operations in the Mediterranean Seas.

Captain Deirdre Carbery (then Lieutenant), Platoon Commander, B Company, 42 Infantry Group in UNIFIL, South Lebanon briefing the Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Mark Mellett on the Blue Line between Lebanon and Israel, 2014.

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