

31 December 2019



Roll out of the programme in Meheba Refugee Settlement October 2019.

CONTEXT

During 2019, UNHCR Zambia reviewed the existing systems for identification, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in all locations, both settlements and the urban setting. An important aspect of prevention and response is community mobilization through the recruitment of community workers, but also engagement with the larger community of refugees and host population. In order to address the structural causes of SGBV, such as, gender norms, gender inequality, power structures and harmful traditional practices, the affected community structures have to be mobilized.

ZERO TOLERANCE VILLAGE ALLIANCE MODEL

The Zero Tolerance Village Alliance (ZTVA) was an intervention originally piloted in rural South Africa in 2011-12 and is based on achievement motivation theory and labelling theory. It is premised on the notion that the change of gender norms requires the involvement of all community members and that, ultimately, the community, or the village, would have to take ownership of issues related to sexual and gender-based violence, understand the need to ensure a zero tolerance and be the agent of change. The engagement of the entire community in the prevention of SGBV reduces the number of SGBV incidents, lessen the stigma for SGBV survivors and increase awareness of where to seek assistance.

The ZTVA model comprises of different components aimed at mobilizing communities to prevent SGBV, including community dialogues to introduce and promote ownership of the model, the establishment of a Stakeholder

Forum with representatives of community structures, churches, schools businesses etc, the development of a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the criteria for the village's induction into the Zero Tolerance Village Alliance, the mapping of partnerships that can enhance SGBV service provision and awareness raising, and training of the members of the Stakeholder Forum.

Once all the criteria have been met, a community function will be held and the men of the village will be invited to take a public pledge to proactively address the eradication of sexual and gender-based violence, in their village. Those who take the pledge will be asked to sign a Roll of Honour and will be given a ZTVA Badge of Honour to identify them as men who have taken the pledge. If they subsequently breach the pledge, they can be publicly removed from the Roll by the Stakeholder Forum as a means of "naming and shaming". Community members who have "Broken the Silence" by reporting, acting or speaking out against any form of abuse or violence during implementation will be recognised at the ceremony, and awarded a Badge of Courage. At the pledge taking ceremony, the village will be given a large sign post declaring their status and name of the village. A small allowance should also be available for them to use in a way that will help build a sense of community, such as road signs, a bus shelter or a community notice board.

ROLL OUT IN ZAMBIA

During the autumn of 2019, the model was piloted in the refugee settlements at Meheba and Mantapala in Zambia. The modules on sexual assault, healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy, domestic violence, child abuse and HIV/AIDS will be rolled out during a nine-month period. The refugee blocks will constitute "villages" and the initiative will complement the ongoing initiatives with community workers who have been trained to identify SGBV survivors, counsel them and refer them to services.

An initial workshop was held in Meheba Refugee settlement on 1 October, 2019 for 29 participants representing the Office of the Commissioner for refugees, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, the Zambia Police, implementing partners and refugee community and another workshop was organized in Mantapala on The workshop in Mantapala was held on 4 October 2019 for 31 participants including UNHCR, the office of the Commissioner for Refugees, CARE International, UNICEF and other partners from both Government in-line ministries and NGOs. In December 2019, a follow up workshop was held to train the members of the Stakeholder Forum in Meheba. The programme has a built in monitoring and evaluation component.