SGBV-SWG
Impact of COVID 19 on Women and Girls: mitigating SGBV risks

March 2020
Impact of COVID 19 on women and girls

- **Key SRHR results:**
  - Maternal mortality; Teen pregnancy; Reproductive health services; Menstruation. Other secondary impact
- **Health care workers- formal and informal:**
  - 70% are women
- **Social norms and Care burden- formal and informal.** Although men, the elderly, and persons with compromised immune systems may at be greatest risk of fatality from COVID-19, the greater caregiving role that women and girls are expected to perform may expose them to other consequences.
Impact of COVID 19 on women and girls

Violence against women- self isolations risks
- Some evidence from China early trend analysis
- Risks- increase pressure over family, limited resources
- No distance and safety plan with perpetrator
- Male dominated environment/quarantine
- Online sexual harassment and abuse
- Reduced access to services: GBV, SRH and others PSS
- PSEA
- CEFM as secondary consequences of economic impact of crisis
Impact of COVID 19 on women and girls

- Presence, inclusion funding and policy

- **What is going to happen to WEE?** Women living in development or humanitarian settings may be employed in informal, low-wage activities that are highly prone to disruption during public health emergencies. Migrant workers situation

- **Communication and technology** – what are the best ways to reach women and looking at intersectionality? What basics tool are accessible? How can IT keep women safe when in isolation
- Strengthen self care for health and PSS providers
- Continue provision of life saving GBV services with other modalities
- Consult ask women at all level!
- Training of frontline workers
- Advocacy
How to mitigate GBV risks

- **Remote programming/service provision:**
  - **Shift from direct delivery modality to remote modality** such as; online counselling, telephone counselling, online or radio campaigns and online chats/peer support groups. Etc.

- **Revise GBV Referral Pathway:** reflect any changes in service provision like operation hours or access points.

- **Providing dignity kit pre-position**, including incorporating COVID-19 IEC materials and hotline information kit.

- **Localizing commodity and IEC production**
How to mitigate GBV risks

• Ensure quarantine facilities or spaces adhere to IASC GBV guidelines/risk mitigation results.
• Delivery of assistance may shift to cash or voucher. Ensure GBV risk mitigation by analyzing the impact. Engaging with GBV specialists.
• Ensure MHPSS and health services are available and staff are trained.
• Create guidelines on safe operations and management WFS, CFS, safe shelters and spaces specific to COVID-19.
How to mitigate GBV risks

- **Communication and community engagement:**
- **Domestic violence:** check if hotline are still operational.
- **Communication should be adapted to women and girls.** Language, trust.
- **Community engagement** with messages including DV, IPV, PSEA and life saving GBV messages in coordination with other sectors
- **IEC material** related to GBV prevention and services at COVID screening desks and incorporate protection trained staff.
- **Two – was communication channels** to get feedback
How to mitigate GBV risks

- Assessment and coordination with overall COVID – 19 response
- **Integrate protection staff** into COVID – 19 health response team
- **Integrate GBV risk questions** into COVID – 19 needs assessment
- **Advocate on behalf of women and girls** in the COVID – 19 response.
- **Assess the risks** in crowded places such as camps, ensure women engagement and coordinate with organization to mitigate risks.
- **Prioritization**: identify vulnerable groups.
How to mitigate GBV risks

• Capacity building and staff wellbeing
  • Remote trainings on PFA and GBV safe referral.
  • Train frontline health staff on safe referral.
  • Train GBV staff on responding to GBV
  • Increase the availability of remote staff wellbeing services.
The note provides practical support to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) practitioners to adapt GBV case management service delivery models quickly and ethically during the current COVID-19 pandemic.
Recourses:

- **GBV AOR:**
  [https://gbvaor.net/about-us](https://gbvaor.net/about-us)

- **GBV Guidelines:**

- **GBV AOR on Case Management:**
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SGBV interventions are life saving

Thanks for your support
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