

SGBV Strategy
Kakuma Refugee Camp
Kenya

Introduction

Refugees in Kakuma refugee camp are vulnerable to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) due to continued conflict in South Sudan coupled with the protracted nature of their stay in the camp. The camp hosts 145,223 refugees, with 46% of this population being women and girls. Women, girls, as well as men and boys face increased risks and multiple forms of violence as a result of conflict and displacement, including forced and early marriage, sexual violence including sexual abuse and exploitation and domestic violence. During displacement these risks may be increased.

UNHCR and partners implementing SGBV prevention and response programmes in Kakuma refugee camp envision an expansion of the scope of their work and interventions that will provide long-term sustainable programmes for both refugees and the host community. This will be achieved through the guidance of the SGBV global strategy, with cross cutting references to the Education and Child protection strategy, which are localized to Kakuma refugee camp to enhance close collaboration in service provision, data collection, information sharing, as well as efficient and effective inter-agency referral mechanisms.

Guiding Principles

UNHCR action towards SGBV is guided by the following principles:

- **Gender Equality:** Designing and implementing programmes and interventions aimed at promoting gender equality so that women, men, girls and boys have equal access to opportunities and services and enjoyment of their rights.
- **Human Rights Based Approach:** Ensure that all actions are guided and based upon key human rights principles, in particular full enjoyment of human rights for women, girls, men and boys, including the right to be protected against SGBV. This also requires that culturally appropriate and acceptable services are available, accessible and affordable for all SGBV survivors.
- **Survivor-centred approach:** Ensuring that the interest and wishes of the survivor are fully respected and prioritizing the rights, dignity, wishes, choices, needs and safety of survivors in the design and implementation of prevention and response interventions.
- **Equity:** Promoting an inclusive and non-discriminatory approach to the protection of refugees, irrespective of their nationality, race, religion, political views, and sexual orientation, social or other status and place of residence.
- **Family and Community-based Protection:** Engaging with the community-based protection networks to understand gender power relations and dynamics better to prevent and respond to SGBV; and promoting the direct involvement of refugee women, girls, men and boys in decision-making processes that concern their protection.
- **Best interests of the child:** If the survivor is a child, the best interest principles should be used to inform decisions about what type of care and support is provided
- **Confidentiality:** Adhering to confidentiality guidelines when UNHCR and partners work with SGBV survivors, that is ensuring, that survivors and their families, witnesses, and information sources are protected.
- **Safety and security:** All actors will prioritize the safety of the survivor, family, witnesses and service providers at all times.

- **Do no Harm:** Conducting actions, procedures and programmes in a way that does not put the survivor at further risk of harm, especially as a result of unintended consequences.
- **Accountability:** All those involved in programmes targeting SGBV should be held accountable for their actions and for accomplishing agreed-upon tasks and responsibilities.
- **Complementarity:** Working in support of and complimenting efforts of states, communities, civil society and other actors in order to maximize the collective impact of our work.
- **Urgency:** Prioritization of providing an immediate response to the urgent needs of SGBV survivors, including medical needs, as well as ensuring that SGBV prevention and response are established from the onset of any emergency.
- **Inclusivity:** Involving women, girls, men and boys, LGBTI persons of concern, persons with disabilities and others with specific backgrounds.
- **Social cohesion:** Designing and implementing programmes and interventions for the prevention and response to SGBV in a way in which social cohesion among refugee and impacted communities is promoted.

Strategic Objectives

Among the root causes of SGBV are gender inequality as a function of culture, discrimination and abuse of power. Preventing sexual and gender-based violence thus requires changes in gender relations and power dynamics within the family and community such as socially prescribed roles, responsibilities, expectations, limitations, and opportunities assigned to individuals based on their gender. UNHCR's age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach guides operations on how to contribute to gender equality, help eliminate gender-based discrimination, and empower women and girls.

The Kakuma response strategy has the following three strategic objectives that are in line with UNHCR's Global SGBV strategy, *Action against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence*:

Objective 1: More refugee women, girls, men and boys live in an environment in which SGBV risks are mitigated.

Through regular participatory assessments, UNHCR aims at having the needs and concerns of women, girls, men and boys understood and reflected in planning and programming processes for all sectors. UNHCR supports efforts to increase refugee women's representation in leadership and management structures, promotes enrolment and retention rates of girls and boys in school, and supports women, girls, men and boys to have equal access to and control over resources and opportunities. SGBV prevention as a cross-cutting issue is mainstreamed into programmes of all sectors to mitigate risks of violence that women, girls, men and boys might experience.

UNHCR and partners will develop a community-based prevention strategy that will:

- Create awareness and knowledge on gender equality and SGBV related issues, thus promoting positive change in attitude and practices of community members to prevent SGBV;
- Empower women and girls by offering literacy and vocational programmes, support them in engaging in self-reliance projects, ensure their representation and decision making in all programmatic activities, and promote girls education and retention in schools;
- Engaging men and boys as not only perpetrators but as survivors of SGBV and agents of change. As a prevention approach, this will include establishing and supporting groups of men who are committed to ending SGBV, and involving male religious and traditional leaders in processes that promote gender equality.
- Engage community members in the assessment, prioritization, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SGBV prevention programmes;

- Support community initiatives in SGBV prevention with active participation of women, girls, men, boys, youth; community leaders and faith leaders at individual, family and community level;
- Empower communities to support SGBV survivors, have zero tolerance for perpetrators, and tackle sensitive topics such as early marriage, survival sex, sexual violence and domestic violence;
- Identify new entry points to community-based SGBV prevention and provide effective tools such as art therapy, sports for change.
- Support efforts to raise awareness on reproductive health

Objective 2. More refugee women, girls, men and boys who experience or are at risk of SGBV receive quality multi-sectoral response

UNHCR and its partners provide multi-sectorial services to survivors of SGBV including health, psycho-social, protection and legal services through the following approaches:

- 1) **Engaging and empowering the community to identify and respond to SGBV cases.** UNHCR engages with community members including women, girls, men and boys to (1) promote positive attitudes towards survivors and avoid blaming survivors and reduce stigmatization like South Sudanese caseload who are coming to Kakuma for abortion in order to avoid having children out of wedlock; (2) develop community-based protection systems that respond to SGBV such as community safe housing; (3) create awareness with communities on urgency and importance of survivors receiving assistance, including by providing information on available services and how to access them within 72 hours.
- 2) **Identifying and Responding to the needs of male survivors of SGBV;** UNHCR will improve (1) Mapping of male populations at risk which may include young casual labourers, hotspot areas and cultural practices in Kakuma refugee camp will inform awareness creation among refugee community and share information on available services, which will complement overall response to SGBV. (2) The identification of male SGBV survivors (3) Designing appropriate specific response services to SGBV male survivors.
- 3) **Case management and specialized services.** UNHCR in collaboration with partners, in particular national government and NGOs, (1) enhances the provision of multi-sectorial services for survivors of SGBV through established case management protocols and the establishment of safe and confidential referral pathways, including survivor-centred, safe and confidential services (health including reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, protection, psychosocial, legal especially legal aid projects (2) render services safe, confidential, accessible, free or affordable and acceptable to women, girls, men, boys including people with diverse backgrounds survivors of SGBV such as elder women and men, women and men living with HIV/AIDS, women with disabilities, women involved in survival sex; (3) Child-sensitive SGBV services will be available taking into account the child's best interests as a primary consideration, and specific services, procedures and referral pathways will be maintained to respond to various forms of SGBV against children, including early/forced marriage, domestic and sexual violence.

Objective 3: Improved data and information management inform responses

UNHCR will work in partnership with government actors, civil society and UN actors to advocate for improved knowledge and data and greater resources needed to prevent and respond to SGBV. Comprehensive assessments on needs and responses of SGBV survivors including the specific needs

of boys, girls, adolescents and youth with the application of AGD approach will be undertaken at least once a year through inter-agency process and regular updates will be provided on new developments. Through a multi-sectoral approach and with data sharing agreements/ information sharing protocols (ISP), UNHCR seeks to harmonize existing information systems, including proGres, Education Management Information System (EMIS), Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) and Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) to capture categories of abuse and improve reporting mechanisms. UNHCR Kakuma also supports GBVIMS and cooperates with partners and communities to assess and identify and share good practices. The information will be analyzed regularly to inform programming, and advocacy so as to improve prevention and response to SGBV.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN FOR SGBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

UNHCR strategic approach to SGBV prevention and response in Kakuma addresses the following specific areas of concern:

- **Domestic violence.** Domestic violence is one of the most reported form of gender-based violence in Kakuma refugee camp. Economic strife and change in gender roles, which are brought about as a result of displacement, lead to high stress levels in the refugee community. This results in higher incidents of domestic violence. UNHCR and partners will address this issue by (1) engaging community members to reduce acceptance and use of domestic violence through awareness raising interventions, including community dialogues, awareness raising activities on SGBV at schools and with parents; (2) supporting the family and community-based protection structures in identification and response to domestic violence, including provision of information about available services; (3) reducing the socio-economic vulnerability of women and families by enrolling them in vocational training, life skills training and adult literacy classes; and (4) providing coordinated multi-sectorial services for survivors of domestic violence including health, protection, legal and psychosocial services.
- **Early and Forced marriage.** UNHCR's intervention encompasses prevention, identification and response. In Kakuma refugee camp and within the host community, early marriage is widely practiced as it is supported by cultural practices. Lack of livelihood opportunities, poverty and other existing problems allow this practice to thrive in the general community. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Kenya Children's Act (2001) prohibit early and forced marriages. In Kakuma, UNHCR and partners will advocate for stricter implementation of the existing policies discouraging this practice through awareness creation, providing access to legal counselling (understanding reproductive health, legal and other consequences for the girl/boy, children and families) and provision of multi-sectorial case management services.
- **Survival Sex.** Based on the information on survival sex from the recent 2017 Participatory Assessment conducted in Kakuma refugee camp, the main cause is reported to be the levels of poverty linked to the lack of basic needs and services, particularly the levels in food rations and bamba chakula, and lack of other employment opportunities. Teenage girls/boys are reported to mainly be interested in "luxury" goods (lotions, soaps, earrings). UNHCR in partnership with agencies and relevant stakeholders will address negative coping mechanisms including survival sex by (1) identifying women, girls, men and boys as well as female headed households at risk of survival sex or sexual exploitation, to address their protection and assistance needs; (2) supporting interventions to enhance self-reliance opportunities including, enrolling them in primary and secondary schools, vocational and life skills training, and adult literacy classes ; (3) identifying and addressing possible gaps in delivery of assistance to mitigate risks of survival sex

and other negative coping mechanisms; (4) raising awareness of refugees regarding their rights, available protection and assistance, and the long-term medical, personal and social consequences of negative coping mechanisms.

- **Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.** Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) poses a serious risk Kakuma refugee camp. UNHCR will (1) establish effective confidential complaint mechanisms to allow refugees to report (2) refer survivors of exploitation and abuse to appropriate specialized procedures and services including asylum procedures, as well as, health, legal, protection/security and psychosocial services and provide protection against possible retaliations (3) raise awareness amongst communities on rights and entitlements (4) prevent SEA through training and raising awareness among staff, developing and implementing codes of conduct; (5) advocate for setting up appropriate response systems including investigation procedures; (6) Strengthen management and coordination through inter-agency coordination mechanisms and setting up appropriate monitoring mechanisms
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).** FGM is a form of gender-based violence with severe harm, both mental and physical consequences on girls and women. The Anti-FGM law 2011 in Kenya recognizes all forms of FGM as they violate a range of human rights of girls and women, including the right to non-discrimination, to protection from physical and mental violence, to the highest attainable standard of health, and, in the most extreme cases, to the right to life. Some refugee communities in Kakuma camp are known to practice FGM. UNHCR in collaboration with government and other stakeholders' will; (1) work closely with National Anti-FGM board for awareness creation activities in Kakuma camp. (2) Awareness raising on reproductive health rights and negative consequences of FGM among communities including parents to change the attitude towards this negative practice; (3) effective response to protection needs after case by case analysis.
- **Persons with specific protection needs.** The risks and various forms of SGBV that LGBTI/SOGI, persons with disabilities and children experience require special attention.

For LGBTI/SOGI refugees, UNHCR will focus particularly on (1) training UNHCR staff, government officers, partners and service providers on protection issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity; (2) raising awareness and promote interventions to prevent social stigma, discrimination and SGBV against LGBTI/SOGI persons by their families and communities; (3) supporting implementation of the *UNHCR Guidance Note on Working with LGBTI Persons in Forced Displacement and SOGI principles*.

With respect to *refugees with disabilities*, this group remains the most vulnerable population as targets of gender-based violence. Through AGDM participatory assessments, targeted programming on prevention and response of persons with disabilities will include: (1) raising awareness among UNHCR staff, partners and communities of particular SGBV risks these refugees may face; (2) supporting them to participate in designing and implementing interventions to prevent and respond to SGBV; (3) promoting their safe access to information, protection services community meetings and complaint mechanisms and (4) supporting their access to quality and specialized services.

Response to *SGBV that children face* may include (1) advocacy for an appropriate legal and policy framework designed to protect children from SGBV; (2) access to specialised protection services and documentation, including birth registration; (3) promotion of education programmes aiming at increased retention of girls and boys in schools; (4) support to girls' empowerment through life skills programmes; (5) reduction of the socio-economic vulnerability of families; and (6) child-sensitive

multi-sectorial services for child survivors of SGBV. This will require strong linkages with Education and Child protection strategies.

Strategic Approaches

To achieve the Kakuma SGBV objectives, UNHCR will focus on the following strategic approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships

The SGBV Working Group (WG) is responsible for coordination between SGBV partners, service providers, government authorities and institutions, and other relevant stakeholders. This strategy will prioritize improvement of effective coordination between actors and strategic advocacy through a multi-sectoral approach guided by standard operating procedures. UNHCR will work towards more sustainable partnerships with key government actors as primary partners in SGBV prevention and response. Collaboration with other key stakeholders including donors will continue to maximize effectiveness and cost-efficiency through complimentary intervention mechanisms, interagency standards and tools, capacity development, joint programming, implementation and common advocacy.

Linkages between SGBV, Education, Children Protection and Livelihood Strategies

SGBV mainstreaming in the Education, Child and Livelihood thematic areas is essential and can only fully be effective together to ensure protection and other service delivery to SGBV survivors in the Kakuma camp.

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