RELAY!

Gender-based Violence Challenge Workbook

This workbook will be your guide to showcase your work to respond, prevent, and understand gender-based violence (GBV) in the country-specific context. The workbook is separated by country and into country-identified GBV issues:

**EGYPT**  SEXUAL HARASSMENT
**IRAQ**  UNEQUAL ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES
**JORDAN**  EARLY MARRIAGE
**NORTH SYRIA**  DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
**TURKEY**  SERVICE AND AWARENESS

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**Workbook Guideline**

To prepare your application for submission, please consider the following sections of this instructional workbook:

- Use the **context** section to get a general idea of the country context and the specific understanding of GBV as CARE staff in that Country Office define it.
- The **personal story** section displays each country’s needs and an understanding of GBV through their defined and most vulnerable population. This is a scenario and is representative and not biographical.
- The **challenge** section is a summarized version of what we are asking you to respond to and demonstrate your effective work addressing in this GBV context.
- The **consider** section are questions to help prompt and guide you towards more thorough responses to the specific Country Office’s needs.
**Context**

As of June 2017, over 220,000 asylum seekers and refugees are registered with UNHCR Egypt including more than 125,000 Syrians and 75,000 Africans. One of the main threats to refugee women and children, especially girls, in Egypt is gender-based violence (GBV), with specific regards to sexual harassment. In 2015, 1.7 million women in Egypt suffered from sexual harassment in public transportation, which hinders women’s mobility and infringes on their access to public spaces.

Women and girls in refugee communities in Egypt are even more susceptible to GBV, on the basis of their vulnerabilities (limited awareness of GBV, low social and economic status, etc.). Through CARE’s case management unit that responds to refugee GBV survivors, it has been indicated that 69% of clients who have received the service since January 2017 have been subjected to sexual harassment/assault or rape (96% of these women are Africans, wherein 4% are Syrians/Iraqis). 61% of these incidents have been carried out by other refugees, whilst the other 39% are by Egyptian perpetrators especially tok tok, microbus, and taxi drivers.

**Sawan’s Story**

Sawan has been living in Egypt with her three children since 2008 after she escaped from Darfur, Sudan. Her husband was killed in Sudan and she is the sole financial provider for her children. In April 2017, she was sexually assaulted while on her way home from her job as domestic worker. It was 9.30pm when a taxi driver stopped next to her and asked her where she was heading. Upon her reply “to the 10th District, Nasr City,” he informed her that he also lived there and headed in that direction, and would charge her only 10 EGP to get home. Yet the driver took her to an uninhabited area where he forced himself on her. Since being sexually assaulted, Sawan is unable to sleep and is scared to leave her home. She has quit her job and struggles financially. She wasn’t able to pay her rent for two months and was therefore, together with her children, evicted from their apartment. She was able to stay with a friend but is in dire need of housing assistance. Her children do not go to school anymore because she is unable to cover the transportation fees. Sawan and her children are in urgent need of protection, including an economic opportunity for Sawan to gain a stable income and provide for her children.

**The Challenge**

Sexual and gender-based violence is rooted in unequal power relations between men and women. Egyptian and African patriarchal societies and culturally pre-determined gender roles act as a catalyst to GBV. The Egyptian society generally considers African women as weak and inferior. Additionally, in Egypt street sexual harassment is commonly perpetrated by men and frequently experienced by urban women. According to a UN Women survey from 2018, more than 60 percent of men reported ever having sexually harassed a woman or girl, and a similar proportion of women reported such unwanted attentions. While Egypt's laws criminalize sexual harassment and assault, the law is often not enforced, and behavior and cultural perceptions have yet to shift.

**Consider**

- How might we apply a preventative holistic model on sexual harassment that empowers women to realize their own aspirations and capabilities whilst engaging men as advocates for change?
- What can we implement to help alter expectations about how women and men are perceived, and about how men and women identify their own value and worth?
- How can we create programming to integration and collaboration between Egyptians and African refugees towards achieving a common goal, considering that African refugees are often discriminated against in Egypt?
- What programs can we use to facilitate a dialogue and create a channel of communication between perpetrators and victims?
- How can our staff better monitor places where most sexual harassment incidents occur and establish safety audits there?
- How can we employ different techniques and methods so that women GBV survivors can be empowered and supported to seek physical and psycho-social help and access justice?

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Sawan
35-year-old
Sudanese
Context

Women and girls are very vulnerable to different types of gender-based violence (GBV) in Iraq. Wars and conflicts expose women and girls to GBV more because it affects their education, livelihoods, economic growth, mental health; and sexual violence is used as a weapon by ISIS, and other armed groups, in war. Denial of resources, early marriage, and physical abuse is most common amongst women, 15-50 years of age. Lack of access of opportunities based on culture (women can’t do every job: men do not want women to leave the house) and most are not financially independent (husbands create financially neglect) and are not educated, which limits employments.

The main types of gender-based violence are physical abuse and denial of resources and opportunities towards women and girls. In general, the root causes of GBV are related to lack of education, male dominated and conservative societies, male-control of finances leading to women and girls dependence, power imbalance and gender inequality between males and females. Women and girls have limited freedom of movement and participation in decision-making and males are the primary decision-makers. This vulnerable group suffers a lot in silence, must keep it to themselves in their own heart and are not comfortable reporting it even within their own family. The reason why they afraid to speak up and take a required legal procedures is because they depend on men economically (they are twice more illiterate than men so, they have less job opportunities as well as females roles and responsibilities are defined by society and culture i.e. housework and children) and they will bring shame to their families if they take their issues outside home.

Consider

- How might we create improved youth and gender empowerment programs that provide women and girls with more job opportunities, further education, and challenge gender norms?
- How might we engage men and boys in conversations about women rights?
- How might we encourage GBV survivors to speak up for their rights by addressing barriers, such as, GBV survivors’ feelings that they are bringing shame to their family?
- What can we do to pave the way for all girls to access education without experiencing barriers of discrimination based on their gender?

Fatima’s Story

Fatima is Yezidi with Kurdish ethnicity, and speaks Kurdish and Arabic languages. She and her family are settled in a tent shelter in a town known as Shingal in Nineveh province in Iraq. They suffer from poor economic state after being displaced to the Kurdish region of Iraq, and depend heavily on humanitarian aid and a pension they receive every other month. Their family situations is worse because they have lost everything fleeing the war, children in the family are deprived from schools, and they have little to no livelihood opportunities. Leisure activities are also lacking, and they spend a lot of time sitting under tents day and night.

Fatima’s life in her tent is miserable and she, and her entire family, suffer from PTSD due to witnessing the horrible atrocities of war, specifically relatives, friends and colleagues that were killed in front of their eyes. As a girl, Fatima also suffersers from the pressures of daily life as her duties and responsibilities are doubled, as she is solely responsible for doing unpaid household work i.e. cooking, cleaning, washing, taking care for children, etc.
Context

There are over 660,000 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, with an estimated 1.3 million in total having fled from Syria into Jordan. Women and girls, often the most vulnerable group within an already dire population, face particular challenges in a refugee context including: increased early marriage (34% among Syrians in Jordan and 14% among host community, UNICEF, 2014), distress and depression due to uncertainty about the future, fear for family members back in Syria and lack of livelihood opportunities; increased sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) including high levels of intimate partner violence, and often have to work in exploitative work environments. While early marriage was practiced in Syrian communities (particularly in rural areas) prior to the crisis and mass-displacement, this cultural and traditional practice has been exacerbated by the crisis. In CARE Jordan’s most recent urban assessment¹, it was particularly noted that Syrian refugee families continued to seek to marry off their daughters at a relatively early age to both Syrian and Jordanian men to reduce the financial and protection burdens of the family. This practice is compounded by the tendency to send children to the informal labor market to provide for the family’s basic needs.

Hiba’s Story

Hiba, a Syrian girl of 17 years old, lives in the urban center of Amman. She currently lives with approximately 5 other people in their household, with at least 2 of the household members being non-family related. It is very likely that they have already been forced to move or evicted from a previous home in Jordan twice before. Other family members have concerns around creating social fragmentation given the relative “disempowerment” of men and boys given the impact of the Syrian crisis. There is additional stress and pressure placed on Hiba because of the lack of formal and informal work opportunities, and the strains on her ability to care for their families, as well as the psychosocial stress caused by the conflict and “homelessness.”

The Challenge

Early marriage and forced work in informal labor markets are resulting in less opportunities for girls and boys to gain a formal education. Currently, there is little community level cohesion or mechanism by which the rights and concerns of women and girls in a refugee context can be freely shared or addressed. Women and girls have little ability to have their voices and opinions heard, and need to have a forum that would enable them to gain the confidence, skills, and abilities to express their perspectives and concerns in a manner that will permit greater social cohesion rather than conflict.

Consider

- How might service-providers create and strengthen community led development of solutions to address issues around early marriage and negative coping mechanisms and outcomes, such as early departure of girls from schools?
- What are better methods to build upon the trust and confidence that urban refugees already have with CARE outreach services to determine how we can better support longer term community based resilience structures and systems as the Syrian crisis continues to extend, and Syrian refugees have longer term needs within the Jordanian context?
- Are there ways to explore or expand how we better optimize advocacy channels from a community-based perspective to enable Syrian refugee women and girls to have more of a voice and awareness about the policies effecting their futures?
- How can CARE better support and influence changes in social norms around the confusion between protection and sexual violence?
Context

Gender-based violence (GBV) in North Syria is mainly reported as domestic violence (physical assault, denial of resources and opportunities, emotional abuse) perpetuated by husbands and family members because of close quarters in the home. The prevalence of sexual harassment - and sexual violence - in public spaces has long-term and dire consequences for girls and women in the region. Women and girls in crises such as Syria face violence from inside their homes - particularly from their husbands and brother in laws, or other relatives - and violence in public spaces due to kidnapping, rape and sexual assault, including sexual harassment and exploitation. The fear of sexual harassment strongly affects women’s mobility, and hence their access to education, healthcare, humanitarian aid and other services, and generally their freedom of movement. The most common coping mechanism of Syrian women and girls affected by violence are, according to the 2018 GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) Whole of Syria report, non-disclosure, dress restrictions, running away, self-defense/carrying a weapon, child marriage, divorce, survival sex and relying on humanitarian assistance.

Haneen’s Story

Haneen is a Syrian girl who lives in an abandoned school in northern Syria that serves as collective center (CC) for internally displaced persons. She and her family were forced to evacuate from their home in rural Damascus and are now living in Idleb Governorate. There is only few activities for adolescent girls in this area, and her family only allows Haneen to visit girls-only spaces due to fear of sexual assault and harassment. The situation in the CC is tense and very challenging, particularly for women and girls due to overcrowding, lack of privacy and limited availability of adequate sanitation facilities such as latrines or bathing areas. The community in Idleb surrounding the CC is very conservative and adheres to strict gender roles; there is a prevalence of sexual harassment and cases of sexual assault and rape. When girls are assaulted, they suffer in silence; they cannot confide in their parents or other family members, as rape in this conservative community is “solved” through marriage or honour killings. Fear is an ever-present feeling.

The Challenge

Women and girls lack safe and secure spaces that can be easily identified by women and girls, including community centers, friendly health clinics etc. Additionally, a plethora of local, national and international NGOs work to prevent GBV through awareness-raising, infrastructure projects (such as improved lighting), capacity building, however the under reporting of GBV cases indicates a need to further support these initiatives and identify innovative ways to engage the Syrian community with approaches that are impactful. Reporting and disclosure is also reduced because of a lack of capacity due to inadequate funds and limited donor access to provide more staff. The current staff also has a great need to show current results in behavior change in relation to prevention/awareness, as they see this as pivotal in helping service-providers know what true impact looks like.

Consider

- How might we expand GBV prevention and women empowerment activities delivered through current safe spaces and mobile teams?
- How can we mainstream GBV prevention and response into the health sector, while also facilitating more GBV disclosure assistance and protocols?
- How might we design a behavior change reporting process so that we can determine impact?
- What are effective ways to create and integrate GBV prevention workshops amongst committees, local councils members, imans, and where possible through women and men organizations, to develop participatory prevention GBV strategies?


Submit your completed application form and supporting documents to: MENA.GenderBasedViolenceChallenge@care.org
Context
Gender-based violence (GBV) in Turkey looks most often like physical assault and denial of resources and opportunities. In Turkey, Refugees women and girls are not aware of the existing GBV services in their areas and/or don’t trust the local services, compounded by the fact that they don’t have sufficient legal documentations to access services. High levels of stigma and concerns of retaliation, discrimination among refugees women and girl survivors of GBV, hindering reporting of incident and access to services.

Mariam’s Story
Mariam is a Syrian refugee woman and a survivor of domestic violence. She has 5 children and lives in a public home in an urban community. Three of Mariam’s children have different vulnerabilities such as serious medical conditions with physical and mental disabilities. Currently, they do not have legal or proper documentation making finding a different home or work difficult. Mariam talks to local authorities but would like more help; she wants to improve her situation but does not know how or what to do.

Mariam is a vulnerable head of household. She has issues dealing with her past domestic violence, and worries about how her and children will survive or find better shelter. Mariam also worries about her children and getting them help for their medical issues.

The Challenge
Currently, there is not enough capacity by the local authorities/government and local NGOs to adopt effective strategies to prevent and respond to GBV. Staff who work with victims are often limited in specialized skills to handle GBV and the services themselves are limited. Another, main issue is that GBV systems and the related referral mechanism are not functioning well due to lack of awareness around standard operating procedure by the community members and staff.

Consider
• How might we build the capacity of staff and community members in order to promote sustainability of local prevention and response mechanisms?
• How can NGO staff address the harmful social norms that condone sexual violence, early and forced marriage, domestic violence?
• What type of strategies can we apply to ensure protection of service providers, empowering communities to create an enabling environment for incident reporting, response and prevention at community level?