



Workshop: Engaging Men and Boys in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) programming

13 & 14 May 2015

Kempinski Hotel, Amman

Background

In 2014 and in the first part of 2015, the SGBV Sub-Working Group (SWG) in Jordan implemented SGBV prevention and response activities – primarily focused on the needs of women and girls. Globally, research has shown that engaging men and boys in SGBV prevention activities is vital and effective so the SGBV SWG decided that this approach should be introduced in Jordan. Additionally, evidence has shown that male survivors of SGBV may face barriers to accessing services. As part of its 2015 work plan, the SGBV sub-working group seeks to strengthen coordination and develop capacity to engage with men and boys in SGBV prevention and include male survivors in SGBV response activities in Jordan. For this purpose, the SGBV SWG in Jordan organized the first workshop on “Engaging Men and Boys” in May 2015.

The percentage of boys and men reporting SGBV incidents is low¹, consistent with globally identified trends. The SGBV SWG also identified gaps in access to SGBV services for male survivors and a lack of prevention activities. SGBV prevention programming in humanitarian emergencies is lacking globally so there is also a need for capacity building within the sector to address these issues.

Based upon this analysis and discussions with SWG members, the Senior Gender Capacity Advisor and the Sector Gender Focal Points Network, the SGBV SWG identified engaging with men & boys as one of the priorities for 2015 and this is reflected in the 2015 SGBV SWG Work Plan as one of the specific objectives. For the SGBV SWG, it is important to ensure that SGBV service providers are aware of tools and strategies to effectively include and engage men and boys to:

- Deepen understanding about the importance of engaging men and boys in SGBV prevention work and meet the needs of male survivors in SGBV response;
- Share strategies and tools for inclusion of men and boys in SGBV response and prevention activities.
- Identify actions to enhance the engagement of men and boys in SGBV programming at organizational and working group levels.

Summary of the Workshop

In discussions about gender roles and cultural contexts, workshop participants discussed the following questions:

¹ Evidence for the need for this workshop comes from two primary sources: Regular sex and age disaggregated data collection and analysis of provision of services through the UNHCR Refugee Coordination Portal (ActivityInfo) and the GBVIMS End of Year Report 2014 including data from SGBV case management.

1. What are factors that contribute to sexual and gender-based violence committed by men?

- Negative gender roles learned from childhood that encourage unhealthy masculinity;
- Gender norms for men and boys that discourage open communication, particularly within the family and encourage violence as a form of acceptable masculine emotional expression;
- Childhood experiences of violence that can have psychosocial consequences that often go untreated;
- Changes of gender roles during displacement including lack of employment and livelihood opportunities that place stress on men in their traditional role as economic providers.

2. What are barriers to accessing services for male SGBV survivors?

- Lack of service provider awareness of male SGBV survivors' needs;
- SGBV programs designed for women and girls, who are the majority of the survivors, that cannot accommodate male survivors (for example women safe spaces that provide psychosocial support) or do not meet male survivors needs (for example a clinic where there is no expertise in treating male rape);
- Social stigmatization of male survivors who do seek assistance from community or service providers;
- Limited social spaces and programs to engage men and boys on awareness of the consequences of SGBV and of SGBV services or programs that promote positive gender norms.

3. Potential for engaging men and boys in SGBV prevention and responding to the needs of male survivors in the Jordan context

3.1 Developing common understanding of and platform for engagement of men and boys in SGBV Prevention

- Catalogue innovative approaches or models of SGBV prevention programming with men and boys based on findings from recent research and adapt if necessary for Jordanian context;
- Map organizations currently working with men and boys, including youth, child protection, community support committees, veterans and torture survivors' organizations² for potential development of partnerships with SGBV actors with whom to introduce SGBV prevention activities into programming;
- Examine current SGBV messaging in the community to ensure that men and boys are also reflected as agents of positive change and not only as potential perpetrators;
- Include men and boys in activity targets for prevention activities, such as awareness-raising campaigns, and training for refugees and asylum-seekers;
- Sensitize staff to better understanding gender equality concepts and how it impacts masculinity.

3.2 Build capacity of SGBV practitioners to respond to male survivors

- Integrate inclusion of male survivors into existing trainings on case management, service provision, and Standard Operating Procedures³;
- Ensure that service providers are trained to provide services for men and boys, not only women and girls;
- Ensure the application of the GBV Guiding Principles – particularly non-discrimination and impartiality in all SGBV programming;

² The focus is not on extensive mapping of everyone who works with men and boys but those who work on education, social and behavior change.

³ IRC's "Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors" and UNHCR's publication "Working with Men and Boy Survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Forced Displacement" are good resources.

- Improve understanding of ways to raise awareness with men and boys about male SGBV survivors, the importance of supporting and referring female survivors of SGBV, and engaging in SGBV prevention activities.

3.3 Improve access to existing SGBV services for men and boys

- Map existing agencies who provide services to men and boys in communities as potential referral partners;
- Assess any barriers to men and boys accessing existing SGBV services;
- If necessary, encourage gender diversity among SGBV staff (e.g. consider recruitment of males as staff and volunteers within some SGBV activities such as community outreach if this encourages male participation⁴);
- Strengthen the existing referral system to respond to male survivors and ensure information on SGBV services is available for men and boys as well as for women and girls;
- Review current SOPs⁵ to link SGBV actors and organizations currently working on community mobilization to promote referral for men and boys;
- Raise the awareness of staff on the need to provide services for men and boys, as well as women and girls.

4. How can we better understand what violence is happening to men and boys currently?

- Integrate questions that target men and boys' safety concerns into existing assessment tools (e.g. safety audits) and SGBV assessments;
- Analyse data and information collected through the GBVIMS and ActivityInfo (already disaggregated by sex and age) to see trends in violence against men and boys;

Final thoughts and suggestions

Engaging with men and boys in SGBV prevention and responding to the needs of male SGBV survivors is a cross-cutting issue that will require engaging with the Protection WG and its sub working groups (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support SWG and Child Protection SWG) as well as engagement with the Youth Task Force, the Education WG, and the LGBTI and Sector Gender Focal Points network at national and field level. It is essential that this work is grounded in promoting gender equality and addressing the root causes of SGBV.

Developing the expertise may be a challenge - this topic is still new and evidence of what works is still under development. Strengthening the partnerships between protection actors and other organizations (including at regional and/or global levels); looking to the community for advice and inputs; and starting with small, tangible pilots that are evaluated can facilitate learning and development. Engagement of men and boys is crucial to ensuring gender equality to prevent violence against women and girls.

Next steps

It was suggested that the SGBV SWG could appoint a focal point to work closely with the SGBV SWG coordinators, the Senior Gender Advisor and interested organizations to: lead the process of sharing information and action points from the workshop with the wider group for feedback; engage the SWG in a prioritization exercise to inform development of a work plan for the coming 6 months; and assist to carry out the work plan.

⁴ Studies have shown that male survivors often prefer female providers so the intention is to be able to offer a choice.

⁵ Review of the SOPs is planned to take place in the second half of 2015.