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# Addressing Gender based Violence (GBV) in Humanitarian Situations in the Asia and the Pacific Region

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# Overview

- Context
- Unpacking the terms
- Models of intervention
- Good practices
- Resources
- Q&A

# BACKGROUND: THREATS IN THE REGION



**Cyclones**



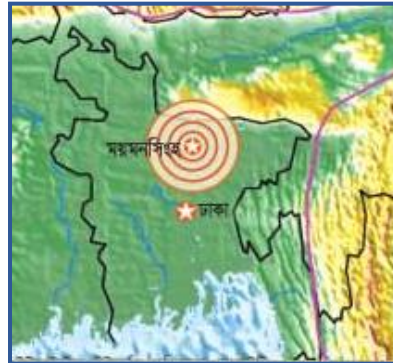
**Floods**



**Landslides**



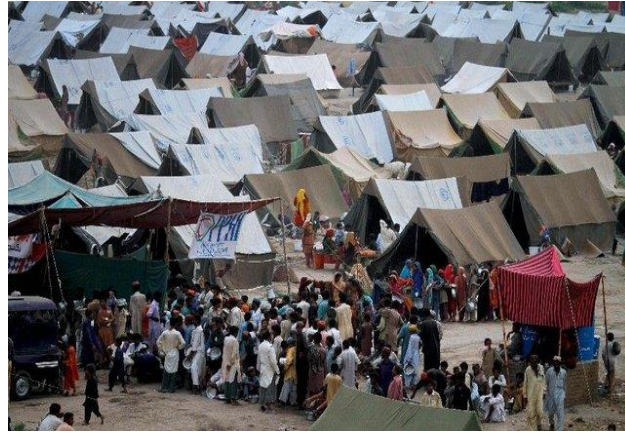
**Drought**



**Earthquakes**



**Conflict/Complex  
Emergencies**



**In humanitarian situations**

**Families and communities are separated**

**Mechanisms for protection and service delivery such as health, education, and police are disrupted**

**Community support systems and protection mechanisms break down**

# GENDER/GBV: SITUATION IN ASIA PACIFIC

- Deep rooted gender inequality
- Discriminatory socio-cultural norms and practices
- High rates of Violence Against Women/Gender Based Violence (worsens in times of disasters and conflicts)
- Harmful practices (pre-natal sex selection, child marriage, honor killing)

**World Vision study found that out of 25 countries with high rates of child marriage, majority are affected by conflicts and disasters**

**P4P report found that a quarter of men in Asia-Pacific admit to committing rape**

**UNFPA study showed that in the Pacific, approx 60-80% of all women reported experiencing physical or sexual violence**

# Humanitarian Situations are not Gender Blind

- Conflict and natural disasters have different impacts on women, girls, boys and men
- Women and girls are disproportionately affected
  - In Myanmar, 51% of women said they felt insecure when they left the camp in the Kachin conflict-affected areas
  - In Pakistan, following the 2011 floods, 52% of surveyed communities reported that privacy and safety of women and girls was a key concern
- In some armed conflict settings, sexual violence has been used as a strategic weapon of war/conflict
- Crises can provide opportunities to influence gender norms

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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# Gender-based Violence (GBV)



Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE)



# Defining GBV

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.

# Focus on Gender

- Social construction of difference:
  - Between men and women
  - Between different categories of men and of women (age, economic status, race, etc.)
- Subject to variations in time and space:
  - Gender order isn't fixed or inevitable (considers social change in response to events, trends and movements)
  - Neither men nor women can be said to have exclusive, essential characteristics
- Built on power relations:
  - Decision-making and political power
  - Access to and control over economic resources

# The Term “Gender-based Violence” ...

- Moves beyond describing the act to acknowledging its primary underpinning factor
- Promotes the inclusion of men, women, boys and girls in preventing and responding to GBV
- Encourages action to focus on the societal and relational contexts in which violence occurs

# How does GBV Manifest in Disasters?

## 1. Random

- By-product of the collapse in social and moral order
- Taking advantage of the lack of checks and balances, of the overall chaos of the situation

## 2. Opportunistic

- Means to an end
- Vulnerabilities exploited in the context of meeting basic needs

# How does GBV Manifest in Disasters?

## 3. Systematic

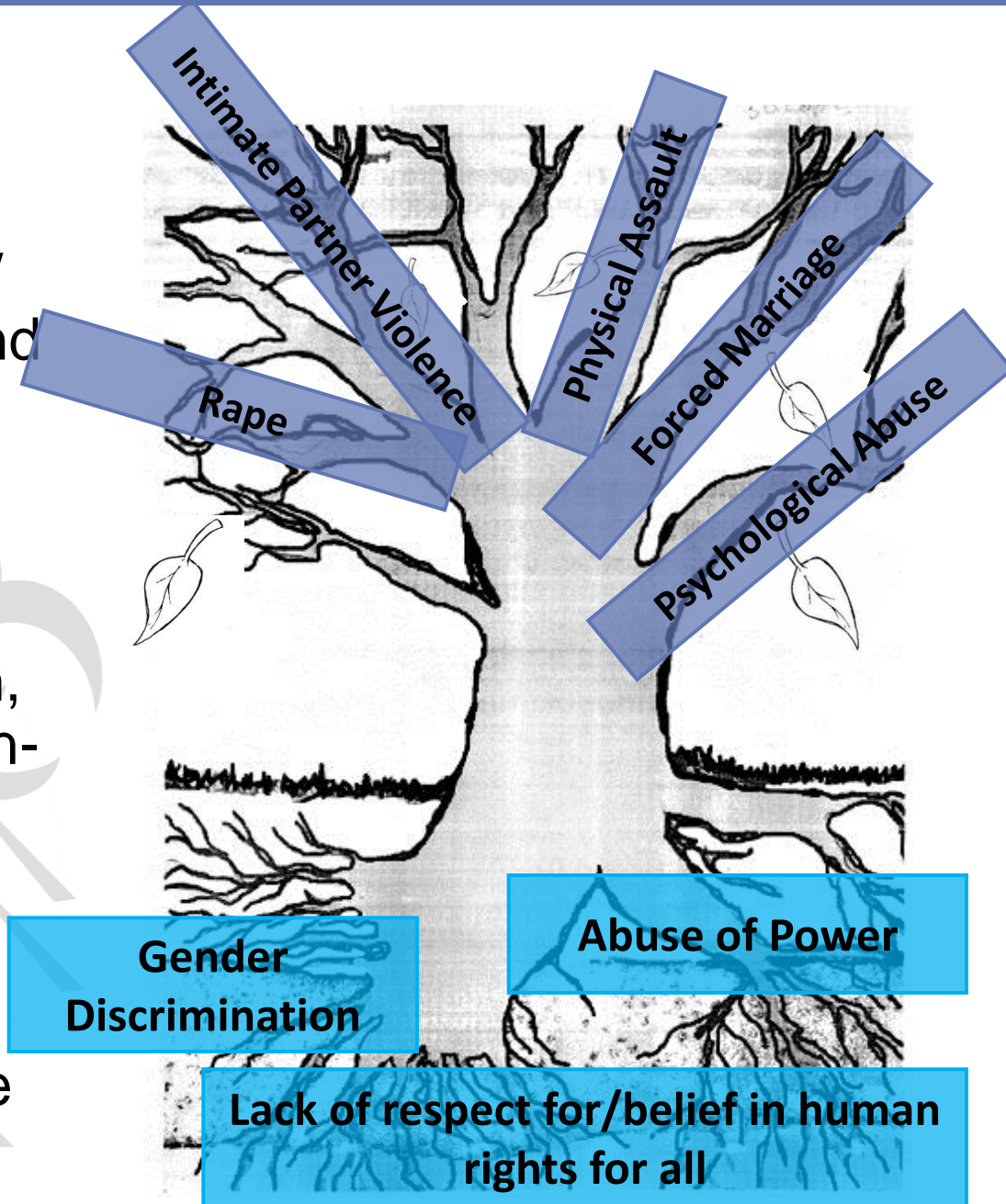
- Carried out to destabilize populations and destroy bonds
- Aim is often for maximum humiliation and shame for survivor and her family

## 4. Chronic

- Escalated levels of certain types of GBV during crisis remain acute (or even increase) in recovery/peacetime
- May be a brief perceived drop immediately post crisis as GBV moves more into the private sphere

# The GBV Tree

- Breakdown in community/ family support systems and family separation
- Changes in social norms/ social structures
- Institutions such as health, police broken down or non-existent
- Vulnerabilities of certain higher-risk groups
- Physical environment: site layout, local environment



**“GBV is a life-threatening protection issue primarily affecting women and children. All humanitarian actors have a responsibility to take action from the earliest stages of an emergency to prevent GBV and provide appropriate assistance to survivors”.**

***--IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, 2005--***

One case is too many..





# Addressing GBV in Disasters

# Addressing GBV requires a comprehensive approach

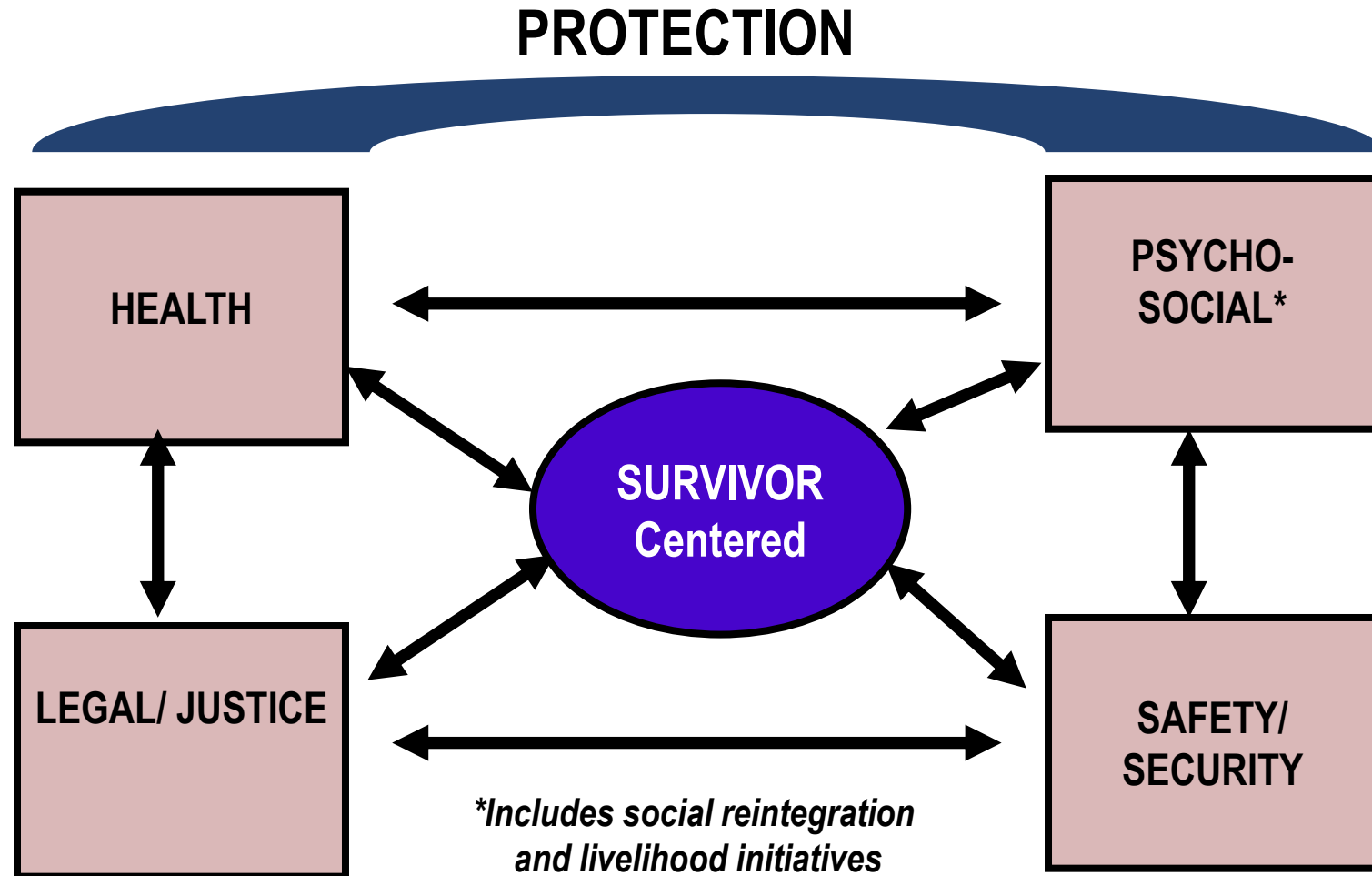
## PREVENTION

**Activities and actions that target the root causes and contributing factors of GBV**

## RESPONSE

**Actions and services that target the consequences of GBV**

# Referrals within the Multi-Sectoral Model

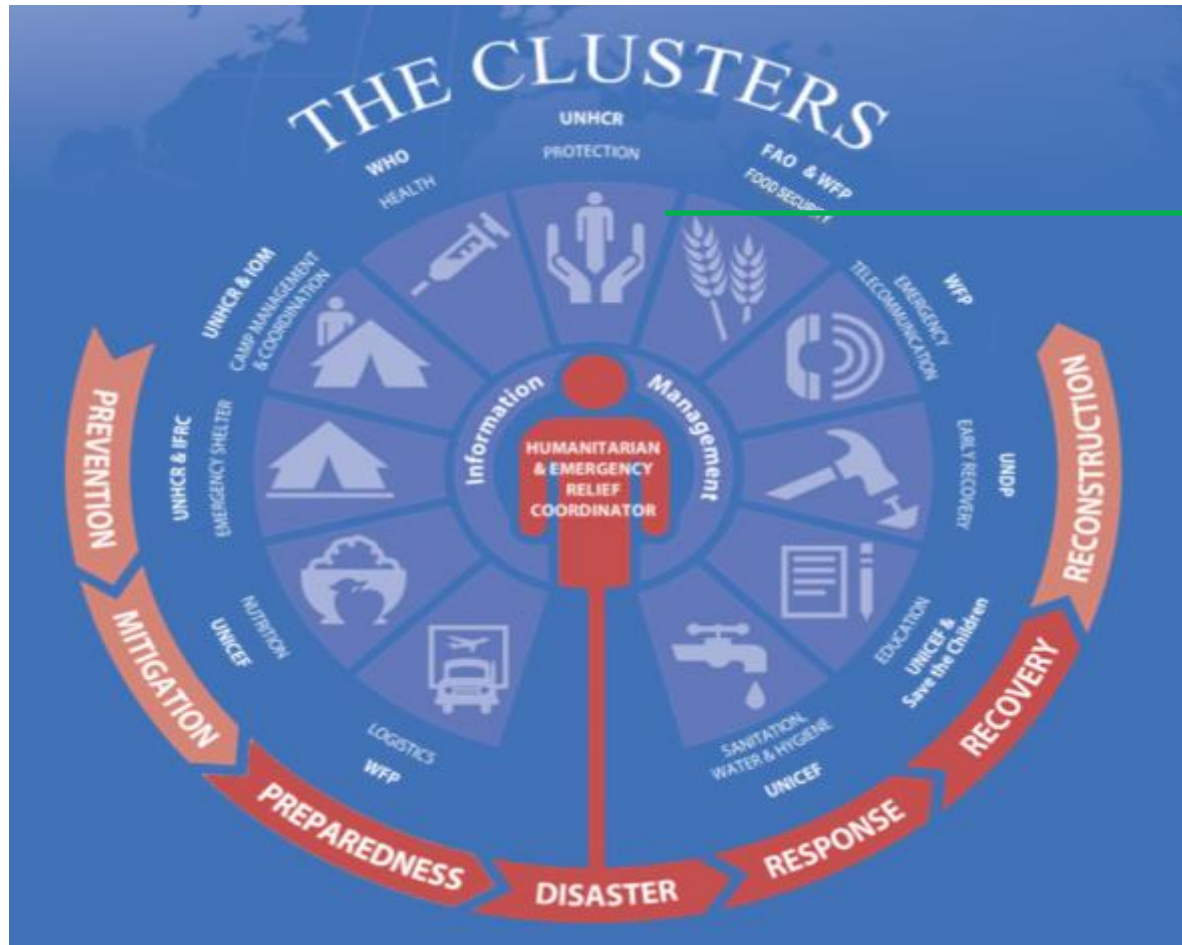


# GBV Guiding Principles

- ✓ Respect
  - ✓ Confidentiality
  - ✓ Safety & Security
  - ✓ Non-discrimination
- 
- How can we respect survivors? What are the links between the guiding principles?

# Models of Intervention

# ➤ Establish Multisectoral Coordination for GBV in Emergencies



GBV

# Existing GBV Coordination Mechanisms in Asia Pacific

- **Pakistan**
- **Afghanistan** (co-lead by AIHCR)
- **Nepal** (Chair by DoWC)
- **Myanmar**
- **Indonesia** (in process to co-lead by MoWE CP and MoSA)
- **Philippines** (Chair by DSWD)
- **Mongolia** (co-lead by center for VAW)
- **Pacific** (Regional in Suva and **Vanuatu** and **Solomon**)
- Sri Lanka (phased out in 2012)
- Bangladesh (informal coordination)
- Regional for Asia Pacific in Bangkok (IASC network)



# ➤ Set up Women Safe Spaces in areas of Displacement



# ➤ Distribute Dignity Kits for Women and Girls

## UNFPA DIGNITY KITS

### Nepal Earthquake

When disaster strikes, **UNFPA** ensures that the reproductive health needs and protection concerns of women and girls are integrated into emergency responses.

One of the ways in which UNFPA supports women and girls in the aftermath of natural disasters is by providing 'dignity kits'.



Maxi



Sweater



Shawl



Petticoat



Toothbrush &  
Toothpaste



Comb



Underwear



Towel



Sari/Dhoti



Reusable  
sanitary napkin



Bath soap



Cloth  
washing soap



Nail cutter



Flashlight  
with batteries

- Establishing multisectoral referral mechanisms for GBV
- Conduct assessments and monitor the protection situation
- Developing/ Re-establishing documenting and reporting systems
- Train service providers such as Health care providers on clinical management of rape and provide post-rape kits, and police and security sector on GBV and protection
- Developing alliances with other sectors to mainstream gender and GBV adequately

# Gender & GBV mainstreaming

# Toilet arrangement



# Fire wood collection



# Water and sanitation



# Camp Management





# Food distribution



# Group Exercise

- You are in the midst of a major flood response and initial assessments show that women and girls are an increasing risks of abuse given they lack adequate shelter, sanitation facilities, and many single female headed households are unable to access food distribution. Other reports highlight that due to absence of female doctors and distant location of medical facilities, many women are not accessing medical facilities.
- The technical advisor from your country office has agreed to meet with you, but he/she is very busy with the response so only has 5 minutes to talk to you.
- Using as reference the sector checklist, define what are the three key priorities for that sector to adequately integrate gender and GBV

# Group Exercise

- Using as reference the sector checklist, define what are the three key priorities for that sector to adequately integrate gender and GBV.
- Role play with the person next to you, one acting as the technical advisor and the other as the gender & diversity focal point. (5 mins)

# Country Examples: *Good practices and Challenges*

# Philippines Typhoon Haiyan



# Video: Surviving Haiyan: A Celebration of Women's Resilience

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOW3Z\\_lobj0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOW3Z_lobj0)

# Nepal Earthquake



# Regional Challenges and Opportunities



# Challenges

Limited capacity of services and systems to address GBV, particularly in humanitarian crisis

Sensitivity, at community and government level, particularly in conflicts

Natural disasters with ongoing population movement, limiting follow up of GBV survivors

Pre-existing gender inequalities and prevalence of GBV

Limited prioritization of GBV in the humanitarian agenda, specially at the onset of the disaster

# Opportunities

Greater engagement of government in disaster management

Strong women's networks and national organisations

Existing agenda on Gender equality, primarily related to development

Regional processes such as Beijing +20 review, CEDAW, WPS, DRR

Existing lessons learned on models to address GBV, tools and mechanisms in the region and global practices

# Resources

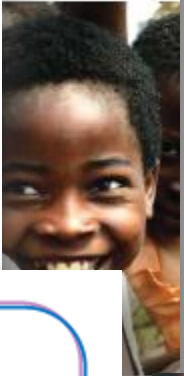
IASC  
IASC Guidelines  
on Mental Health and  
Psychosocial Support  
in Emergency Settings

Guidelines  
for Gender-based Violence Interventions  
in Humanitarian Settings  
Focusing on Prevention of and Response to  
Sexual Violence in Emergencies

Gender-based Violence Resource Tools  
supporting implementation of the  
Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings:  
Focusing on Prevention of and Response to  
Sexual Violence in Emergencies  
IASC 2008

Handbook  
for Coordinating Gender-based Violence  
Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

Gender-based Violence Tools Manual  
For Assessment &  
Program Design,  
Monitoring & Evaluation  
in conflict affected settings



Establishing  
Gender-based Violence  
Standard Operating Procedures  
(SOPs)  
for multisectoral and inter-  
organisational prevention and response  
to gender-based violence  
in humanitarian settings

WHO Ethical and safety  
recommendations for researching,  
documenting and monitoring sexual  
violence in emergencies

Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Response  
to Gender-Based Violence  
In Humanitarian Settings  
**CURRICULUM GUIDE**  
1 - 12 November 2010  
Ghent, Belgium

GBV Emergency Response & Preparedness  
**PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

Managing Gender-based  
Violence Programmes in  
Emergencies  
Training Course  
Participant Handbook  
Pilot Version  
May 2012

Managing  
Gender-based  
Violence  
Programmes  
in Emergencies  
E-LEARNING COMPANION GUIDE

Clinical Management  
of Rape Survivors  
Developing protocols for use with refugees  
and internally displaced persons  
Revised edition

Caring for Survivors of  
Sexual Violence in  
Emergencies  
Training Guide



Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against  
Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons  
Guidelines for Prevention and Response

GBV  
IMS

[www.gbvaor.net](http://www.gbvaor.net)

# Q&A



For more information:  
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