



Gender-Based Violence

Emerging Issues in Programs Serving Displaced Populations

Beth Vann

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Displaced Populations*

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GBV Global Technical Support Project

JSI Research and Training Institute
on behalf of the
Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium

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The Global GBV Technical Support Project provides technical assistance and training to UN agencies, international and national nongovernmental organizations, host governments, and displaced communities. The project seeks to strengthen prevention and response to gender-based violence by facilitating the development of effective program strategies with populations affected by armed conflict. It is led by JSI Research and Training Institute in collaboration with the Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium. The activities are financed by the United States Department of State under the authority of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended.

The Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium (RHRC), formed in 1995, works to increase access to a range of quality, voluntary reproductive health services for populations affected by armed conflict. Each member brings unique strengths; collaboration has provided RHRC with numerous multidisciplinary skills and technical capabilities, as well as a broad field base. The members of the RHRC are the American Refugee Committee, CARE, Columbia University's Heilbrunn Center for Population and Family Health, International Rescue Committee, JSI Research and Training Institute, Marie Stopes International, and Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

JSI Research and Training Institute is an affiliate of John Snow, Incorporated and provides a range of research and consulting services in the health care and service sectors. JSI, whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of people around the world, has worked in more than 80 countries. Its headquarters are in Boston, Massachusetts; other U.S. offices are in Washington, D.C., Concord, New Hampshire, and Denver, Colorado. JSI also maintains offices in more than 20 countries throughout the developing world.

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PREFACE

Acronyms are both the shorthand and the lifeblood of the international community, and gender-based violence programs are certainly no exception. The terms—and abbreviations—that we use for the issues we address change over time as we revise our understanding of these concerns.

In the early years, we in the international community were addressing *sexual violence* through *victims of violence* programs in refugee settings. Over time, we realized the importance of recognizing and highlighting the strength and resilience of victims of violence. Before long, we were calling them “survivors.” The word “victim” connotes powerlessness and stigma, the very outcomes that all projects are trying to prevent. Projects formerly known as VOV became projects for *survivors of violence*.

SV, VOV

SOV

Along the way, we realized that SV was too narrow a term because it did not cover issues of domestic violence, various harmful traditional practices, and other related problems. At the same time, we were discovering a new language that included gender equality, gender equity, gender mainstreaming, and gender in development. Thus, SV became *sexual and gender-based violence*.

SGBV

Meanwhile, WHO was studying *violence against women* and UNFPA was writing about *gender-based violence*.

VAW, GBV

In 2001, members of the RHRC were debating the use of SGBV. The term was deemed redundant and confusing because it implies that sexual violence is not gender-based violence, and vice versa. The group agreed that, in fact, sexual violence is one form of gender-based violence, not separate. The consortium therefore decided that SGBV would henceforth be known as GBV.

As of this writing, the UNHCR uses SGBV, WHO has VAW, and UNFPA uses GBV.

In early 2002, when a scandal broke in West Africa concerning sexual exploitation of young refugee females at the hands of workers in humanitarian organizations, some organizations attempted to establish the term, *sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation*. The use of SGBVE demonstrates a disconnect—a mistaken belief that somehow sexual exploitation is not a form of sexual and gender-based violence. The SGBVE term was mostly short-lived, but it provides a perfect example of how little is truly understood about what we mean when we say SGBV or SGBVE or GBV or VAW.

SGBVE

This publication uses the term GBV. We believe the term clearly and simply frames the central issues of gender underlying all forms of violence that GBV programs seek to address. In framing these as gender issues, GBV programs therefore must include women, men, girls, and boys—and address societal issues of gender, equality, and power. Additional considerations relevant to individual settings, such as age, ethnicity, education, and socio-economic status are also included by implication.

This book is a compendium of key lessons learned during my five years working with GBV programs in 12 countries;* it is designed to be read and used by staff and volunteers who work to protect displaced populations—from high level policymakers to field-based workers. I hope the issues, observations, and challenges identified here and the ideas presented will not only add to the collective knowledge on GBV but also motivate humanitarian aid organizations to strengthen their collaborative efforts to prevent and respond to GBV.

*Angola, Bosnia (Serb Republic), Eritrea, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Zambia.

Part 1, Emerging Standards, describes the evolution of GBV programs serving populations affected by armed conflict. Chapter 2 is a brief description of the current recommended model for integrating GBV prevention and response into the work of all humanitarian actors. Chapter 3 describes the most common challenges to GBV prevention and response efforts, and outlines solutions that are described further in other chapters. Chapter 4 is an analysis of the key challenges organizations face at policymaking levels as they attempt to integrate GBV action into their work; it includes recommendations for resolving those challenges.

Part 2, Common Issues, Practical Solutions, is an analysis of the seven most common problem areas for GBV programs in the field. Each chapter describes an issue, analyzes the reasons behind the difficulties, and offers suggestions for resolving these problem areas in programming.

Part 3, Varied Programs, Shared Challenges, contains summaries of the seven GBV programs that I visited most recently, and their needs for technical assistance. With its pending, fledgling, or established GBV program, each profile is a microcosm of the status of the approximately 13 comprehensive GBV programs around the world serving populations affected by armed conflict. Each profile briefly discusses the reason for the displaced population situation in that country, the GBV-related issues, and technical assistance that I provided during the field trips. The TA in each country emerged from a consultative and participatory process involving all stakeholders. In most cases, the interagency GBV team received technical assistance and training; often, this included facilitating program planning with the team. Most country teams developed specific plans for establishing and/or strengthening GBV programs.

Appendix A is a list of recommended resource materials relevant to GBV programming in populations affected by armed conflict.

Appendix B is a sample interagency procedure manual for GBV prevention and response. The manual, which can be revised and adapted for use in any setting, specifies the procedures and agreements for interagency coordination, collaboration, and communication. The first such manual was produced by the interagency GBV team in Tanzania in 2000. Since that time, it has been revised and is being considered for use in a number of countries. As with many components of GBV programs that serve displaced populations, the concept of a procedure manual is in its infancy. As interagency action is increasingly refined and understood over time, with ongoing program development and continuing lessons learned, tools such as this manual will evolve and change.

ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ARC	American Refugee Committee
BBC	Burma Border Consortium <i>or</i> British Broadcasting Corp.
BPRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (U.S. State Department)
CCSDPT	Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
COERR	Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees
CSI	Community Safety Initiative
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DV	domestic violence
FAWE	Forum of African Women Educationalists
FGM	female genital mutilation, also known as female genital cutting
GBV	gender-based violence
GBV TA	gender-based violence technical advisor or technical assistance
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	internally displaced person
IEC	information, education, and communication
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KWO	Karen Women’s Organization
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NUEW	National Union for Eritrean Women
NUEYS	National Union for Eritrean Youth and Students
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PLA	participatory learning and action
PRA	participatory rural/rapid appraisal
RH	reproductive health
RCH	reproductive and children’s health
RHRC	Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium
RTG	Royal Thai Government
RUF	Revolutionary United Front (Sierra Leone)
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SLA	Sierra Leone Army
SOV	survivor of violence

STI	sexually transmitted infection, also called sexually transmitted disease
SV	sexual violence
TA	technical advisor; technical assistance
TBA	traditional birth attendant
TOT	trainer of trainers, training of trainers
TSZ	temporary security zone (Eritrea-Ethiopia border area)
UAC	unaccompanied child(ren)
UN	United Nations
UNAMSIL	UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone
UNDP	UN Development Program
UNDPKO	UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNOCHA	UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VAW	violence against women
VOV	victim of violence
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

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