



# Poverty and Violence

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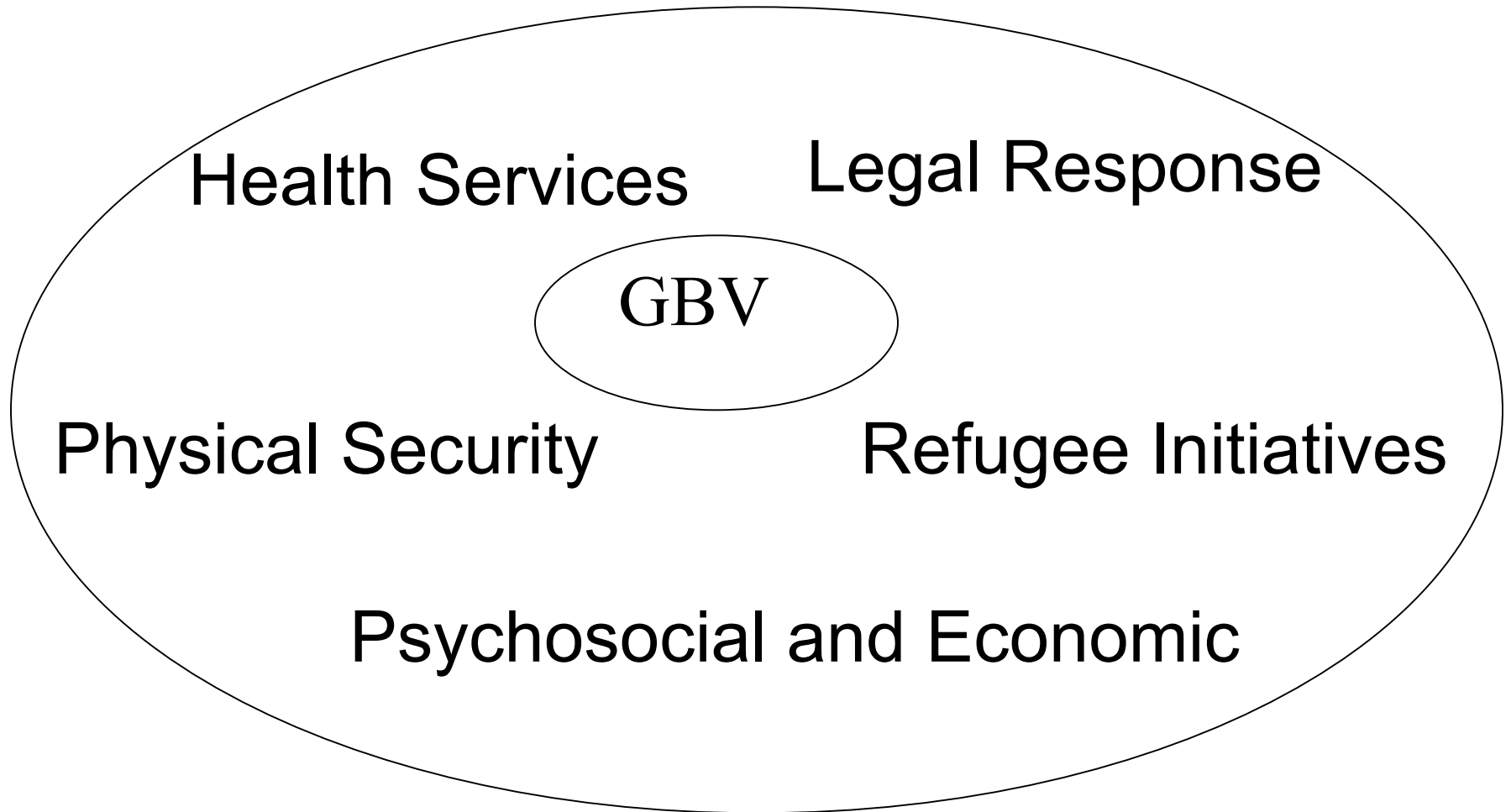
*CARE Kenya, Refugee Assistance Project*

# *Dadaab camps in Kenya*



- Dadaab camps (3) in Garissa District, North Eastern Province since 1991
- Refugee population: 133,266 persons
- 98% Somali, a small number of Sudanese, Eritreans, Ugandans and Ethiopians

# GBV Prevention and Response Framework



# ***Poverty and Violence***

- Poverty: Scarce resources, hard times, harsh environment
- Violence: Forcefulness, hostility and violent behaviour, (mental & emotional abuse, physical, sexual)
- Refugee setting can reverse men's and women's roles
- Limited resources can expose women to increased violence

# **GBV PROGRAMME**

- **Women Victims of Violence program in 1993**
- **Prevention & response activities**
  - Legal assistance
  - security actions
  - health services
  - community services
  - refugee-led awareness programs

# ***Background***

## **1998 GBV assessment:**

- 70% of GBV incidents occurred outside camps when women and girls went out to fetch firewood
- Women with little economic security are vulnerable to GBV
- Somali refugee women strongly recommended economic recovery programs for vulnerable women

# **Income Generating Activities Program for Women**

Income Generating Activities (IGA) started in 1999 through Ted Turner Fund

- Part of an integrated program addressing prevention and response to GBV
- Targeting vulnerable women: widows, GBV survivors, divorcees, disabled and women in special circumstances

# Project intervention

- In 4 years, loan program disbursed \$105,205 ( Ksh 8,206,000)
- 1,895 women (379 groups) benefitted
- As of Sept. 03, repayment rate of loans was 83%

# Project Impact

IGA project beneficiaries were found to be:

- More economically secure (able to buy basic necessities)
- More physically secure
- Less fatigued
- Women's confidence and morale improved

# Feedback from Project Beneficiaries

## *Single Mother with 5 daughters:*

- Before program, fetched firewood & grass for sale, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m
- Can now provide food and clothing for her girls
- She has realized the importance of education and has enrolled daughters in school
- Confident that her daughters' future is bright

# Feedback from Project Beneficiaries

- ***Single mother of 4 children:***
  - Quit firewood fetching after joining project
  - Sells foodstuff at market
  - Now capable of accessing credit from shop owners

# Conclusion

- In camp context, poverty makes women and girls more susceptible to violence
- Micro-credit programs targeting refugee women can be successful both in terms of loan repayment and improving women's economic and physical security
- Economic empowerment should be seen as one of the key strategies in addressing GBV
- IGA projects for women should be prioritised for funding