



## Latest GBV in Emergencies Research, Evidence and Learning Research, Learning and Evidence - Spotlight on Adolescent Girls

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### Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Experiences of Risk and Resilience (September 2018)

This research paper produced by Plan International draws directly on the voices and experiences of girls affected by three major humanitarian crises: South Sudan, the Lake Chad Basin and the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. The research used mixed-methods with an emphasis on qualitative research, as well as a quantitative household survey with adolescent girls. The approach placed the voices of adolescent girls at the centre of the methodology, creating a safe space for them to speak about their lives.

The research found that girls are living in constant fear of violence, not only of armed men but also of abuse within families, including early, child and forced marriage. Girls everywhere express a passionate desire to go to school, though fear keeps them at home, and even when they can venture outside, there are shortages of schools and training centres where they can go. Girls' health and wellbeing are suffering, as they lack proper nutrition, have little or no access to information about sexual and reproductive health, and have restricted access to mental health services. Girls' inability to influence and control the decisions that affect their lives is detrimental to their mental health.

Following these findings, Plan International recommends: (i) scaling up efforts to tackle gender-based violence inside and outside the home; (ii) facilitating girls' access to educational opportunities; (iii) improving the provision of adolescent girl-friendly health information and services and mental health support; and (iv) increasing girls' participation in decision-making processes within the family and community settings.

### Violence against Adolescent Girls: Trends and Lessons for East Africa (December, 2018)

This report produced by the Global Women's Institute, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee and CARE, explores the unique experience of adolescent girls by examining the types and drivers of gender-based violence affecting them within the context of high levels of gender inequality in South Sudan. Data was collected through a mixed-methods study in five locations. Quantitative data focused on adolescent girls residing in the Juba Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites and the town of Rumbek. Qualitative data was collected

from Bentiu PoCs, Juba City, Juba County, Juba PoCs and Rumbek and used to supplement the quantitative data, where a total number of 2,244 women and girls were interviewed.

The research found that adolescent girls experience high levels of violence perpetrated by South Sudanese males. Over 20% of research respondents (15-18 years) had experienced an incident of non-partner sexual violence. Exposure to armed conflict was found to be a major driver of male-perpetrated violence against adolescent girls. A respondent's odds of experiencing non-partner sexual violence were three to seven times higher if her village or community had been attacked. Conflict-related sexual violence helps entrench patriarchal practices such as restrictions on girls' movement, as families feel the need to protect their daughters from the risk of harm. When girls do experience sexual violence, they may report such incidents to family members, such as their mothers. They are unlikely, however, to access formal services - particularly police, medical and legal responses - due to fears that confidentiality will be breached, and the girl will be stigmatized and the loss of virginity will lower the prospects for marriage.

The report recommends more funding be made available and channeled into programmes that specifically target adolescent girls and respond to their rights and needs following acts of sexual violence, including confidential care and support from health, psychosocial and legal/justice providers. The report also recommends more investment is made in social norms programming which targets patriarchal attitudes and practices and encourages community-wide behaviour change, particularly among those who exercise power over adolescent girls (e.g. brothers, fathers and husbands). This is to reduce stigma if girls are subject to acts of sexual violence, ease restrictions on their freedom of movement, and target harmful traditional practices such as early, child and forced marriage.

### **Young Persons with Disabilities: Global Study on Ending Gender – Based Violence and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (July 2018)**

This qualitative global research study analyses discrimination and gender-based violence affecting young people with disabilities, including how these impact on their sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). It provides an assessment of legal, policy and programming developments, referencing good practices in service delivery and prevention and protection measures. In its section on humanitarian crises and fragile contexts, the report describes how young persons with disabilities are at a disproportionate risk of GBV and sexual exploitation in conflict and post-conflict environments and in the aftermath of natural disasters, and reiterates the obligations of states and humanitarian actors to protect the rights of persons with disabilities during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises. The report also draws attention to new resources that are being developed to support the recognition and inclusion of young people with disabilities in GBV prevention and response and SRHR programming in emergencies.

## **Practical Tools and Resources**

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### **Girl Shine (2018)**

The International Rescue Committee has published Girl Shine – a programming model and resource package that seeks to support, protect, and empower adolescent girls in humanitarian settings. The goal of Girl Shine is to reduce the risk of violence for adolescent

girls and provide them with the skills and assets needed to ensure their wellbeing as they transition to adulthood. It is based on the latest global research on the experiences of adolescent girls facing emergencies, research on what works to reduce girls' exposure to violence and promote better health and social outcomes, and builds on previous GBV interventions in the field. The resource pack is presented in four parts: (i) Designing Girl Driven Programming for Adolescent Girls in Humanitarian Settings; (ii) Girl Shine Life Skills Curriculum; (iii) Girl Shine Family Curriculum; and (iv) Girl Shine Training Package.

### [Toolkit for Optimizing Cash-based Interventions for Protection from Gender-based Violence \(2018\)](#)

The Women's Refugee Commission, together with the International Rescue Committee and Mercy Corps, have created a toolkit to support practitioners to utilize cash within GBV case management services. The toolkit assists practitioners to collect information on the risks facing the affected population through an age, gender and diversity lens, identify existing community-based or self-protection mechanisms, use this information to inform the design of protective cash-based interventions, and monitor risk.

### [GBV Case Management Outcome Monitoring Toolkit \(2018\)](#)

The International Rescue Committee, with financial support from DFID, ECHO and the Humanitarian Innovation Fund, have developed a toolkit to support GBV Case Managers to monitor and evaluate the impact of GBV Case Management services on psychological well-being and felt stigma. The toolkit comprises two questionnaires, (i) the Psychosocial Functionality Scale, a 10-item questionnaire which measures women and older adolescent girls' ability to carry out important tasks in their daily lives, and (ii) the Felt Stigma Scale, a 10-item questionnaire that measures women and older adolescent girls' both perceived and internalized experiences of stigma. The toolkit has been tested and validated for use with female survivors, 15 years old and over.

### [Feminist Pocketbook \(2018\)](#)

CoFEM has created a Feminist Pocketbook to support practitioners, researchers and others working in humanitarian and development settings to incorporate feminist approaches to addressing GBV in their work. The Pocketbook consists of 10 'tip sheets' on critical topics related to addressing GBV through a feminist lens in humanitarian and development settings.

## [Policy and Advocacy Developments](#)

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Joint UN Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (November, 2018) – To commemorate this year's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a joint statement was issued by the Heads of the UN agencies, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UN WOMEN, calling for solidarity with survivors and survivor advocates and women's human rights defenders who are working to prevent and end violence against women and girls. [You can read the statement here.](#)

Joint UN-AU Statement on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan (December, 2018) – The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ambassador Smaïl Chergui, and United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director for UN Women,

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, released a statement on the spike in sexual violence in South Sudan. In the statement, they express their horror at the rape and torture of an estimated 150 women and girls near Bentiu in South Sudan. Given that these recent attacks took place in Government controlled areas, the three urged President Salva Kiir and his senior leadership to expedite efforts to prevent such violence, including through immediate justice and accountability measures. [Learn more about the statement here.](#)

## **GBV AoR News – New Helpdesk Service**

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We are pleased to announce the establishment of the GBV AoR Helpdesk, a technical research, analysis, and advice service for humanitarian practitioners working on GBV prevention and response in emergencies at the global, regional and country level. Managed by Social Development Direct, the Helpdesk is staffed by a global roster of GBV experts ready to provide the following technical support:

\* **Rapid Programme Support:** We provide rapid programme support where we match you with technical experts who can advise you on the tools and information you need to assess GBV issues in emergencies and develop effective GBV prevention and response programmes capable of securing funding from donors. Support can be communicated through phone, Skype, and email.

\* **Rapid Research, Analysis and Advice Support:** We can conduct rapid research to inform both yours and your organisations knowledge, understanding and approach to GBV in emergencies. Report formats can include literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, factsheets, blogs, mappings or graphics.

\* **A Quarterly Evidence Digest:** We produce a quarterly evidence digest which brings you the latest research, evidence and learning on GBV in emergencies. This public resource gives humanitarian staff at the global, regional and field level a manageable summary of global research, evidence, learning, policy news and updates and signposts them to practical tools and resources.

We also hope to promote the GBV AoR Helpdesk and its findings through the GBV Community of Practice, a valuable forum for GBV specialists.

You can contact the GBViE Helpdesk by emailing us: [enquiries@gbviehelpdesk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gbviehelpdesk.org.uk), and we will be in touch within 24 hours Monday – Friday to confirm next steps.

### **Contact the Helpdesk**

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[enquiries@gbviehelpdesk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gbviehelpdesk.org.uk), and we will respond to you within 24 hours during weekdays.

The GBViE Helpdesk is available 09.30- 17.30 GMT, Monday to Friday.