Sexual & Gender-Based Violence prevention, mitigation and response during natural disasters and crisis

A collaborative research project with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management Prevention and Mitigation Working Group

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Gender Based Violence (GBV)

“an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. (IASC Guidelines)

It includes, but is not limited to:

- sexual violence
- domestic violence
- trafficking for sexual exploitation or domestic slavery
- sexual harassment
- forced or early marriage
- harmful traditional practices
- gender-based discrimination (e.g. denial service access)
- forced prostitution;
Increased Risk of SGBV during disasters

Graph showing the increase in violence during disasters, with factors such as collapse of protective systems, increased individual and community stress, individuals relying on harmful coping mechanisms such as alcohol and drugs, crowded insecure environments, and pre-existing risks of violence.
Why is this research important?

- SGBV during disasters is under-researched
- A lack of research in middle-income countries which are regularly disaster affected
- Approach built capacity of local researchers, authorities and staff and raised awareness
- Evidence resulting in action to prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV
- Ultimately to ensure women, girls, men and boys are safer in disasters
ASEAN GBV Research during disasters

Overall Purpose: To better understand how public authorities and humanitarian actors can prevent, mitigate and better respond to gender-based violence during and after disasters.

- Following Red Cross International Council Resolution 3 on SGBV prevention and response during disasters and other crisis
- In partnership with ASEAN Disaster Management Committee (ACDM) Working Group on Prevention and Mitigation
- Locally driven research process. Capacity building among Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in the Philippines, Indonesia and Lao PDR
- Results will feed into ASEAN regional social protection guidelines and multi-sectoral, community based programmes for GBV survivors in select data collection sites.
**Where and which disaster?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Data Collection Sites</th>
<th>Disaster and population description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>Aklan and Leyte</td>
<td>Large scale: Typhoon Haiyan (2013) – urban, rural, coastal / shelter and non-shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Aceh and Bima</td>
<td>Mid scale: Pidie Jaya earthquake and Bima floods (2016) – rural and urban, shelter and non-shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Oudomxay and Sekong</td>
<td>Small scale: Floods (2016) – rural and non-shelter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who participated?

- **1,779 disaster affected individuals** (846 men and 933 women) participated in the **household survey**

- **358 disaster affected individuals** (83 adult men, 93 adult women, 91 adolescent boys and 89 adolescent girls) participated in the **FGDs**

- **58 key informant interviews (KII)** across the health, legal, security, psycho-social and government department sectors were conducted.
What policy tools and theoretical models are being used?

- **Policy Tool**: Disaster law

- **Theoretical Model**: Gendered version of the Disaster Crunch Model. Disasters only occur when hazards impact upon a vulnerable group of people. Vulnerability has three stages of progression: Root Causes / Dynamic Pressures / Unsafe Conditions – Importance of analysing social processes.

- **DISASTER RISK = HAZARD X VULNERABILITY**
### Philippines – Select Research Results

#### Household Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety and Security in Shelters after Typhoon Haiyan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N=528</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with individuals you did not know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many people living with you in the shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single mothers in the shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>21%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>60%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>20%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Single mothers living together with individuals who are not their family</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Separate living area for single mothers and children in shelter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>38%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separate toilets for men and women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locks on the toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you use these toilets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enough lights in your shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>46%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>82%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>91%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>56%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safe space for women and children in the shelter</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>66%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Indonesia – Select Research Results

#### Household Survey

#### Safety and security in shelters in Aceh and Bima

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N=453</th>
<th>Live with people you did not know</th>
<th>Too many people living in the shelter</th>
<th>Single mothers in shelter</th>
<th>Single mothers and children living with individuals they do not know</th>
<th>Single mothers and children living in separate area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yes</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Separate toilets for men and women</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
<td></td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Select Research Results
Household Survey

- Respondent hearing someone had sustained injuries from domestic violence after the disaster
- Respondents hearing someone has been raped after the disaster
- Trafficking
- Sexual Harassment
- Domestic Violence
- Early Marriage

Respondents hearing someone has been raped after the disaster:
- Respondent: 5%
- Domestic Violence: 25%
- Early Marriage: 45%

Respondents hearing someone has sustained injuries from domestic violence after the disaster:
- Respondent: 10%
- Domestic Violence: 35%
- Early Marriage: 50%
Emergent themes:

- The increase in sexual harassment in temporary shelters
- The importance of well-designed livelihoods interventions
- The dependence on village level dispute resolution mechanisms
Focus Group Discussions

“The violence increased because of the lack of safety and surveillance [after the disaster]. It started to get worse after 2 weeks” said an adolescent, male participant in Oudomxay.

Adolescent girls emphasised that livelihoods trainings are needed to prevent and decrease SGBV. They also spoke about having proper toilets with locks and early warning systems which reach all community members during the onset of floods.
Philippines – Select Research Results
Key Informant Interviews

- The lack of separate spaces for women and men, separate toilets and bad lighting in evacuation centres

- The need for child protection committee, GBV prevention awareness in schools.

- The need to better understand and incorporate preparedness, response and recovery for the LGBTQ+ community.

- The need to train and build stronger referral pathways at the barangay level and to ensure that the VAWC desks are permanently there.
What has the impact of data collection been?

Safer and more accountable emergency operations
Lao Dam Collapse
Lombok earthquake
Population Movement Operation (Cox’s Bazar)

Bridge between recovery and development
Operational Guidelines on GBV Prevention and Response (Philippines)
Stronger Psycho-social support services for survivors (Indonesia)
Child Protection after Lombok earthquake
Safe shelters for families (Lao Dam Collapse)
What is Red Cross Red Crescent doing following the research?

- Implement IFRC Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) in emergency operations
- Roll-out SGBV training for staff and volunteers
- Coordinate with local authorities including to integrate SGBV prevention and response into disaster law
- Work with authorities and other actors to strengthen safe and confidential referral pathways (Philippines); psycho-social support to survivors (Indonesia)
What can authorities and humanitarian actors do to prevent, mitigate & respond to SGBV in disasters?

- **National level**: integrate SGBV prevention and response into national disaster law and disasters preparedness and planning
- Collect, analyse and **USE** sex, age, disability disaggregated data on safety concerns
- strengthen coordination and preparedness measures between government and humanitarian organisations and across sectors (i.e. protection & shelter clusters)

- **Local/community level**: ensure **safe** evacuation centres
- involve at risk-groups in protection assessments and disaster preparedness and response planning;
- establish referral pathways and strengthen legal, health and psycho-social support to ensure that survivors of violence can access safe and confidential support services.