Mainstreaming GBV Prevention & Risk Mitigation

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In line with commitments to the global Call to Action on Protection Against Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, and in accordance with the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action (2015), IOM has been working to improve GBV prevention and risk mitigation in emergency response operations worldwide.

IOM’s efforts are geared to the needs of front-line field staff, who have a responsibility to mitigate GBV risks and need to respond safely and ethically to GBV incidents, particularly where there are no specialized services or referral pathways. The interventions are designed to reduce vulnerabilities to GBV at the onset of emergencies, by building the capacity of field practitioners to anticipate, recognize and address GBV risks, providing direct technical support and developing innovative tools, resources and guidance. Since 2014, over 1,000 staff and partners in more than 20 countries have been trained.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system regularly captures, processes and disseminates multi-layered information on the mobility, locations, profiles and needs of displaced populations throughout the course of a crisis. In recent years, IOM, in coordination with GBV, Child Protection (CP) and Counter Trafficking (CT) experts, has developed critical protection risk indicators that have been integrated into DTM assessments in 36 countries, as of September 2017. These indicators relate inter alia to GBV risks linked to site layout and infrastructure; women’s participation; knowledge about and availability of GBV services; unaccompanied and separated children; and proxy human trafficking indicators. These GBV, CP and CT risk indicators complement general DTM assessments, which provide sex and age disaggregated data, to provide a more holistic understanding of the protection environment in a given displacement site. The data collected is analyzed and shared with GBV, CP and CT responders, as well as other relevant service providers, to inform the development of evidence-based operational responses. In 2017, IOM expanded capacity building resources to design tools to facilitate the analysis and reporting of GBV-risk related data collected through the DTM. To this end, two joint workshops were held with the GBV AoR and its GBV Specialists; 17 DTM operations developed SOPs to support data exchange with Protection actors; and 275 DTM staff were trained in how to identify GBV-related risks; use referral pathways and support to keep them updated; GBV guiding principles and the survivor-centered approach; and deliver psychological first aid to women, girls and other at-risk groups. In 2018 the project will continue providing in-country and remote support to DTM operations to further enhance the collection and usage of GBV-risk related information.

CCCM RESPONSE

As the global cluster lead for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) for natural disaster-induced displacement, and as a significant Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) responder, IOM has strengthened coordination and operational collaboration with GBV specialized actors. CCCM operations aim to ensure equitable access to assistance, protection and services, improving quality of life and dignity during displacement. These sectorial responses, as well as the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) operations require direct engagement with crisis-affected populations and due to their daily presence in displacement sites, IOM staff often develop a relationship of trust with IDPs, and can therefore be a first point of call for people with critical protection concerns in need of assistance.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 169 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all.
Current GBV Mainstreaming Actions Worldwide

Building Capacity on GBV Prevention & Risk Mitigation

In addition to supporting the rollout of the IASC GBV Guidelines, experts from global support teams in Headquarters deploy to provide technical and coordination support to IOM field offices worldwide: 14 emergency operations received direct support to integrate or strengthen GBV prevention and risk mitigation actions in 2017. The deployments result in infrastructural site improvements in line with the GBV Guidelines; the establishment of women-friendly spaces; training, mentoring and on-the-job learning for IOM staff, partners and national authorities; the integration of GBV prevention and risk mitigation into emergency strategies, appeals and project proposals; increased coordination with and/or participation in and support for GBV sub-clusters; and support for national efforts to produce and disseminate GBV referral pathways and other information, education and communication materials. Seven Emergency Response Induction Training (ERIT) graduates deployed alongside technical experts, strengthening IOM’s institutional emergency response capacity and increasing the ERIT graduates’ capacity to independently support future emergency responses with a focus on GBV mainstreaming. Finally, the Global CCCM Cluster conducted two training-of-trainer workshops for nine target countries, with an emphasis on follow-up action plans to prevent and mitigate GBV risks in camp and camp-like settings.

Shelter and Settlement

IOM provides mentorships, workshops and formal trainings to support field staff to address shelter and settlement operational challenges and mainstream GBV prevention and risk mitigation, and has also developed practical guidance in partnership with CARE International UK on operationalizing GBV prevention and risk mitigation in shelter and settlement programs, including specifically on site planning, based on the IASC GBV Guidelines. In 2017, technical workshops on addressing GBV mainstreaming were held in Nigeria, the Philippines and Bangkok (regional Asia Pacific) for 82 people. In Nigeria and the Philippines, 100 per cent of follow-up survey respondents reported taking action to mitigate GBV risks that were identified in their operations during the workshops. A site planning and GBV video was also created; Shelter/NFI Distribution Guidelines and a Site Planning and GBV Toolkit were completed and a research paper on site density and health and protection risks, including risks of GBV.

Women’s Participation in Camp Governance Structures

Meaningful and inclusive participation in decision-making processes and camp governance structures is essential for good camp management and for ensuring that the needs, capacities and expectations of different groups are considered. Women’s participation in camp governance structures enables them to voice safety concerns and help identify risk mitigation responses. Together with the Women’s Refugee Commission, IOM has been exploring ways to increase women’s participation and to understand how such participation helps to reduce the risk of GBV.

Evidence-based pilot projects rolled out in 2016 in Nigeria, South Sudan, Iraq, Ecuador and the Philippines were pursued in 2017. Lessons learned from this initiative demonstrate the need for long-term, targeted efforts to shift social norms to enable greater opportunities and equality for women, as participants and leaders. Participation must be supported in informal as well as formal spaces and women should be supported to strengthen networks as well as skills. Specific attention must be given to the most marginalized—often adolescent girls and women with disabilities—to ensure they are included in all activities. Livelihoods are a critical enabler of participation and should be a central component of activities to improve women’s participation; men must be engaged from the outset in order to bolster women’s opportunities to challenge social norms and mitigate any potential domestic conflict. Going forward, IOM will support the systematic uptake of these lessons in CCCM operations globally.

Going forward

IOM’s efforts are not only strengthening the institutionalization of GBV mainstreaming in IOM but contributing to GBV prevention and risk mitigation across the humanitarian system; to ensure they are implemented systematically within the Organization, an institutional GBViE framework will be developed. IOM will continue to build the capacity of emergency response staff and partners through formal training, mentorship, on-the-job learning, in addition to rolling out and adapting innovative tools and guidance. IOM will also continue to strengthen coordination and operational collaboration with GBV specialists, to enhance the protection of displaced persons living in camp and camp-like settings.

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