



REDUCING RISKS SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES

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EXPERTS ON THE GROUND

Having experts on the ground at the right time is essential to ensure that SGBV is effectively addressed during displacement emergencies. UNHCR has recruited and deployed expert Senior Protection Officers (SGBV) with the U.S.-funded Safe from the Start initiative. These experts play a critical hands-on role to ensure that SGBV programming is prioritized and properly addressed from the outset of every emergency. They provide on-ground support for 6 months and implement multi-sectoral SGBV prevention and response programmes, such as:

- ↑ Increasing accessibility and quality of SGBV services
- ↑ Coordinating with partners to establish referral pathways and develop Standard Operating Procedures
- ↑ Training and mentoring UNHCR staff, partner organizations, government authorities and persons of concern on SGBV
- ↑ Engaging communities to address SGBV
- ↑ Integrating SGBV prevention and response across sectors
- ↑ Reinforcing SGBV coordination mechanisms

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153 months

of support from Senior Protection Officers (SGBV) to UNHCR operations

56% of operations

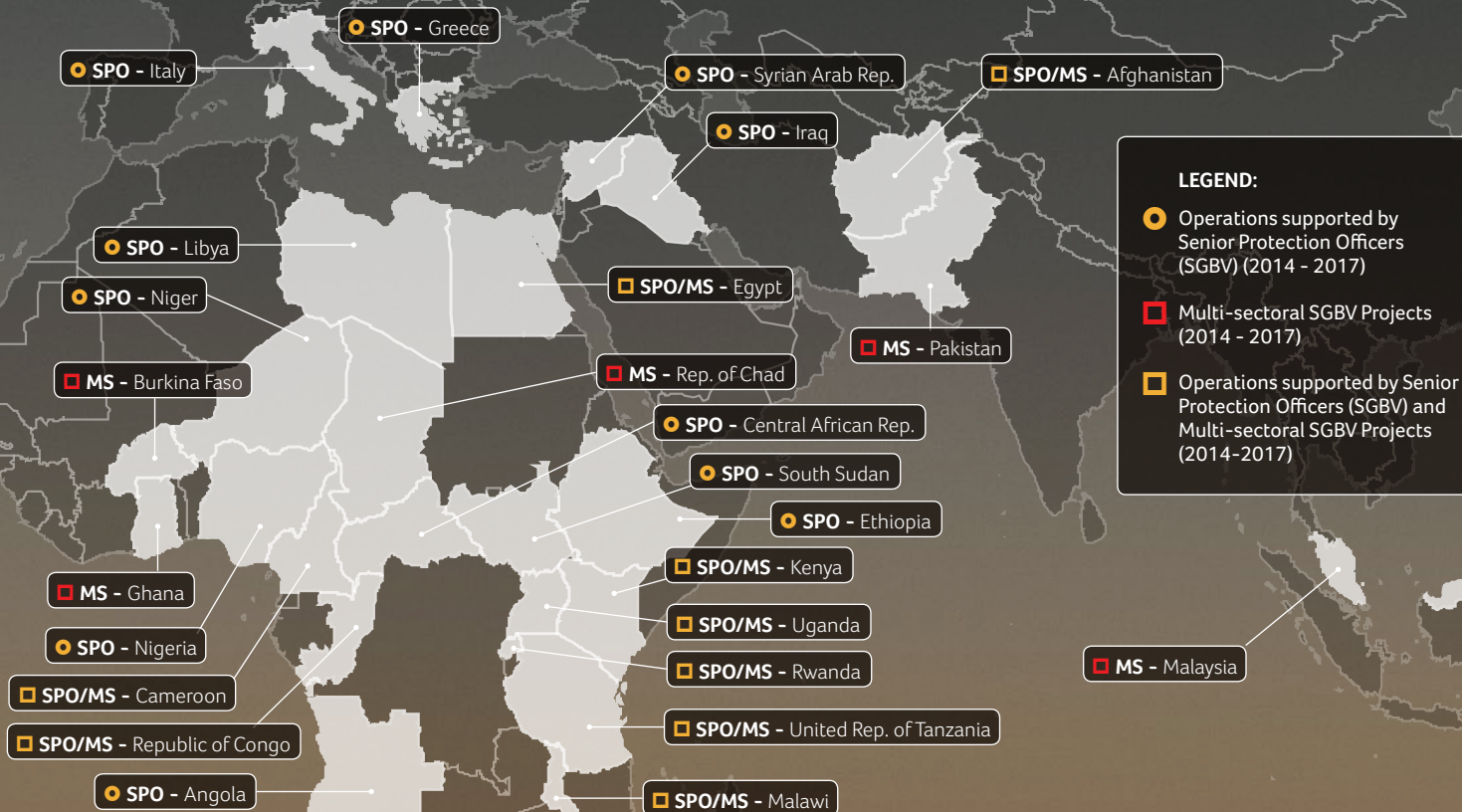
receiving a Senior Protection Officer (SGBV) have sustained that expertise following the 6-month deployment

20 operations

supported by a Safe from the Start Senior Protection Officer (SGBV) since 2014

2014-2017

OPERATIONS SUPPORTED BY SENIOR PROTECTION OFFICERS (SGBV) AND MULTI-SECTORAL SGBV PROJECTS



LEGEND:

- Operations supported by Senior Protection Officers (SGBV) (2014 - 2017)
- Multi-sectoral SGBV Projects (2014 - 2017)
- Operations supported by Senior Protection Officers (SGBV) and Multi-sectoral SGBV Projects (2014-2017)

600,000

Number of persons of concern reached through SGBV awareness campaigns to strengthen **community-based protection mechanisms**

485,000

Number of additional persons of concern reached through expanded SGBV-relevant **medical referral systems**

398,000

Number of additional persons of concern who have gained access to **mental health and psychosocial support**

10,160

Number of **person-hours of SGBV training** provided to UNHCR staff, partners, government authorities and persons of concern

22

Standard Operating Procedures established or reinforced in order to refer survivors to relevant service providers

10

Number of **new SGBV protection sub-working groups** established

5

Number of **interagency SGBV strategies** developed

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF EXPERTS ON THE GROUND

To measure the impact of the Senior Protection Officers (SGBV), UNHCR monitors the achievement of 48 essential actions, each of which contributes to SGBV prevention and response. In each country where a Senior Protection Officer is deployed, UNHCR collects data on the coverage and efficiency of each essential action at the beginning and end of the Senior Protection Officer's assignment.

In an evaluation of Senior Protection Officers' deployments from 2014–2016, UNHCR found that Senior Protection Officers more than doubled the coverage (30% to 61%) and efficiency (31% to 75%) of SGBV programming from the beginning to the end of their assignments, across the countries where they were deployed.

31[↑]75%

Increase of efficiency
of SGBV programming

30[↑]61%

Increase of coverage
of SGBV programming

USING EVIDENCE TO MAKE PROGRESS

THE RIGHT EVIDENCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR BETTER DECISION MAKING AND PROGRAMMING

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS AND SGBV OUTCOMES

UNHCR is expanding use of cash-based interventions to support persons of concern. UNHCR is researching the protection outcomes of providing survivors of SGBV and those at risk with cash transfers in Lebanon, Morocco and Ecuador. The research will feed into global UNHCR guidance and operational support on the use of cash to mitigate SGBV risks, and bolster SGBV prevention and response.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

Research aims to answer the following questions:

- ▶ Do cash interventions, as part of a holistic SGBV-protection programme, reduce the risk of SGBV?
- ▶ If so, what are the minimum features and complementary protection interventions necessary to promote prevention and response?

A CHILD PROTECTION INDEX TO MEASURE IMPACT

Developed in collaboration with the **Child Protection in Crisis Network**, researchers conducted field research on SGBV and child protection in Uganda and Rwanda between 2014 and 2016. The research expanded in collaboration with **Harvard University's François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights** in 2017 to include urban refugees in Zambia and Ecuador.

THE ALL SURVIVORS PROJECT

Launched in 2016 with the **University of California, Los Angeles**, the project aims to increase awareness and knowledge of SGBV perpetrated against men and boys as well as to increase their access to relevant services in armed conflict and forced displacement settings.

INTEGRATING SGBV ACROSS UNHCR PROGRAMS

Preventive and responsive programs are about reducing the risk of SGBV through multi-sectoral and innovative approaches. This therefore requires strategic partnerships, sustained action and, equally critical, strong community engagement. To find innovative multi-sectoral projects to mitigate SGBV, UNHCR crowd-sourced suggestions from partners, staff and refugees, and launched pilot projects based on the ideas generated.

COMMUNITY LIGHTING FOR PROTECTION

Solar lighting: Installation of solar lighting and the mobilization of refugee communities in Northern Uganda aim to prevent night-time sexual violence and crime, and enable refugees to use lights as communal and market spaces. The lights themselves – when combined with mobile charging stations – serve as a source of income, which is used to cover the cost of maintenance. To evaluate the pilot project, UNHCR conducted a household survey, which found that when refugees went to lit areas, they were less than one-fifth as likely to be victims of “bad” incidents, as those who went to unlit areas. Evidence gleaned from this evaluation will enable UNHCR to produce a field manual to guide operations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of future community lighting projects.

SAFE ACCESS TO COOKING ENERGY

Liquefied petroleum gas: In Tanzania, 3,199 refugee households were provided with liquefied petroleum gas and stoves to reduce exposure to SGBV during firewood collection. In the first 12 weeks, the proportion of households collecting firewood dropped from 95% to 11% among Congolese households and from 92% to 30% among Burundian households. As a result of this reduced need to collect firewood, women and girls were significantly less exposed to SGBV risk. Drawing on results and lessons learned from this initiative, UNHCR’s SGBV and Energy Units are exploring options for sustainable access to alternative fuel and jointly producing field guidance on developing and implementing protection-centered alternative energy projects.

PROJECT MODELS: Since 2014, UNHCR has implemented **15 cross-sectoral pilot projects in 14 countries:**

- ▶ Sustainable livelihoods (8 projects)
- ▶ Safe access to cooking energy (5 projects)
- ▶ Community lighting for protection (1 project)
- ▶ Safe access to technology (1 project)

Biomass briquettes: Production of biomass briquettes meets the domestic energy needs of refugees and reduces the need for firewood collection in dangerous locations. Livelihoods opportunities are also created when women's groups learn to produce and sell the briquettes. These projects are being implemented in Rwanda, Cameroon, Ghana and Chad.



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COMMUNITY-BASED SGBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Uganda: Over 200 refugee and host community youth formed theater groups, which performed skits to raise awareness of SGBV issues affecting the community, including intimate partner violence and child marriage. Group leaders were trained in forum theater, a form of presentation in which audience members participate both in the skit and discussion of the issue that the skit highlights. These group leaders trained additional youth, who formed their own groups.

Malaysia: A Chin refugee community project combined livelihoods and prevention and response to SGBV. It involves artisan skills trainings for the members of the refugee-led community organization. The project, which started in 2015, markets products internationally through online vendors (<https://www.fashionvalet.com/brands/663/mang-tha>). 82 women who were trained in artisan work receive income from product sales. The refugee artisans contribute a portion of their sales revenue to operate a transitional shelter for survivors, which is managed by the refugee community organization.

Additionally, 17 participants in the project became trainers on SGBV awareness, and lead awareness-raising trainings in local refugee communities. In 2016, they led 17 sensitization sessions that were attended by 568 community members.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

MADE51 artisan programming: In Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania, Pakistan and Malaysia, artisan projects aim to reduce SGBV risks caused by socio-economic vulnerability. These projects follow UNHCR's MADE51 artisan programming model, which emphasizes sustainability (<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/safe-value-chains.html>). Artisans form groups, receive expert product development support, and establish international marketing channels. The project in Burkina Faso engages 336 refugee women, who have developed their own product line with the support of a local social enterprise. International retailers (including globalgoodspartners.org/collections/design-for-peace, www.overstock.com) purchase the products, providing the artisans an income.

Livelihood opportunities in local markets: UNHCR livelihood initiatives in Republic of Congo, Malawi and Egypt provide participants training in locally marketable skills and connect them to safe work environments. Each program targets economically vulnerable participants at risk of SGBV.





SAFE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Female-only internet cafe: In Afghanistan, at the suggestion of women and girls who encountered physical and verbal harassment when using public internet cafés, a pilot female-only community technology access center was established in 2015. In addition to providing empowerment through information, it is an entry point for women to access SGBV prevention and response services. Some 250 women and girls, most of whom are students, use the café, which is located at a women’s civil society association, a national partner organization that provides SGBV response services and awareness-raising. Many of the café’s users learned how to use computers through free trainings provided there. The café entered its third year of service in August 2017 and has been fully funded by UNHCR Afghanistan since 2016.

In Burkina Faso, Malian refugee artisans in the Design for Peace project create products that are sold internationally.

IMPROVING SYSTEMS, TOOLS AND CAPACITY

The right tools are indispensable for UNHCR and partner staff around the world to effectively address SGBV.

- ▶ UNHCR is preparing a **3-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION** for integrating SGBV prevention and response.
- ▶ UNHCR is revising its **COMMITMENTS TO WOMEN AND GIRLS** and developing a global implementation plan.
- ▶ UNHCR is actively engaged in inter-agency rollouts of the **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** jointly with UNICEF, UNFPA, IRC, IMC and other partners across **20 humanitarian operations**.
- ▶ UNHCR launched its mandatory SGBV prevention and response **INTERNET-BASED LEARNING** for all staff, which will enhance staff capacity to address SGBV.
- ▶ UNHCR launched a **TRAINING PACKAGE ON SGBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE** to support UNHCR and partner staff to conduct training on SGBV.
- ▶ UNHCR is developing a blended **LEARNING PROGRAM ON GENDER EQUALITY**.



- ▶ **THE PROGRAMMING FOR PROTECTION LEARNING PROGRAM**, rolled out in 2016, supported three UNHCR operations in 2016 and four in 2017-2018 to systematically integrate protection and solutions priorities across program design and implementation.
- ▶ 21 members of a **HIGH-LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP** on gender, forced displacement, and protection provide their cross-disciplinary expertise on SGBV, gender equality, and women's empowerment in order to support operations.





UNHCR has benefitted from ongoing U.S. financial support through Safe from the Start. U.S. resources and actions under Safe from the Start represent the U.S. commitment to the *Call to Action*.

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SAFE FROM THE START IS A U.S. INITIATIVE TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES WORLDWIDE.

CALL TO ACTION

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