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This synthesis is a bi-weekly digest of COVID-19 related resources (guidance, news, & academic articles). The purpose is to identify emerging child protection risks, responses, and apparent resource gaps based on the information gathered. Each bi-weekly synthesis analyses a different topic related to child protection during COVID-19.

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Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is an issue of grave concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. [illegible] (UNFPA, 2020, p.2) .

Existing research suggests that humanitarian emergencies like COVID-19 tend to exacerbate existing social inequalities. SGBV is not an exception. Issues around health, security, and finances are likely to come under further strain in the face of home-based quarantines. The effects of SGBV are also highly gendered. Lockdowns may mean victims are forced to stay at home with their abuser, while not having access to shelters, or other formal or informal groups that could provide help. Despite the efforts to ramp up SGBV hotlines, many cases will still go unreported. Those who aim to promote the protection of children recognize the crucial role of addressing SGBV: one will not get solved without the other. [illegible]

[1] **CPMS 9. Sexual and Gender- Based Violence, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS):** "'Sexual violence' is defined in this standard as any form of sexual activity with a child by an adult or by another child who has power over the child. Sexual violence includes both activities with and without bodily contact. 'Gender-based violence' (GBV) is a general term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty."(The Alliance for child protection in humanitarian action, 2019, p.123)

To produce this evidence synthesis, we identified 93 media articles written between April 22 and May 22, 2020 and in either English or French, as well as a dozen of academic articles that provided evidence of emerging COVID-19 related child protection risks on different aspects of SGBV. The rest of this synthesis is organized in the following way: we illustrate the identified child protection risks with compelling stories from select articles and research studies, discuss key gaps in the data gathered, and provide a non-exhaustive list of key resources, academic articles, and news articles used to inform the synthesis.

- Impacts of SGBV within the home, including from adults but also amongst children
- Guidance on how witnesses or allies can provide assistance to victims during COVID-19
- Guidance for men
- Risks of increase of Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C).
- Risks of sexual exploitation (online or not) and connection to human and child trafficking

- Increase of SGBV particularly within the intimate sphere
- Sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Online risks
- Lack of access to protection and justice services
- Health service availability
- Economic insecurity and disruption to other basic services

	• of the home while confined with abusers • (e.g. helplines) and safe access to necessary telecommunication resources	"In some countries, calls to helplines have reportedly doubled. In France, government authorities reported that in one week, domestic violence increased by over 30 percent in areas under movement restrictions. In China, media also reported a surge of domestic violence under COVID-19 quarantine. In Tunisia, in the first five days after people were ordered to stay in, calls to a hotline for women suffering abuse increased fivefold. (Human Rights Watch, 9 April 2020) While in Bangladesh due to the ongoing restriction on mobility, lack of information and increased isolation and fear there was a 50% decrease in reports and 30% decrease in Tanzania" (New Data Shows a Decrease in Women Being Able to Report Incidents of Domestic Violence in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries).
	• • Reticence to visit hospitals or clinics out of • I of women and children to while confined with perpetrators • , especially for adolescent girls	"Some women and girls also report having used virtual SRH and GBV services, though there are age differences as a greater percentage adolescent girls from 10-17 (48 percent) had accessed a virtual service than young women from 18 to 24 (38 percent) and adult women from 25 to 23 (49 percent), suggesting that virtual services are more accessible to adolescent girls."
	• Increased exposure to • and deterrents like accompaniment by other women or children • Young girls using transactional sex as an • Presence of and	"…as functional health, transport, food, sanitation, legal, security and other governance structures may temporarily contract or become dysfunctional (Briody et al., 2018). This may lead to increased exposure of women and children to unsafe and risky settings, including exposure to sexual violence and harassment during procurement of basic goods, including food, firewood, and water (Castañeda Camey et al., 2020; Bermudez et al. 2019; De Oliveiro et al., 2019; First et al., 2017; WRC, 2009)."

Find out more about the published related to those topics: Main SGBV-COVID-19 guidance, academic research & innovative responses (not exhaustive) and about the of those issues: Mapped News Articles

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While several child protection risks related to SGBV were identified, we noticed several gaps related to the data with:

- There appears to be little research on how children and adolescents are impacted by SGBV within the home, including from adults but also amongst children (different and same sex siblings).
- More guidance may be needed on how witnesses or allies can provide assistance / support to victims within the context of COVID-19.
- Lack of guidance directed at men on both healthy social and emotional coping, as well as on how to remotely recognize risky and potentially dangerous behavior in their family, friends, or other peers.
- Besides the article of The Telegraph (19 may 2020) Female genital mutilation surges in Somalia with girls stuck at home during lockdown there was not much coverage on the risk of increase of Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C).
- There is a lack of coverage on the risk of sexual exploitation (online or not) as well as risk of human and child trafficking.
- Evidence or observations of potential increase in stigmatization of SGBV as a result of the public health crisis.

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SGBV has emerged as a major child protection risk during COVID-19. In a comprehensive literature review, Peterman (et al., 2020) identified nine main pathways to violence associated with pandemics : *"(1) economic insecurity and poverty-related stress, (2) quarantines and social isolation, (3) disaster and conflict-related unrest and instability, (4) exposure to exploitative relationships due to changing demographics, (5) reduced health service availability and access to first responders, (6) inability of women to temporarily escape abuse partners, (7) virus-specific sources of violence, (8) exposure to violence and coercion in response efforts, and (9) violence perpetrated against health care workers".* This mapping of resources and news articles confirm this analysis. [illegible]

There are some obvious and additional sensitivities and nuances that must be considered in order to effectively adapt SGBV prevention and response measures in a context like the one we find ourselves in currently. However, under isolated conditions and with restricted movement and access to social and emotional supports and other services, SGBV issues stand to cause immense harm to children and people in situations of vulnerability. To adapt, issues of this nature, in particular, require sharing of experiences – successes, promising approaches, emergent problems and symptoms, and lessons learned – in order to bring the significant, albeit unnoticed, impacts of a pandemic context to light and to provide privy or impacted parties with the necessary tools – to the best of our ability –

to mitigate SGBV risks and consequences in highly complicated circumstances. dZ v(E [illegible]

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We hope to include case studies from practitioners in the field related to emerging issues, best practices, and challenges in addressing SGBV during COVID-19. Case studies can be submitted to The Alliance using the online form found here.

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[illegible]	• IASC, Global protection cluster, 6 April 2020, Identifying & Mitigating Gender-based Violence Risks within the COVID-19 Response • IASC, Global protection cluster, April 2020, How to support survivors of gender-based violence when a GBV actor is not available in your area https://gbvguidelines.org/en/pocketguide/ • Yaker, R. and Erskine, D., 2020. GBV Case Management and the COVID-19 Pandemic • Video and podcast series, GBV case management and Covid-19 • Gender Based Violence AoR, Global Protection Cluster (7 April 2020) Developing key messages for communities on GBV & Covid-19 • Tang, K., Gaoshan, J. and Ahonsi, B., 2020. Sexual and reproductive health (SRH): a key issue in the emergency response to the coronavirus disease (COVID- 19) outbreak. *Reproductive health* • John, N., Casey, S.E., Carino, G. and McGovern, T., 2020. Lessons Never Learned: Crisis and gender-based violence. Developing World Bioethic • UNICEF, 26 March 2020, Gender equality during COVID-19: 5 ideas for action
[illegible]	• Sanctuary for families, safety planning • UN Women (17 April 2020) Violence Against Women and Girls Data Collection during COVID-19 • Erskine, D., 2020. Not just hotlines and mobile phones: GBV service provision during COVID-19. • Yaker, R. and Erskine, D., 2020. GBV Case Management and the COVID-19 Pandemic • Peterman, A., Potts, A., O'Donnel, M., Thompson, K., Shah, N., Oertelt-Prigione, S. and Van Gelder, N., 2020. Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children. Center for Global Development, April. • Birken, C., Miller, S., Denburg, A., Mishna, F., Fallon, B., Sokolowski, M., Jenkins, J., Stewart, S., Levine, J. and Sistovaris, M., 2020. Child Welfare and Pandemics Literature Scan. University of Toronto, p.43. • Mazza, M., Marano, G., Lai, C., Janiri, L. and Sani, G., 2020. Danger in danger: Interpersonal violence during COVID-19 quarantine. Psychiatry Research [Online], 289, p.113046. • Carlson, C., Namy, S., Norcini Pala, A. and Wainberg, M., 2020. Violence against children and intimate partner violence against women: overlap and common contributing factors among caregiver-adolescent dyads. *BMC Public Health.*

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[illegible]	• Erskine, D., 2020. Not just hotlines and mobile phones: GBV service provision during COVID-19. • Yaker, R. and Erskine, D., 2020. GBV Case Management and the COVID-19 Pandemic • Yaker, R., 2020. Securing the Safety and Wellbeing of Women Frontline Healthcare Workers in the COVID-19 Response • Peterman, A., Potts, A., O'Donnel, M., Thompson, K., Shah, N., Oertelt-Prigione, S. and Van Gelder, N., 2020. Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children. Center for Global Development, April. • Ford-Gilboe, M., Varcoe, C., Scott-Storey, K., Perrin, N., Wuest, J., Wathen, C.N., Case, J. and Glass, N., 2020. Longitudinal impacts of an online safety and health intervention for women experiencing intimate partner violence: randomized controlled trial. BMC Public Health [Online], 20(1), p.260. • UNICEF, 2019. Availability, accessibility, acceptatbility and quality framework: a tool to identify potential barriers to accessing services in humanitarian settings. UNICEF.
[illegible]	• Australian Government, ESafety Kids • We Protect Global Alliance, Impact of Covid-19 on onlune child sexual exploitation
[illegible]	• UNICEF, UNFPA, April 2020, Research digest and bi-weekly digests (Issue 1 (5 May) and Issue 2 (19 May)) • UNICEF, 01 June 2020, Harmful Practices and Public Health Crises – Annotated Bibliography • Girls not brides, the global partnership to end child marriage, Covid-19 and child, early and forced marriage: an agenda for action • UNFPA, U.N.H.C. for, Institute for family health and Plan International, 2020. Daring to ask, listen, and act: a snapshot of the impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls' rights and sexual and reproductive health.

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[illegible]	• Time (18 March 2020) As Cities Around the World Go on Lockdown, Victims of Domestic Violence Look for a Way Out • Thompson Reuters Foundation News (16 April 2020) In lockdown Bolivia, calls from abused girls flood hotline • Gulf News (22 April 2020) Crimes against women in India in the time of coronavirus: 17-year-old girl on her way to a hospital gets abducted and raped • Keloland Media News (22 April 2020) Victim advocates: Pandemic isolation limits sexual assault reporting • Daily Nation (21 April 2020) Protect women and girls from domestic abuse during Covid-19 period • Euronews (04 May 2020) 'He strangled me in front of my child'. Quarantine compounds Ukraine's domestic violence problem • The Atlantic (1 May 2020) The "shadow pandemic" of gender-based violence • Relief Web (5 may 2020) Fighting the shadow pandemic of violence against women and children during COVID19 • Fiji Village (05 may 2020) FWRM deeply concerned with gender based violence during COVID-19 pandemic • Project Syndicate (08 May 2020) The Pandemic's Gender Imperative • The conversation (10 May 2020) Sexual and gender-based violence during COVID-19: lessons from Ebola • DevPolicy Blog (11 May 2020) Stop widening gender inequalities: Asia's COVID-19 responses must leave no one behind • UNAIDS (19 May 2020) Gender-based violence and COVID-19—"When we are silent, we allow these crimes to multiply" • The New Humanitarian (06 May 2020) COVID-19 brings abuse and other fears to displaced women in South Sudan
[illegible]	• IOL (05 May 2020) Spike in GBV shows our most vulnerable are even more at risk during lockdown • IRC (06 May 2020) New Data Shows a Decrease in Women Being Able to Report Incidents of Domestic Violence in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries • DevPolicy Blog (08 May 2020) COVID-19: three ways to support women, girls and vulnerable groups in humanitarian settings • Relief Web (05 MAY 2020) Women's groups call for unhampered delivery of reproductive health services • World Economic Forum (25 April 2020) Here's how to achieve gender equality after the pandemic • UNICEF (18 May 2020) Remote data collection on violence against women during COVID-19: A conversation with experts on ethics, measurement & research priorities • UNFPA, 2020. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage. Interim Technical Note.

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[illegible]	• Human Rights Watch (9 April 2020) COVID-19 and Children's Rights • FP (30 April 2020) The Pandemic's Hidden Human Trafficking Crisis
[illegible]	• Human Rights Watch (18 May 2020) Nepal Failing to Protect Women from Online Abuse • Human Rights Watch (9 April 2020) COVID-19 and Children's Rights • OHCHR (6 May 2020) COVID-19: Urgent need for child protection services to mitigate the risk of child sexual abuse and exploitation worldwide
[illegible]	• MS. (20 April 2020) COVID-19 and Young Girls: Expect Increases in Child Marriage and Teen Pregnancy • Business Insider France (28 April 2020) Coronavirus crisis will see 7 million unplanned pregnancies and 31 million gender-based violence cases, the UN says • K4D (20 April 2020) The Links Between Girls' Life Skills Intervention in Emergencies and their Return to Education Post-crisis and Prevention of Unwanted Pregnancies and Early Marriage • Forbes (1 May 2020) Coronavirus Is Seriously Impacting FGM & Gender-Based Violence • World Vision (18 May 2020) Millions More Face Child Labour, Early Marriage Because Of COVID-19 • Al Jazeera (19 April 2020) Out of school, forced to fight: Children pay price for Sahel war • The Guardian (18 May 2020) Girls at risk of child marriage as half of local authorities fail to keep records