



## CPMS Video Series - Facilitator's Notes

### Standard 9: Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

**Background:** This document aims to prompt discussion among child protection staff and other humanitarian actors who have watched the video on Standard 9 (sexual and gender-based violence) and want to learn more about the topic. It encourages viewers to reflect collectively on the long lasting, severe negative impacts SGBV can have on children, families, and communities. It could be used as part of a coordination meeting, briefing session, orientation or training workshop.

#### Discussion Points:

**Overall message: Sexual violence and gender-based violence is any act that is perpetrated against a person's will that is based on gender norms and unequal power relationships. It encompasses threats of violence and coercion. It can be physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual in nature, and can take the form of a denial of resources or access to services. Examples of SGBV include acts that inflict physical, sexual and mental harm, such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, sexual exploitation & abuse, trafficking, and sexual violence against girls, boys & children of diverse sexual orientation.**

**Message 1: SGBV is one of the most widespread forms of human rights abuse. During humanitarian crises, it gets worse, but is often hidden and under-reported.**

1.1 **Prepare:** What are the root causes of SGBV?

1.2 **Prevent:** How can we prevent and mitigate SGBV?

- Can you share an example of a case and how you approached the situation?

1.3 **Respond:** Who is most affected by SGBV? Who is responsible to help survivors?

#### Things to stress:

- All humanitarian actors should assume SGBV is taking place regardless of the data available, and all child protection actors have the responsibility to prevent and mitigate.
  - The root causes of SGBV are attitudes, beliefs, norms and structures promoting gender-based discrimination. SGBV prevention needs to change social expectations and reinforce positive new norms and behaviours.
- All child survivors face unique challenges in seeking support and services due to social barriers and stigma.
  - All child protection actors have a responsibility to prevent and mitigate risks of SGBV.
  - Child protection actors responding to child survivors need to have the appropriate and necessary competencies to provide these specialised services such as case management and mental health and psychosocial support for child survivors.
- While all children can experience SGBV, girls – especially adolescent girls – are disproportionately affected by SGBV due to their gender and age. Due to stigma and

opposing gender norms, sexual violence against boys remains largely underreported, and support mechanisms for male survivors are rarely in place.

- Children of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics have specific vulnerabilities and require tailored prevention and response actions.

## **Message 2: All work with SGBV should have a survivor-centred approach, creating a supportive environment by prioritizing safety, respect, non-discrimination and confidentiality for the survivor at all times**

2.1 **Prepare:** Are we clear about what a survivor-centred approach is?

2.2 **Prevent:** What violations of children's right to protection are occurring in our current setting?

2.3 **Respond:** How can we use the 'best interests of the child' principle when responding to SGBV?

2.4 **Prevent/Respond:** If you were a CP worker on Yasmeen's case, what steps would you take to prevent and respond to child marriage?

### **Things to stress:**

- A survivor-centred approach creates a supportive environment in which the survivor's rights and wishes are respected, their safety is ensured, and they are treated with dignity and respect. A survivor-centred approach is based on the following guiding principles: safety, confidentiality, respect, and non-discrimination.
- In cases of child survivors, in addition to the above principles, the best interests of the child need to be considered.
  - The best interests of the child principle recognises that all decisions and actions affecting them should reflect what is best for the safety, well-being and development of that particular child.
  - It recognises that every child is unique and will be affected differently by SGBV. Children have the right to participate in decisions affecting them, appropriate to their level of maturity.
  - Parents/caregivers should be involved in decision-making in accordance with the best interests of the child.

## **Message 3: We need to understand the context and existing social norms to know which children are particularly vulnerable to SGBV, and what negative coping mechanisms may have worsened because of the crisis.**

3.1 **Prepare:** Why is understanding the context and existing social norms important?

3.2 **Respond:** Can you share an example of when understanding the context was beneficial or the consequences of negative coping mechanisms?

3.3 **Prepare:** Why is collaborating with other actors to respond to SGBV important?

3.4 **Respond:** How can we provide age and gender sensitive programming to respond to children's specific needs?

### **Things to stress:**

- Through understanding the context, we can respond by regularly monitoring and addressing children's SGBV risks, including
  - Safety concerns about sexual exploitation and abuse; and
  - Barriers to accessing child protection services.
- Collaborate with GBV actors to develop, strengthen and regularly update referral pathways to facilitate timely, safe and effective referral of child survivors.
  - During an acute crisis, establish minimum referral pathways that include priority services such as health, case management, psychosocial support and safety/security.

- Strengthen formal and informal service providers' capacity to provide child-friendly services to all children.
  - Pay special attention to diverse needs related to sex/gender, age and disability.
  - Children with diverse gender identities and those who are married, trafficked, unaccompanied or associated with armed forces or groups may also have special needs.

#### Message 4: We must also work to provide holistic support to caregivers and families through education, life skills training, parenting programmes and economic empowerment.

4.1 **Prepare:** What are some challenges to making this happen? How can we encourage children, families, and communities to report when SGBV occurs?

4.2 **Respond:** What are examples of ways you have assisted caregivers and families?

4.3 **Prevent:** What strengths or resources can your sector provide?

#### Things to stress:

- Consult with children to incorporate SGBV messages into child protection community outreach and awareness-raising activities.
  - Messages may include information on child survivors' rights, where to report risks and how to access SGBV response services.
- Identify appropriate alternative care for child survivors where removal from the home is in the best interests of the child.
  - Monitor children's safety when in alternative care.
- Provide cash and voucher assistance and/or in-kind material support to enable child survivors to rapidly access urgent care.
  - This should be initiated only after assessing needs and identifying suitable services as part of case management case planning.
  - Consistently monitor interventions.
- Collaboration and coordination across work sectors is encouraged to avoid duplication and to complement each other to better protect against and respond to SGBV against children.

#### Message 5: To help stamp out sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts, we need to increase our work in three key areas: Preparedness, Prevention, and Response.

5.1 **Prepare** What are some examples on how to better prepare for SGBV cases?

5.2 **Prevent:** How can we prevent the violence, abuse, and exploitation of children? How can we respond to existing cases?

- Can you share an example of a time you prepared, prevented, or responded to SGBV in humanitarian contexts?

5.2 **Prepare:** How can we collaborate with actors from GBV or other sectors?

#### Things to stress:

- We can **prepare** for SGBV by collaborating and coordinating with GBV coordination groups and actors to define and include the roles and responsibilities for preventing and responding to child survivors in standard operating procedures.
  - It is encouraged to develop a referral pathway by mapping types and capacity of:
    - Existing formal and informal service providers who currently provide child-friendly survivor-centred services; and
    - Possible entry points where child survivors may seek support in the future.
- We can **prevent** SGBV by working with children, families and communities to address social and cultural norms that encourage and promote SGBV and that stigmatise child survivors.

- Ensure meaningful participation of children and adults with diverse needs when developing actions to transform harmful social and gender norms.
  - Work with children, families and communities to identify and address additional risk and protective factors associated with SGBV specific to the context.
- We can **respond** to SGBV by making information on the referral pathways available to and understood by all service providers, children, caregivers and communities.
  - Consult with children to incorporate SGBV messages into child protection community outreach and awareness-raising activities.
    - Messages may include information on child survivors' rights, where to report risks and how to access SGBV response services.