

OCHA/INTERACTION MEETING - 15 December 2006

Highlights on Key Gender-based Violence Initiatives in Humanitarian Settings

1. The GA resolution “**Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**” included important language on the problem of gender-based violence, need for prosecution and strengthening of support services for survivors of GBV.

Noting also with grave concern that violence, including gender based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

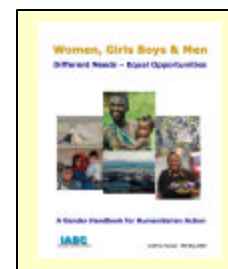
18. *Urges* all Member States to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, and to make all possible efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

19. *Calls upon* all Member States and encourages the relevant organizations of the United Nations to strengthen support services, including psychosocial support to victims of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies;

2. **The IASC Guidelines on Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings with a focus on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence** is a field-friendly tool on how to set up a multi-sectoral GBV programme stressing the need for a coordinated approach. It is now available in 5 languages and being rolled out with extensive capacity building support in Columbia, Pakistan and Uganda. (Languages: Arabic, English, French, Spanish and soon to be in Russian)
Available on <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/gender>



3. Several UN agencies are joining forces to develop a **Joint Initiative to Address Sexual Violence in Crisis and Recovery**. The **Joint Initiative** will build on existing efforts and work more intensively on a global advocacy campaign, better mapping of who is doing what, where and a special emphasis on collaborative country-level support for comprehensive GBV prevention and response efforts in emergencies and in post-conflict recovery efforts. The JI will be launched in 2007.
4. The IASC is about to finalise and publish a Gender Handbook which will support and complement the GBV Guidelines. **Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs - Equal Opportunities** is a sector-by-sector guide on how to ensure gender equality programming in humanitarian situations. It provides practical tips on how to mainstream gender and checklists to measure the progress in meeting the needs and ensuring the equal participation of women, girls, boys and men in all aspects of humanitarian response. It will be available in early 2007 in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The field-consultation version can be found on <http://www.humanitarianinfo.or/iasc/gender>



5. Three other joint UN efforts underway in collaboration with NGO and other non-UN partners on GBV programming include the:
 - a. Development of an information management system for GBV incidents/cases that will assist in better understanding both the nature and scope of GBV as well as the quality of comprehensive care for survivors. This project will also establish clear guidance on “sharing data on incidents” so that survivors and care providers will be protected. The tool will be piloted and finalised in 2007.
 - b. Finalization of a training package on “Caring for Survivors” which specifically aims to train providers of psychosocial and medical care for survivors of sexual violence, in particular rape.
 - c. Preparation of guidance on confidentiality and safety issues regarding gender-based violence in particular relating to the interviewing of survivors of violence.

The theme for International Women’s Day – 8 March 2007 – is ending impunity for violence against women.