BEST PRACTICES FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE AND ADDRESSING INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS

Amélie Doyon, Canadian Red Cross
OBJECTIVES

- Understand why the risks of interpersonal violence increase during and after disasters.

- Recognize how interpersonal violence manifests itself and how to prevent, mitigate and respond to it.

- Understand the importance of addressing gender and diversity into emergency programming.

- Define actions that YOU can take to build resilience and protection in your own field.
Typhoon Haiyan: children at risk of abuse and trafficking

With aid running short and near anarchy in the hardest-hit areas, the estimated two million children affected by the monster storm are its most vulnerable victims, Save the Children warns.

Filipino children, who escaped after their village was allegedly attacked by armed social workers in a safe area of the super typhoon-devastated town of Tacloban. SABANGAN/EPA

Female refugees face physical assault, exploitation and sexual harassment on their journey through Europe.

WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REFUGEES
The Link Between Natural Disasters and Domestic Abuse

Flooding in Louisiana has left victims of abuse even more vulnerable.
The risk of violence in emergencies increases due to a combination of shocks at the individual, family, community and societal levels. The main drivers include:  

- Collapse of protective systems
- Increased individual and community stress
- Individuals relying on harmful coping mechanisms such as alcohol and drugs
- Crowded insecure environments
- Pre-existing risks of violence
- Research shows increases of violence against of 6-301%
IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

- Death
- Physical injury
- Unintended pregnancy, induced abortions
- Sexually transmitted infections including HIV
- Depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder
- Harmful use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol

DEATHS

PEOPLE PER YEAR
1.3 MILLION

PEOPLE PER DAY
4,200

HOSPITALIZATIONS

16 MILLION

report predicts increases in injuries and violence by 2030

INJURIES
(UNKNOWN)

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Costs of intimate partner and sexual violence for countries are very high. They include the provision of health, social, and legal services and costs of lost earnings.

The impact of violence can effect 1-4% of a country's GDP
PEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS, CAPACITIES, VULNERABILITIES, COPING STRATEGIES AND INTERESTS

Therefore, their experiences will be different.
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

IFRC STRATEGY ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND RESPONSE
2011-2020
Strategic directions to address interpersonal and self-directed violence

IFRC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON GENDER AND DIVERSITY ISSUES
2013-2020
OTHER MINIMUM STANDARDS
BEST PRACTICES IN PREPAREDNESS

- Put our humanitarian house in order
- Integrate protection, community engagement, gender and diversity into the assessment tools
- Ensure gender-based violence and safety of women and children are considered in all disaster preparedness and planning
- Raise awareness and educate
- Partner with other agencies
BEST PRACTICES IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EARLY RECOVERY

- Prioritize protection, gender and diversity as well as community engagement
- Respond rapidly
- Share critical information widely
- Collect data and monitor
- Support community-based support and self help
- Speak up – raise our collective voice
- Advocate to government and humanitarian agency partners
BEST PRACTICES IN LONG-TERM RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Take a long-term view and apply comprehensive approach
- Focus on priority actions for protection, gender and diversity as well as community engagement
BEST PRACTICES FOR CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS ACROSS THE DISASTER RESPONSE CYCLE

- Ensure opportunities for community engagement and accountability
- Leaders must lead
- Incorporate gender and diversity
- Include children and youth
- Integrate into existing tools and approaches
- Monitor, evaluate and define lessons learned
- Budget
Group work
Despite the fact that violence has always been present, the world does not have to accept it as an inevitable part of the human condition…

Violence can be prevented. This is not an article of faith, but a statement based on evidence.

Nelson Mandela
Thank you!