Gender Based Violence in South Sudan

Briefing note

Major developments, January - March 2021:

Between January and March of 2021, UNICEF and implementing partners reached a total of 23,357 individuals (6,385 girls; 4,077 boys; 8,717 women and 4,178 men) with Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention, response and risk mitigation services, including individualized case management, psychosocial support (PSS), skills building courses, access to Women and Girls’ Friendly Spaces (WGFS), GBV risk mitigation information and referrals to other specialized services.

A total of 1,010 girls and 1,546 women received case management, PSS, and skills-building courses in WGFS, and referrals for other specialized and non-specialised services.

A total of 8,156 individuals (2,346 girls; 1,551 boys; 2,811 women and 1,448 men) benefited from GBV risk mitigation interventions through UNICEF’s Child Protection supported programmes. In February 2021, UNICEF and partners finalised the collection of data for the multi-sectoral safety audit. The findings of this exercise will inform future programming of all the sectors, focusing on safety and needs of women and girls and putting in place safety measures to address gaps in service provision.

Through the Communities Care Programme (CCP), 2,822 people (237 girls; 176 boys; 1,358 women; 1,051 men) were reached by community actions on positive social norm transformations, via radio talk shows, door to door awareness, neighbourhood campaigns and school outreaches.

- 17,038 people reached with GBV response, prevention, risk mitigation and social norms transformation messages
- 1,609 girls and women receiving psychosocial support and case management services
- 23,357 people reached with GBV prevention, response, and risk mitigation services
UNICEF continues to scale-up the provision of GBV prevention and response services in areas affected by floods and food insecurity. The programme works to increase awareness raising and response services for child survivors and survivors of child marriage. UNICEF works to increase engagement with schools, faith leaders, communities and other stakeholders on girl child education, menstrual hygiene management, school related gender-based violence and child marriage. Continue with the scaling up of the Communities Care Programme for Gender Based Violence prevention and social norms transformation. Continue supporting GBV risk mitigation efforts and the integration of GBV into other UNICEF programmes and in the wider clusters’ initiatives and actions. Build-out awareness raising activities to increase knowledge within communities about GBV, the GBV referral pathway and the importance for GBV survivors to access services and receive support. Increase resource mobilization and engagement with donors.

Major challenges:
- Floods and food insecurity are affecting several parts of the country which increases women’s and girls’ vulnerability to GBV.
- Increased cases of child marriage and teenage pregnancies due to prolonged school closure.
- Social norms which perpetuate and reinforce multiple forms of violence against women and girls.
- Gender discrimination and social stigma which prevent GBV survivors from seeking help and accessing services.
- There are limited reporting opportunities and support services to child survivors of GBV.
- The programme faces financial constraints.

Solutions:
- UNICEF continues to scale-up the provision of GBV prevention and response services in areas affected by floods and food insecurity.
- The programme works to increase awareness raising and response services for child survivors and survivors of child marriage.
- UNICEF works to increase engagement with schools, faith leaders, communities and other stakeholders on girl child education, menstrual hygiene management, school related gender-based violence and child marriage.
- Continue with the scaling up of the Communities Care Programme for Gender Based Violence prevention and social norms transformation.
- Continue supporting GBV risk mitigation efforts and the integration of GBV into other UNICEF programmes and in the wider clusters’ initiatives and actions.
- Build-out awareness raising activities to increase knowledge within communities about GBV, the GBV referral pathway and the importance for GBV survivors to access services and receive support.
- Increase resource mobilization and engagement with donors.

UNICEF South Sudan’s GBV appeal for 2021:
US$ 5 million
Current funding gap
86 %

For more information, please contact:

Hamida R. Lasseko
Country Representative
hramadhani@unicef.org

Yves Willemot
Chief of Communication
ywillemot@unicef.org

Jennifer Schulz
Donor Relations Manager
jschulz@unicef.org

UNICEF’s generous GBV donors

Follow the latest developments online: