PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HAITI

Leora Ward
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
FAST FACTS: Women & Natural Disasters*

WOMEN ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO DIE THAN MEN.

WOMEN ARE AT INCREASED RISK OF VIOLENCE.

WOMEN DO NOT RECEIVE NECESSARY HEALTH CARE.

WOMEN EXPERIENCE ONGOING ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY.

WOMEN MAY BE DENIED ADEQUATE RELIEF AID OR COMPENSATION FOR THEIR LOSSES.

WOMEN ARE EXCLUDED FROM A SAY IN REBUILDING AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS.

*All fast facts here taken from Caught in the Storm: The Impact of Natural Disasters on Women, The Global Fund for Women
Disasters break down social networks and systems that protect women and girls.

Humanitarian actors designing responses to natural disasters rarely undertake measures to reduce sexual violence.

Crucial protection systems and response services are typically implemented long after the initial days of a crisis.
The humanitarian community typically prioritizes food aid, healthcare, water and sanitation services, and shelter from the onset of a response to a natural disaster, often preferring to wait until later in an emergency to address the issue of sexual violence.
The CASE STUDY of HAITI
IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF WOMEN IN HAITI

- Information and Resources
- Basic necessities (shelter, food, lighting)
- Water and Sanitation
- Safety and Security
- Women’s sanitary products (i.e. sanitary towels and vaginal creams)
- Livelihoods
- GBV services
IRC Program Priorities

- Reducing Vulnerability
- Undertaking community-based prevention
- Increasing access to services
- Improving coordination
- Ensuring the voices of women and girls are heard during reconstruction
Multisectoral Programming

Empowerment
Prevention
Services
Advocacy
Reducing Vulnerability

- Conducted safety audits in over 10 sites, which were shared within IRC and externally with the GBV sub cluster
- Trained Camp Managers on basic GBV principles
- Advocated for standards to be taken into account, according to the IASC Guidelines
- Distributed women’s dignity/hygiene kits
Community-based Prevention

- Safety planning with survivors
- Created information boards in the camps
- Women’s leadership and networking
- Development of safe spaces
- Community mobilization and awareness raising
Access to Services

- Identification and capacity building of service providers
- Assisting with transportation of survivors
- Share information about referral points and pathways
- Sharing information about services
- Improving age-specific services (i.e. for girls)
Improving Coordination

- Development of referral cards
- Attended cluster meetings and advocated for a cluster strategy
- Creation of key messages and guidance
- Mapping of key actors
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs
Advocacy: Ensuring Voices are Heard

- Addressing the “lack of data” issue
- Highlighting the voices of women and girls in their words
- Talked about women in key policy discussions
- Advocated for a partnership approach
- Discussions with donors
Critical Partnerships

Essential to quality and sustainable programming

- KAY FANM
- SOFA
- LIMYE LAVI (Jacmel)
- KOFAVIV
- URAMEL
- Other Community Groups
Continuing Challenges and Opportunities

- Long-term funding for prevention and service provision
- Developing an inclusive and coordinated approach to programming
- Improving and building upon what exist as opposed to setting up parallel systems
- Taking advantage of opportunities to change gender dynamics in Haitian society
- Ensuring that humanitarian and development programming are implemented side-by-side.
THANK YOU

CONTACT:
Leora Ward
Leora.Ward@rescue.org

“I feel a great need to fight violence because I have both been subjected to acts of violence and a witness to acts of violence occurring in my community. Now that I’m a psychosocial volunteer, a perpetrator will need to think twice before perpetrating against me because people see what the psychosocial volunteers have come to represent.” – Francette Calixte