Ensuring that all individuals have access to services and counseling for gender-based violence

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Experience of GBV in Nigeria

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 30% of women and girls between 15-49 years old have experienced sexual and gender-based violence.
- Insurgency and protracted conflict have exacerbated violence.
- 43% of girls are married out before the age of 18 (MICS 2016-2017).
- 20% of girls and women aged between the ages of 15-49 years old have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) (NDHS 2018).
- **Common forms of GBV in Nigeria**: sexual harassment, physical violence, HTP, emotional and psychological violence, socioeconomic violence, violence against non-combatant women in conflict.

Source: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women
Steps taken to ensure access to services and counseling

- **2015** - Passed the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPPact) which aims to eliminate all forms of violence in both the private and public spheres; includes the right to assistance for survivors of violence.

- **2016** - Practical guide and manual for health care managers was developed.

- **2018** - Call to action to target survivors through the multi year strategy for protection and management; coordinated by FMWASD with support from UNFPA, etc.

- **2019** - Strong response led by the FMWASD with support from spotlight initiative (UNFPA) to establish a one stop center for the management of GBV in Abuja and Adamawa.
Steps taken to ensure access to services and counseling

• **2020** - Development of the national clinical protocol on the management of FGM with funding from UNFPA.

• **2021** - Adaptation of the WHO clinical manual for the care of women and girls subjected to violence.

• **2021** - With assistance from UNFPA, development of the essential package for the management of individuals subjected to GBV.

• **2021** - Review of the national training manual on peer-to-peer education on adolescent and young peoples health with assistance from UNFPA.

• **2021** - Gender-based violence assessment and service mapping.
Challenges facing the health sector

• Lack of national level program or plan of action on health sector’s response to GBV
• Limitation to effectively respond to GBV within the existing constraints of human resources and funding
• Current lack of a planned preventive response from the health sector (or other agencies) and necessary IEC material and other instruments to facilitate such a program
• Constraints in capacity building of the health care providers due to the geography, high turnover, and difficulty in releasing them from service provision responsibilities.
Conclusion

**Key areas for ensuring access to GBV services:**

- Knowledge and awareness creation for GBV
- Training critical health care provision for first line response and referral
- Enactment of enabling laws to ensure justice delivery
- Development of critical documents to enhance capacity development
- Building required partnership and collaboration