

Gender Learning Day 2021 - Group 4 IAMANEH - Gender, Covid-19 and GBV

ADVISORY SERVICES NOV 15, 2021 11:58AM

WHAT: the main aim of your intervention?

Violence of all forms Women, girls, roma (mobile), egyptian (sedentary), elderly, with di/sabilities; migrant poorer HHs; high unemployment;

WHY: the main issue/ core problem addressed?

Police and protection services diminished during lockdown because it appeared there was less violence, but calls to helpline tripled - and continues post lockdown

HOW: main strategies/actions taken?

Helplines/services for women and in parallel for men/perpetrators

Adding flexibility and more helplines

Offering online counseling options

mobile phone apps to provide alternatives, providing safety tips both digital and physical etc.

Basic legal counseling, including information about government services, which were not easy to understand and access

Emergency packages; many people called the helpline with other needs

WHICH: structural barriers needed to be overcome?

Support the counseling services to increase funding from the State

National registry support e.g. sex offenders

Shortages of staff and government/ state and non state services, lack of preparedness to respond to the crises e.g. earthquake + COVID...

WHAT: opportunities and/or challenges did COVID present?

Other pre-existing challenges/ risks are exacerbated by COVID

side effect/ unplanned added value: initiate policy awareness and mobilize civic action, protests due to a rape of a 15 year old schoolgirl by the school guard etc. which helped pass a new law on sex offender registry (protection of children is something both women and men can agree on)

Forced isolation helped innovate counseling services and expand use/trust of the services

Men/boys preferred the online option as more comfortable/ less stigmatizing

State not being crisis ready overburdened non state services, burnout etc.

lack of access to internet/online options, digital literacy, exposure to online violence etc.

Adverse effects of social distancing for shelters, counseling where body language is very important, building trust, ensuring confidentiality etc.

Lack of dedicated budget, lack of social workers; preservation of personal data etc.

WHICH are some key good practices and lessons learnt?

Provide digital security and literacy education

Flexibility

Diversification of ways/means of accessing/delivering services

Public awareness raising in combination of political education leveraging increased online presence for alliance building

Produce recommendation to develop guidelines for safety protocols for both CS and gov.

Strengthen decentralized state and non-state services e.g. referral systems etc.

Lobby for more government investment in relevant services e.g. counseling service institution

Increasing access to GBV etc. services through other types of services, e.g. food packages, masks with counseling line number etc...

Public announcements

Creating alternatives mitigating dependency which may limited women's ability to access e.g. for women without a phone having to borrow someone's phone etc.

Addressing discrimination and stigmatization , and therefore distrust among roma/ egyptian to take advantage of services; both bias from among the survivors and/or state services.

Building up boys groups in schools; a series of 10 sessions offered during school hours.

Working with women in local councils, to lobby local administrations

Semi-formal institutional options can work very well, especially in facilitating safe space

More training of police especially, + witness protection programs etc.

Any other reflections?

Why did the figures rise: more awareness, or availability of services or?

Capex of good practices to help develop protocols to be better prepared for both state and non state actors

Prepare a national response plan for survivors

How to mitigate the risk of government overrelying on CS?

Should such services be public/state only, or CS led or both?

Reconciling need for truth and not triggering alarmism

Violence in camps
