WOMEN-FRIENDLY SPACES: The Philippine Experience

PAMELA GODOY | UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND | PHILIPPINES
GBV in ‘NORMAL’ TIMES

6% of women age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence

4% of women have experienced physical violence while pregnant

1 in 5 women age 15-49 has experienced physical violence

Source: National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) 2013
In crises/emergencies
Women and children become more vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation
Scope of the Problem: Philippines’ Statistics on GBV in Crises

- In Basilan, violence against women escalated during the period of conflict from 2000 to 2003.

- Their communities considered raped women unclean, and they were forced to marry the men who had raped them.
  
  Magcalen-Fernandez, E. 2006  
  *Conflict, State Fragility and Women’s Reproductive Health: The Case of Basilan, Philippines.* Washington DC: USAID.

- From 9 September to 21 October, there are 3 reported rape cases based on PNP-WCPD records and GBV Case Conferences conducted.

- From 9 September to 21 October, there are 14 reported cases of intimate partner violence (RA 9262) in Joaquin F. Enríquez Sports Complex/Grandstand EC (source PNP-WCPD).
Scope of the Problem: Philippines’ Statistics on GBV in Crises

- **Compostela Valley**

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<tr>
<th>January to December 2012 (before Typhoon Pablo)</th>
<th>December 2012 to April 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>40 reported GBV cases</td>
<td>110 reported GBV cases (7 of which are rape cases)</td>
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- **Davao Oriental**

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<th>2007 to November 2012</th>
<th>December 2012 to January 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>50 reported GBV cases</td>
<td>19 reported GBV cases (including 1 case of trafficking in person, 1 case of rape)</td>
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RA 9710 – Magna Carta of Women (2009)

"SECTION 13. WOMEN AFFECTED BY DISASTERS, CALAMITIES, AND OTHER CRISIS SITUATIONS

- Women have the right to protection and security in times of disasters, calamities and other crisis situations especially in all phases of relief, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts. The State shall provide for immediate humanitarian assistance, allocation of resources, and early resettlement, if necessary. It shall also address the particular needs of women from a gender perspective to ensure their full protection from sexual exploitation and other gender-based violence committed against them.

- Responses to disaster situations shall include the provision of services, such as psychosocial support, livelihood support, education, and comprehensive health services, including protection during pregnancy.
"SECTION 13. Continuation

- Timely, adequate and culturally-appropriate provision of relief goods and services such as food, water, sanitary packs, psychosocial support, livelihood, education and comprehensive health services including implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health at the early stage of the crisis
Women Friendly Spaces as a Platform for Women’s Empowerment

Women said they have enhanced self-esteem/self-confidence

Changed mindsets: From “I am just a housewife” to “I am a housewife”

“I am a woman and I can make a valuable contribution in my community”

Learned about the value of self-care

Women learned about Women’s Human Rights and Laws protecting women & children from violence

Women realized that being abused is not part & parcel of being married

Men understood how they could be better husbands and fathers

Men supported their wives in their leadership roles in the community

Communities recognized that intimate partner violence is a crime & not a “private family matter”

The WFS was seen as a safe place for women to discuss their issues & concerns

Source: DSWD Focus Group Discussions with Community Members, Region 6 & 8, 2014
TROPICAL STORM WASHI/SENDONG

December 2011
Many families got separated. Husbands were missing.

Evacuation Center, Iligan City (Tropical Storm Washi, December 2012)
Evacuation Center, Iligan City (Tropical Storm Washi, December 2012)
School as an Evacuation Center, Iligan City
(Tropical Storm Washi, December 2012)
Original concept: An Integrated Space for Women and Young People (Women and Youth Friendly Space)

- To enhance coordination among camp managers and RH, GBV and ASRH service providers for provision of comprehensive service delivery to TS Washi affected population.
- To support prevention of GBV through greater awareness on national laws and referral systems for GBV response.
- To ensure dissemination of sex- and age-targeted information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including adolescent SRH (ASRH)
- To support organization of sex- and age-targeted activities for affected women and young people (recreational activities, information sessions, psycho-social support, breastfeeding support group, etc.)
- To enhance women and youth leadership among affected populations
- To support creation of support groups among affected women and young people (eg. young mothers’s group, adolescent girls’ club, etc.)

TARGET GROUPS
Primary: Women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and boys
Secondary: Elderly women
Post TS Washi, January 2012

2 Women-friendly Spaces (WFS) established in temporary relocation sites with CCCM
Awareness-raising conducted by Commission on Human Rights – Region 10 Women-friendly Space (WFS) in Calaanan 1, Cagayan de Oro City with CCCM
Post TS Washi, February 2012

The Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted field visits to the WFS
Post TS Washi, February 2012

The Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted field visits to the WFS

• Visited established WFS in Iligan and Cagayan De Oro City
• Conducted Focus Group Discussions with camp managers, internally displaced women who were able to attend activities in WFS
• Conducted on-site observation of awareness-raising sessions
• Conducted feedback/exit conference with DSWD Region 10 Office

RECOMMENDATION:
WFS is crucial element in camp management to ensure that women’s concerns and gender issues are given attention post-disaster. There is a need to concretize the operation of WFS in evacuation centers, thus a concept paper on WFS needs to be developed and pilot testing of the concept be conducted so as to ensure its institutionalization in camp management.
Post TS Washi, March 2012

The 2012 UNFPA – DSWD partnership included the testing of WFS as a new ‘social protection technology’ in Camp Coordination & Camp Management.
The establishment of WFS is anchored on the premise that in humanitarian crises, women, especially, pregnant and lactating women, women with disabilities, household heads, young women, have immediate and specific needs requiring targeted action.
The WFS is envisaged as a **safe venue** to gain knowledge of and access to a myriad of services that a variety of humanitarian actors may provide such as

- psychosocial support
- reproductive health
- cash for work
- awareness raising sessions
- life skills training
- safe and confidential entry point for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors.
Services

- Psychosocial support interventions and counselling;
- Medical and reproductive health services including breastfeeding counselling;
- Cash for work/food for work programs, emergency employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities;
- Awareness sessions and life skills training relative to women’s empowerment and gender equality;
- Safe and confidential multi-sectoral services (medical, psychosocial, security, legal) for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors through a referral mechanism in line with survivor-centered approach; and
- Recreational activities (particularly catered to females) and information about other humanitarian aid.
Stakeholders in setting-up WFS

- DSWD Central & Regional Office
- Local women's organizations
- Community members
- Camp Coordination & Camp Management
- Inter-Agency Protection Mechanisms
- LGU Officers/ Focal Points
Women-Friendly Space (WFS) Facilitator

The WFS Facilitator will receive intensive training on WFS management, community mobilization, documentation and data collection, Gender, GBV and other relevant issues. Under the direct supervision of the MSWDO and/or a local women’s organization, the WFS Facilitator will be responsible for the following:

**Profiling**

- Assist the camp management team in the conduct of profiling of internally displaced women to include the following data:
  - Number of households and average family size
  - Number of female and male residents by age
  - Number of female, single and child-headed households by their age and sex
  - Number of persons by age and sex with specific needs (separated or unaccompanied children, women with disability, chronically ill and elderly women
  - Number of pregnant (and their expected date of delivery) and lactating women
  - Identify the needs of internally displaced women by conducting interviews or group interviews with internally displaced women
Women-Friendly Space (WFS) Facilitator

Coordinating, Planning, Implementing Activities

- Coordinate, liaise and network with concerned or possible agency which can address the identified needs and can provide the needed services in the WFS.
  - Plan, schedule and monitor activities together with the service providers and women committee.
  - Organise awareness raising programs at the WFS on issues relating to well-being, women’s rights, sexual/reproductive health and gender based violence. This would include coordinating the development, display and distribution of BCC material, organising workshops/lectures/talks/discussions on relevant topics, etc
  - Organise and coordinate advocacy campaigns to enhance male accountability for VAW prevention, particularly among religious leaders, community leaders, professional associations, etc
  - Inform and mobilize internally displaced women to attend the activities to be conducted in the WFS
Women-Friendly Space (WFS) Facilitator

Management and Monitoring

- Record all the activities conducted in the WFS and keep the attendance sheet of list of internally displaced women who were provided with the services.

- Manage the day to day activities in WFS under the supervision of the camp manager

- Maintain the cleanliness of WFS and ensure that its contents are safe and secured.

- Participate in Review meetings convened by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster at the Municipal level, and with MSWDO, PSWDO and DSWD.

Providing initial support to GBV / VAWC victims-survivors

- Respond supportively to GBV / VAWC victims-survivors and provide information about the Referral System and the services which can be accessed
WFS Facilitators’ Training

- WFS Management
- DSWD - Enriched Modular Packages for Women
  - Module 1: Self-Discovery
  - Module 2: Gender Sensitivity
  - Module 3: Self-Care
  - Module 4: Maternal Health
  - Module 5: Early Childhood Care
  - Module 6: Environmental Sanitation
  - Module 7: Leadership
  - Module 8: Community Participation
  - Module 9: Basic Business Management Skills Development
  - Module 10: Numeracy
WFS Monitoring Tools

- Profiling Sheet (per location / per evacuation center)
- Summary of Profiling
- Daily Attendance Sheet
- Weekly Schedule of Activities
- Weekly Summary Report
- Monthly Schedule
- Monthly Monitoring Tool
TYPHOON BOPHA/PABLO

December 2012
Post Typhoon Bopha
December 2012 to May 2013

WFS established and operationalized in Compostela Valley & Davao Oriental, Region 11
WFS at New Bataan, Compostela Valley (post Typhoon Bopha/Pablo)
WFS at Zamboanga City
(after the Zamboanga siege/armed conflict, September 2013)
WFS in Tacloban City
(post Typhoon Haiyan, November 2013 onwards)
WFS TENT & WFS KIT

Office supplies
Tables, Chairs, Curtains, Floor Mats
T-shirts for WFS Facilitators
Emergency Solar Hand Crank Radio
Flashlight
Dignity Kits with protection-related items

Solar radios with built-in flashlight, siren and emergency mobile phone charging
“Setting up Women-Friendly Spaces & activating LCAT-VAWCs immediately after a disaster is just as important as distributing food packs.”

– Hon. Corazon ‘Dinky’ Soliman, DSWD Secretary
March 2014
Joint Monitoring visits – DSWD, UNFPA, donor agencies – after humanitarian response / programme support phase-out
1st and 2nd Quarter, 2015
April 2015

DSWD Secretary signed the Memorandum Circular on WFS Institutionalization in Camp Coordination and Camp Management
Capacity building as part of disaster preparedness efforts completed by end of July 2015 with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Women’s NGO partners.

### Strengthening Capacities of Government & NGOs on Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Government* and NGO** members capacitated</th>
<th>Inter-agency protection mechanism members capacitated to address GBV prevention and response</th>
<th>NGO members trained on organisation and orientation of GBV Watch Groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>723</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>589</strong></td>
<td><strong>326</strong></td>
<td><strong>102</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>134</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
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- **LDRRMC and inter-agency protection mechanism members trained on DSWD’s CIAGV**
- **NGO members capacitated to provide psychosocial counseling and crisis interventions for GBV victim-survivors**
Proportion of areas where key Government service providers are capacitated

Province (81):
- PSWDO: 62%
- PHO: 12%
- PNP-WCPD: 20%
- PDRRMO: 17%

City (144):
- CSWDO: 45%
- CHO: 6%
- PNP-WCPD: 8%
- CDRRMO: 8%

Municipality (1,490):
- MSWDO: 17%
- MHO: 0.6%
- PNP-WCPD: 3%
- MDRRMO: 2%
THANK YOU!