



During the ongoing conflict in Sudan; women and girls pay the hefty price as GBV is used as a weapon of war. Insufficient access to health services, education, and employment - particularly for women and children - aggravates the situation. The absence of laws and other protections mechanisms for women's and girls' rights, pave the way for acts of GBV.

if I could ask you to leave this room having internalized one thing –that you base your future decisions on - it would be this: each and every piece of those horrors adds up to one reality - this is a GBV crisis.

The partners working in the GBV sub-sector carry out comprehensive GBV response in different locations, including hard-to-reach areas. In 2024, 230 women and girls' safe spaces were fully operating, around 3500 service providers were trained on GBV prevention and response, over 50,000 most vulnerable women and girls received dignity kits, and 225,000 people were reached with specialized GBV services such as mental health and psychological support.

NGO -s in particular Women-Led Organizations– are the front line of protection response. We have the confidence of our beneficiaries, we have access to communities when other humanitarians do not, and we understand the culture because we are from the communities we serve.

Yet, we are facing uncountable challenges, especially the safety of our female staff and access to communities and survivors.

And now we are facing an unprecedented funding crisis. More than half of the GBV programs in Sudan were funded by a single donor. Reductions for this and other donors are also likely. This will have a direct impact on survivors of GBV and more than 6 M people will be more at risk for GBV. This is why we urgently need more quality funding and also support to the Sudan country-based pooled fund, such as Sudan Humanitarian Fund which is since the start of the crisis, provided quick support within its 48 hours' response. It was able to triple the amount given to local actors from 2023 to 2024. It has an innovative area-based and needs-based allocation approach, which leads to better coordinated and more aligned interventions.

GBV is not always prioritized in such a difficult funding environment because other clusters are perceived as being more lifesaving, such as food and Health. To boost up and better contribute to the inter-cluster coordination, we need to enhance protection and gender-sensitive approaches in Sudan's humanitarian response. We need to embed our approaches in all humanitarian responses to protect girls and foster resilience within affected communities.

The needs are vast and we have 3 recommendations, including for donors:

- 1. We must ensure that GBV prevention and response are treated as life-saving services in funding and response decision-making;
- 2. We must practice and promote equitable partnership with GBV responders, including local women-led organizations, to share risk make sure that there is financial and operational flexibility and autonomy that necessary to respond to the needs of the fluid situation.
- 3. We must strengthen the accountability of all humanitarian actors to systematically and intentionally integrate GBV risk mitigation measures in their interventions

We must base implementation of the HRP and RRRP on consultation with those most affected – including women, IDPs and other marginalized groups. As we all continue discussion how we are going to reduce humanitarian suffering in this difficult environment, we encourage donors and humanitarian family in Sudan to invest in technical and organization capacity building of NGOs/WLOs. We can deliver and make a great difference in Sudan.