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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROJECT PORTFOLIO

UNICEF and Washington University in St. Louis' (WUSTL) Center for Violence and Injury Prevention have been collaborating for more than two years to strengthen evidence and programming for gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE).

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COSTING OF GBViE

The impact of GBViE comes at a high price to both individuals and societies. Yet, to date, there have been few attempts to quantify the economic costs of GBViE. In order to address this gap, our partnership is working with economists to **analyze the economic impact** of intimate partner violence for conflict-affected women and girls in Colombia. This collaboration will also **pilot costing methodologies** to inform guidance for future GBViE costing efforts.

Alongside this work, the partnership has **developed field-friendly costing guidance** for safe space programming and referral processes. Drawing on recognized good practice costing principles from global health and other highly sensitive programming, the tools are intended to assist practitioners in program planning, improve transparency in cost estimates, and advocate to secure financial commitments.

TECH EVALUATIONS

The Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS+) is an inter-agency survivor-centered system that provides a technological solution to providers of GBV case management services in humanitarian settings. In addition to helping case workers and supervisors systematically manage case information, the tool honors

principles of safety, non-discrimination, and the right to self-determination, facilitates the quality assessment of services, and generates aggregate, anonymized statistics to inform improved gender-based violence prevention and response efforts. WUSTL and UNICEF will be leading an upcoming **evaluation of GBVIMS+** in a few countries, employing an implementation science framework for generating learning.

The team is also exploring the feasibility of conducting an **evaluation of virtual safe spaces** to better understand how remote service delivery can meet the needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings.

WOMEN'S COLLECTIVES

Programming for women increasingly uses a collective model whereby women meet regularly in groups and work together to achieve goals. However, less is known regarding how these Women's Collectives may address GBViE. By improving the understanding of mechanisms through which Women's Collectives achieve their outcomes, we endeavor to **provide an evidence base** to support the targeted implementation of collective programming to address GBViE. We collaborated with key stakeholders to **establish a Theory of Change** and are currently exploring opportunities to collaborate with implementing partners to design a Women's Collectives evaluation study.

COVID AND GBViE

The recent COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in national lockdowns, closure of non-essential services, and movement restrictions, is failing to meet the needs of women and girls. WUSTL and UNICEF are also **conducting a mixed-methods, multi-site study** to explore how the COVID-19 pandemic affects women and girls' safety and wellbeing, and to what extent the pandemic and related movement restrictions have impacted GBViE service delivery. The study is also hoping to **document good practice and innovative responses** to reach women and girls, when possible. The study is being conducted in Brazil, Guatemala, Iraq, Italy, and Zimbabwe, and employs key informant interviews, focus groups discussions, quantitative surveys and U-report's poll feature.

Additionally, COVID-related restrictions have complicated ongoing efforts to evaluate GBViE programs and require researchers to shift to remote methods of data collection. WUSTL and UNICEF are **conducting a scoping review** to assess the peer-reviewed and grey literature pertaining to interventions that collect data remotely across high- and low-income country settings. In addition to collating information on how remote evaluations are conducted, this scoping review examines considerations around ethics, participant safety, and methodological rigor to **identify best practices and lessons learned** for the purpose of guiding future evaluations of GBViE programming during COVID-19 and future infectious disease outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.