Addressing sexual and gender-based violence through integrated food security programming in the humanitarian context of South Sudan
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Women are responsible for 80% of agricultural labour. (South Sudan: Infrastructure Action Plan, 2013)

Discriminatory gender norms in South Sudan reinforce inequality, as evidenced by widespread sexual and gender-based violence. (UNICEF, 2019)

- 65% of women/girls have had experiences of physical/sexual violence in their lifetime.
- 51% have experienced intimate partner violence.
- 33% have experienced sexual violence from a non-partner.
The Intervention


• Strengthen resilience to external shocks/stresses and transform food systems to address causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.
The Intervention

• Centered around peer-to-peer learning (Farmer Field Schools).
• Groups were reached with gender-based violence prevention campaigns.
• Other key models/activities:
  • Community Disaster Risk Management Committees.
  • Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration.
  • Savings groups.
The Intervention

• Enhanced community structures to support peacebuilding and understanding of women’s rights in agriculture.

• Trained community and faith leaders on women’s rights, legal entitlements.
The Results

• Mixed methods outcome monitoring conducted in March 2018. 897 participated (66% women).
• Reported access to sufficient food year-round increased.
• Increased adoption of improved farming practices; productivity of crops per acre increased from the baseline.
• Reported experiences/knowledge of SGBV incidents reduced from 33.1% to 27%.

• 82.4% of female respondents (from 75.4%) felt confident to report incidents of domestic/child abuse.

• Positive perceptions of gender equality, however male ownership of assets remains dominant.
The Learnings

• Integration of sexual and gender-based violence messages alongside agricultural training and peer-to-peer learning.

• Build upon trust and relationships earned through food security and livelihoods results.

• Encourage group support for survivors to cope with psychological effects of SGBV and raise awareness of referral pathways.

• Mobilize men in traditional leadership roles to champion SGBV campaigns alongside women to increase acceptance.
Thank you!