

Pilot Gender & Protection Assessment

Summary of findings

1. Introduction

On Wednesday 11 October, the Gender and Protection Cluster undertook a pilot gender and protection assessment of an evacuation centre.

The purpose of this pilot was:

- To test the Gender & Protection Cluster rapid assessment tool which had been adapted for use in evacuation centres
- To be a sample picture of the gender and protection situation in evacuation centres

2. Methodology

The Gender & Protection Cluster tested the survey in one evacuation centre (Bahai Centre) which houses 60 evacuees. Gender & Protection Cluster representatives including staff from MJCS (DWA, Childs Desk) and Save the Children surveyed 19 respondents (10 male, 9 female) with an age range from 16 to 66 years. Male staff interviewed male evacuees and female staff interviewed female evacuees. Only 4 (2F, 2M) of the respondents identified as living with disability. This is attributed to the fact that a majority People With Disability (PWD) are being housed at Luganville hospital and not at evacuation centres.

It should be noted that the Bahai Centre has not received any distributions yet so the needs presented in these findings may be higher than those centres that have already been serviced.

3. Summary of findings

3.1 Evacuation Centres

50% of respondents reported that they did have all their needs catered in the evacuation centres. Additional needs included the following:

- Additional lighting: this included security lighting outside, lighting in the sleeping quarters
- Kitchenware including knives and washing facilities. Currently there is one dish for all laundry and cooking needs for 60 people
- Hygiene items including soap, sanitary pads and babies diapers
- Sleeping materials including mattresses and bedding

Additionally, it is apparent that evacuees need some psychosocial and counselling support with evacuees reporting that they were feeling sad, hopeless, anxious and sick due to being evacuated from their homes to a different island.

Health issues were also reported with one respondent noting that due to overcrowding there was flu and diarrhoea present.

3.2 WASH

The most significant WASH issue highlighted was that there is only one **toilet** and one **bathing** facility for all 60 evacuees. This is of particular concern for women and girls who may not feel comfortable using shared facilities, particularly during times of menstruation.

6 of 19 respondents reported using a 'bush toilet'. 5 of those 6 were male.

Menstrual hygiene management was raised as a need not only due to the lack of bathing facilities but also due to the lack of access to sanitary items and accessories including sanitary pads, plastic bags, soap, buckets for washing menstrual hygiene items. 78% of female respondents reported using Stayfree as their usual sanitary product. 67% of female respondents reported lack of access to sanitary products as an issue for them with other female respondents reporting that family members were purchasing them on their behalf. 67% also reported that they had no place to wash sanitary items.

Baby diapers were also raised as a need with 70% of respondents reporting that they did not have enough supplies.

67% of female respondents said that they **did not feel safe when collecting water or food**. Due to limitations in the survey, there is no elaboration on this data

3.3 Child Protection

Findings relating to child protection included separation from parents (2 respondents) and violence against children (2 respondents). The separation has mainly been caused by children being sent to boarding schools on a different island from their parents or on the same host island.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Further Assessments to be completed in evacuation centres that have already received distributions. This would help to identify any gaps in distributions and also support targeted additional distributions to be made to people that have additional needs e.g. menstruating, pregnant and lactating women

4.2 A targeted assessment to be made at the hospital for the evacuees with disability. This will support the Cluster in its data on People With Disability to understand if their needs are being met

4.3 Ongoing protection assessment and monitoring to be conducted. Particularly those evacuation centres that are highly populated.

4.4 Targeted interviews and focus group discussions to be conducted with children. This will support the Cluster in its data on children and understand if there are any protection issues children are facing.