Linking Data Analysis to Programming Series: Nigeria

Once the Gender- Based Violence Information Management System is implemented there are a myriad of ways to utilize the collected service-based data[1] to inform programming. This note shares the experience of how GBVIMS data analysis led to increase engagement and action from Gender Based Violence (GBV) actors working on the ground.

Nigeria:

How GBVIMS data analysis led to increase engagement and action from GBV actors working on the ground.

Context:

In the tenth year since its advent, the crisis in North East (NE) Nigeria continues to devastate populations in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. The protracted conflict is characterised by ongoing regionalised armed conflict by Non-State Armed Groups- commonly known under the name 'Boko Haram'; which has resulted in mass population displacement, and reports of violations of international humanitarian, and human rights laws. An estimated 7.1 million people continue to rely on humanitarian assistance across the emergency states, of which 1.8 million are internally displaced.

Women, girls, boys and men alike have been, and continue to suffer as a result of this 'protection crisis'. Among the atrocities reported to occur against women and girls are, incidents of sexual violence perpetrated in the context of sexual slavery, incidents of forced conscription as well as use of women and girls as Person-Bourne Improvised Explosive Devices (PIBED). In 2014, the world got a snapshot of the situation in NE Nigeria through media coverage of the abduction of the Chibok girls and the advent of the 'Bring Back our Girls' campaign. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated event, illustrating only the tip of the iceberg of human rights violations and protection issues that still affect many today.

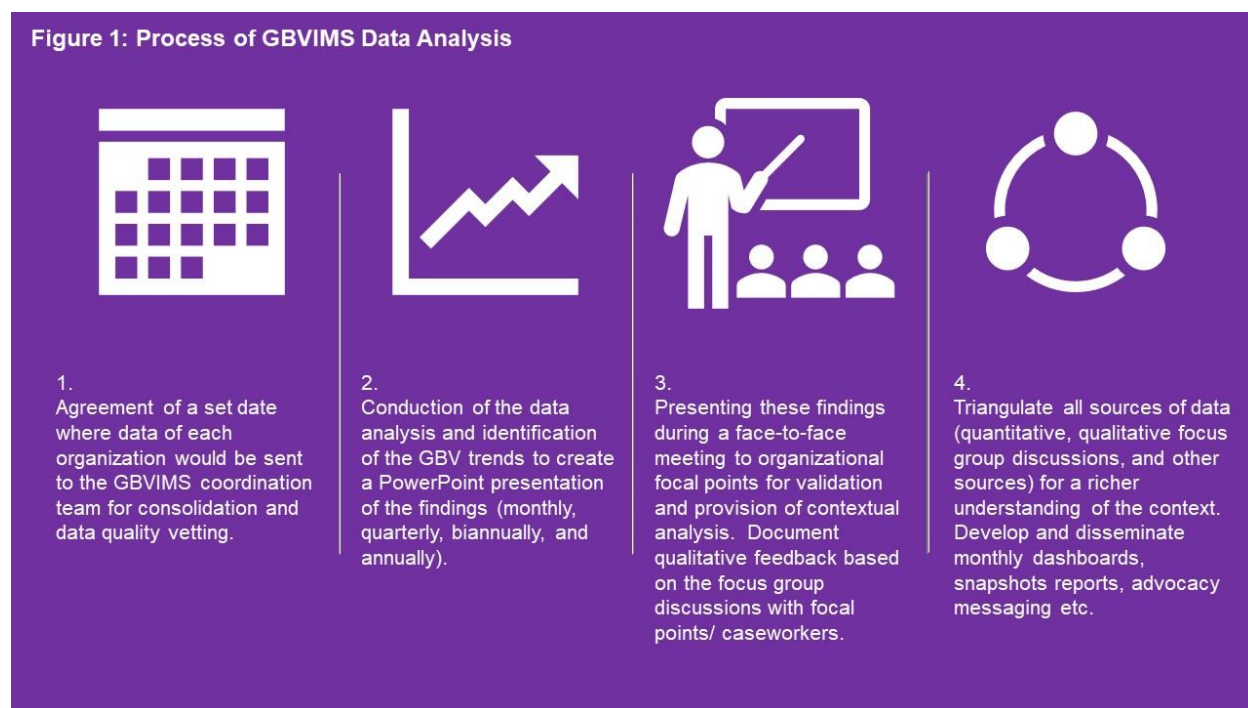**Process of Analysis of GBVIMS Data:**

The Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) was launched in Nigeria in 2015 to harmonize the collection of GBV incident data within the humanitarian setting using standardized data management tools; as well as to promote the safe and ethical sharing of GBV data among partners for improved understanding of the GBV situation among survivors across the emergency states, and to inform programming for impactful GBV prevention and response. In Nigeria, data is collected in the framework of service provision to GBV survivors and only upon their informed consent.

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[1] Service-based data, as stored in the GBVIMS, is labelled 'service-based' because the data is collected at the point of and in connection with service delivery. The GBVIMS can provide one source of data to inform programming. This data is best used in combination with other data sources such as surveys, needs assessments, situationally analyses, focus group discussions, and evidence-based research. It should be noted as well that this data is not prevalence data, nor does it capture all incidents, only those reported in the context of service provision. GBVIMS data is a critical piece to inform programming but needs to be interpreted in the broader context of gender-based violence in that setting.

There are currently 13 international and national Data Gathering Organisations (DGOs) representing 8 National and 5 International Non-Government Organisations, as well as three United Nations organisations that signed a revised Information Sharing Protocol and collected GBVIMS data across 4 states[2] in the NE in 2018. The coordination of the IMS is facilitated by UNFPA.

In the past, retaining interest in the GBVIMS and ensuring partner engagement and reporting was a challenge with an average of 5 partners reporting data monthly to the GBVIMS in 2017. Among the reasons why, the lack of dedicated staff for GBVIMS coordination prevented production of reports and engagement of members. In 2018, engagement of an Inter-Agency GBVIMS Coordinator allowed for measures to be put in place that ensured greater collaboration, promoted organisational buy-in, and ensured that outputs of the GBVIMS would be useful for GBV programming and inter-agency advocacy.

After ensuring that all organizational focal points were trained on how to use the contextualized GBVIMS tools for safe and ethical data collection, storage, and dissemination. The process outlined in Figure 1 was followed.

Figure 1: Process of GBVIMS Data Analysis

1. Agreement of a set date where data of each organization would be sent to the GBVIMS coordination team for consolidation and data quality vetting.

2. Conduction of the data analysis and identification of the GBV trends to create a PowerPoint presentation of the findings (monthly, quarterly, biannually, and annually).

3. Presenting these findings during a face-to-face meeting to organizational focal points for validation and provision of contextual analysis. Document qualitative feedback based on the focus group discussions with focal points/ caseworkers.

4. Triangulate all sources of data (quantitative, qualitative focus group discussions, and other sources) for a richer understanding of the context. Develop and disseminate monthly dashboards, snapshots reports, advocacy messaging etc.

As a result of these processes, a culture of collaboration regarding DGO engagement in the GBVIMS has been fostered. Monitoring and tracking monthly data submission lead to a doubling in the average number of partners reporting. Sharing of GBVIMS trends with partners permits now for responsive action to be taken by signatories of the ISP. i.e. prioritization of the provision of specialized training in 'engaging men in accountable practices as well as inform advocacy at the interagency level.

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[2] The data from Nigeria presently covers Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, and Gombe states.

Also, the quality of the GBVIMS data analysis has improved: by incorporating experiences and perspectives from the field - which was initially missing, and triangulating GBVIMS data with other sources of GBV data i.e. GBV Secondary Data Review, GBV and Child Protection sub sector 5 W's etc. a holistic picture of the GBV situation can be provided which makes outputs from the GBVIMS more operational.

Improving the quality of GBVIMS analysis

GBVIMS organisational focal points in Nigeria are usually Program Managers, Data Entry/ Monitoring and Evaluation staff, or GBV Caseworker Supervisors who do not always meet with survivors in the field daily. Understanding that there was a gap in documenting field level perspectives on GBV trends, DGO focal points decided to invite frontline caseworkers to quarterly analysis sessions. In the process of generating the annual report for 2018, for the first time; the GBVIMS coordination team hosted meetings with field Caseworkers from different DGOs to provide contextual feedback to the 2018 GBVIMS data.

The GBVIMS team sought this as an opportunity to;

(1) Give caseworkers an opportunity to observe and make linkages to where they fit in the 4 stages of information management[3]. i.e. caseworkers primarily involved in stage one and two- data collection and storage, but now putting in measures in place to make sure they are more involved in stage three 'data analysis'[4].

(2) Allow caseworkers to see how the data they collect daily in the field is analysed, used and can inform programming.

(3) Allow caseworkers to provide their insight into the socio-cultural context in which they implement their services.

(4) Allow Caseworkers to provide recommendations for GBV service delivery improvement, and;

(5) Give Caseworkers an opportunity to discuss face-to-face with the GBVIMS coordination team and inform us of the challenges that they were facing (if any) at the field level for corrective action.

During discussions with the Caseworkers for example; a peak in the reported incidents of forced marriage between September and December data for 2018 was suggested to correlate with the 'marriage season'. This is the period correlating with the main harvest (starting normally in October for most crops), that leads to increased agricultural wage labor opportunities and increased levels of income for poor households[5], it was suggested that this may create additional disposable income to fund activities such as marriages. This information is useful in developing targeted Information, Education and Communication materials – for example- for use during this period and impact behavioral change in the communities in which we work.

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[3] Data (1) collection (2) storage (3) analysis (4) sharing
[4] Make link with collecting data using the intake form at field level and storing of these in locked cabinets
[5] FEWS NET. Nigeria Food Security Outlook October 2018 to May 2019. Accessed at
[http://fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/NIGERIA_Food_Security_Outlook_October_2018_Final.pdf]

Examples of how GBVIMS data was used to inform inter agency programming

- GBVIMS trends presented at the Operational HCT allowed for the communication to high level representatives from all Sector Coordination Bodies that referral to services like 'livelihood' were reportedly the most needed but unavailable service among those that reported an incident of GBV. The discussion that ensued highlighted that partners implementing livelihood programs were having challenges with prioritizing GBV survivors when targeting. An action point generated from this was for coordinators of GBV subsector and the livelihood sector to develop a guidance note to support livelihood actors with targeting that makes provisions for survivors of GBV.

- Gaps in service provision for Caring for Child Survivors of GBV was identified though triangulation of data from the GBVIMS, the CP Ss 5W's and the GBV SS 5Ws. These findings were jointly presented at the high-level Call to Action platform meeting attended by donors, government actors, and key GBV stakeholders. The joint analysis not only identified gaps and bottlenecks in joint CP and GBV programming but identified opportunities for closer collaboration between the two sectors in 2019. In 2019 the GBV and CP subsector, under the leadership of UNICEF will implement 5 caring for child survivors of GBV trainings.

If you've utilized GBVIMS data to improve your programming, advocacy efforts or for resource mobilization, and would like to share your story, contact us at gbvims@gmail.com. Your story could appear next in the series of Linkage Data Analysis to Programming.