

Report: Workshop on Referral Pathways

Kambia District, 12.-13.06.2013



1. Participation:

Of the 26 invited participants that represent all key stakeholders according to the Protocol, only the Court Clerk could not attend. So apart from the judiciary all stakeholders were represented with those people in charge of matters of GBV. The participants showed a very high interest in the topic and participated very actively.

2. Content:

The workshop went according to the design of modules (see attached plan). The training content was rated as 'excellent' by all participants. The following points were part of the workshop, point 2.2. to 2.4 will be further explained on the following pages.

2.1. The participants learned the provisions of the Referral Protocol on Gender-Based Violence.

- 2.2. Much emphasis was put on translating the national policy into a reality in Kambia district: the people in charge were identified, and processes and structures were agreed upon to meet the needs and to fit to the circumstances in Kambia.
 - 2.3. Participants identified the key challenges of giving the best possible support to survivors of GBV in Kambia.
 - 2.4. Follow-up of the training was planned to tackle the key challenges for the prevention of GBV and the appropriate referrals in Kambia
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3. Outcome

AMNet Kambia and Freetown have the responsibility to follow-up on the outcome, and to monitor the following process.

3.1. Domestication of the Protocol

3.1.1. Case Conference:

- The case conference will be chaired by the MSWGCA
- It will be composed of: MSWGCA, FSU, HR Committee, the involved NGO or NGOs and any other stakeholder that is involved in the case and who's attention is necessary (e.g. City Council, Media...)
- The responsibilities of the case conference will not only be to plan and to co-ordinate, but also to evaluate and to learn from interventions

3.1.2. Directory of Stakeholders

A mapping and directory of key stakeholders to support victims of GBV in Kambia district has been created to make future coordination easier. See attachment.

3.1.3. Reporting, data collection and confidentiality

A template has been adjusted to provide an overview of the whole referral process (see attachment). This template will guide data collection and help to guide through the referral process. It does **not** replace the case files of each organization, which contain more information. It is anonymous, with each case coded in the following way: Year – Month – No of Case (e.g. 2013-06-01 for the first reported case in June, 2014-11-05 for the fifth reported case in November 2014). There shall always be two copies of this file, one at the MSWGCA and one as back-up at the involved NGO's office.

This shall also help to create a central data-base at MSWGCA to avoid duplication of reported cases to Freetown. It will enable an easy monitoring and evaluation of the situation concerning GBV cases in Kambia.

The participants agreed to use it as a pilot and to review it if necessary. AMNet will follow-up on the use of this tool.

3.2. Planned Follow up according to the key challenges of dealing with cases of GBV

3.2.1. Many cases are compromised due to

- Strong family pressure not to keep matter within family
- Traditional leaders' willingness and pressure to settle matter as family issue
- Some NGOs press for compromises
- Wish of victim to have 'harmony' in the family and not to bring family member to court/prison
- Lacking knowledge about rights and laws
- Lack of coordination

3. Action Points:

- More community sensitization and awareness rising, also by the media
- Strong coordination and networking of committed and knowledgeable stakeholders - see Case Conference and Directory.

3.2.2. There is no official safe home in Kambia district for protective care of survivors

4. Action Points:

- AMNet to address the issue at the MSWGCA in Freetown
- Councillor Aminata Conteh to discuss the issue with the District Council

3.2.3. Usually survivors need to pay for medical services at Kambia Government Hospital – although the law and the protocol provide for free examination and treatment

5. Action Points:

- Participants of workshop that represent the medical institutions (Assistant registrar Birth/Deaths and SECHN) will inform the Hospital about the Protocol and the right to free treatment. They will hand-over an additional copy of the Protocol to hospital – 3rd week of June
- District Council shall reaffirm the duty to provide free medical care at the hospital

3.2.4. The District Council has a key role to play in

- the allocation of funds for services to survivors of GBV (medical treatment, transportation, safe home...),
- in requesting free health care from the Kambia Government Hospital and

- in following – up on the bye-laws concerning GBV that have already been suggested two years ago but still await approval from the national level

➔ Action Points:

- explain to it the roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders according to the Protocol
➔ responsibility: Councillor Aminata Conteh, until end of June
- lobby for the allocation of funds ➔ Responsibility: Gender Desk Officer, SS Officer, Councillors, until August
- request for a joint visit to the Kambia hospital to inform them about their responsibilities and to request the free medical services (examination, treatment and report) for survivors of GBV
- lobby for speeding up the process to get bye-laws approved ➔ Development and Planning Officer, Gender Desk Officer, until December

3.2.5. Legal Justice:

- There is no resident magistrate at Kambia, thus justice is very much delayed
- Many cases are compromised or lost at court level.
- Rape cases are dealt with at the High Court – located in Port Loko - which makes it hard to follow the court proceedings for organizations from Kambia

➔ Strategies:

- Advocate for the allocation of a resident Magistrate to Kambia district.
- Create a good relationship with the Court Clark to advocate for GBV cases, inform him about the Protocol and make a copy of it available to him ➔ Responsibility: Case Conference, until end of June
- The FSU representative will inform the involved parties (case conference) whenever a court hearing of a GBV meeting takes place
- The case conference will follow-up a case, including to the courts
- Partners in Port Loko will be contacted whenever there is a court case that needs to be attended. Partners in Port Loko:
 - ✓ FSU
 - ✓ MSWGCA
 - ✓ HR Committee
 - ✓ CDHR
 - ✓ CSM
 - ✓ Access to Justice
 - ✓ UPHR
 - ✓ UPWHR