



Protection, Gender,
and Inclusion
Africa Update



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

We've been busy since our last newsletter and are very excited to share developments with you!

This newsletter provides an overview of Protection, Gender and Inclusion programming initiatives, advocacy, capacity strengthening, and coordination activities undertaken by the IFRC and Africa National Societies during the period April 2021 to June 2021.

We are very grateful to our Africa National societies, partner National Societies and IFRC for the continued support in ensuring Protection, Gender and Inclusion is integrated in our humanitarian work. We simply could not do the work without you so thank you!

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PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

IFRC is committed to address SGBV. In 2015 during the 32nd International Conference of the RCRC the movement adopted a resolution “**Sexual and Gender Based Violence – Joint action on prevention and response**”. The [resolution](#) states roles and responsibilities as a movement to address SGBV.

Tanzania RC has been receiving various cases related to SGBV from the beneficiaries. Most reported cases were on intimate partner violence and were referred to agencies responsible for SGBV issues within the camps such as IRC, WLAC, Help age and Plan International

Malawi RC conducted SGBV prevention, awareness and referral sessions. A total of 4, 905 (2, 979M, 1, 966F) were reached in Nsanje, Dowa, Blantyre, Nkhatakota and Blaka branches. The sessions aimed at raising awareness on SGBV and taking the community through the referral pathways especially on issues of sexual exploitation and abuse to minors.

Liberia Red Cross trained 48 (24F, 24M) boys’ and girls’ units facilitators on SGBV from 20th -30th April.

Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross organized SGBV community awareness sessions addressing psychological and emotional violence. Survivors of SGBV were referred for counselling and medical assistance.

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA) UPDATES

Tanzania RC conducted Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training to its health and nutrition care workers in the Nyarugusu refugee camp. The code of Conduct, commitments to PSEA principles and procedures were some of the sessions they were taken through.

55(40M, 15F) **Malawi Red Cross** headquarters staff including senior leadership were oriented on Prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and the National Society PSEA policy.

Malawi RC developed Terms of Reference for the SEA investigative committee and a committee established comprising of representative of staff from all levels, governance representative and 2 government officials from the Ministry of Gender, Community development and social welfare.

The following National Societies are currently working on their PSEA policies, **Uganda RC, Zambia RC, Zimbabwe RC**

"The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people" - Unknown

10 SOUTH REGIONAL NEWS
BRUEF
Balaka gets new chairperson
Balaka District Council has elected Patrick Botomani (Democratic Progressive Party-DPP) of Shire Ward in Balaka Central East Constituency as new chairperson. In his acceptance speech, he said he will improve the council's revenue generation. Said Botomani: "Currently, Balaka is the best in Local Authority Performance Assessment. So, I will build on these gains." During the election, Linda Mwapasa (DPP) was elected deputy chairperson. Botomani also served as the council's chairperson in 2014. Balaka District Civil Society Organisations Network chairperson John Bamasi pledged to work with the new chairperson to develop the district. —MARY MAKHRINGA, Malawi News Agency

Red Cross intensifies SGBV awareness
MARTIN CHIWANDA
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY
The Malawi Red Cross Society has intensified awareness campaign against sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) in Nsanje District. The campaign follows reports of rising cases of SGBV in the district. Speaking yesterday during the campaign, Nsanje district social welfare child protection assistant Felix Nkunga speaks during the event. Nsanje district coordinator Patricia Gadi said SGBV affects women and girls psychologically. She said: "With support from Unicef under Humanitarian Preparedness on Disaster and Response, we want to fight the vice." "We have equipped girls and young women with knowledge to report sexual violence to authorities." On his part, Nsanje district social welfare officer Chikumbuso Salifu said his office has registered 20 SGBV cases from Tengen's area. "We, therefore, commend Malawi Red Cross Society for the initiative as it will bring more awareness on the vice," he said. Salifu asked other organisations to join the fight against SGBV in the district. The chief said he was concerned with the rise of SGBV cases in his area. However, he blamed the situation on lack of by-laws. Said Tengen: "We should formulate by-laws to protect girls from SGBV." "I also ask Malawi Red Cross Society to take the campaign to all hard-to-reach places in the area and not just concentrate along the M1." According to the district's social welfare office, Nsanje registered 366 SGBV cases in April and 400 in March this year. ■



CHILD PROTECTION

Lesotho Red Cross incorporates a strong child protection component in all its programmes, including activities with children who are in, or at risk of conflicting with the law. On 15 May 2021, NS staff and volunteers hosted open session in Ha Tsosane Village, Maseru to 145 children on children's rights, how the law deals with issues of children in conflict with the law. The also provided information on referral pathways that parents and guardians can use to get their children mental health and psychosocial support so they can approach life more positively.

Liberia Red Cross organized 12 girls' units and 12 boys' units in April, 2021. The units will have regular meetings to identify protection issues in their communities and come up with action points for implementation. Each forum comprised of 20 persons of age between 10-24.

Malawi Red Cross Conducted awareness meetings that targeted youth clubs (in school and out of school clubs). The topics focused more on prevention of teen pregnancies and child marriages. A total of 42 youth clubs were reached at Mangochi branch.

INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On 22 May 2021, the **Lesotho Red Cross** hosted a session for 62 children with visual impairments at Saint Bernadette Resource Center for the Blind. The session provided comprehensive education about COVID-19 prevention and children's rights. 7 boys and 7 girls were identified for counselling and life coaching.

Tanzania Red Cross supported a group for women with albinism based in Dar es Salaam with Covid-19 protective gears/equipment's (disposable masks, sanitizers and liquid soap). This was to support them during the International Albinism Awareness Day celebrated on 13th June 2021.

Zimbabwe Red Cross conducted awareness sessions on Covid -19 and WASH to persons with disabilities in Jairos Jiri centre in Gwanda

"Our human family is completed when everyone is included." - Curt Armstrong



TRAININGS

Liberia Red Cross conducted PGI training for 8 new staff (2F, 6M). Training emphasized the Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) framework in PGI mainstreaming in all activities and programs.

Malawi Red Cross staff and volunteers, community protection structures, Health Surveillance Assistance (HSAs) and Child Protection workers from Dowa, Blantyre and Balaka branches were trained on PGI Mainstreaming and how to ensure community centered COVID 19 vaccine roll out. A total of 165 (70M,95 F) attended the training.

20 volunteers from Kunene and Omusati regions were trained by **Namibia Red Cross** on PGI integration, PSEA and code of conduct. The 2-day training was part of the Angola migrants to Namibia response. The training equipped them with knowledge to ensure the protection of human dignity is maintained in the camps.

Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross trained 10 focus groups with 10 women's associations (175 women) on the functioning of women's associations in rural areas of Marais, Soleil and Gonaté.

UPDATES FROM THE IFRC PGI DESK

Facilitated on PGI at the Africa Regional Training on how to ensure an inclusive and community centered **COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout** held on 21st and 22nd April

Held **PGI monthly sessions** (15th June French and 16th June English) to the PGI Regional Network. It focused on integrating PGI using the [PGI minimum standards in emergencies](#).

PGI team held meetings with **NSD team in Africa**. The meeting focused on including PGI in NSD especially in engaging leadership on the importance of PGI.

On 19th June 2021 during the international day against sexual violence in conflict, IFRC participated in the ICRC session and presented on actions IFRC takes in **prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence** in emergencies.

PGI team facilitated on child protection in the CP3 **capacity building sessions** for teachers and administrative staff, students and volunteers in the northern and eastern regions of Cameroon.

Held PGI awareness session with Somali Red Crescent (**SRCS**) health and PGI coordinators on integrating PGI in emergencies.

"Inclusion is about giving value to every human being no matter our differences"



NEW MATERIALS

1. **PGI in WASH** - We are thrilled to share with you the direct link and the attachment of the [PGI in WASH guidance note](#) and a three minute [video trailer](#).
2. **IFRC Child Safeguarding policy** - The IFRC [Child Safeguarding Policy](#) provides a framework for ensuring that IFRC programmes are designed and implemented with the best interests of the child in mind.
3. **New Integrity line** - the IFRC has launched a new integrity reporting line and case management system called “Integrity Line”. “Integrity Line” includes a whistle-blowing reporting system with integrated case management module. Everyone can report cases of fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), and other incidents (health, security, data breach or emblem misuse).
4. **SGBV Toolkit –SGBV IEC materials** The SGBV toolkit has IEC materials that can be utilized by staff and volunteers in SGBV prevention and response activities.
5. **PGI Regional Profile - PGI Go page** - For updates on PGI work in Africa visit the PGI Go page



“Diversity and inclusion, which are the real grounds for creativity, must remain at the center of what we do.” Marco Bizzarri

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. **PGI Monthly sessions** – The sessions are held every mid of the month., Look out for the SGBV, PSEA and Disability inclusion sessions which are upcoming in the next quarter.
2. **Youth as PGI champions training** – We will have a 4-part series training for youth volunteers to be PGI champions in their National Societies. The training will start in the month of August and end in November- (Look out for more updates on this).
3. **African Climate Fellowship** – PGI team will be facilitating at the Africa Climate Fellowship which is set to start on 20th July 2021.
4. **Trafficking in persons global E-module Launch** – The French global E-module “Understanding and Responding to Trafficking in Persons” will be launched in September.
5. The PGI team will present at the **UN Women high level forum** in September on the inclusion, leadership and Participation of women and girls in humanitarian action, risk related recovery and resilience in the Chad lake basin.
6. Celebration of **African Women day** on 31st July 2021 – This will be a virtual event focusing on Women’s humanitarian action through the eyes of the National Societies in Africa

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“You have a responsibility to make inclusion a daily thought !!!”

