INVITATION: Gender-Based Violence Girls’ and Women’s Rights in the Central Sahel

Virtual Side Event on the Central Sahel, 16 October 2020 | 3:30pm-5:00pm CEST

Register in advance for the virtual event on Zoom and receive your access link to join.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a critical protection issue in the Sahel crisis. Conflict and displacement are driving escalating levels of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, exploitation and abuse towards girls and women in Central Sahel.

Before COVID-19, at least 10% of girls aged 15-19 in Mali had experienced acts of sexual violence and 34% had experienced physical violence. In Niger, 6% of girls and in Burkina Faso 51% of girls married before the age of 18. This situation is amplified by multiple crises including COVID-19, which has led to the breakdown of family, social and legal networks, and the collapse of GBV support services.

Despite rising needs, prevention and response to GBV, gender equality and the rights of girls and women are insufficiently prioritized in the Sahel. Girls and women are being left behind and excluded from participating in decision-making structures. Girls and women in Central Sahel deserve to be heard when the future of their own region is on the agenda.

Only 3% of required funding requested via the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plans for Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger were dedicated to the elimination of GBV. Girls and women in the Sahel deserve to be heard when the future of their own region is on the agenda. Action to prevent violence from taking place, mitigating risk and ensuring access to life saving response for survivors requires collective and reinforced action to save lives, achieve the SDGs, and foster stabilization.

Plan International, Care International, UNFPA and the GBV AoR invite you to join a virtual event, 16 October 2020 at 3:30 PM CEST.

The event will provide participants and officials with recommendations from Sahelian girls and local women’s groups providing GBV services and working with girls’ and women’s rights in the Central Sahel. This will guide the global Call to Action for the protection from GBV in emergencies to strengthen the prevention and response to GBV within the humanitarian response in the Sahel and across the triple nexus.

HEADLINES:

- Sahelian Girls Speak Out!
- Preventing and Responding to GBV in Central Sahel
- Collective Accountability to GBV Survivors

The event will draw the attention of all actors to the scale of the critical challenges of GBV in the Sahel and allow them to learn directly from Sahelian girls’ and local service providers’ experiences and recommendations on GBV. It will invite government representatives and donors to share their ambitions on the fight against GBV.
SPEAKERS

- Ms. Mette Thygesen, Head of Department, Humanitarian Actions, Civil Society, and Engagement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
- Sahelian Girls: Nene from Mali, Sandra from Burkina Faso, Yasmina from Niger
- Ms. Kaimaram Madou Gadi, Representative from Mata Masu Dubara (MMD) de Mainé, Niger
- Ms. Mariam Kouyate, Representative from Association “Jigiya” Hope of Women Group, Mali
- Ms. Marie Laurence Ilboudo Marchal, Ministry of Woman, National Solidarity, Family and Social Action - Burkina Faso
- Mme Bintou Founé SAMAKE, Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family - Mali
- Ms. Andrea Koulaimah, Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), European Union (TBC)
- ECOWAS Commissioner TBC.
- Mr. Mabingue Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director, West and Central Africa Region

REGISTER FOR THE SIDE EVENT HERE

Translation will be available from French to English.