



World Food Programme

Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls

SAY NO-UNITE

TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The UN General Assembly, in 1999, designated **25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.**

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can include physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, and it cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography. It takes place in the home, on the streets, in schools, the workplace, in farm fields, refugee camps, during conflicts and crises. Among women aged between 15 and 44, acts of violence cause more death and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined. Violence against women devastates lives, fractures communities, and stalls development.

Up to 70 percent of women experience violence in their lifetime: let's take action to end violence against women now!

Keep Her Safe

As the devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines emerged in November 2013, the protection of women and girls affected by the storm was high on the world's agenda. The emergency in the Philippines coincided with the **Keep Her Safe** event, part of the UK Government's International Call to Action on Violence Against Women and Girls, where WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin joined other humanitarian leaders in London to make a global commitment to strengthen the response to violence against women and girls in crises around the world. Leaders took the opportunity to underline the need to prioritise the safety concerns for women and girls from the onset of the response in the Philippines.



World Food Programme

World Food Programme Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls



Examples of how WFP addresses the problem



Mapping the issue in a Malawi refugee camp

In April 2013, WFP Malawi conducted a baseline survey together with UN WOMEN and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence in Dzaleka refugee camp. The aim of this initiative was to inform new strategies and enhance existing mechanisms to deal with the issue in the camp effectively. The survey also provided concrete baseline data to ensure that gender and protection concerns are taken into account in WFP programming and to enhance future monitoring of progress in this area. The survey forms one part of WFP's protection activities within Dzaleka camp, complementing the construction of a community centre funded by WFP. This provides a space for the meetings of a specially formed committee that discusses the problem, as well as a place where refugees can receive counselling and take part in capacity-building and other activities.

Ecuador – Nationwide Media Campaign

As part of the UNITE initiative, WFP Ecuador has joined forces with UN Women, UNICEF and other UN agencies to promote a nationwide media campaign aimed at raising awareness on the various forms of sexual and gender-based violence. The campaign produced 18 videos with the testimonies of survivors. These are being used to give visibility to the situation of Ecuadorian women, and promote a culture of respect. They are also being used by WFP when discussing the issue with local governmental partners.

As part of WFP's programme to assist Colombian refugees and vulnerable Ecuadorians in the northern border area, WFP provides assistance to women survivors of violence and their children. Women staying in the Women's Federation safe shelters of Sucumbios receive food and vouchers as part of an integrated recovery package. Psychosocial support, day care and fun activities for the children are also available.



For more information see:

<http://go.wfp.org/web/gender>

<http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/>

<http://www.saynotoviolence.org/>