



IEDA Relief Report Cameroon

IEDA Relief launches SGBV awareness campaign

Minawao camp and host communities (Zamai, Gadala and Gwar)

15th to the 19th September 2015

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Summary

From the 15th to the 19th of September, IEDA Relief organised an awareness raising campaign on issues linked to gender at the Minawao camp and its surrounding villages, in collaboration with the partners currently working on protection and SGBV in the camp. This campaign was conducted with the aim of reinforcing the SGBV prevention and protection system for SGBV victims through educational talks, informative workshops and exchanges, door-to-door awareness and a mobile caravan.



Introduction

Following the example of other organisations working in the camp and leading different activities, IEDA Relief leads different activities to fight sexual and gender based violence through the protection programs which assist refugees. These activities are aimed at raising awareness among the refugee population, identifying and referring the different cases to the partners in charge of offering support in the medical and psycho-social areas, as well as monitoring and offering specific support to victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Within the refugee protection program, SGBV represents one of the most recurrent challenges.

The Campaign

Having to face the growing phenomena of SGBV in the Minawao camp, IEDA Relief, through their protection program and assistance to refugees, decided to launch an awareness campaign against gender and sexual based violence with the aim of reinforcing the mechanisms of prevention and response. The aim of this campaign was to bring a new dynamic to fight SGBV, in particular the violence directed to women and young girls in the camp and hosting communities. To achieve this, IEDA Relief worked towards raising awareness and increasing the knowledge of the general population on the SGBV phenomena. In addition, IEDA Relief equipped young girls and boys with new knowledge and comprehension on the meaning of sexual and gender based violence and on how to prevent it. Finally, IEDA Relief called to action the chiefs of blocs, the chiefs of hosting villages and religious leaders, with regards to the necessity of creating and putting into effect the mechanisms of prevention, support, legal procedures and increasing their own knowledge of the harmful consequences of SGBV so they can create or reinforce the mechanisms of prevention and fight against SGBV in their respective localities, churches and mosques.

- **Educational talks**

Educational talks on SGBV were organised on the 15th, 16th, 18th and 19th of September in the camp and host community. The targets of this activity were secondary schools students in the camp and surrounding villages, and women, men and unschooled young people of the camp. The themes addressed were the causes and consequences of forced and early marriages, as well as the causes and consequences of SGBV, and the attitudes that should be adopted in the school and community environments to avoid and even eradicate SGBV.

The campaign was done with the participation of the different partners working in the areas of prevention and support of SGBV victims and survivors, such as the *Association de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes* (Association to Fight against the Violence done to Women) (ALFV), Public Concern and International Medical Corps. IEDA Relief also worked with the support of secondary school directors, traditional chiefs and religious leaders to better reach the local community.

- **Information workshops and exchanges on the problems linked to gender**

The targeted people for this activity were mainly community volunteers and the SGBV committee, as well as the chiefs of the different divisions of the camp, traditional chiefs, and religious leaders. These workshops took place in the meeting areas where women usually reunite (when it came to the women targeted in the camp) and in the traditional chiefdoms when it came to the rest of the targeted population in the host communities.

Community volunteers are refugees that volunteer for IEDA Relief in the Minawao camp and to which IEDA Relief provides a motivation to allow them to financially support themselves. They were called to take part in these information and exchange workshops along with the SGBV committee, which is mainly made up of refugees. In total, 115 people, among which 93 community volunteers from IEDA Relief and 22 members of the SGBV committee were sensitized and well equipped in terms of prevention and awareness of SGBV so they can share the same information with their community and spread the message.

- **Raising awareness door-to-door**

Awareness sessions were mainly led in the camp with the assistance of community volunteers. Volunteers went door to door, transmitting key messages on the campaign by using megaphones. In total, **11,228 people among which 3,456 men, 1,985 women, 598 boys and 5,189 girls were reached during these awareness sessions.**

- **Mobile caravan**

The mobile caravan crossed the camp and hosting villages sharing key messages with the populations so they could be made aware of the terrible consequences and risks of SGBV. In total, more than **18,650 people were reached** by this motorised awareness technique among which 16,000 people in Minawao, 800 in Zamai, 700 in Gadala and 1,150 in Gawar.

Outcomes of the campaign

The educational talks led in schools in the host communities reached 102 students of the Zamai and Gawar secondary schools. Having agreed with the representatives of the schools in question, 2 SGBV clubs were put in place.

In the Minawao camp, 185 people among whom 25 men, 80 women, 30 boys and 50 girls were reached through the educational talks on the different themes selected. These workshops allowed us to increase the general perception and knowledge of the population on GBV.

An awareness campaign was also done through informative workshops and exchanges to the attention of traditional chiefs and religious leaders in the host communities of Zamai, Gadala and Gawar. This way, 107 people were reached among which 02 Lamibés, 38 Lawanes, 61 Djaouro (traditional chiefs listed by hierarchy, from the highest to the lowest) 30 Notables¹

¹ “Notables” are the traditional chiefs’ (Lamido, Lawan or Djaourou) councillors. The group of notables makes a council and chiefs consult them for important matters. Notables are the guardians of tradition or ancestral practices.

and 45 religious leaders, thus a total of 176 people that were sensitized and warned on this matter.

To conclude, more than 30,491 people were reached by this awareness campaign, among which 90% in the Minawao camp, out of which 66% were women, 38% were young women and 34% were men. This campaign was a prelude to the celebration of the International Young Woman's Day in October 2015.

Pictures of the SGBV awareness campaign



Information and exchange workshop on the problems linked to gender in Zamaï



Educational talks with the children of the Zamai secondary school



Mass awareness session at the Minawao camp



Mobile caravan crossing the Minawao camp



Educational talks with the students at the secondary school of Gawar



Information and exchange workshop on the problems linked to gender in Gawar



Installation of participants for the information and exchange workshop on the problems linked to gender at the chiefdom of Gawar



Mass awareness session at the Gawar market during the crossing of the mobile caravan