

# Caring for Child Survivors Initiative: Addressing the Needs of Boy and Girl Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

Interaction, Washington D.C  
August 2, 2012

*Presented by:*  
*Leora Ward, Women's Protection and Empowerment*  
*Technical Advisor*  
*International Rescue Committee*

# **FACT: Child Sexual Abuse is Common Across Communities & Cultures**

**1 IN 6 GIRLS REPORTS SEXUAL ABUSE BEFORE THE AGE OF 18 GLOBALLY.**

**1 IN 10 BOYS REPORTS SEXUAL ABUSE BEFORE THE AGE OF 18 GLOBALLY.**

**In 2010, 45% OF GBV INCIDENTS REPORTED TO IRC WERE PERPETRATED AGAINST CHILDREN. 38% OF THESE CASES WERE SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

**BOYS AND GIRLS ARE MOST OFTEN ABUSED BY SOMEONE THEY KNOW AND DEPEND ON FOR CARE. CHILDREN KNEW THE PERPETRATOR IN 91% OF GBV INCIDENTS REPORTED TO IRC IN 2010.**



# Caring for Child Survivors Initiative

September 2010–December 2013

## **Caring for Child Survivors Initiative Goal:**

Humanitarian field staff have the technical expertise to deliver child friendly, age appropriate case management, psychosocial & mental health, and clinical care interventions to children and families affected by sexual abuse.

**The CCS Initiative is made possible by generous support from BPRM, UNICEF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.**

# Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse

## What we found in the pilot

- **Huge knowledge gap** – Humanitarian field staff require specialized training and skills to respond to the specific needs of children and families.
- **Lack of clarity on response procedures:** Different understanding and practice in providing care including mandatory reporting, informed consent, and confidentiality.
- **Troubling attitudes** – Across all sectors, harmful beliefs about child sexual abuse were discovered.
- **Poor coordination** – Lack of information sharing agreements and trust across service providers for coordination of care for children exists.

# Elements to Quality Care for Children

Knowledge



Attitude



Skills

***Guiding Principles***

***for working with sexually abused children***

CARING For Child Survivors  
Purpose: Train GBV+Child protection  
staff on Key KNOWLEDGE  
ATTITUDES for working  
with Children who are Sexually  
abused  
With a focus on Core  
and Psychosocial Support

What is Child  
Sexual abuse?

---



40.  
30-2  
3:30-3:  
4:30-5:  
• Active Urte  
• mobile

Training on core knowledge and attitudes of sexual abuse



# **Knowledge and Attitudes:**

## **Features of Sexual Abuse Against Boys**

**Boys may see themselves as powerless and flawed**

**The perpetrator is most often a man (or older boy) and previously known to the child**

**Boys do not always prefer to speak with male service providers**

**Boys may fear becoming homosexual as a result of the abuse**



Training on how to use toys, dolls and other materials to develop interviewing skills



# **“THE HOW TO”**

**How to communicate**

**How to provide care**

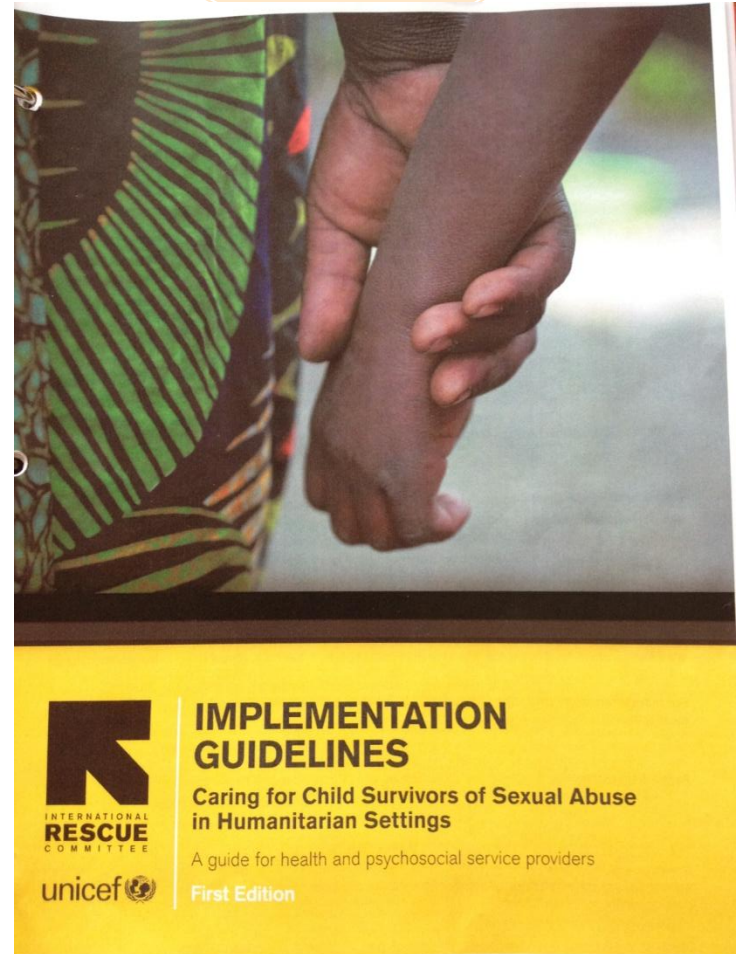
**How to apply the guiding principles**

**How to provide case management**

**How to provide psycho or healing education**

**How to monitor and supervise care**

## **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES**



**All CCS materials were vetted through an internal and external review process and piloted in the field.**

**World Health Organization  
IRC Child & Youth Protection and Development  
IRC Women's Protection & Empowerment  
IRC Health Technical Unit  
UNICEF  
Johns Hopkins University**

# Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse

## Recommendations and Key Considerations

### Key Issues to Build Upon

- Child protection and GBV service providers need to be **trained on the minimum standards** for working with child survivors of sexual abuse
- Further analysis and assessment should be done to **understand the barriers** for boys seeking care and treatment
- Continued dialogue around the level of attention or resources that should be put into **understanding men 's and boys' experience** of violence and related responses
- Develop comprehensive standards for **assessing organizational readiness** to start up or implement case management for child survivors of sexual abuse
- Develop **mental interventions** that are specific to male and female child survivors of sexual abuse



***THANK YOU!***

***<http://www.gbvresponders.org/>***

