Gender, armed violence and the SDGs

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Headlines

- Presenting WILPF’s views on how to conduct a gender sensitive risk assessment
- What are the indicators to consider?
- What are the sources of data and information?
Much of the information is taken from our 2015 report.
But first…

- Examining how gender-based violence looks like on the ground.
- How are weapons being used to facilitate GBV?
- What does the suffering we seek to prevent through the ATT look like?
What is gender-based violence?
What is GBV?

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is the **most prevalent** form of violence in the **world**.

- GBV is violence that is directed at a person **based on** her or his **specific sex or gender role** in society.

- Linked to the **gendered identity** of being a woman, man, intersex, transsexual, or transgendered.

- The most prevalent form of GBV is **violence against women and girls**.
## Four types of GBV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual violence</th>
<th>Physical violence</th>
<th>Emotional and psychological violence</th>
<th>Socioeconomic violence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual harassment, rape</td>
<td>Physical assault</td>
<td>Abuse</td>
<td>Discrimination and/or denial of opportunities and services</td>
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<td>Rape</td>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>Humiliation</td>
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<td>Forced prostitution</td>
<td>Human trafficking and slavery</td>
<td>Confinement</td>
<td>Prevention of the exercise and enjoyment of civil, social, economic, cultural, and political rights</td>
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<td>SViC</td>
<td>Forced sterilisation</td>
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<td><strong>Harmful practices:</strong></td>
<td>Forced abortion</td>
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<td>honor crimes, forced marriages</td>
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<td>and FGM</td>
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**SViC**: Forced sterilisation

**Harmful practices:**
- Honor crimes
- Forced marriages and FGM
- Forcible abortion
YEMEN
Gender-based violence during the conflict

- **Increase by 70%** of GBV incidents*

- **Arbitrary detention** of women including political and religious/sect minorities.

- **Direct targeting** of women: blind airstrikes, cluster bombs, indiscriminate shelling, snipers, anti-personal mines and AV mines.

- **Assaults** on female students, journalists, HR defenders, relief workers, women protesters + mobility restriction.

*Intersos UNFPA GBV trend analysis and Yemeni Women Union*
How do weapons fit into all of this?
Arms and GBV

1. While arms themselves may not always be directly implicated in such violence, they are nevertheless correlated with an increase in gendered inequality and a generalised culture of violence against women in particular.
Arms and GBV

2. Widespread possession and use of weapons tends to prevent women from fully participating in public and political life, and to hinder their economic empowerment, which also qualifies as gender-based violence.

3. Acts of GBV can occur in conflict or non-conflict settings and both in the domestic and the public sphere.
Arms and GBV

4. The presence of a gun increases the likelihood of domestic violence turning into murder by 500%.

5. Guns are also frequently used to facilitate sexual violence.
So how can we use the ATT as a tool to prevent this?
ATT and GBV

- Article 7(4) and GBV criterion
- GBV often overlooked

Including GBV provision in ATT:
- Underlines the need for GBV prevention explicitly
- Makes its exclusion from risk assessments more difficult.
- Highlights that arms trade, possession, and use have specific gender and power dimensions that need to be further examined and addressed
ATT and GBV

- Under the ATT, it is illegal to transfer weapons if there is a risk that the weapons will be used to facilitate GBV (Article 7(4)).

- In practice, those conducting risk assessment processes for the export and import of weapons will have to take into account legislative and normative factors around GBV in the recipient countries.
Effective implementation of GBV provision

Enabling more effective protection of human rights and prevention of armed violence

Build understanding about links between the international arms trade and GBV more broadly

Build understanding about risks and dangers in potential recipient countries

Helps preventing GBV
How can officials conduct gender sensitive risk assessments?
Step A

- States parties should clearly include, in their national export regulations, references to the gender provisions of the ATT and make it mandatory for all stakeholders to apply these provisions.

Step B

- Is there evidence of acts or patterns of GBV in the recipient country?
- What information is there to demonstrate the current and past record of the proposed end-user in relation to the perpetration of GBV?
- Is the evidence of such violations reoccurring? Is the evidence reliable and credible? Is it documented in the state’s own reports, or those of credible non-governmental or inter-governmental bodies?

Step C

- Are there laws, policies, and implementation mechanisms in the importing states designed to prevent GBV and also to strictly regulate the sale, transfer, and use of such arms, including obligations to record, report, and document such acts?
- Are these laws and policies implemented? Are the implementation mechanisms effective?
Step D
• What has the government’s response been to past incidents of GBV?
• Has the government cooperated with other states, UN investigations, or the ICC in connection with criminal proceedings relating to GBV?
• Is there national legislation in place prohibiting and punishing GBV and legislation allowing for cooperation with international investigations and tribunals?
• Are the recipient country’s national laws to protect women’s and girls’ human rights in line with international standards—i.e. has the country ratified CEDAW?
• Has the recipient country taken concrete steps to implement any of the UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security?

Step E
• Is there a coordination of policies and legislation on GBV and on the possession of firearms?
• Are there vetting systems for the acquisition of firearms or the enrolment of private security companies and do they include background checks on GBV or psychological tests that would take into account risk of GBV?
Have requirements been put in place for military commanders to prevent and suppress GBV and to take action against those under their control who have committed acts of GBV?

What is the recipient’s capacity to ensure that the arms or equipment transferred are used in a manner consistent with international law relevant to women’s rights, and are not diverted or transferred to other destinations where they might be used for serious violations of this law?
Where to find information to answer these questions?
Importing or exporting state law, policy, and extent of implementation similar information from national and international CS

Human rights reports by states and shadow reports by NGOs under CEDAW and others + recommendations from treaty monitoring bodies

National implementation of 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, including NGO shadow reports

UN Secretary General annual reports on SViC

Media Reports

Reports & recommendations from other UN or Regional human rights bodies

Digging for data
Synergies between ATT, international system, and SDGs
Human rights bodies can be useful as advisory bodies for elaborating assessments.

Their information can also be used in the assessment of each specific country, as they can provide a human rights analysis regarding the use of weapons and can analyse the impact of the implementation of the ATT on human rights.

Example: HRC new report on arms transfer law and human rights, that takes into account ATT obligations.
The ATT Conference of States Parties must, at the same time, request this information from these bodies and provide feedback on how the information given is being used.
ATT, GBV, and SDGs

- Two of the Sustainable Development Goals can correspond to arms transfer and GBV issues.
SDG Goal 16:
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Key Target for ATT
• 16.4: reduce illicit financial and arms flows

The relationship to the ATT is obvious.
SDG Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Key Targets
- 5.2: End all forms of VAW including trafficking
Effective implementation of the ATT should therefore lead to a reduction in violence against women and girls.

Proper reporting on how this aspect of the ATT is being implemented – and the impact it is actually having on the ground - could contribute to reporting on this target, or act as an indicator in the national context.
Thank you