



PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HAITI

1

Leora Ward
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE



FAST FACTS: Women & Natural Disasters*

WOMEN ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO DIE THAN MEN.

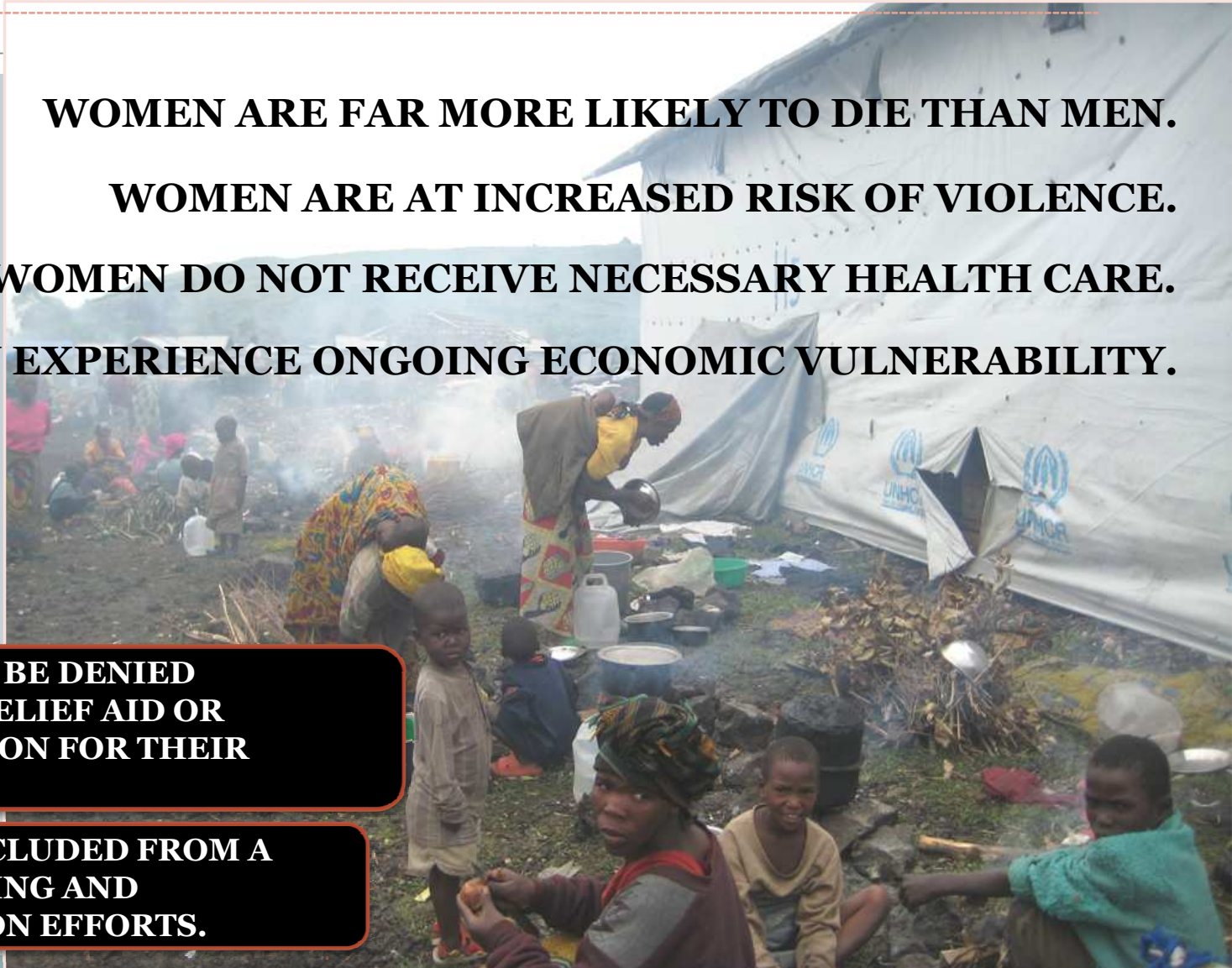
WOMEN ARE AT INCREASED RISK OF VIOLENCE.

WOMEN DO NOT RECEIVE NECESSARY HEALTH CARE.

WOMEN EXPERIENCE ONGOING ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY.

**WOMEN MAY BE DENIED
ADEQUATE RELIEF AID OR
COMPENSATION FOR THEIR
LOSSES.**

**WOMEN ARE EXCLUDED FROM A
SAY IN REBUILDING AND
RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS.**



**All fast facts here taken from [Caught in the Storm: The Impact of Natural Disasters on Women](#), The Global Fund for Women*

Gender-Based Violence in Disasters

3

- Disasters break down social networks and systems that protect women and girls.
- Humanitarian actors designing responses to natural disasters rarely undertake measures to reduce sexual violence.
- Crucial protection systems and response services are typically implemented long after the initial days of a crisis.

The Reality

4

The humanitarian community typically prioritizes food aid, healthcare, water and sanitation services, and shelter from the onset of a response to a natural disaster, often preferring to wait until later in an emergency to address the issue of sexual violence.



The CASE STUDY of HAITI

IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF WOMEN IN HAITI

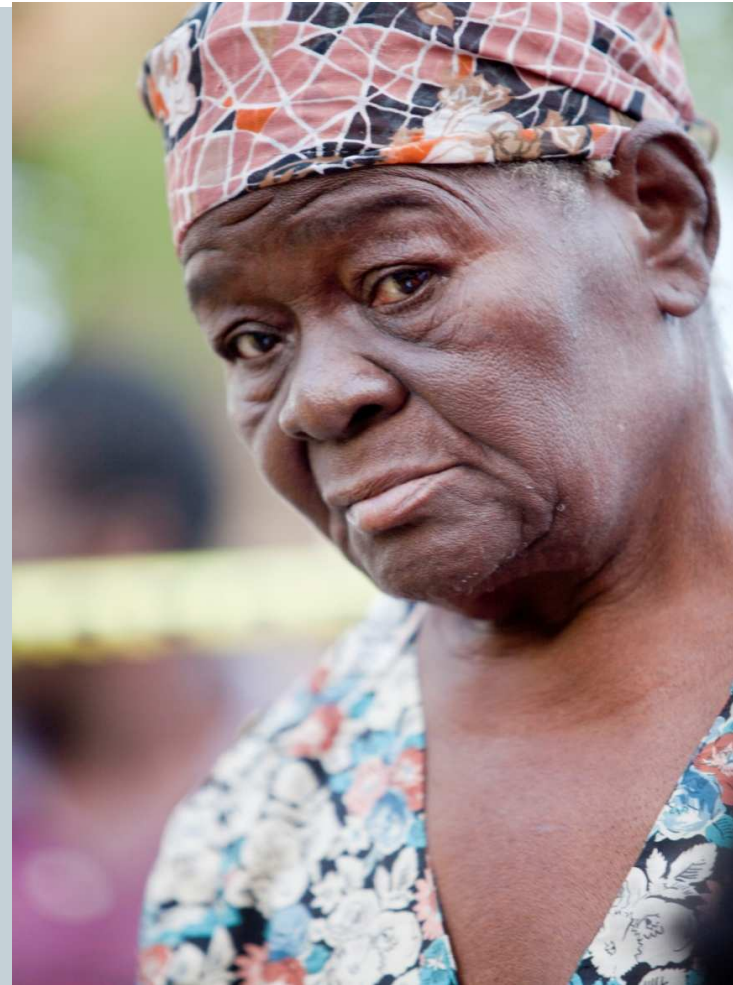
- Information and Resources
- Basic necessities (shelter, food, lighting)
- Water and Sanitation
- Safety and Security
- Women's sanitary products (i.e. sanitary towels and vaginal creams)
- Livelihoods
- GBV services



IRC Program Priorities

7

- Reducing Vulnerability
- Undertaking community-based prevention
- Increasing access to services
- Improving coordination
- Ensuring the voices of women and girls are heard during reconstruction



Multisectoral Programming

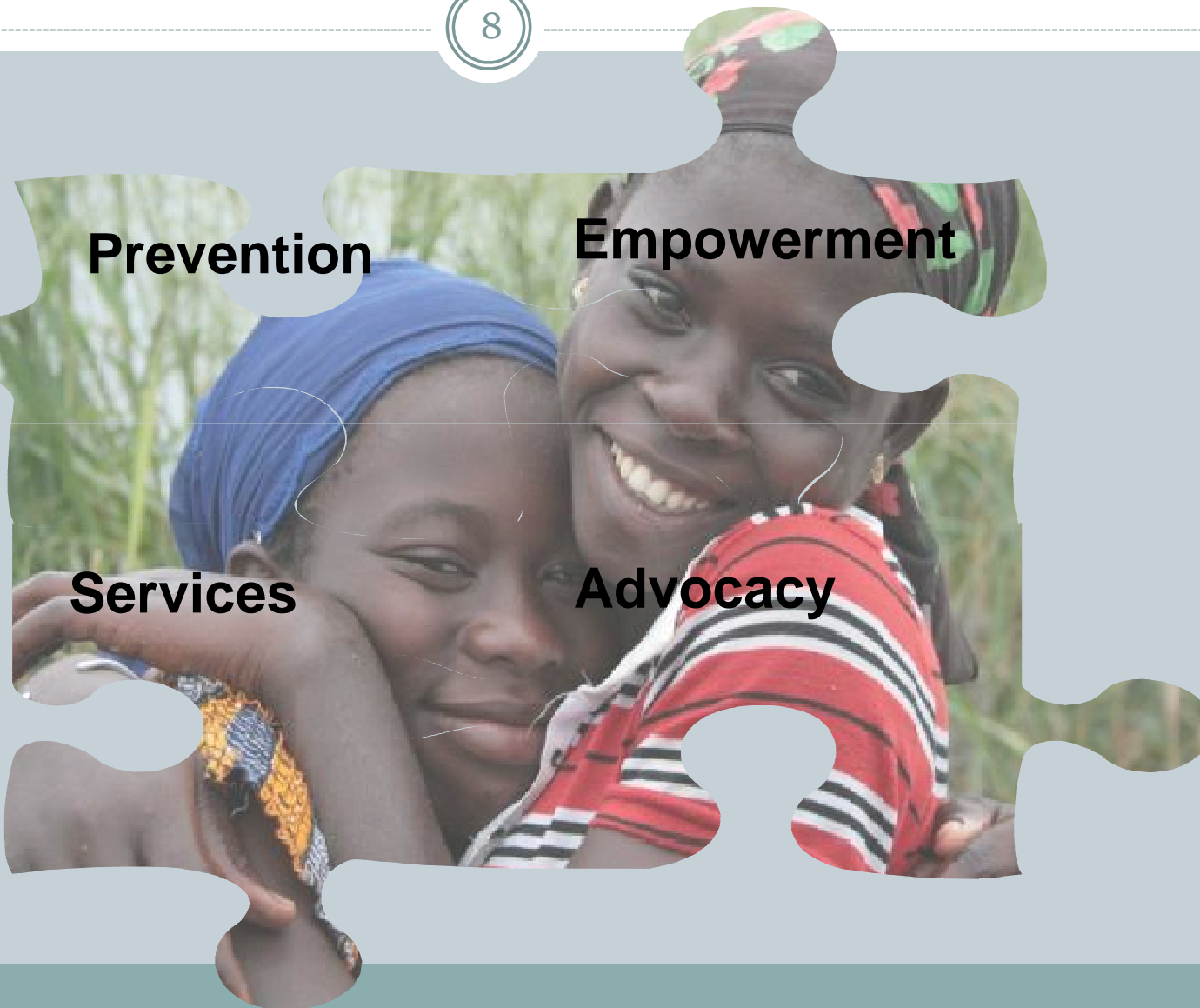
8

Prevention

Empowerment

Services

Advocacy



Reducing Vulnerability

9

- Conducted safety audits in over 10 sites, which were shared within IRC and externally with the GBV sub cluster
- Trained Camp Managers on basic GBV principles
- Advocated for standards to be taken into account, according to the IASC Guidelines
- Distributed women's dignity/hygiene kits



Community-based Prevention

10

- Safety planning with survivors
- Created information boards in the camps
- Women's leadership and networking
- Development of safe spaces
- Community mobilization and awareness raising



Access to Services

11

- Identification and capacity building of service providers
- Assisting with transportation of survivors
- Share information about referral points and pathways
- Sharing information about services
- Improving age-specific services (i.e. for girls)



Improving Coordination

12

- Development of referral cards
- Attended cluster meetings and advocated for a cluster strategy
- Creation of key messages and guidance
- Mapping of key actors
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs



Advocacy: Ensuring Voices are Heard

13

- Addressing the “lack of data” issue
- Highlighting the voices of women and girls in their words
- Talked about women in key policy discussions
- Advocated for a partnership approach
- Discussions with donors



Critical Partnerships

Essential to quality and sustainable programming

- KAY FANM
- SOFA
- LIMYE LAVI (Jacmel)
- KOFAVIV
- URAMEL
- Other Community Groups

Continuing Challenges and Opportunities

15

- Long-term funding for prevention and service provision
- Developing an inclusive and coordinated approach to programming
- Improving and building upon what exist as opposed to setting up parallel systems
- Taking advantage of opportunities to change gender dynamics in Haitian society
- Ensuring that humanitarian and development programming are implemented side-by-side.



THANK YOU

CONTACT:

Leora Ward

Leora.Ward@rescue.org



“I feel a great need to fight violence because I have both been subjected to acts of violence and a witness to acts of violence occurring in my community. Now that I’m a psychosocial volunteer, a perpetrator will need to think twice before perpetrating against me because people see what the psychosocial volunteers have come to represent.” – Francette Calixte