

COVID-19 Annex 1: Protection Risks

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

- Misinformation: stigmatization of sick people, survivors, health care workers
- High-risk groups (vulnerable and marginalized): older people, people with underlying health conditions, and likely, sex workers and migrants
- Exclusion of diverse groups from leadership and participation

CHILD PROTECTION

- Numbers of orphans, separated and unaccompanied children will increase; safe alternative care options required
- Children caring for family members
- Risk of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking
- Household tension may give rise to corporal punishment and exposure to intimate partner violence
- Schooling closures will disrupt education; pressure on parents to care for children; potential loss of important food source
- Household financial pressure may lead to child labor, early marriage, and trafficking

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- Loss of loved ones
- Impact of isolation on mental health
- Experience/witness traumatic event, e.g., health workers in hazmat suits
- Fear of infection. rumors and lack of accurate information (local language, adapted to local customs, various formats)
- Distress if unable to comfort sick with physical contact or perform traditional rituals and burials
- Increased tension and violence may lead to attacks against health workers/providers of assistance
- High workload/stress of frontline workers

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- Women at high risk of COVID-19: more likely to be front line health workers/support staff (cleaners, laundry, etc); carers for family; pregnant women (increased contact with health services)
- Maternal health care and gender-based violence programming disrupted and fear of attending services may lead to increased maternal mortality and other health/protection issues
- Social norms mean in some contexts women will be last to receive medical care
- Low female literacy and lack of accurate information
- Economic pressure may lead to early marriage and trafficking and other negative coping mechanisms such as reduced food intake (health implication of vulnerability to COVID-19)
- Increase in intimate-partner violence

PROTECTION RISKS

ACCESS TO SERVICES

- Restrictions on movement may impact access to basic services including health and education services
- Lack of information about available services
- Attacks against health workers/facilities may occur
- Meeting basic needs of quarantined may be challenging: disproportionately affecting older persons, the poor, people with disabilities, and other underlying health conditions
- Impact on informal economy (dominated by women); closed markets and borders; unable to transport goods from small farms; soaring prices