

Summary of Key Informant Interview

The respondents are VAW-C desk officers of 20 selected barangays in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte most of which are Barangay Kagawad designated as VAW-C desk officer. The Key Informant Interview was conducted by the joint effort of CHR 9 Coordinator and Documenter.

Gender Equality Situationer in the Municipality

They are not aware of any gender related ordinances in their Municipality nor the enactment of such in their Barangay. They are aware of the livelihood program for women initiated by their LGU, granting financial assistance for women during the Pandemic. All of the respondents have undergone training on VAW-C given by DILG prior to the pandemic. According to them their VAW-C Desk are functional even during the ECQ period through the utilization of their GAD Budget. One of the barangays even recorded rape incident during the ECQ and was able to assist the victim in filing the case and the victim was brought to a shelter in another Municipality as Sibuco does not have any shelter for children nor for women. It is observed by the respondents that there were higher cases of GBV before the Pandemic but with zero case of GBV during Pandemic. They don't have any programs during Pandemic that would address GBV in their area, considering their main areas of concern during such time is the prevention and control of COVID 19.

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Municipality of Sibuco

According to the respondents, the most common form of GBV they handled are seeking economic support from their partners, rape, physical abuse and separation. It is noteworthy that although GBV cases according to the respondents decrease (but majority of the respondents recorded zero case of GBV) during the Pandemic compared last 2019, rape cases in their Municipality increased. The worst part is that it is incestuous and most of the victims are minors. One incident reported was during the ECQ period.

The most affected sector of women victim of GBV are women farmers. Considering that Sibuco is mostly an agricultural area, one of the biggest factor or challenge for these victims is their access to justice given the vast geographical area. To add to that, most of the barangays are not readily accessible as their road network is still undeveloped. It is thick with mud or blocked by land/rock slide. The victim only means of transportation is "habal-habal". One of the barangays prefer to use "bangka" as their means of transport as it is more efficient and can save them time in travel. Another challenge is the financial capacity of the victims to sustain the complaint. Although they were

assisted by their BLGU or LGU and the PNP with free transportation, they would prefer to earn a living than spend their day in the filing the case. The filing of case or complaint would spend them a day or more as they would travel to the Poblacion where the Police station is located and the travel is far from pleasant as the road is not yet concrete. Thus, it becomes a matter of choosing between to earning a living or filing the complaint.

Flow of case management & Documentation

The Municipality of Sibuco is the known cradle of Indigenous People of Subanen. As such, it is observed by the respondents or even some of the respondents themselves facilitate in the settlement of cases through their known IP settlement system. Thus most often, all of the disputes/cases whether GBV related or otherwise pass through their tribal leaders for settlement. Only few of the respondents had issued a BPO. Almost all of them are aware of what BPO is. Only one Barangay recorded GBV case during ECQ, but everyone signified that their respective VAW-C Desk were functional during such period.

Recommendations

They recommended for an extensive advocacy and educational campaign on GBV that is best suited for them and their constituents, considering that most of them are IP, who strictly practice their culture and beliefs and majority only attain elementary or secondary education. They also stressed that their main area of concern is for the development of their road network for an easy access to different Government Services, to include livelihood programs for victim-survivor considering most of the GBV victims are farmers where income is dependent upon a day's work.

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