

Thematic Area Guide for:

Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action

Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery



Camp Coordination and Camp Management



Child Protection



Education



Food Security and Agriculture



Health



Housing, Land and Property



Humanitarian Mine Action



Livelihoods



Nutrition



Protection



Shelter, Settlement and Recovery



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Humanitarian Operations Support Sectors



Global Protection Cluster
GBV Prevention and Response

www.gbvguidelines.org

IASC

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

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The comprehensive Guidelines were revised from the original 2005 IASC *Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings*. The revision process was overseen by an Operations Team led by UNICEF. Operations team members were: Mendy Marsh and Erin Patrick (UNICEF), Erin Kenny (UNFPA), Joan Timoney (Women’s Refugee Commission) and Beth Vann (independent consultant), in addition to the authors. The process was further guided by an inter-agency advisory board (‘Task Team’) of 16 organizations including representatives of the global GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) co-lead agencies—UNICEF and UNFPA—as well as UNHCR, UN Women, the World Food Programme, expert NGOs (the American Refugee Committee, Care International, Catholic Relief Services, ChildFund International, InterAction, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam International, Plan International, Refugees International, Save the Children and Women’s Refugee Commission), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and independent consultants with expertise in the field. The considerable dedication and contributions of all these partners has been critical throughout the entire revision process.

The content and design of the revised Guidelines was informed by a highly consultative process that involved the global distribution of multi-lingual surveys in advance of the revision process to help define the focus and identify specific needs and challenges in the field. In addition, detailed inputs and feedback were received from over 200 national and international actors both at headquarters and in-country, representing most regions of the world, over the course of two years and four global reviews. Draft content of the Guidelines was also reviewed and tested at the field level, involving an estimated additional 1,000 individuals across United Nations, INGO and government agencies in nine locations in eight countries.

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A Global Reference Group has been established to help promote the Guidelines and monitor their use. The Reference Group is led by UNICEF and UNFPA and includes as its members: American Refugee Committee, Care International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ChildFund International, International Medical Corps, International Organization for Migration, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Refugees International, Save the Children, UNHCR and Women’s Refugee Commission.

For more information about the implementation of the revised Guidelines, please visit the GBV Guidelines website <www.gbvguidelines.org>. This website hosts a knowledge repository and provides easy access to the comprehensive Guidelines, the TAGs and related tools, collated case studies and monitoring and evaluation results. Arabic, French and Spanish versions of the Guidelines and associated training and rollout materials are available on this website as well.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations or partners concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Foreword

Around the world, every day, gender-based violence blights the lives and futures of an untold number of women and girls. Conflicts and humanitarian crises can greatly heighten this risk—compounding the challenges already faced by people living through emergencies. But humanitarian responders can greatly reduce the incidence of gender-based violence by working together across all areas of emergency response—coordinating their efforts to prevent gender-based violence before it occurs and working with those most vulnerable to mitigate harm.

Child protection professionals already play a critical role in helping children caught up in humanitarian crises, working to prevent their exploitation and abuse and providing support to help them overcome trauma when it does occur. By integrating interventions to prevent gender-based violence explicitly into their existing programmes, they can do even more to protect the most vulnerable children and their families.

Humanitarian emergencies—especially those in which community stability is undermined and the rule of law suspended—expose women and girls to a greatly increased risk of gender-based violence. Overcrowded refugee camps, proximity to armed forces and separation from family members can all contribute to sexual exploitation and abuse, abduction by armed forces, trafficking for sex, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

Better-designed child protection programmes can help to mitigate such risks—from introducing gender-based violence risk reduction activities into child-friendly community spaces to seeking out hard-to-reach girls for participation, for example. And well-designed child protection programmes can also support healing—for example by incorporating gender-based violence response efforts in reintegration programmes for children who were formerly recruited by armed groups, and supporting child-friendly systems of care.

This Thematic Area Guide (TAG) on child protection and gender-based violence is a portable tool that provides practical guidance for child protection professionals working to prevent and mitigate gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. Part of the newly updated comprehensive *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery* (available at <http://www.gbvguidelines.org>), the guidance in this TAG has been extensively reviewed and field tested, reflecting the wisdom and experience of colleagues from the child protection sector and the wider humanitarian community. It is meant to be used from the preparedness stage of emergency response through to the recovery phase.

No single organization, agency or entity working in an emergency can prevent gender-based violence alone. By implementing the guidance in this TAG in our work, and coordinating our efforts in a comprehensive way, we can help more children live through emergencies and overcome the trauma so many have suffered. In doing so, we can help families and communities both withstand the impact of emergencies and become stronger in their aftermath. We owe that to them, and to our common future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Lake".

Anthony Lake,
Executive Director



Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations	GA	General Assembly
AoR	area of responsibility	GBV	gender-based violence
AXO	abandoned explosive ordnance	GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
CA	camp administration	GPS	Global Positioning System
CAAC	Children and Armed Conflict	HC	humanitarian coordinator
CAAP	Commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations	HCT	humanitarian country team
CaLP	Cash Learning Partnership	HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
CBPF	country-based pooled fund	HLP	housing, land and property
CCCM	camp coordination and camp management	HMA	humanitarian mine action
CCSA	clinical care for sexual assault	HPC	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	HR	human resources
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
CFW	cash for work	HRW	Human Rights Watch
CIVPOL	Civilian Police	IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
CLA	cluster lead agency	ICLA	Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance
CoC	code of conduct	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CP	child protection	ICT	information and communication technologies
CPRA	Child Protection Rapid Assessment	ICWG	inter-cluster working group
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group	IDD	Internal Displacement Division
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	IDP	internally displaced person
CwC	communicating with communities	IEC	information, education and communication
DDR	disarmament, demobilization and reintegration	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
DEVAW	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women	IGA	income-generating activity
DFID	Department for International Development	IMC	International Medical Corps
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	IMN	Information Management Network
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	IMS	Information Management System
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	INEE	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
EASE	Economic and Social Empowerment	INGO	international non-governmental organization
EC	emergency contraception	IOM	International Organization for Migration
ERC	emergency relief coordinator	IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ERW	explosive remnants of war	IRC	International Rescue Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Network
FGD	focus group discussion	KII	key informant interview
FGM/C	female genital mutilation/cutting	LEGS	Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
FSA	food security and agriculture		



Acronyms (continued)

LGBTI	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex	SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
M&E	monitoring and evaluation	SOGI	sexual orientation and gender identity
MDG	Millennium Development Goals	SOPs	standard operating procedures
MHPSS	mental health and psychosocial support	SRH	sexual and reproductive health
MIRA	multi-cluster/sector initial rapid assessment	SRP	strategic response plan
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package	SS&R	shelter, settlement and recovery
MoE	Ministry of Education	STI	sexually transmitted infection
MPP	minimum preparedness package	SWG	Sub-Working Group
MRE	mine risk education	TAG	Thematic Area Guide
MRM	monitoring and reporting mechanism	UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
NFI	non-food item	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NGO	non-governmental organization	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
Oxfam	Oxford Famine Relief Campaign	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
PATH	Program for Appropriate Technology in Health	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
PEP	post-exposure prophylaxis	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
PFA	psychological first aid	UXO	unexploded ordnance
POC	Protection of Civilians	VAWG	violence against women and girls
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
PTA	parent-teacher association	WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
RC	resident coordinator	WFP	World Food Programme
RDC	relief to development continuum	WHO	World Health Organization
SAFE	Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy	WMA	World Medical Association
SC	Security Council	WPE	Women's Protection and Empowerment
		WRC	Women's Refugee Commission



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PART ONE

INTRODUCTION



1. About This Thematic Area Guide

Purpose of This Guide

This Thematic Area Guide (TAG) is excerpted from the comprehensive Inter-Agency Standing Committee *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery* (IASC, 2015).¹ The purpose of this TAG is to assist child protection actors and communities affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies to *coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions for the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence (GBV) across the child protection sector.*²

As detailed below, GBV is a widespread international public health and human rights issue. During a humanitarian crisis, many factors can exacerbate GBV-related risks. These include—but are not limited to—increased militarization, lack of community and State protections, displacement, scarcity of essential resources, disruption of community services, changing cultural and gender norms, disrupted relationships and weakened infrastructure.

All national and international actors responding to an emergency have a duty to protect those affected by the crisis; this includes protecting them from GBV. *In order to save lives and maximize protection, essential actions must be undertaken in a coordinated manner from the earliest stages of emergency preparedness.* These actions, described in **Part Three: Child Protection Guidance**, are necessary in every humanitarian crisis and are focused on three overarching and interlinked goals:

1. To **reduce risk** of GBV by implementing GBV prevention and mitigation strategies within the child protection sector from pre-emergency through to recovery stages;
2. To **promote resilience** by strengthening national and community-based systems that prevent and mitigate GBV, and by enabling survivors³ and those at risk of GBV to access care and support; and
3. To **aid recovery** of communities and societies by supporting local and national capacity to create lasting solutions to the problem of GBV.

¹ The comprehensive Guidelines include guidance for thirteen areas of humanitarian operations, including camp coordination and camp management (CCCM); child protection; education; food security and agriculture (FSA); health; housing, land and property (HLP); humanitarian mine action (HMA); livelihoods; nutrition; protection; shelter, settlement and reconstruction (SS&R); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and humanitarian operations support sectors (e.g. logistics and telecommunications). Unlike this TAG, the comprehensive Guidelines also include annexes with supplemental resources related to GBV prevention, mitigation and response. The annexes are also available as stand-alone documents. The comprehensive Guidelines and stand-alone TAGs and annexes are available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.

² The different areas of humanitarian operation addressed in the comprehensive Guidelines and the stand-alone TAGs have been identified based on the global cluster system. However, both this TAG and the comprehensive Guidelines generally use the word ‘sector’ rather than ‘cluster’ in an effort to be relevant to both cluster and non-cluster contexts. Where specific reference is made to work conducted only in clusterized settings, the word ‘cluster’ is used. For more information about the cluster system, see <<http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/clusters/space/page/what-cluster-approach>>.

³ A survivor is a person who has experienced gender-based violence. The terms ‘victim’ and ‘survivor’ can be used interchangeably. ‘Victim’ is a term often used in the legal and medical sectors, while the term ‘survivor’ is generally preferred in the psychological and social support sectors because it implies resiliency. This TAG employs the term ‘survivor’ in order to reinforce the concept of resiliency.

**ESSENTIAL TO KNOW****'Prevention' and 'Mitigation' of GBV**

Throughout this TAG, there is a distinction made between '**prevention**' and '**mitigation**' of GBV. While there will inevitably be overlap between these two areas, **prevention** generally refers to taking action to stop GBV from first occurring (e.g. *scaling up activities that promote gender equality; working with communities, particularly men and boys, to address practices that contribute to GBV; etc.*). **Mitigation** refers to reducing the risk of exposure to GBV (e.g. *ensuring that reports of 'hot spots' are immediately addressed through risk-reduction strategies; ensuring sufficient lighting and security patrols are in place from the onset of establishing displacement camps; etc.*). In addition, some sectors undertake specialized response programming related to survivor care and assistance. The overarching focus on this TAG is on essential prevention, mitigation and response activities that should be undertaken within and across the child protection sector.

How This Thematic Area Guide is Organized

Part One introduces this TAG, presents an overview of GBV and provides an explanation for why GBV is a protection concern for all child protection actors.

Part Two provides a background to and summarizes the structure of the child protection guidance in **Part Three**. It also introduces the guiding principles and approaches that are the foundation for all planning and implementation of GBV-related programming.

Part Three provides specific guidance for the child protection sector to implement programming that addresses the risk of GBV.

Although this TAG is specifically tailored to the child protection sector, all humanitarian actors must avoid 'siloed' interventions. Child protection actors should strive to work with other sectors to ensure coordinated response, and recommendations for coordination are outlined in Part Three. It is also recommended that child protection actors review the content of the comprehensive Guidelines—not just their TAG—in order to familiarize themselves with key GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities of other sectors.

**ESSENTIAL TO KNOW****Assume GBV Is Taking Place**

The actions outlined in this TAG are relevant from the earliest stages of humanitarian intervention and in any emergency setting, regardless of whether the prevalence or incidence of various forms of GBV is 'known' and verified. It is important to remember that **GBV is happening everywhere. It is under-reported worldwide**, due to fears of stigma or retaliation, limited availability or accessibility of trusted service providers, impunity for perpetrators, and lack of awareness of the benefits of seeking care. Waiting for or seeking population-based data on the true magnitude of GBV should not be a priority in an emergency due to safety and ethical challenges in collecting such data. With this in mind, **all humanitarian personnel ought to assume GBV is occurring and threatening affected populations; treat it as a serious and life-threatening problem; and take actions based on recommendations in this TAG**, regardless of the presence or absence of concrete 'evidence'.

This TAG draws from many tools, standards, background materials and other resources developed by UN, I/NGO and academic sources. At the end of **Part Three** there is a list of resources specific to child protection; additional GBV-related resources are provided in **Annex 1** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.



Target Audience

This TAG is designed for national and international child protection actors operating in settings affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, as well as in host countries and/or communities that receive people displaced by emergencies. The principal audience is child protection programmers—agencies and individuals who can use the information to incorporate GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of child protection interventions. However, it is critical that humanitarian leadership—including governments, humanitarian coordinators, child protection coordinators and donors—also use this TAG as a reference and advocacy tool to improve the capacity of the child protection sector to prevent and mitigate GBV.⁴ This TAG can further serve those working in development contexts—particularly contexts affected by cyclical disasters—in planning and preparing for humanitarian action that includes efforts to prevent and mitigate GBV.

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

GBV Specialists and GBV Specialized Agencies

Throughout this TAG, there are references to ‘GBV specialists’ and ‘GBV-specialized agencies’. A GBV specialist is someone who has received GBV-specific professional training and/or has considerable experience working on GBV programming. A GBV-specialized agency is one that undertakes targeted programmes for the prevention of and response to GBV. **It is expected that GBV specialists, agencies and inter-agency mechanisms will use this document to assist non-GBV specialists in undertaking prevention and mitigation activities—as well as response services for survivors—within and across the child protection sector.** This TAG includes recommendations (outlined under ‘Coordination’ in **Part Three**) about how GBV specialists can be mobilized for technical support.

This TAG is primarily targeted to non-GBV specialists—that is, agencies and individuals who work in humanitarian response sectors other than GBV and do not have specific expertise in GBV prevention and response programming, but can nevertheless undertake activities that significantly reduce the risk of GBV for affected populations.⁵

For child protection actors, certain recommendations require GBV expertise to implement. In this and other sectors—such as health, education and protection—programming will often extend beyond basic prevention and mitigation activities to more specialized response activities: for instance, providing counselling services to GBV survivors or building the capacity of police to respectfully interview survivors and undertake investigations. *Technical support should be sought from GBV experts when undertaking any of these specialized GBV response activities.*

The guidance emphasizes the importance of active involvement of **all members** of affected communities; this includes the leadership and meaningful participation of women and girls—alongside men and boys—in all preparedness, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation activities.

⁴ Government, humanitarian coordinators, humanitarian country teams/inter-cluster working groups, cluster/sector lead agencies, cluster/sector coordinators and GBV coordination mechanisms can play an especially critical role in supporting the uptake of this TAG as well as the comprehensive Guidelines. For more information about actions to be undertaken by these actors to facilitate implementation of the Guidelines, see ‘Ensuring Implementation of the GBV Guidelines: Responsibilities of key actors’ (available at <www.gbvguidelines.org> as both a stand-alone document and as part of **Part One: Introduction** of the comprehensive Guidelines).

⁵ Affected populations include all those who are adversely affected by an armed conflict, natural disaster or other humanitarian emergency, including those displaced (both internally and across borders) who may still be on the move or have settled into camps, urban areas or rural areas.

2. Overview of Gender-Based Violence

Defining GBV

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private.

Acts of GBV violate a number of universal human rights protected by international instruments and conventions (see 'The Obligation to Address Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Work', below). Many—but not all—forms of GBV are criminal acts in national laws and policies; this differs from country to country, and the practical implementation of laws and policies can vary widely.

The term 'GBV' is most commonly used to underscore how systemic inequality between males and females—which exists in every society in the world—acts as a unifying and foundational characteristic of most forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW, 1993) defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women." DEVAW emphasizes that the violence is "a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to the domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women." Gender discrimination is not only a cause of many forms of violence against women and girls but also contributes to the widespread acceptance and invisibility of such violence—so that perpetrators are not held accountable and survivors are discouraged from speaking out and accessing support.

The term 'gender-based violence' is also increasingly used by some actors to highlight the gendered dimensions of certain forms of violence against men and boys—particularly some forms of sexual violence committed with the explicit purpose of reinforcing gender inequitable norms of masculinity and femininity (e.g. sexual violence committed in armed conflict aimed at emasculating or feminizing the enemy). This violence against males is based on socially constructed ideas of what it means to be a man and exercise male power. It is used by men (and in rare cases by women) to cause harm to other males. As with violence against women and girls, this violence is often under-reported due to issues of stigma for the survivor—in this case associated with norms of masculinity (e.g. norms that discourage male survivors from acknowledging vulnerability, or suggest that a male survivor is somehow weak for having been assaulted). Sexual assault against males may also go unreported in situations where such reporting could result in life-threatening repercussions against the

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Informed Consent

When considering whether an act is perpetrated against a person's will, it is important to consider the issue of consent. **Informed consent is voluntarily and freely given** based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of an action. In order to give informed consent, the individual concerned must have all relevant facts at the time consent is given and be able to evaluate and understand the consequences of an action. They also must be aware of and have the power to exercise their right to refuse to engage in an action and/or to not be coerced (i.e. being persuaded based on force or threats). **Children are generally considered unable to provide informed consent** because they do not have the ability and/or experience to anticipate the implications of an action, and they may not understand or be empowered to exercise their right to refuse. There are also instances where consent might not be possible due to cognitive impairments and/or physical, sensory, or developmental disabilities.



survivor and/or his family members. Many countries do not explicitly recognize sexual violence against men in their laws and/or have laws which criminalize survivors of such violence.

The term ‘gender-based violence’ is also used by some actors to describe violence perpetrated against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons that is, according to OHCHR, “driven by a desire to punish those seen as defying gender norms” (OHCHR, 2011). The acronym ‘LGBTI’ encompasses a wide range of identities that share an experience of falling outside societal norms due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (For a review of terms, see **Annex 2** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.) OHCHR further recognizes that “lesbians and transgender women are at particular risk because of gender inequality and power relations within families and wider society.” Homophobia and transphobia not only contribute to this violence but also significantly undermine LGBTI survivors’ ability to access support (most acutely in settings where sexual orientation and gender identity are policed by the State).

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Women, Girls and GBV

Women and girls everywhere are disadvantaged in terms of social power and influence, control of resources, control of their bodies and participation in public life—all as a result of socially determined gender roles and relations. Gender-based violence against women and girls occurs in the context of this imbalance. While child protection actors must analyse different gendered vulnerabilities that may put men, women, boys and girls at heightened risk of violence and ensure care and support for all survivors, **special attention should be given to females due to their documented greater vulnerabilities to GBV, the overarching discrimination they experience, and their lack of safe and equitable access to humanitarian assistance.** Child protection actors have an obligation to promote gender equality through humanitarian action in line with the IASC ‘Gender Equality Policy Statement’ (2008). They also have an obligation to support, through targeted action, women’s and girls’ protection, participation and empowerment as articulated in the Women, Peace and Security thematic agenda outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolutions (see **Annex 6** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>). While supporting the need for protection of all populations affected by humanitarian crises, this TAG recognizes the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to GBV and provides targeted guidance to address these vulnerabilities—including through strategies that promote gender equality.

Nature and Scope of GBV in Humanitarian Settings

A great deal of attention has centred on monitoring, documenting and addressing sexual violence in conflict—for instance the use of rape or other forms of sexual violence as a weapon of war. Because of its immediate and potentially life-threatening health consequences, coupled with the feasibility of preventing these consequences through medical care, addressing sexual violence is a priority in humanitarian settings. At the same time, there is a growing recognition that affected populations can experience various forms of GBV during conflict and natural disasters, during displacement, and during and following return. In particular, intimate partner violence is increasingly recognized as a critical GBV concern in humanitarian settings.

These additional forms of violence—including intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence, forced and/or coerced prostitution, child and/or forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, female infanticide, and trafficking for sexual exploitation and/or forced/domestic labour—must be considered in GBV prevention and mitigation efforts according to the trends in violence and the needs identified in a given setting. (For a list of types of GBV and associated definitions, see **Annex 3** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.)

In all types of GBV, violence is used primarily by males against females to subordinate, disempower, punish or control. The gender of the perpetrator and the victim are central not only to the motivation for the violence, but also to the ways in which society condones or responds to the violence. Whereas violence against men is more likely to be committed by an acquaintance or stranger, women more often experience violence at the hands of those who are well known to them: intimate partners, family members, etc.⁶ In addition, widespread gender discrimination and gender inequality often result in women and girls being exposed to multiple forms of GBV throughout their lives, including 'secondary' GBV as a result of a primary incident (e.g. abuse by those they report to, honor killings following sexual assault, forced marriage to a perpetrator, etc.).

Obtaining prevalence and/or incidence data on GBV in emergencies is not advisable due to the methodological and contextual challenges related to undertaking population-based research on GBV in emergency settings (e.g. security concerns for survivors and researchers, lack of available or accessible response services, etc.). The majority of information about the nature and scope of GBV in humanitarian contexts is derived from qualitative research, anecdotal reports, humanitarian monitoring tools and service delivery statistics. These data suggest that many forms of GBV are significantly aggravated during humanitarian emergencies, as illustrated in the statistics provided below. (See **Annex 5** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>, for additional statistics as well as for citations for the data presented below.)

- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo during 2013, UNICEF coordinated with partners to provide services to 12,247 GBV survivors; 3,827—or approximately 30 per cent—were children, of whom 3,748 were girls and 79 were boys (UNICEF DRC, 2013).
- In Pakistan following the 2011 floods, 52 per cent of surveyed communities reported that privacy and safety of women and girls was a key concern. In a 2012 Protection Rapid Assessment with conflict-affected IDPs, interviewed communities reported that a number of women and girls were facing aggravated domestic violence, forced marriage, early marriages and exchange marriages, in addition to other cases of gender-based violence (de la Puente, 2014).
- In Afghanistan, a household survey (2008) showed 87.2 per cent of women reported one form of violence in their lifetime and 62 per cent had experienced multiple forms of violence (de la Puente, 2014).

⁶ In 2013 the World Health Organization and others estimated that as many as 38 per cent of female homicides globally were committed by male partners while the corresponding figure for men was 6 per cent. They also found that whereas males are disproportionately represented among victims of violent death and physical injuries treated in emergency departments, women and girls, children and elderly people disproportionately bear the burden of the nonfatal consequences of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and neglect, worldwide. (World Health Organization. 2014. *Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014*, <www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/status_report/2014/en>. Also see World Health Organization. 2002. *World Report on Violence and Health*, <<http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/9241545615.pdf>>.)

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Women and Natural Disasters

In many situations, women and girls are disproportionately affected by natural disasters. As primary caregivers who often have greater responsibilities related to household work, agriculture and food production, women may have less access to resources for recovery. They may also be required to take on new household responsibilities (for example when primary income earners have been killed or injured, or need to leave their families to find employment). If law and order break down, or social support and safety systems (such as the extended family or village groups) fail, women and girls are also at greater risk of GBV and discrimination.

(Adapted from **Global Protection Cluster**. n.d. 'Strengthening Protections in Natural Disaster Response: Women and girls' (draft), <www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/tools-and-guidance/protection-cluster-coordination-toolbox.html>)



- In Liberia, a survey of 1,666 adults found that 32.6 per cent of male combatants experienced sexual violence while 16.5 per cent were forced to be sexual servants (Johnson et al, 2008). Seventy-four per cent of a sample of 388 Liberian refugee women living in camps in Sierra Leone reported being sexually abused prior to being displaced. Fifty-five per cent experienced sexual violence during displacement (IRIN, 2006; IRIN, 2008).
- Of 64 women with disabilities interviewed in post-conflict Northern Uganda, one third reported experiencing some form of GBV and several had children as a result of rape (HRW, 2010).
- In a 2011 assessment, Somali adolescent girls in the Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya explained that they are in many ways 'under attack' from violence that includes verbal and physical harassment; sexual exploitation and abuse in relation to meeting their basic needs; and rape, including in public and by multiple perpetrators. Girls reported feeling particularly vulnerable to violence while accessing scarce services and resources, such as at water points or while collecting firewood outside the camps (UNHCR, 2011).
- In Mali, daughters of displaced families from the North (where female genital mutilation/cutting [FGM/C] is not traditionally practised) were living among host communities in the South (where FGM/C is common). Many of these girls were ostracized for not having undergone FGM/C; this led families from the North to feel pressured to perform FGM/C on their daughters (Plan Mali, April 2013).
- Domestic violence was widely reported to have increased in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. One NGO reported a three-fold increase in cases brought to them (UNFPA, 2011). Studies from the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia also suggest a significant increase in intimate partner violence related to natural disasters (Sety, 2012).
- Research undertaken by the Human Rights Documentation Unit and the Burmese Women's Union in 2000 concluded that an estimated 40,000 Burmese women are trafficked each year into Thailand's factories and brothels and as domestic workers (IRIN, 2006).
- The GBV Information Management System (IMS), initiated in Colombia in 2011 to improve survivor access to care, has collected GBV incident data from 7 municipalities. As of mid-2014, 3,499 females (92.6 per cent of whom were 18 years or older) and 437 males (91.8 per cent of whom were 18 years or older) were recorded in the GBVIMS, of whom over 3,000 received assistance (GBVIMS Colombia, 2014).



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

As highlighted in the Secretary-General's Bulletin on 'Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse' (ST/SGB/2003/13, <www.refworld.org/docid/451bb6764.html>), PSEA relates to certain responsibilities of international humanitarian, development and peacekeeping actors. These responsibilities include preventing incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse **committed by United Nations, NGO, and inter-governmental organization (IGO) personnel against the affected population**; setting up confidential reporting mechanisms; and taking safe and ethical action as quickly as possible when incidents do occur. PSEA is an important aspect of preventing GBV and PSEA efforts should therefore link to GBV expertise and programming—especially to ensure survivors' rights and other guiding principles are respected.

These responsibilities are at the determination of the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator and individual agencies. As such, detailed guidance on PSEA is outside the authority of this TAG. This TAG nevertheless wholly supports the mandate of the Secretary-General's Bulletin and provides several recommendations on incorporating PSEA strategies into agency policies and community outreach. Detailed guidance is available on the IASC AAP/PSEA Task Force website: <www.pseataaskforce.org>.



Impact of GBV on Individuals and Communities

GBV seriously impacts survivors' immediate sexual, physical and psychological health, and contributes to greater risk of future health problems. Possible sexual health effects include unwanted pregnancies, complications from unsafe abortions, female sexual arousal disorder or male impotence, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Possible physical health effects of GBV include injuries that can cause both acute and chronic illness, impacting neurological, gastrointestinal, muscular, urinary, and reproductive systems. These effects can render the survivor unable to complete otherwise manageable physical and mental labour. Possible mental health problems include depression, anxiety, harmful alcohol and drug use, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidality.⁷

Survivors of GBV may suffer further because of the stigma associated with GBV. Community and family ostracism may place them at greater social and economic disadvantage. The physical and psychological consequences of GBV can inhibit a survivor's functioning and well-being—not only personally but in relationships with family members. The impact of GBV can further extend to relationships in the community, such as the relationship between the survivor's family and the community, or the community's attitudes towards children born as a result of rape. LGBTI persons can face problems in convincing security forces that sexual violence against them was non-consensual; in addition, some male victims may face the risk of being counter-prosecuted under sodomy laws if they report sexual violence perpetrated against them by a man.

GBV can affect child survival and development by raising infant mortality rates, lowering birth weights, contributing to malnutrition and affecting school participation. It can further result in specific disabilities for children: injuries can cause physical impairments; deprivation of proper nutrition or stimulus can cause developmental delay; and consequences of abuse can lead to long-term mental health problems.

Many of these effects are hard to link directly to GBV because they are not always easily recognizable by health and other providers as evidence of GBV. This can contribute to mistaken assumptions that GBV is not a problem. However, failure to appreciate the full extent and hidden nature of GBV—as well as failure to address its impact on individuals, families and communities—can limit societies' ability to heal from humanitarian emergencies.

Contributing Factors to and Causes of GBV

Integrating GBV prevention and mitigation into humanitarian interventions requires anticipating, contextualizing and addressing factors that may contribute to GBV. Examples of these factors at the societal, community and individual/family levels are provided below. These levels are loosely based on the ecological model developed by Heise (1998). The examples are illustrative; actual risk factors will vary according to the setting, population and type of GBV. Even so, these examples underscore the importance of addressing GBV through broad-based interventions that target a variety of different risks.

Conditions related to humanitarian emergencies may exacerbate the risk of many forms of GBV. However, the **underlying causes** of violence are associated with attitudes, beliefs, norms and structures that promote and/or condone gender-based discrimination and unequal

⁷ For more information on the health effects of GBV on women and children, see **World Health Organization. 1997.** 'Violence Against Women: Health consequences', <www.who.int/gender/violence/v8.pdf>, as well as **UN Women.** 'Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls', <www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/301-consequences-and-costs-.html>. For more information on health effects of sexual violence against men, see **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2012.** *Working with Men and Boy Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Forced Displacement*, <www.refworld.org/pdfid/5006aa262.pdf>.



power, whether during emergencies or during times of stability. Linking GBV to its roots in **gender discrimination and gender inequality** necessitates not only working to meet the immediate needs of the affected populations, but also implementing strategies—as early as possible in any humanitarian action—that promote long-term social and cultural change towards gender equality. Such strategies include ensuring leadership and active engagement of women and girls, along with men and boys, in community-based groups related to child protection; conducting advocacy to promote the rights of all affected populations; and enlisting females as child protection programme staff, including in positions of leadership.

Contributing Factors to GBV	
Society-Level Contributing Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porous/unmonitored borders; lack of awareness of risks of being trafficked • Lack of adherence to rules of combat and International Humanitarian Law • Hyper-masculinity; promotion of and rewards for violent male norms/behaviour • Combat strategies (e.g. <i>torture or rape as a weapon of war</i>) • Absence of security and/or early warning mechanisms • Impunity, including lack of legal framework and/or criminalization of forms of GBV, or lack of awareness that different forms of GBV are criminal • Lack of inclusion of sex crimes committed during a humanitarian emergency into large-scale survivors' reparations and support programmes (including for children born of rape) • Economic, social and gender inequalities • Lack of meaningful and active participation of women in leadership, peacebuilding processes, and security sector reform • Lack of prioritization on prosecuting sex crimes; insufficient emphasis on increasing access to recovery services; and lack of foresight on the long-term ramifications for children born as a result of rape, specifically related to stigma and their resulting social exclusion • Failure to address factors that contribute to violence such as long-term internment or loss of skills, livelihoods, independence, and/or male roles
Community-Level Contributing Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor camp/shelter/WASH facility design and infrastructure (including for persons with disabilities, older persons and other at-risk groups) • Lack of access to education for females, especially secondary education for adolescent girls • Lack of safe shelters for women, girls and other at-risk groups • Lack of training, vetting and supervision for humanitarian staff • Lack of economic alternatives for affected populations, especially for women, girls and other at-risk groups • Breakdown in community protective mechanisms and lack of community protections/sanctions relating to GBV • Lack of reporting mechanisms for survivors and those at risk of GBV, as well as for sexual exploitation and abuse committed by humanitarian personnel • Lack of accessible and trusted multi-sectoral services for survivors (health, security, legal/justice, mental health and psychosocial support) • Absence/under-representation of female staff in key service provider positions (health care, detention facilities, police, justice, etc.) • Inadequate housing, land and property rights for women, girls, children born of rape and other at-risk groups • Presence of demobilized soldiers with norms of violence • Hostile host communities • 'Blaming the victim' or other harmful attitudes against survivors of GBV • Lack of confidentiality for GBV survivors • Community-wide acceptance of violence • Lack of child protection mechanisms • Lack of psychosocial support as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programming
Individual/Family-Level Contributing Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of basic survival needs/supplies for individuals and families or lack of safe access to these survival needs/supplies (e.g food, water, shelter, cooking fuel, hygiene supplies, etc.) • Gender-inequitable distribution of family resources • Lack of resources for parents to provide for children and older persons (economic resources, ability to protect, etc.), particularly for woman and child heads of households • Lack of knowledge/awareness of acceptable standards of conduct by humanitarian staff, and that humanitarian assistance is free • Harmful alcohol/drug use • Age, gender, education, disability • Family history of violence • Witnessing GBV





ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Risks for a Growing Number of Refugees Living in Urban and Other Non-Camp Settings

A growing number and proportion of the world's refugees are found in urban areas. As of 2009, UNHCR statistics suggested that almost half of the world's 10.5 million refugees reside in cities and towns, compared to one third who live in camps. As well as increasing in size, the world's urban refugee population is also changing in composition. In the past, a significant proportion of the urban refugees registered with UNHCR in developing and middle-income countries were young men. Today, however, large numbers of refugee women, children and older people are found in urban and other non-camp areas, particularly in those countries where there are no camps. They are often confronted with a range of protection risks, including the threat of arrest and detention, refoulement, harassment, exploitation, discrimination, inadequate and overcrowded shelter, HIV, human smuggling and trafficking, and other forms of violence. The recommendations within this TAG are relevant to child protection actors providing assistance to displaced populations living in urban and other non-camp settings, as well as those living in camps.

(Adapted from **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2009.** 'UNHCR Policy on Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas', <www.unhcr.org/4ab356ab6.html>)

Key Considerations for At-Risk Groups

In any emergency, there are groups of individuals more vulnerable to harm than other members of the population. This is often because they hold less power in society, are more dependent on others for survival, are less visible to relief workers, or are otherwise marginalized. This TAG uses the term 'at-risk groups' to describe these individuals.

When sources of vulnerability—such as age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, etc.—intersect with gender-based discrimination, the likelihood of women's and girls' exposure to GBV can escalate. For example, adolescent girls who are forced into child marriage—a form of GBV itself—may be at greater risk of intimate partner violence than adult females. In the case of men and boys, gender-inequitable norms related to masculinity and femininity can increase their exposure to some forms of sexual violence. For example, men and boys in detention who are viewed by inmates as particularly weak (or 'feminine') may be subjected to sexual harassment, assault and rape. In some conflict-afflicted settings, some groups of males may not be protected from sexual violence because they are assumed to not be at risk by virtue of the privileges they enjoyed during peacetime.

Not all the at-risk groups listed below will always be at heightened risk of gender-based violence. Even so, they will very often be at heightened risk of harm in humanitarian settings. Whenever possible, efforts to address GBV should be alert to and promote the protection rights and needs of these groups. Targeted work with specific at-risk groups should be in collaboration with agencies that have expertise in addressing their needs. With due consideration for safety, ethics and feasibility, the particular experiences, perspectives and knowledge of at-risk groups should be solicited to inform work throughout all phases of the programme cycle. Specifically, child protection actors should:

- Be mindful of the protection rights and needs of these at-risk groups and how these may vary within and across different humanitarian settings;
- Consider the potential intersection of their specific vulnerabilities to GBV; and
- Plan interventions that strive to reduce their exposure to GBV and other forms of violence.



Key Considerations for At-Risk Groups

At-risk groups	Examples of violence to which these groups might be exposed	Factors that contribute to increased risk of violence
Adolescent girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Child and/or forced marriage Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) Lack of access to education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age, gender and restricted social status Increased domestic responsibilities that keep girls isolated in the home Erosion of normal community structures of support and protection Lack of access to understandable information about health, rights and services (including reproductive health) Being discouraged or prevented from attending school Early pregnancies and motherhood Engagement in unsafe livelihoods activities Loss of family members, especially immediate caretakers Dependence on exploitative or unhealthy relationships for basic needs
Elderly women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Exploitation and abuse by caregivers Denial of rights to housing and property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age, gender and restricted social status Weakened physical status, physical or sensory disabilities, and chronic diseases Isolation and higher risk of poverty Limited mobility Neglected health and nutritional needs Lack of access to understandable information about rights and services
Woman and child heads of households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Child and/or forced marriage (including wife inheritance) Denial of rights to housing and property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age, gender and restricted social status Increased domestic responsibilities that keep them isolated in the home Erosion of normal community structures of support and protection Dependence on exploitative or unhealthy relationships for basic needs Engagement in unsafe livelihoods activities
Girls and women who bear children of rape, and their children born of rape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence Lack of access to education Social exclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age, gender Social stigma and isolation Exclusion or expulsion from their homes, families and communities Poverty, malnutrition and reproductive health problems Lack of access to medical care High levels of impunity for crimes against them Dependence on exploitative or unhealthy relationships for basic needs Engagement in unsafe livelihoods activities
Indigenous women, girls, men and boys, and ethnic and religious minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social discrimination, exclusion and oppression Ethnic cleansing as a tactic of war Lack of access to education Lack of access to services Theft of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social stigma and isolation Poverty, malnutrition and reproductive health problems Lack of protection under the law and high levels of impunity for crimes against them Lack of opportunities and marginalization based on their national, religious, linguistic or cultural group Barriers to participating in their communities and earning livelihoods
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social exclusion Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Domestic violence (e.g. violence against LGBTI children by their caretakers) Denial of services Harassment/sexual harassment Rape expressly used to punish lesbians for their sexual orientation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity High levels of impunity for crimes against them Restricted social status Transgender persons not legally or publicly recognized as their identified gender Same-sex relationships not legally or socially recognized, and denied services other families might be offered Exclusion from housing, livelihoods opportunities, and access to health care and other services Exclusion of transgender persons from sex-segregated shelters, bathrooms and health facilities Social isolation/rejection from family or community, which can result in homelessness Engagement in unsafe livelihoods activities



Key Considerations for At-Risk Groups (continued)

At-risk groups	Examples of violence to which these groups might be exposed	Factors that contribute to increased risk of violence
Separated or unaccompanied girls, boys and orphans, including children associated with armed forces/groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Child and/or forced marriage Forced labour Lack of access to education Domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age, gender and restricted social status Neglected health and nutritional needs Engagement in unsafe livelihoods activities Dependence on exploitative or unhealthy relationships for basic needs Early pregnancies and motherhood Social stigma, isolation and rejection by communities as a result of association with armed forces/groups Active engagement in combat operations Premature parental responsibility for siblings
Women and men involved in forced and/or coerced prostitution, and child victims of sexual exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coercion, social exclusion Sexual assault Physical violence Sexual exploitation and abuse Lack of access to education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependence on exploitative or unhealthy relationships for basic needs Lack of access to reproductive health information and services Early pregnancies and motherhood Isolation and a lack of social support/peer networks Social stigma, isolation and rejection by communities Harassment and abuse from law enforcement Lack of protection under the law and/or laws that criminalize sex workers
Women, girls, men and boys in detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault as punishment or torture Physical violence Lack of access to education Lack of access to health, mental health and psychosocial support, including psychological first aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor hygiene and lack of sanitation Overcrowding of detention facilities Failure to separate men, women, families and unaccompanied minors Obstacles and disincentives to reporting incidents of violence (especially sexual violence) Fear of speaking out against authorities Possible trauma from violence and abuse suffered before detention
Women, girls, men and boys living with HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual harassment and abuse Social discrimination and exclusion Verbal abuse Lack of access to education Loss of livelihood Prevented from having contact with their children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social stigma, isolation and higher risk of poverty Loss of land, property and belongings Reduced work capacity Stress, depression and/or suicide Family disintegration and breakdown Poor physical and emotional health Harmful use of alcohol and/or drugs
Women, girls, men and boys with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social discrimination and exclusion Sexual assault Sexual exploitation and abuse Intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence Lack of access to education Denial of access to housing, property and livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited mobility, hearing and vision resulting in greater reliance on assistance and care from others Isolation and a lack of social support/peer networks Exclusion from obtaining information and receiving guidance, due to physical, technological and communication barriers Exclusion from accessing washing facilities, latrines or distribution sites due to poor accessibility in design Physical, communication and attitudinal barriers in reporting violence Barriers to participating in their communities and earning livelihoods Lack of access to medical care and rehabilitation services High levels of impunity for crimes against them Lack of access to reproductive health information and services
Women, girls, men and boys who are survivors of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social discrimination and exclusion Secondary violence as result of the primary violence (e.g. abuse by those they report to; honor killings following sexual assault; forced marriage to a perpetrator; etc.) Heightened vulnerability to future violence, including sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weakened physical status, physical or sensory disabilities, psychological distress and chronic diseases Lack of access to medical care, including obstacles and disincentives to reporting incidents of violence Family disintegration and breakdown Isolation and higher risk of poverty



3. The Obligation to Address Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Work

“Protection of all persons affected and at risk must inform humanitarian decision-making and response, including engagement with States and non-State parties to conflict. It must be central to our preparedness efforts, as part of immediate and life-saving activities, and throughout the duration of humanitarian response and beyond. In practical terms, this means identifying who is at risk, how and why at the very outset of a crisis and thereafter, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities that underlie these risks, including those experienced by men, women, girls and boys, and groups such as internally displaced persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, and persons belonging to sexual and other minorities.”

(Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals’ statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action, endorsed December 2013 as part of a number of measures that will be adapted by the IASC to ensure more effective protection of people in humanitarian crises.⁸ Available at <www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/tools-and-guidance/guidance-from-inter-agency-standing-committee.html>)

The primary responsibility to ensure that people are protected from violence rests with States. In situations of armed conflict, both State and non-State parties to the conflict have obligations in this regard under international humanitarian law. This includes refraining from causing harm to civilian populations and ensuring that people affected by violence get the care they need. When States or parties to conflict are unable and unwilling to meet their obligations, humanitarian actors play an important role in supporting measures to prevent and respond to violence. No single organization, agency or entity working in an emergency has the complete set of knowledge, skills, resources and authority to prevent GBV or respond to the needs of GBV survivors alone. Thus, collective effort is paramount: **All humanitarian actors must be aware of the risks of GBV and—acting collectively to ensure a comprehensive response—prevent and mitigate these risks as quickly as possible within their areas of operation.**

Failure to take action against GBV represents a failure by humanitarian actors to meet their most basic responsibilities for promoting and protecting the rights of affected populations. Inaction and/or poorly designed programmes can also unintentionally cause further harm. Lack of action or ineffective action contribute to a poor foundation for supporting the resilience, health and well-being of survivors, and create barriers to reconstructing affected communities’ lives and livelihoods. In some instances, inaction can serve to perpetuate the cycle of violence: Some survivors of GBV or other forms of violence may later become perpetrators if their medical, psychological and protection needs are not met. In the worst case, inaction can indirectly or inadvertently result in loss of lives.

⁸ The Centrality Statement further recognizes the role of the protection cluster to support protection strategies, including mainstreaming protection throughout all sectors. To support the realization of this, the Global Protection Cluster has committed to providing support and tools to other clusters, both at the global and field level, to help strengthen their capacity for protection mainstreaming. For more information see the **Global Protection Cluster. 2014. Protection Mainstreaming Training Package**, <www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/areas-of-responsibility/protection-mainstreaming.html>.

The responsibility of humanitarian actors to address GBV is supported by a framework that includes key elements highlighted in the diagram below. (For additional details of elements of the framework, see **Annex 6** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.)



It is important that those working in settings affected by humanitarian emergencies understand the framework's key components and act in accordance with it. They must also use it to guide others—States, communities and individuals—to meet their obligations to promote and protect human rights.

International and national law: GBV violates principles that are covered by international humanitarian law, international and domestic criminal law, and human rights and refugee law at the international, regional and national levels. These principles include the protection of civilians even in situations of armed conflict and occupation, and their rights to life, equality, security, equal protection under the law, and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.

United Nations Security Council resolutions: Protection of Civilians (POC) lies at the centre of international humanitarian law and also forms a core component of international human rights, refugee, and international criminal law. Since 1999, the United Nations Security Council, with its United Nations Charter mandate to maintain or restore international peace and security, has become increasingly concerned with POC—with the Secretary-General regularly including it in his country reports to the Security Council and the Security Council providing it as a common part of peacekeeping mission mandates in its resolutions. Through this work on POC, the **Security Council has recognized the centrality of women, peace and security by adopting a series of thematic resolutions on the issue.** Of these, three resolutions (1325, 1889 and 2212) address women, peace and security broadly (e.g. women's specific experiences of conflict and their contributions to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding). The others (1820, 1888, 1960 and 2106) also reinforce women's participation, but focus more specifically on conflict-related sexual violence. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2106 is the first to explicitly refer to men and boys as survivors of violence. The United Nations Security Council's agenda also includes Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) through which



it established, in 2005, a monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on six grave children's rights violations in armed conflict, including rape and sexual violence against children. For more details on the United Nations Security Council resolutions, see **Annex 6** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.

Humanitarian principles: The humanitarian community has created global principles on which to improve accountability, quality and performance in the actions they take. These principles have an impact on every type of GBV-related intervention. They act as an ethical and operational guide for humanitarian actors on how to behave in an armed conflict, natural disaster or other humanitarian emergency.

United Nations agencies are guided by four humanitarian principles enshrined in two General Assembly resolutions: General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991) and General Assembly Resolution 58/114 (2004). These humanitarian principles include humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Humanity	Neutrality	Impartiality	Independence
Human suffering must be addressed whenever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.	Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.	Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.	Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actors may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

(Excerpted from **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). 2012.** 'OCHA on Message: Humanitarian principles', <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OOM_HumPrinciple_English.pdf>)

Many humanitarian organizations have further committed to these principles by developing codes of conduct, and by observing the 'do no harm' principle and the principles of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter. The principles in this Charter recognize the following rights of all people affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies:

- The right to life with dignity
- The right to receive humanitarian assistance, including protection from violence
- The right to protection and security⁹

Humanitarian standards and guidelines: Various standards and guidelines that reinforce the humanitarian responsibility to address GBV in emergencies have been developed and broadly endorsed by humanitarian actors. Many of these key standards are identified in **Annex 6** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

What the Sphere Handbook Says:

Guidance Note 13: Women and girls can be at particular risk of gender-based violence.

When contributing to the protection of these groups, humanitarian agencies should particularly consider measures that reduce possible risks, including trafficking, forced prostitution, rape or domestic violence. They should also implement standards and instruments that prevent and eradicate the practice of sexual exploitation and abuse. This unacceptable practice may involve affected people with specific vulnerabilities, such as isolated or disabled women who are forced to trade sex for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

(**Sphere Project. 2011.** *Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian charter and minimum standards in humanitarian response*, <www.sphereproject.org/resources/download-publications/?search=1&keywords=Sphere+Handbook&language=English&category=22&subcat-22=23&subcat-29=0&subcat-31=0&subcat-35=0&subcat-49=0&subcat-56=0&subcat-60=0&subcat-80=0>)

⁹ For more information, see 'The Humanitarian Charter,' available at <www.spherehandbook.org/en/the-humanitarian-charter>.



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PART TWO
BACKGROUND
TO CHILD
PROTECTION
GUIDANCE



1. Content Overview of Child Protection Guidance

This section provides an overview of the recommendations detailed in **Part Three: Child Protection Guidance**. The information below:

- ▶ Describes the summary **fold-out table** of essential actions presented at the beginning of **Part Three**, designed as a quick reference tool for child protection actors.
- ▶ Introduces the **programme cycle**, which is the framework for all the recommendations within **Part Three**.
- ▶ Reviews the **guiding principles** for addressing GBV and summarizes how to apply these principles through four inter-linked approaches: the human rights-based approach, survivor-centred approach, community-based approach and systems approach.

Summary Fold-Out Table of Essential Actions

Part Three begins with a summary fold-out table for use as a quick reference tool. The fold-out table links key recommendations made in the body of **Part Three** with guidance on when the recommendations should be applied across four stages of emergency: *Pre-emergency/preparedness* (before the emergency and during ongoing preparedness planning), *Emergency* (when the emergency strikes)¹, *Stabilized Stage* (when immediate emergency needs have been addressed), and *Recovery to Development* (when the focus is on facilitating returns of displaced populations, rebuilding systems and structures, and transitioning to development). In practice, the separation between different stages is not always clear; most emergencies do not follow a uniformly linear progression, and stages may overlap and/or revert. The stages are therefore only indicative.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Planning

“Experience confirms that effective humanitarian response at the onset of a crisis is heavily influenced by the level of preparedness and planning of responding agencies/organizations, as well as the capacities and resources available to them.”

In the summary fold-out table, the points listed under ‘pre-emergency/preparedness’ are not strictly limited to actions that can be taken before an emergency strikes. These points are also relevant to **ongoing preparedness planning**, the goal of which is to anticipate and solve problems in order to facilitate rapid response when a particular setting is struck by another emergency. In natural disasters, ongoing preparedness is often referred to as ‘contingency planning’ and is part of all stages of humanitarian response.

(Quote from **Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2007. Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance, Revised version**, p.7. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/IA%20CP%20Guidelines%20Publication_%20Final%20version%20Dec%202007.pdf>)

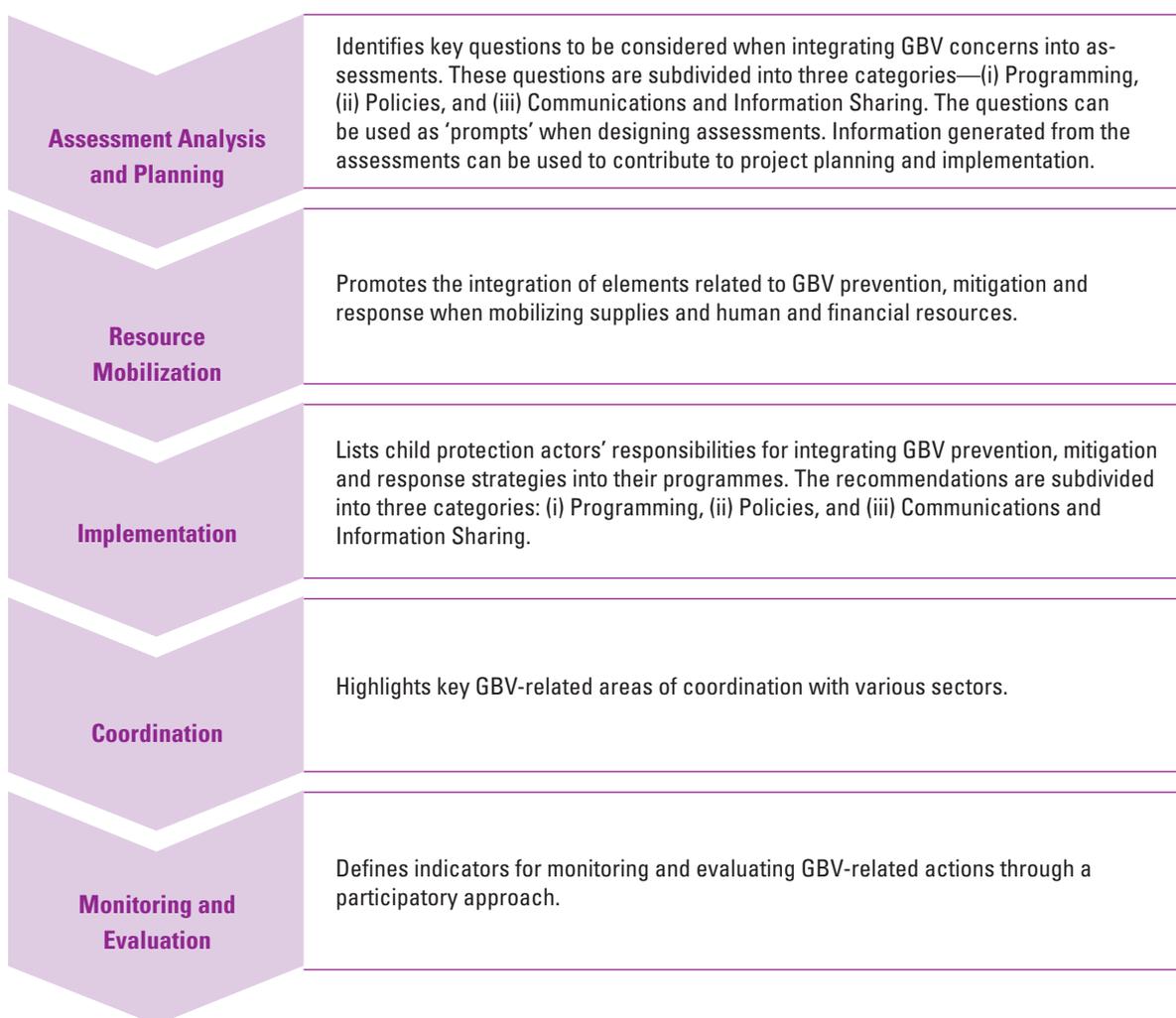
¹ Slow-onset emergencies such as drought may follow a different pattern from rapid-onset disasters. Even so, the risks of GBV and the humanitarian needs of affected populations remain the same. The recommendations in this TAG are applicable to all types of emergency.



In the summary fold-out table, **minimum commitments**² for child protection actors appear in bold. These minimum commitments represent critical actions that child protection actors can prioritize in the earliest stages of emergency when resources and time are limited. As soon as the acute emergency has subsided (anywhere from two weeks to several months, depending on the setting), additional essential actions outlined in the summary fold-out table—and elaborated in the subsequent guidance—should be initiated and/or scaled up. Each recommendation should be adapted to the particular context, always taking into account the essential rights, expressed needs and identified resources of target community.

Essential Actions Outlined according to the Programme Cycle Framework

Following the summary fold-out table, the guidance is organized according to five elements of a programme cycle. Each element of the programme cycle is designed to link with and support the other elements. *While coordination is presented as its own separate element, it should be considered and integrated throughout the entirety of the programme cycle.* The five elements³ are presented as follows:



² Note that the minimum commitments do not always come first under each programme cycle category of the summary table. This is because all the actions are organized in chronological order according to an ideal model for programming. When it is not possible to implement all actions—particularly in the early stages of an emergency—the minimum commitments should be prioritized and the other actions implemented at a later date.

³ These elements of the programme cycle are an adaptation of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). The HPC has been slightly adjusted within this TAG to simplify presentation of key information. The HPC is a core component of the Transformative Agenda, aimed at improving humanitarian actors’ ability to prepare for, manage and deliver assistance. For more information about the HPC, see: <www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle/space>.



Integrated throughout these stages is the concept of **early recovery** as a multidimensional process. Early recovery begins in the early days of a humanitarian response and should be considered systematically throughout. Employing an early recovery approach means:

“focusing on local ownership and strengthening capacities; basing interventions on a thorough understanding of the context to address root causes and vulnerabilities as well as immediate results of crisis; reducing risk, promoting equality and preventing discrimination through adherence to development principles that seek to build on humanitarian programmes and catalyse sustainable development opportunities. It aims to generate self-sustaining, nationally-owned, resilient processes for post-crisis recovery and to put in place preparedness measures to mitigate the impact of future crises.”

(Global Cluster on Early Recovery. 2014. ‘Guidance Note on Inter-Cluster Early Recovery’ [draft], p. 7, <www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/Guidance%20Note%20on%20inter-cluster%20ER%20draft%20June%2024%202014%20%28no%20Annex%29.pdf>)

In order to facilitate early recovery, GBV prevention and mitigation strategies should be integrated into programmes from the beginning of an emergency in ways that protect and empower women, girls and other at-risk groups. These strategies should also address underlying causes of GBV (particularly gender inequality) and develop evidence-based programming and tailored assistance.

Element 1: Assessment, Analysis and Planning

The programme cycle begins with a list of recommended GBV-related questions or ‘prompts’. These prompts highlight areas for investigation that can be selectively incorporated into various assessments and routine monitoring undertaken by child protection actors. The questions link to the recommendations under the heading ‘Implementation’ and the three main types of responsibilities therein (see Element 3 below):

- Programming;
- Policies; and
- Communications and Information Sharing.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Initiating Risk-Reduction Interventions without Assessments

While assessments are an important foundation for programme design and implementation, they are not required in order to put in place some essential GBV prevention, mitigation and response measures prior to or from the onset of an emergency. **Many risk-reduction interventions can be introduced without conducting an assessment.** For example, child protection actors can support the creation of girl- and boy-friendly spaces and establish separate reception areas for unaccompanied girls and boys.



In addition to the prompts of what to assess, other key points should be considered when designing assessments:

<p>Who to Assess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stakeholders and actors providing services in the community • GBV, gender and diversity specialists • Males and females of all ages and backgrounds of the affected community, particularly women, girls and other at-risk groups • Community leaders • Community-based organizations (<i>e.g. organizations for women, adolescents/youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, etc.</i>) • Representatives of humanitarian response sectors • Local and national governments • Members of receptor/host communities in IDP/refugee settings
<p>When to Assess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the outset of programme planning • At regular intervals for monitoring purposes • During ongoing safety and security monitoring
<p>How to Assess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review available secondary data (existing assessments/studies; qualitative and quantitative information; IDP/refugee registration data; etc.); • Conduct regular consultations with key stakeholders, including relevant grass-roots organizations, civil societies and government agencies • Carry out key informant interviews • Conduct focus group discussions with community members that are age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate (<i>e.g. participatory assessments held in consultation with men, women, girls and boys, separately when necessary</i>) • Carry out site observation • Perform site safety mapping • Conduct analysis of national legal frameworks related to GBV and whether they provide protection to women, girls and other at-risk groups

When designing assessments, child protection actors should apply ethical and safety standards that are age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive and prioritize the well-being of all those engaged in the assessment process. Wherever possible—and particularly when any component of the assessment involves communication with community stakeholders—**investigations should be designed and undertaken according to participatory processes** that engage the entire community, and most particularly women, girls, and other at-risk groups. This requires, as a first step, ensuring equal participation of women and men on assessment teams, as stipulated in the IASC Gender Handbook.⁴ Other important considerations are listed below.

⁴ An online survey of humanitarian practitioners and decision makers by Plan International found that the participation of women in assessment teams varies considerably, despite IASC standards. See *The State of the World's Girls 2013: In double jeopardy – Adolescent girls and disasters*, <<http://plan-international.org/girls/reports-and-publications/the-state-of-the-worlds-girls-2013.php>>



DOs and DON'Ts for Conducting Assessments That Include GBV-Related Components

DOs

- Do consult GBV, gender and diversity specialists throughout the planning, design, analysis and interpretation of assessments that include GBV-related components.
- Do use local expertise where possible.
- Do strictly adhere to safety and ethical recommendations for researching GBV.
- Do consider cultural and religious sensitivities of communities.
- Do conduct all assessments in a participatory way by consulting women, girls, men and boys of all backgrounds, including persons with specific needs. The unique needs of at-risk groups should be fairly represented in assessments in order to tailor interventions.
- Do conduct inter-agency or multi-sectoral assessments promoting the use of common tools and methods and encourage transparency and dissemination of the findings.
- Do include GBV specialists on inter-agency and inter-sectoral teams.
- Do conduct ongoing assessments of GBV-related programming issues to monitor the progress of activities and identify gaps or GBV-related protection issues that arise unexpectedly. Adjust programmes as needed.
- Do ensure that an equal number of female and male assessors and translators are available to provide age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate environments for those participating in assessments, particularly women and girls.
- Do conduct consultations in a secure setting where all individuals feel safe to contribute to discussions. Conduct separate women's groups and men's groups, or individual consultations when appropriate, to counter exclusion, prejudice and stigma that may impede involvement.
- Do provide training for assessment team members on ethical and safety issues. Include information in the training about appropriate systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) that are available for GBV survivors, if necessary.
- Do provide information about how to report risk and/or where to access care—especially at health facilities—for anyone who may report risk of or exposure to GBV during the assessment process.
- Do include—when appropriate and there are no security risks—government officials, line ministries and sub-ministries in assessment activities.

DON'Ts

- Don't share data that may be linked back to a group or an individual, including GBV survivors.
- Don't probe too deeply into culturally sensitive or taboo topics (e.g. *gender equality, reproductive health, sexual norms and behaviours, etc.*) unless relevant experts are part of the assessment team.
- Don't single out GBV survivors: Speak with women, girls and other at-risk groups in general and not explicitly about their own experiences.
- Don't make assumptions about which groups are affected by GBV, and don't assume that reported data on GBV or trends in reports represent actual prevalence and trends in the extent of GBV.
- Don't collect information about specific incidents of GBV or prevalence rates without assistance from GBV specialists.

(Adapted from **GBV AoR. 2010.** *Handbook for Coordinating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings* [provisional edition]; **CPWG. 2012.** *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*; and **UN Action. 2008.** *Reporting and Interpreting Data on Sexual Violence from Conflict-Affected Countries: Dos and don'ts*)



The information collected during various assessments and routine monitoring will help to identify the relationship between GBV risks and child protection programming. The data can highlight priorities and gaps that need to be addressed when planning new programmes or adjusting existing programmes, such as:

- ▶ Safety and security risks for particular groups within the affected population.
- ▶ Unequal access to services for women, girls and other at-risk groups.
- ▶ Global and national sector standards related to protection, rights and GBV risk reduction that are not applied (or do not exist) and therefore increase GBV-related risks.
- ▶ Lack of participation by some groups in the planning, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of programmes, and the need to consider age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate ways of facilitating participation of all groups.
- ▶ The need to advocate for and support the deployment of GBV specialists within the child protection sector.

Data can also be used to inform common response planning processes, which serve as the basis for resource mobilization in some contexts. As such, it is essential that GBV be adequately addressed and integrated into joint planning and strategic documents—such as the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, the OCHA Minimum Preparedness Package (MPP), the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), and Strategic Response Plans (SRPs).



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Investigating GBV-Related Safety and Security Issues When Undertaking Assessments

It is the responsibility of all humanitarian actors to work within a protection framework and understand the safety and security risks that women, girls, men and boys face. Therefore it is extremely important that assessment and monitoring of general safety issues be an ongoing feature of assistance. This includes exploring—through a variety of entry points and participatory processes—when, why and how GBV-related safety issues might arise, particularly as the result of delivery or use of humanitarian services. However, **GBV survivors should not be sought out or targeted as a specific group during assessments. GBV-specific assessments—which include investigating specific GBV incidents, interviewing survivors about their specific experiences, or conducting research on the scope of GBV in the population—should be conducted only in collaboration with GBV specialists and/or a GBV-specialized partner or agency.** Training in gender, GBV, women’s/human rights, social exclusion and sexuality—and how these inform assessment practices—should be conducted with relevant child protection staff. To the extent possible, assessments should be locally designed and led, ideally by relevant local government actors and/or programme administrators and with the participation of the community. When non-GBV specialists receive specific reports of GBV during general assessment activities, they should share the information with GBV specialists according to safe and ethical standards that ensure confidentiality and, if requested by survivors, anonymity of survivors.



Element 2: Resource Mobilization

Resource mobilization most obviously refers to accessing funding in order to implement programming—either through specific donors or linked to coordinated humanitarian funding mechanisms. (For more information on funding mechanisms, see **Annex 7** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.) This TAG aims to reduce the challenges of accessing GBV-related funds by outlining key GBV-related issues to be considered when drafting proposals.

In addition to the funding points specific to child protection that are presented under the ‘Resource Mobilization’ subsection of **Part Three**, all humanitarian actors should consider the following general points:

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Recognizing GBV Prevention and Response as Life-Saving

Addressing GBV is considered life-saving and meets multiple humanitarian donor guidelines and criteria, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). In spite of this, GBV prevention, mitigation and response are rarely prioritized from the outset of an emergency. Taking action to address GBV is more often linked to longer-term protection and stability initiatives; as a result, humanitarian actors operate with limited GBV-related resources in the early stages of an emergency (Hersh, 2014). This includes a lack of physical and human resources or technical capacity in the area of GBV, which can in turn result in limited allocation of GBV-related funding. These limitations are both a cause and an indicator of systemic weaknesses in emergency response, and may in some instances stem from the failure of initial rapid assessments to illustrate the need for GBV prevention and response interventions. (For more information about including GBV in various humanitarian strategic plans and funding mechanisms, see **Annex 7** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.)

Components of a Proposal	GBV-Related Points to Consider for Inclusion
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe vulnerabilities of women, girls and other at-risk groups in the particular setting Describe and analyse risks for specific forms of GBV (<i>e.g. sexual assault, forced and/or coerced prostitution, child and/or forced marriage, intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence</i>), rather than a broader reference to ‘GBV’ Illustrate how those believed to be at risk of GBV have been identified and consulted on GBV-related priorities, needs and rights
PROJECT RATIONALE/ JUSTIFICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the GBV-related risks that are linked to the sector’s area of work Describe which groups are being targeted in this action and how the targeting is informed by vulnerability criteria and inclusion strategies Describe whether women, girls and other at-risk groups are part of decision-making processes and what mechanisms have been put in place to empower them Explain how these efforts will link with and support other efforts to prevent and mitigate specific types of GBV in the affected community
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illustrate how activities are linked with those of other humanitarian actors/sectors Explain which activities may help in changing or improving the environment to prevent GBV (<i>e.g. by better monitoring and understanding the underlying causes and contributing factors of GBV</i>) Describe mechanisms that facilitate reporting of GBV, and ensure appropriate follow-up in a safe and ethical manner Describe relevant linkages with GBV specialists and GBV coordination mechanisms Consider how the project promotes and rebuilds community systems and structures that ensure the participation and safety of women, girls and other at-risk groups
MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline a monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress as well as any adverse effects of GBV-related activities on the affected population Illustrate how the monitoring and evaluation strategies include the participation of women, girls and other at-risk groups Include outcome level indicators from the Indicator Sheets in Part Three of this TAG to measure programme impact on GBV-related risks Where relevant, describe a plan for adjusting the programme according to monitoring outcomes Disaggregate indicators by sex, age, disability and other relevant vulnerability factors





ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

The IASC Gender Marker

Despite universal acceptance that humanitarian assistance must meet the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men to generate positive and sustainable outcomes, evaluations of humanitarian effectiveness show gender equality results are weak. The Gender Marker is a tool that codes, on a 0–2 scale, whether or not a humanitarian project is designed well enough to ensure that women/girls and men/boys will benefit equally from it or that it will advance gender equality in another way. If the project has the potential to contribute to gender equality, the marker predicts whether the results are likely to be limited or significant. Although the gender mainstreaming objectives of the Gender Marker differ in some ways from those of GBV prevention and response programming, in order to be effective, they **must both address issues of women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality and include men and boys as partners in prevention.**

(For links between the Gender Marker and GBV prevention and response projects, see **Annex 8** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>. For information on the Gender Marker, see: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/IASC%20Gender%20Marker%20Fact%20Sheet.doc>. For information on trends in spending according to the Gender Marker, see **Global Humanitarian Assistance. 2014. Funding Gender in Emergencies: What are the trends?** <www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/funding-gender-emergencies-trends>.)

Importantly, resource mobilization is not limited to soliciting funds. When planning for and implementing GBV prevention and response activities, child protection actors should:

- ▶ Mobilize human resources by making sure that partners within the child protection sector:
 - Have been trained in and understand issues of gender, GBV, women’s/human rights, social exclusion and sexuality.
 - Are empowered to integrate GBV risk-reduction strategies into their work.
- ▶ Employ and retain women and other at-risk groups as staff, and ensure their active participation and leadership in all community activities related to child protection.
- ▶ Pre-position age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive supplies where necessary and appropriate.
- ▶ Pre-position accessible GBV-related community outreach material.
- ▶ Advocate with the donor community so that donors recognize GBV prevention, mitigation and response interventions as life-saving, and support the costs related to improving intra- and inter-sector capacity to address GBV.
- ▶ Ensure that government and humanitarian policies related to child protection programming integrate GBV concerns and include strategies for ongoing budgeting of activities.

Element 3: Implementation

The ‘Implementation’ subsection provides guidance for putting GBV-related risk-reduction responsibilities into practice. The information is intended to:

- ▶ Describe a set of activities that, taken together, establish shared standards and improve the overall quality of GBV-related prevention and mitigation strategies—as well as response services for survivors—in humanitarian settings.
- ▶ Establish GBV-related responsibilities that should be undertaken by all child protection actors, regardless of available data on GBV incidents.
- ▶ Maximize immediate protection of GBV survivors and persons at risk.
- ▶ Foster longer-term interventions that work towards the elimination of GBV.



Three main types of responsibilities—programming, policies, and communications and information sharing—correspond to and elaborate upon the suggested areas of inquiry outlined under the subsection ‘Assessment, Analysis and Planning’. Each targets a variety of child protection actors.

1) Programming: Targets NGOs, community-based organizations (including the National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society), INGOs, United Nations agencies, and national and local governments to encourage them to:

- ▶ Support the involvement of women, girls and other at-risk groups within the affected population as programme staff and as leaders in governance mechanisms and community decision-making structures.
- ▶ Implement programmes that (1) reflect awareness of the particular GBV risks faced by women, girls and other at-risk groups, and (2) address their rights and needs related to safety and security.
- ▶ Integrate GBV prevention, mitigation and response into activities.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Active Participation of Women, Girls and Other At-Risk Groups

Commitment 4 of the IASC Principals’ Commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations (CAAP) highlights the importance of enabling affected populations to play a decision-making role in processes that affect them. This is reflected in recommendations within this TAG that promote the active participation of women, girls and other at-risk groups in assessment processes and as staff and leaders in community-based structures. **Involving women, girls, and other at-risk groups in all aspects of child protection programming is essential** to fulfilling the guiding principles and approaches discussed later in this section. However, such involvement—especially as leaders or managers—can be risky in some settings. Therefore the recommendations throughout this TAG aimed at greater inclusion of women, girls and other at-risk groups (e.g. striving for 50 per cent representation of females in programme staff) may need to be adjusted to the context. **Due caution must be exercised where their inclusion poses a potential security risk or increases their risk of GBV.** Approaches to their involvement should be carefully contextualized.

2) Policies: Targets programme planners, advocates, and national and local policymakers to encourage them to:

- ▶ Incorporate GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into child protection programme policies, standards and guidelines from the earliest stages of the emergency.
- ▶ Support the integration of GBV risk-reduction strategies into national and local development policies and plans and allocate funding for sustainability.
- ▶ Support the revision and adoption of national and local laws and policies (including customary laws and policies) that promote and protect the rights of women, girls and other at-risk groups.

3) Communications and Information Sharing: Targets programme and community outreach staff to encourage them to:

- ▶ Work with GBV specialists in order to identify safe, confidential and appropriate systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) for GBV survivors; incorporate basic GBV messages into community outreach and awareness-raising activities related to child protection; and develop information-sharing standards that promote confidentiality and ensure anonymity of survivors. In the early stages of an emergency, services may be quite limited; referral pathways should be adjusted as services expand.



- ▶ Receive training on issues of gender, GBV, women’s/human rights, social exclusion, sexuality and psychological first aid (e.g. how to engage supportively with survivors and provide information in an ethical, safe and confidential manner about their rights and options to report risk and access care).

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Providing Referrals and Psychological First Aid

The term ‘mental health and psychosocial support’ (MHPSS) is used to describe any type of local or outside support that aims to protect or promote psychosocial well-being and/or prevent or treat mental disorder (IASC, 2007). The experience of GBV can be a very distressing event for a survivor. All survivors should have access to supportive listeners in their families and communities, as well as additional GBV-focused services should they choose to access them. Often the first line of focused services will be through community-based organizations, in which trained GBV support workers provide case management and resiliency-based mental health care. Some survivors—typically a relatively small number—may require more targeted mental health care from an expert experienced in addressing GBV-related mental health issues (*e.g. when survivors are not improving according to a care plan, or when caseworkers have reason to believe survivors may be at risk of hurting themselves or someone else*).

As part of care and support for people affected by GBV, the humanitarian community plays a crucial role in ensuring survivors gain access to GBV-focused community-based care services and, as necessary and available, more targeted mental health care provided by GBV and trauma-care experts. Survivors may also wish to access legal/justice support and police protection. **Providing information to survivors in an ethical, safe and confidential manner about their rights and options to report risk and access care is a responsibility of all humanitarian actors who interact with affected populations.** Child protection actors should work with GBV specialists to identify systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) that can be mobilized if a survivor reports exposure to GBV. It may be also be important to have GBV-specialist staff integrated into the operations of the child protection sector.

For all child protection personnel who engage with affected populations, it is important not only to be able to offer survivors up-to-date information about access to services, but also to know and apply the principles of psychological first aid. Even without specific training in GBV case management, non-GBV specialists can go a long way in assisting survivors by responding to their disclosures in a supportive, non-stigmatizing, survivor-centred manner. (For more information about the survivor-centred approach, see ‘Guiding Principles’, below).

Psychological first aid (PFA) describes a humane, supportive response to a fellow human being who is suffering and who may need support. Providing PFA responsibly means to:

1. Respect safety, dignity and rights.
2. Adapt what you do to take account of the person’s culture.
3. Be aware of other emergency response measures.
4. Look after yourself.

PREPARE

- Learn about the crisis event.
- Learn about available services and supports.
- Learn about safety and security concerns.

(continued)



! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW (continued)

The three basic action principles of PFA presented below—look, listen and link—can help child protection actors with how they view and safely enter a crisis situation, approach affected people and understand their needs, and link them with practical support and information.

LOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for safety. • Check for people with obvious urgent basic needs. • Check for people with serious distress reactions. 	
LISTEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach people who may need support. • Ask about people’s needs and concerns. • Listen to people, and help them to feel calm. 	
LINK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people address basic needs and access services. • Help people cope with problems. • Give information. • Connect people with loved ones and social support. 	

The following chart identifies **ethical dos and don’ts in providing PFA**. These are offered as guidance to avoid causing further harm to the person; provide the best care possible; and act only in their best interests. These ethical dos and don’ts reinforce a survivor-centred approach. In all cases, child protection actors should offer help in ways that are most appropriate and comfortable to the people they are supporting, given the cultural context. In any situation where a child protection actor feels unsure about how to respond to a survivor in a safe, ethical and confidential manner, she or he should contact a GBV specialist for guidance.

Dos

- Be honest and trustworthy.
- Respect people’s right to make their own decisions.
- Be aware of and set aside your own biases and prejudices.
- Make it clear to affected people that even if they refuse help now, they can still access help in the future.
- Respect privacy and keep the person’s story confidential, if this is appropriate.
- Behave appropriately by considering the person’s culture, age and gender.

Don’ts

- Don’t exploit your relationship as a helper.
- Don’t ask the person for any money or favour for helping them.
- Don’t make false promises or give false information.
- Don’t exaggerate your skills.
- Don’t force help on people and don’t be intrusive or pushy.
- Don’t pressure people to tell you their stories.
- Don’t share the person’s story with others.
- Don’t judge the people for their actions or feelings.

(Adapted from: **World Health Organization, War Trauma Foundation and World Vision International. 2011.** *Psychological First Aid: Guide for field workers*, pp. 53–55, <www.who.int/mental_health/publications/guide_field_workers/en>; and **World Health Organization. 2012.** ‘Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: 10 myths’, <www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/rhr12_17/en>. For more information on providing first-line support see **World Health Organization. 2014.** *Health Care for Women Subjected to Intimate Partner Violence or Sexual Violence. A clinical handbook* (Field-testing version), WHO/RHR/14.26, <www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/vaw-clinical-handbook/en>.)



Element 4: Coordination

Given its complexities, GBV is best addressed when multiple sectors, organizations and disciplines work together to create and implement unified prevention and mitigation strategies. In an emergency context, actors leading humanitarian interventions (e.g. the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator; the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator; UNHCR; etc.) can facilitate coordination that ensures GBV-related issues are prioritized and dealt with in a timely manner. Effective coordination can strengthen accountability, prevent a 'siloed' effect, and ensure that agency-specific and intra-sectoral GBV action plans are in line with those of other sectors, reinforcing a cross-sectoral approach.

The 'Coordination' subsection of **Part Three** provides guidance on key GBV-related areas for cross-sectoral coordination. This guidance targets NGOs, community-based organizations (including National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies), INGOs and United Nations agencies, national and local governments, and humanitarian coordination leadership—such as line ministries, humanitarian coordinators, sector coordinators and donors. Leaders of child protection coordination mechanisms should also undertake the following:

- ▶ Put in place mechanisms for regularly addressing GBV at child protection coordination meetings, such as including GBV issues as a regular agenda item and soliciting the involvement of GBV specialists in relevant child protection coordination activities.
- ▶ Coordinate and consult with gender specialists and, where appropriate, diversity specialists or networks (e.g. disability, LGBTI, older persons, etc.) to ensure specific issues of vulnerability—which may otherwise be overlooked—are adequately represented and addressed.

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Accessing the Support of GBV Specialists

Child protection coordinators and child protection actors should identify and work with the chair (and co-chair) of the GBV coordination mechanism where one exists. (Note: GBV coordination mechanisms may be chaired by government actors, NGOs, INGOs and/or United Nations agencies, depending on the context.) They should also encourage a child protection focal point to participate in GBV coordination meetings, and encourage the GBV chair/co-chair (or other GBV coordination group member) to participate in child protection coordination meetings. Whenever necessary, child protection coordinators and child protection actors should seek out the expertise of GBV specialists to assist with implementing the recommendations presented in this TAG.

GBV specialists can ensure the integration of protection principles and GBV risk-reduction strategies into ongoing child protection programming. These specialists can advise, assist and support coordination efforts through specific activities, such as:

- Conducting GBV-specific assessments.
- Ensuring appropriate services are in place for survivors.
- Developing referral systems and pathways.
- Providing case management for GBV survivors.
- Developing trainings for child protection actors on gender, GBV, women's/human rights, and how to respectfully and supportively engage with survivors.

GBV experts neither can nor should have specialized knowledge of the child protection sector, however. Efforts to integrate GBV risk-reduction strategies into child protection responses should be led by child protection actors to ensure that any recommendations from GBV actors are relevant and feasible within the sectoral response.

In settings where the GBV coordination mechanism is not active, child protection coordinators and child protection actors should seek support from local actors with GBV-related expertise (e.g. *social workers, women's groups, protection officers, child protection specialists, etc.*) as well as the Global GBV AoR. (Relevant contacts are provided on the GBV AoR website, <www.gbvaor.net>.)



- ▶ Develop monitoring systems that allow child protection programmes to track their own GBV-related activities (e.g. include GBV-related activities in the sector's 3/4/5W form used to map out actors, activities and geographic coverage).
- ▶ Submit joint proposals for funding to ensure that GBV has been adequately addressed in child protection programming response.
- ▶ Develop and implement child protection work plans with clear milestones that include GBV-related inter-agency actions.
- ▶ Support the development and implementation of sector-wide policies, protocols and other tools that integrate GBV prevention and mitigation, as well as response services for survivors.
- ▶ Form strategic partnerships and networks to conduct advocacy for improved programming and to meet the responsibilities set out in this TAG (with due caution regarding the safety and security risks for humanitarian actors, survivors and those at risk of GBV who speak publicly about the problem of GBV).

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Advocacy

Advocacy is the deliberate and strategic use of information—by individuals or groups of individuals—to bring about positive change at the local, national and international levels. By working with GBV specialists and a wide range of partners, child protection actors can help promote awareness of GBV and ensure safe, ethical and effective interventions. They can highlight specific GBV issues in a particular setting through the use of effective communication strategies and different types of products, platforms and channels, such as: press releases, publications, maps and media interviews; different web and social media platforms; multimedia products using video, photography and graphics; awareness-raising campaigns; and essential information channels for affected populations. All communication strategies must adhere to standards of confidentiality and data protection when using stories, images or photographs of survivors for advocacy purposes.

(Adapted from **International Rescue Committee. 2011. GBV Emergency Response and Preparedness Participant Handbook**, p. 93, <http://cpwg.net/resources/irc-2011-gbv_erp_participant_handbook_-_revised>)

Element 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a critical tool for planning, budgeting resources, measuring performance and improving future humanitarian response. Continuous **routine monitoring** ensures that effective programmes are maintained and accountability to all stakeholders—especially affected populations—is improved. **Periodic evaluations** supplement monitoring data by analyzing in greater depth the

strengths and weaknesses of implemented activities, and by measuring improved outcomes in the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of affected populations and humanitarian workers. Implementing partners and donors can use the information gathered through M&E to share lessons learned among field colleagues and the wider humanitarian community. This TAG primarily focuses on indicators that strengthen child protection programme monitoring to avoid the collection of GBV incident data and more resource-intensive evaluations. (For

! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

GBV Case Reporting

For a number of safety, ethical and practical reasons, **this TAG does not recommend using the number of reported cases (either increase or decrease) as an indicator of success.** As a general rule, GBV specialists or those trained on GBV research should undertake data collection on cases of GBV.



general information on M&E, see resources available to guide real-time and final programme evaluations such as ALNAP's *Evaluating Humanitarian Action Guide*, <www.alnap.org/eha>. For GBV-specific resources on M&E, see **Annex 1** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.)

The 'Monitoring and Evaluation' subsection of **Part Three** includes a *non-exhaustive* set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating the recommended activities at each phase of the programme cycle. Most indicators have been designed so they can be incorporated into *existing* child protection M&E tools and processes, in order to improve information collection and analysis without the need for additional data collection mechanisms. Child protection actors should select indicators and set appropriate targets prior to the start of an activity and adjust them to meet the needs of the target population as the project progresses. There are suggestions for collecting both quantitative data (through surveys and 3/4/5W matrices) and qualitative data (through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and other qualitative methods). Qualitative information helps to gather greater depth on participants' perceptions of programmes. Some indicators require a mix of qualitative and quantitative data to better understand the quality and effectiveness of programmes.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Ethical Considerations

Though GBV-related data presents a complex set of challenges, the indicators in this TAG are designed so that the information can be safely and ethically collected and reported by child protection actors who do not have extensive GBV expertise. However, **it is the responsibility of all child protection actors to ensure safety, confidentiality and informed consent when collecting or sharing data.** See above, 'Element 1: Assessment, Analysis and Planning', for further information.

It is crucial that the data not only be collected and reported, but also analysed with the goal of identifying where modifications may be beneficial. In this regard, sometimes 'failing' to meet a target can provide some of the most valuable opportunities for learning. For example, if a programme has aimed for 50 per cent female participation in assessments but falls short of reaching that target, it may consider changing the time and/or location of the consultations, or speaking with the affected community to better understand the barriers to female participation. The knowledge gained through this process has the potential to strengthen child protection interventions even beyond the actions taken related to GBV. Therefore, indicators should be analysed and reported using a 'GBV lens'. This involves considering the ways in which all information—including information that may not seem 'GBV-related'—could have implications for GBV prevention, mitigation and response.

Lastly, child protection actors should disaggregate indicators by sex, age, disability and other relevant vulnerability factors to improve the quality of the information they collect and to deliver programmes more equitably and efficiently. See 'Key Considerations for At-Risk Groups' in **Part One: Introduction** for more information on vulnerability factors.



2. Guiding Principles and Approaches for Addressing Gender-Based Violence

The following principles are inextricably linked to the overarching humanitarian responsibility to provide protection and assistance to those affected by a crisis. They serve as the foundation for all humanitarian actors when planning and implementing GBV-related programming. These principles state that:

- ▶ GBV encompasses a wide range of human rights violations.
- ▶ Preventing and mitigating GBV involves promoting gender equality and promoting beliefs and norms that foster respectful, non-violent gender norms.
- ▶ Safety, respect, confidentiality and non-discrimination in relation to survivors and those at risk are vital considerations at all times.
- ▶ GBV-related interventions should be context-specific in order to enhance outcomes and 'do no harm'.
- ▶ Participation and partnership are cornerstones of effective GBV prevention.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Do No Harm

The concept of '**do no harm**' means that humanitarian organizations must strive to "minimize the harm they may inadvertently be doing by being present and providing assistance." Such unintended negative consequences may be wide-ranging and extremely complex. Child protection actors can reinforce the 'do no harm' principle in their GBV-related work through careful attention to the human rights-based, survivor-centred, community-based and systems approaches described below.

(Adapted from **Kahn, C., and Lucchi, E. 2009.** 'Are Humanitarians Fuelling Conflicts? Evidence from eastern Chad and Darfur', *Humanitarian Exchange Magazine*, No. 43, <www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-43/are-humanitarians-fuelling-conflicts-evidence-from-eastern-chad-and-darfur>)

These principles can be put into practice by applying the four essential and interrelated approaches described below.

1. Human Rights-Based Approach

A human rights-based approach seeks to analyse the root causes of problems and to redress discriminatory practices that impede humanitarian intervention. This approach is often contrasted with the needs-based approach, in which interventions aim to address practical, short-term emergency needs through service delivery. Although a needs-based approach includes affected populations in the process, it often stops short of addressing policies and regulations that can contribute to sustainable systemic change.

By contrast, the human rights-based approach views affected populations as 'rights-holders', and recognizes that these rights can be realized only by supporting the long-term empowerment of affected populations through sustainable solutions. This approach seeks to attend to rights as well as needs; how those needs are determined and addressed is informed by legal and



moral obligations and accountability. Humanitarian actors, along with states (where they are functioning), are seen as ‘duty-bearers’ who are bound by their obligations to encourage, empower and assist ‘rights-holders’ in claiming their rights. A human rights-based approach requires those who undertake GBV-related programming to:

- ▶ Assess the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights (identifying the immediate, underlying and structural causes for non-realization of rights) and to participate in the development of solutions that affect their lives in a sustainable way.
- ▶ Assess the capacities and limitations of duty-bearers to fulfill their obligations.
- ▶ Develop sustainable strategies for building capacities and overcoming these limitations of duty-bearers.
- ▶ Monitor and evaluate both outcomes and processes, guided by human rights standards and principles and using participatory approaches.
- ▶ Ensure programming is informed by the recommendations of international human rights bodies and mechanisms.

2. Survivor-Centred Approach



(Excerpted from **GBV AoR. 2010. GBV Coordination Handbook** (provisional edition), p. 20, <www.gbvguidelines.org/tools-resources>)

A survivor-centred approach means that the survivor’s rights, needs and wishes are prioritized when designing and developing GBV-related programming. The illustration above contrasts survivor’s rights (in the left-hand column) with the negative impacts a survivor may experience when the survivor-centred approach is not employed.

The survivor-centred approach can guide professionals—regardless of their role—in their engagement with persons who have experienced GBV. It aims to create a supportive environment in which a GBV survivor’s **rights** are respected, safety is ensured, and the survivor is treated with **dignity** and **respect**. The approach helps to promote a survivor’s recovery and strengthen her or his ability to identify and express needs and wishes; it also reinforces the person’s capacity to make decisions about possible interventions (adapted from IASC Gender SWG and GBV AoR, 2010).



! ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Key Elements of the Survivor-Centred Approach for Promoting Ethical and Safety Standards

1) Safety: The safety and security of the survivor and others, such as her/his children and people who have assisted her/him, must be the number one priority for all actors. Individuals who disclose an incident of GBV or a history of abuse are often at high risk of further violence from the perpetrator(s) or from others around them.

2) Confidentiality: Confidentiality reflects the belief that people have the right to choose to whom they will, or will not, tell their story. Maintaining confidentiality means not disclosing any information at any time to any party without the informed consent of the person concerned. Confidentiality promotes safety, trust and empowerment.

3) Respect: The survivor is the primary actor, and the role of helpers is to facilitate recovery and provide resources for problem-solving. All actions taken should be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and dignity of the survivor.

4) Non-discrimination: Survivors of violence should receive equal and fair treatment regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other characteristic.

(Adapted from **United Nations Population Fund. 2012.** 'Module 2' in *Managing Gender-Based Violence Programmes in Emergencies, E-Learning Companion Guide*, <www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/GBV%20E-Learning%20Companion%20Guide_ENGLISH.pdf>)

3. Community-Based Approach

A community-based approach insists that affected populations should be leaders and key partners in developing strategies related to their assistance and protection. From the earliest stage of the emergency, all those affected should “participate in making decisions that affect their lives” and have “a right to information and transparency” from those providing assistance. The community-based approach:

- ▶ Allows for a process of direct consultation and dialogue with all members of communities, including women, girls and other at-risk groups.
- ▶ Engages groups who are often overlooked as active and equal partners in the assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of assistance.
- ▶ Ensures all members of the community will be better protected, their capacity to identify and sustain solutions strengthened and humanitarian resources used more effectively (adapted from UNHCR, 2008).

4. Systems Approach

Using a systems approach means analyzing GBV-related issues across an entire organization, sector and/or humanitarian system to come up with a combination of solutions most relevant to the context. The systems approach can be applied to introduce systemic changes that improve GBV prevention, mitigation and response efforts—both in the short term and in the long term. Child protection actors can apply a systems approach in order to:

- ▶ Strengthen agency/organizational/sectoral commitment to gender equality and GBV-related programming.
- ▶ Improve child protection actors’ knowledge, attitudes and skills related to gender equality and GBV through sensitization and training.

- ▶ Reach out to organizations to address underlying causes that affect child protection sector-wide capacity to prevent and mitigate GBV, such as gender imbalance in staffing.
- ▶ Strengthen safety and security for those at risk of GBV through the implementation of infrastructure improvements and the development of GBV-related policies.
- ▶ Ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of GBV-related programming (adapted from USAID, 2006).



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Conducting Trainings

Throughout this TAG, it is recommended that child protection actors **work with GBV specialists to prepare and provide trainings on gender, GBV and women's/human rights**. These trainings should be provided for a variety of stakeholders, including child protection actors, government actors, and community members. Such trainings are essential not only for implementing effective GBV-related programming, but also for engaging with and influencing cultural norms that contribute to the perpetuation of GBV. Where GBV specialists are not available in-country, child protection actors can liaise with the Global GBV Area of Responsibility (gbvaor.net) for support in preparing and providing trainings. Child protection actors should also:

- Research relevant child protection training tools that have already been developed, prioritizing tools that have been developed in-country (*e.g. local referral mechanisms, standard operating procedures, tip sheets, etc.*).
- Consider the communication and literacy abilities of the target populations, and tailor the trainings accordingly.
- Ensure all trainings are conducted in local language(s) and that training tools are similarly translated.
- Ensure that non-national training facilitators work with national co-facilitators wherever possible.
- Balance awareness of cultural and religious sensitivities with maximizing protections for women, girls and other at-risk groups.
- Seek ways to provide ongoing monitoring and mentoring/technical support (in addition to training), to ensure sustainable knowledge transfer and improved expertise in GBV.
- Identify international and local experts in issues affecting different at-risk groups (*e.g. persons with disabilities, LGBTI populations*) to incorporate information on specific at-risk groups into trainings.

(For a general list of GBV-specific training tools as well as training tools on related issues, including LGBTI rights and needs, see **Annex 1** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.)

Additional Citations

Hersh, M. 2014. 'Philippines: New approach to emergency response fails women and girls'. Refugees International Field Report, <<http://refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/Philippines%20GBV%20New%20Approach%20letterhead.pdf>>

Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2007. *Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*, <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/Guidelines%20IASC%20Mental%20Health%20Psychosocial%20%28with%20index%29.pdf>

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Sub-Working Group (IASC Gender SWG) and GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR). 2010. *Caring for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Emergencies Training Guide*, <www.unicefinemergencies.com/downloads/eresource/docs/GBV/Caring%20for%20Survivors.pdf>

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PART THREE
CHILD
PROTECTION
GUIDANCE



CHILD PROTECTION



THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

- Child protection coordination mechanisms
- Child protection actors (staff and leadership): NGOs, community-based organizations (including National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies), INGOs and United Nations agencies
- Local committees and community-based groups related to child protection
- Other child protection stakeholders including national and local governments, community leaders and civil society groups

Why Addressing Gender-Based Violence Is a Critical Concern of the Child Protection Sector

Children and adolescents often face a heightened risk of violence in humanitarian settings due to the lack of rule of law, the breakdown of family and community protective mechanisms, their limited power in decision-making and their level of dependence. The strain on adults caused by humanitarian crises may increase children's risk of physical abuse, corporal punishment and other forms of domestic violence. Children and adolescents are also at risk of being exploited by persons in authority (e.g. through child labour, commercial sexual exploitation, etc.). Proximity to armed forces, overcrowded camps and separation from family members further contribute to an increased risk of violence.

During emergencies, both girls and boys are at risk of sexual assault. Many other types of violence against children—including sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking for sex, female genital mutilation/cutting,



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Considering the Best Interests of the Child

In all actions concerning children and adolescents, **the best interests of the child** shall be a primary consideration. This principle should guide the design, monitoring and adjustment of all humanitarian programmes and interventions. Where humanitarians take decisions regarding individual children, agreed procedural safeguards should be implemented to ensure this principle is upheld. **Children are people under 18 years of age. This category includes infants (up to 1 year old) and most adolescents (10–19 years). Adolescents are normally referred to as people between the ages of 10 and 19.**

(Child Protection Working Group [CPWG]. 2012. *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*, pp. 15 and 221, <http://toolkit.ineesite.org/toolkit/INEEcms/uploads/1103/Minimum-standards-Child_Protection.pdf>. For additional information see UNHCR, 2008. *Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child*, <www.unhcr.org/4566b16b2.pdf>.)

SEE SUMMARY TABLE ON ESSENTIAL ACTIONS

Essential Actions for <i>Reducing Risk, Promoting Resilience and Aiding Recovery</i> throughout the Programme Cycle	Stage of Emergency Applicable to Each Action			
	Pre-Emergency/ Preparedness	Emergency	Stabilized Stage	Recovery to Development
ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND PLANNING				
Promote the active participation of children and adolescents—particularly adolescent girls—in all child protection assessment processes (according to ethical standards and processes)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Assess the level of participation and leadership of women, adolescent girls and other at-risk groups in the design, implementation and monitoring of child protection programmes (e.g. ratio of male/female child protection staff; participation in child protection monitoring groups; etc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify the cultural practices, expected behaviours and social norms that constitute GBV and/or increase risk of GBV against girls and boys (e.g. preferential treatment of boys; child marriages; female genital mutilation/cutting; gender-based exclusion from education; domestic responsibilities for girls; child labour; recruitment of children into armed forces/groups; etc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Identify the environmental factors that increase children's and adolescents' risk of violence, understanding the different risk factors faced by girls, boys and particularly at-risk groups of children (e.g. presence of armed forces/groups; unsafe routes for firewood/water collection, to school, to work; overcrowded camps or collective centres; status as separated or unaccompanied child; being in conflict with the law; existence of child trafficking networks; etc.)	✓	✓		
Map community-based child protection mechanisms that can be fortified to mitigate the risks of GBV against children, particularly adolescent girls (e.g. child protection committees; community watch committees; child-friendly safe spaces; community-based organizations; families and kinship networks; religious structures; etc.)	✓	✓		
Identify response services and gaps in services for girl and boy survivors (including child-friendly health care; mental health and psychosocial support; security response; legal/justice processes; etc.)	✓	✓		
Assess the capacity of child protection programmes and personnel to recognize and address the risks of GBV against girls and boys and to apply the principles of child-friendly care when engaging with girl and boy survivors	✓	✓	✓	✓
Review existing/proposed community outreach material related to child protection to ensure it includes basic information about GBV risk reduction (including prevention, where to report risk and how to access care)	✓	✓	✓	✓
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION				
Develop proposals for child protection programmes that reflect awareness of GBV risks for the affected population and strategies for reducing these risks	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prepare and provide trainings for government, humanitarian workers, national and local security and law enforcement, child protection personnel, teachers, legal/justice sector actors, community leaders, and relevant community members on violence against children and adolescents, recognizing the differential risks and safety needs of girls and boys	✓	✓	✓	✓
Train child protection actors who work directly with affected populations to recognize GBV risks for children and adolescents and to inform survivors and their caregivers about where they can obtain care and support	✓	✓		
Target women and other at-risk groups for job skills training related to child protection, particularly in leadership roles to ensure their presence in decision-making processes	✓	✓	✓	✓
IMPLEMENTATION				
► Programming				
Involve women, adolescent girls and other at-risk groups in relevant aspects of child protection programming (with due caution where this poses a potential security risk or increases the risk of GBV)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support the capacity of community-based child protection networks and programmes to prevent and mitigate GBV (e.g. strengthen existing community protection mechanisms; support creation of girl- and boy-friendly spaces; etc.)		✓	✓	✓
Support the provision of age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive multi-sectoral care and support for child survivors of GBV (including health services; mental health and psychosocial support; security/police response; legal/justice services; etc.)		✓	✓	✓
Where there are gaps in services for children and adolescents, support the training of medical, mental health and psychosocial, police, and legal/justice actors in how to engage with child survivors in age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive ways		✓	✓	✓
Monitor and address the risks of GBV for separated and unaccompanied girls and boys (e.g. establish separate reception areas for unaccompanied girls and boys; ensure family reunification and foster care programmes monitor and mitigate potential risk of GBV; etc.)		✓	✓	✓
Incorporate efforts to address GBV into activities targeting children associated with armed forces/groups (e.g. disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes)		✓	✓	✓
Ensure the safety and protection of children in contact with the law, taking into account the particular risks of GBV within detention facilities		✓	✓	✓
► Policies				
Incorporate relevant GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into the policies, standards and guidelines of child protection programmes (e.g. standards for equal employment of females; procedures and protocols for sharing protected or confidential information about GBV incidents; agency procedures to report, investigate and take disciplinary action in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse; etc.)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support the reform of national and local laws and policies (including customary laws) to promote and protect the rights of children and adolescents to be free from GBV (with recognition of the particular vulnerabilities, rights and needs of girls and other at-risk groups of children)	✓		✓	✓
► Communications and Information Sharing				
Ensure that child protection programmes sharing information about reports of GBV within the child protection sector or with partners in the larger humanitarian community abide by safety and ethical standards (e.g. shared information does not reveal the identity of or pose a security risk to child survivors, their caretakers or the broader community)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Incorporate GBV messages (including prevention, where to report risk and how to access care) into child protection-related community outreach and awareness-raising activities, using multiple formats to ensure accessibility		✓	✓	✓
COORDINATION				
Undertake coordination with other sectors to address GBV risks and ensure protection for girls and boys at risk	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seek out the GBV coordination mechanism for support and guidance and, whenever possible, assign a child protection focal point to regularly participate in GBV coordination meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓
MONITORING AND EVALUATION				
Identify, collect and analyse a core set of indicators—disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant vulnerability factors—to monitor GBV risk-reduction activities throughout the programme cycle	✓	✓	✓	✓
Evaluate GBV risk-reduction activities by measuring programme outcomes (including potential adverse effects) and using the data to inform decision-making and ensure accountability		✓	✓	✓

NOTE: The essential actions above are organized in chronological order according to an ideal model for programming. The actions that are in bold are the **suggested minimum commitments** for child protection actors in the early stages of an emergency. These minimum commitments will not necessarily be undertaken according to an ideal model for programming; for this reason, they do not always fall first under each subcategory of the summary table. When it is not possible to implement all actions—particularly in the early stages of an emergency—the minimum commitments should be prioritized and the other actions implemented at a later date. For more information about minimum commitments, see **Part Two: Background to Child Protection Guidance**. Also refer to the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*, <http://toolkit.ineesite.org/toolkit/INEEcms/uploads/1103/Minimum-standards-Child_Protection.pdf>.

honour killing, child marriage, differential access to food and services, and differential access to education—disproportionately affect girls and young women because of gender-based discrimination against females. In situations of armed conflict, girls and boys are at risk of being abducted by armed forces/groups and subjected to different forms of violence. Girls in particular are often the targets of sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence and exploitation. Girls who are unaccompanied or orphaned, single heads of households, child mothers and girls with disabilities are among the most at risk.¹

WHAT THE *MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION* SAY:

Standard 8

- ▶ Girls and boys are protected from physical violence and other harmful practices, and survivors have access to age-specific and culturally appropriate responses.

Standard 9

- ▶ Girls and boys are protected from sexual violence, and survivors of sexual violence have access to age-appropriate information as well as safe, responsive and holistic response.

(Child Protection Working Group [CPWG]. 2012. *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*, <http://toolkit.ineesite.org/toolkit/INEEcms/uploads/1103/Minimum-standards-Child_Protection.pdf>)

Child protection actors can play a central role in enhancing the safety and well-being of children and adolescents by integrating GBV prevention and mitigation measures into their programming, and by supporting child-friendly systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) for survivors. Actions taken by the child protection sector to prevent and respond to GBV should be done in coordination with GBV specialists and actors working in other humanitarian sectors. Child protection actors should also coordinate with—where they exist—partners addressing gender, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), HIV, age and environment. (See ‘Coordination’, below.)

When establishing programmes aimed at preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV against children and adolescents, child protection actors should remain attentive to how the particular needs and vulnerabilities of girls in emergency settings may differ from the needs and vulnerabilities of boys. Addressing all forms of violence against girls requires understanding and challenging the social norms and traditions that place females in a subordinate position to males. Addressing specific forms of violence against boys through a gender lens will often focus on the negative effects for boys of socially determined norms of masculinity, in particular, norms of male power and violent masculinity. The needs and vulnerabilities of transgender and intersex children tend to be particularly hidden, and require correspondingly close attention and collaboration with local experts or aid workers experienced in working with these populations. Efforts to address violence against children and adolescents will be most effective when there is a thorough analysis of gender-related risk and protective factors.

¹ For the purposes of this TAG, at-risk groups include those whose particular vulnerabilities may increase their exposure to GBV and other forms of violence: adolescent girls; elderly women; woman and child heads of households; girls and women who bear children of rape and their children born of rape; indigenous people and ethnic and religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons; persons living with HIV; persons with disabilities; persons involved in forced and/or coerced prostitution and child victims of sexual exploitation; persons in detention; separated or unaccompanied children and orphans, including children associated with armed forces/groups; and survivors of violence. For a summary of the protection rights and needs of each of these groups, see page 10 of this TAG. The *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action* refer to at-risk groups of children as those who are likely to be excluded from care and support. Some of the categories of children most often identified as excluded are children with disabilities, child-headed households, LGBTI children, children living and working on the streets, children born as a result of rape, children from ethnic and religious minorities, children affected by HIV, adolescent girls, children in the worst forms of child labour, children without appropriate care, children born out of wedlock and children living in residential care or detention (p. 157).





ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Children Associated with Armed Forces/Groups

The internationally agreed definition for a child associated with an armed force or armed group (child soldier) is any person below 18 years of age who is, or has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity. This includes but is not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities.

(Adapted from **UNICEF. 2007. The Paris Principles: Principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces or armed groups,** <www.unicef.org/emerg/files/ParisPrinciples310107English.pdf>)

Addressing Gender-Based Violence throughout the Programme Cycle



KEY GBV CONSIDERATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

The questions listed below are **recommendations** for possible areas of inquiry that can be selectively incorporated into various assessments and routine monitoring undertaken by child protection actors working in humanitarian settings. Wherever possible, assessments should be inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary, with child protection actors working in partnership with other sectors as well as with GBV specialists.

These areas of inquiry are linked to the three main types of responsibilities detailed below under 'Implementation': programming, policies, and communications and information sharing.

The information generated from these areas of inquiry should be analysed to inform planning of child protection programmes in ways that prevent and mitigate the risk of GBV, as well as facilitate response services for child survivors. This information may highlight priorities and gaps that need to be addressed when planning new programmes or adjusting existing programmes. For general information on programme planning and on safe and ethical assessment, data management and data sharing, see **Part Two: Background to Child Protection Guidance.**



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Collecting and Reporting Information Related to Children

The process of collecting and reporting information on physical violence and harmful practices affecting children should be in line with international ethical standards for researching violence against children. It should also be in line with national law and, when possible, the Inter-Agency Child Protection Information Management System and the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*. Only staff trained on child-specific interviewing techniques should interview children.

(For more general information on safe and ethical assessment, data collection, and data sharing, see **Part Two: Background to Child Protection Guidance.**)

KEY ASSESSMENT TARGET GROUPS

- Key stakeholders in child protection: governments; humanitarian workers; civil societies; local authorities; police; teachers; family members and caregivers; community leaders and community members; child protection committees; faith-based organizations; GBV, gender and diversity specialists
- Affected populations and communities, including children and adolescents where appropriate
- In IDP/refugee settings, members of receptor/host communities



POSSIBLE AREAS OF INQUIRY (Note: This list is not exhaustive)

Areas Related to Child Protection PROGRAMMING

Participation and Leadership

- a) What is the ratio of male to female child protection staff, including in positions of leadership?
 - Are systems in place for training and retaining female staff?
 - Are there any cultural or security issues related to their employment that may increase their risk of GBV?
- b) Are children, adolescents, and others who may be at particular risk for GBV consulted on child protection programming?
 - Is this done in an age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive manner?
 - Are they involved in community-based activities related to protection, and in leadership roles when possible (e.g. *community child protection committees, etc.*)?
- c) Are the lead actors in child protection aware of international standards (including this TAG as well as the comprehensive Guidelines) for mainstreaming GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into their activities?

GBV-Related Child Protection Environment

- d) What cultural practices, behaviours and social norms within the affected population constitute GBV or increase risk of GBV and other forms of violence against girls and boys (e.g. *preferential treatment of boys; child marriages; female genital mutilation/cutting; gender-based exclusion from education, particularly for adolescent girls at the secondary school level; domestic responsibilities; recruitment of children into armed forces/groups; child labour; etc.*)?
 - How do these practices and norms affect children of different ages and from different at-risk groups (e.g. *violence against children and adolescents with disabilities*)?
 - How have these changed (increased or decreased) as a result of the humanitarian emergency?
- e) What cultural practices, behaviours and social norms help protect girls and boys from GBV and other forms of violence? How have these changed as a result of the emergency?
- f) What environmental factors increase girls' and boys' risk of GBV and other forms of violence (e.g. *presence of armed forces; unsafe routes for firewood/water collection, to school, to work; overcrowded camps or collective centres; status as a separated or unaccompanied child; being in conflict with the law; existence of child trafficking networks; etc.*)?
 - What are the different risk factors faced by girls and boys?
 - Are there groups of children or adolescents who are particularly at-risk and/or excluded from care and support?
- g) What are the capacities of children and their caregivers to deal with these risk factors?
 - What community structures and supports (including informal avenues) might children and adolescents turn to for help when they have experienced or are at risk of GBV and other forms of violence?
 - What community-based protection mechanisms (e.g. *child protection committees; watch committees; child-friendly spaces; community-based organizations; families and kinship networks; religious structures and other traditional mechanisms; etc.*) can be mobilized or developed to monitor and mitigate the risk of GBV and other forms of violence?

Child-Friendly Response Services

- h) What services are in place for child survivors of GBV and other forms of violence (e.g. *health care; mental health and psychosocial support; security/law enforcement; legal aid; judicial processes; etc.*)?
 - Do these services address the differential needs of girl and boy survivors?
 - Are services provided in a safe, confidential, child-friendly and respectful way?
 - Are they provided in compliance with statutory laws and international standards, particularly in relation to informed consent of child survivors and mandatory reporting laws and policies?
 - Are providers trained in issues of gender, GBV, women's and children's rights, social exclusion and sexuality, as well as in child-friendly principles and approaches to care?
 - Are there Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to ensure quality of care and safe and effective coordination and referral?
- i) What social, attitudinal, physical and informational barriers might exclude children and adolescents from accessing services?
 - What systems need to be put in place to ensure access?
 - Are services provided based on universal design and/or reasonable accommodation² to ensure accessibility for all children and adolescents, including those with disabilities (e.g. *physical disabilities; injuries; sensory impairments; cognitive impairments; etc.*)?

(continued)

² For more information regarding universal design and/or reasonable accommodation, see definitions in **Annex 4** of the comprehensive Guidelines, available at <www.gbvguidelines.org>.



POSSIBLE AREAS OF INQUIRY (Note: This list is not exhaustive)

GBV-Related Child Protection Needs of Specific At-Risk Groups

- j) Are reception areas for **separated and unaccompanied children** staffed with mixed teams (males and females)? Are these teams trained to provide immediate care and support for girl and boy survivors of GBV and other forms of violence?
- Do alternative care and family reunification programmes monitor and address potential GBV risks, even after long-term placement or reunification?
- k) Do programmes for **children associated with armed forces/groups** take into account their GBV-related risks and support needs?
- Do disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes have ways of identifying girls who may otherwise be overlooked because they are dependents or 'wives' of members of armed forces/groups?
 - Are non-stigmatizing support systems in place for reintegrating children formerly associated with armed forces/groups who have been exposed to GBV and other forms of violence?
 - Has support been provided to families and communities of reintegrated boys and girls to ensure non-stigmatizing care of these children?
- l) Are detention centres for **children in conflict with the law** monitored for GBV-related risks?
- Are girls and boys (as well as children and adults) held in separate facilities?
 - Are safe alternative systems of care available for children at risk and for those who are unduly incarcerated?

Areas Related to Child Protection POLICY

- a) Are GBV prevention and mitigation strategies incorporated into the policies, standards and guidelines of child protection programmes?
- Are women, girls and other at-risk groups meaningfully engaged in the development of child protection policies, standards and guidelines that address their rights and needs, particularly as they relate to GBV? In what ways are they engaged?
 - Are these policies, standards and guidelines communicated to women, girls, boys and men (separately when necessary)?
 - Are child protection staff properly trained and equipped with the necessary skills to implement these policies?
- b) What are the national, local and customary laws and policies related to children's rights and GBV against children?
- Are these aligned with constitutional and international standards and frameworks that promote the rights and safety of girls and boys, gender equality and the empowerment of girls?

Areas Related to Child Protection COMMUNICATIONS and INFORMATION SHARING

- a) Has training been provided to child protection outreach staff on:
- Issues of gender, GBV, women's rights and children's rights, social exclusion and sexuality?
 - How to supportively engage with child survivors and their caregivers and provide information in an ethical, safe and confidential manner about their rights and options to report risk and access care?
- b) Do child protection-related community outreach activities raise awareness within the community about children's rights and GBV and other forms of violence against children and adolescents?
- Does this awareness-raising include information on prevention, survivor rights (including confidentiality at the service delivery and community levels), where to report risk and how to access care for GBV and other forms of violence?
 - Is this information provided in age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate ways?
 - Are males, particularly leaders in the community, engaged in these outreach activities as agents of change?
- c) Are child protection-related discussion forums age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive? Are they accessible to girls and other at-risk groups (*e.g. facilitated by trained professionals; confidential; located in secure settings; with females as facilitators of girls' discussion groups; etc.*) so that participants feel safe to raise GBV issues?





KEY GBV CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The information below highlights important considerations for mobilizing GBV-related resources when drafting proposals for child protection programming. Whether requesting pre-/emergency funding or accessing post-emergency and recovery/development funding, proposals will be strengthened when they reflect knowledge of the particular risks of GBV and propose strategies for addressing those risks.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Beyond Accessing Funds

‘Resource mobilization’ refers not only to accessing funding, but also to scaling up human resources, supplies and donor commitment. For more general considerations about resource mobilization, see **Part Two: Background to Child Protection Guidance**. Some additional strategies for resource mobilization through collaboration with other humanitarian sectors/partners are listed under ‘Coordination’, below.

A. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

- ▶ Does the proposal articulate specific GBV-related safety risks, protection needs and rights of girls and boys? Is this information disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant vulnerability factors?
- ▶ Are risks for specific forms of GBV (*e.g. sexual assault; commercial sexual exploitation; child marriage; intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence; female genital mutilation/cutting; etc.*) described and analysed, rather than a broader reference to ‘GBV’?

B. PROJECT RATIONALE/ JUSTIFICATION

- ▶ When drafting a proposal for emergency response:
 - Is there an explanation of how the project will address the immediate GBV-related child protection needs and promote safety from GBV exposure (*e.g. ensuring child protection monitoring addresses links between general child protection issues and GBV risk; supporting safe and secure environments in camps and other settings for children and adolescents; building capacity of service providers to offer care and support to girl and boy survivors; etc.*)?
 - Is there a clear description of how the project will address and mitigate the particular risks of violence against sub-groups of children (*e.g. separated and unaccompanied girls and boys; girls and boys associated with armed groups; girls and boys in conflict with the law; etc.*)?
 - Are additional costs required to ensure the safety and effective working environments for female staff in the child protection sector (*e.g. supporting more than one female staff member to undertake any assignments involving travel, or funding a male family member to travel with the female staff member*)?
 - Is there a strategy for preparing and providing trainings for government, humanitarian workers, national and local security and law enforcement, child protection personnel, teachers, legal/justice sector actors, community leaders and relevant community members on violence against children and adolescents—recognizing the differential risks and safety needs of girls and boys?
 - Are additional costs required to ensure any GBV-related community outreach materials are available in multiple formats and languages (*e.g. Braille; sign language; simplified messaging such as pictograms and pictures; etc.*)?
- ▶ When drafting a proposal for post-emergency and recovery:
 - Is there an explanation of how the project will contribute to sustainable strategies that promote the safety and well-being of children and adolescents, and to long-term efforts to reduce specific types of GBV against children?
 - Does the proposal reflect a commitment to working with the community to ensure sustainability?

(continued)



C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- ▶ Do the proposed activities reflect guiding principles and key approaches (*human rights-based, survivor-centred, community-based and systems-based*) for integrating GBV-related work?
- ▶ Do the proposed activities illustrate linkages with other humanitarian actors/sectors in order to maximize resources and work in strategic ways?
- ▶ Are there activities that help in changing/improving the environment by addressing the underlying causes of and contributing factors to GBV (*e.g advocating for laws and policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and other at-risk groups, etc.*)?
- ▶ Does the project promote/support the participation and empowerment of women, girls and other at-risk groups—including as child protection staff and in community-based child protection structures?



KEY GBV CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following are some common GBV-related considerations when implementing child protection programming in humanitarian settings. These considerations should be adapted to each context, always taking into account the essential rights, expressed needs and identified resources of the target community.

Integrating GBV Prevention and Response into Child Protection PROGRAMMING

- 1. Involve women, adolescent girls and other at-risk groups in relevant aspects of child protection programming** (*with due caution in situations where this poses a potential security risk or increases the risk of GBV*).
 - ▶ Strive for at least 50 per cent representation of females within child protection programme staff. Provide women with formal and on-the-job training as well as targeted support to assume leadership and training positions.
 - ▶ Ensure women (and where appropriate, adolescent girls) are actively involved in community-based child protection-related committees, associations and meetings. Be aware of potential tensions that may be caused by attempting to change the role of women and girls in communities and, as necessary, engage in dialogue with males to ensure their support.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

LGBTI Children and Adolescents

In most areas of the world, transgender and intersex children and adolescents are at an increased risk of violence due to institutionalized discrimination and oppression based on their gender identity. Lesbian, gay and bisexual adolescents face similarly higher risks due to their sexual orientation. Both of these groups may face discrimination at the hands of police or security personnel due to prejudice or criminalization laws. When assessing the risk factors for children and adolescents in emergencies, **child protection actors should work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) experts to assess the particular challenges faced by LGBTI children and adolescents when accessing protection from violence.** Capacity-building—including on the GBV-related protection rights and needs of LGBTI children—may need to be integrated into broader training initiatives. LGBTI persons should be consulted (if this can be done in a safe and confidential way) on factors that increase or decrease their sense of safety. When working with survivors, a safe and confidential space should be made available to enable any child to discuss his or her gender identity and/or sexual orientation with an expert in LGBTI issues.

- ▶ Employ adults from at-risk groups (e.g. persons with disabilities, indigenous persons and religious or ethnic minorities, LGBTI persons, etc.) in child protection staff and leadership positions. Solicit their input to ensure specific issues of vulnerability are adequately represented and addressed in programmes.

2. Support the capacity of community-based child protection networks and programmes to prevent and mitigate GBV.

- ▶ Strengthen the ability of community protection mechanisms (e.g. child protection committees, watch committees, child protection monitoring and outreach staff, community-based organizations, families and kinship networks, religious structures and other traditional mechanisms) to monitor risks of GBV against children and adolescents. Build their capacity to provide information in an ethical, safe and confidential manner to girls and boys (and/or their caregivers) about where to report risk and how to access care.
- ▶ Integrate GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into the design and implementation of child-friendly community spaces.
 - Ensure community spaces are accessible to girls and other at-risk children (e.g. ensure community spaces are located in safe areas; monitor safety of children travelling to/from spaces and provide escorts where possible; ensure opening times meet the needs of different groups of children; provide accessibility features for children with disabilities; provide childcare for adolescent mothers; etc.). Seek out and consult



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Adolescent Girls

Adolescent girls between the ages of 10 and 19 constitute one of the most at-risk groups for GBV due to their physical development and age. These factors can lead to high levels of sexual assault, sexual exploitation, child marriage, intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence. Services must be put in place (such as school and community-based programmes to increase their social skills; programmes that generate economic opportunities; etc.) that help them to develop in healthy ways and take into account their specific needs (e.g. *childcare responsibilities; obligations in the household; levels of literacy; etc.*).

(Adapted from **Child Protection Working Group [CPWG]. 2012. Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action**, p. 95, <http://toolkit.ineesite.org/toolkit/INEEcms/uploads/1103/Minimum-standards-Child_Protection.pdf>)



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Children and Adolescents with Disabilities

Children and adolescents with disabilities may be isolated, unable to flee violent situations or unable to comprehend risks and protect themselves from exposure to GBV and other forms of violence. They are also more likely to lack financial resources and access to information on GBV and basic services for survivors. Further, adolescent girls and boys with disabilities are often excluded from peer and social networks that might reduce their vulnerability to violence. **Efforts are needed to ensure that children with disabilities remain visible to GBV-related service providers, and that child protection activities are disability-friendly** and can be accessed by children and adolescents with disabilities, no matter where they live. Practitioners must assist children with disabilities to meet their medical needs, as well as enhance their overall functioning and connection to supports in their communities. Referral mechanisms should be developed to identify survivors, refer them to accessible protection systems and provide them with specialized services through survivor assistance programmes. Prevention efforts should also be undertaken to reduce risks of violence for children with disabilities. Girls' programmes that focus on safe spaces, network strengthening and mentoring should be inclusive of girls with disabilities.

(For more information, see **Women's Refugee Commission, 2014. Disability Inclusion: Translating policy into practice in humanitarian action**, <<http://womensrefugeecommission.org/programs/disabilities/disability-inclusion>>)



with hard-to-reach girls in the community to ensure that they are empowered to access community spaces and that community spaces meet their needs.

- Train all staff working in community spaces in issues of gender, GBV, women's rights and children's rights, social exclusion and sexuality; how to respectfully and supportively engage with child survivors; and how to provide information about their rights, where to report risk and how to access care.
- Wherever possible, include a mixed team of male and female GBV caseworkers as part of the staff working in community spaces. These caseworkers can play an active role in identifying cases, providing immediate mental health and psychosocial support (such as psychological first aid), and facilitating timely referrals for additional care and support. Ensure these GBV caseworkers can apply safe and ethical procedures for addressing challenging cases (e.g. when a child survivor's family member is believed to be the perpetrator).



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Identifying the Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

Signs of sexual abuse can vary from child to child and may not always be apparent. Any one sign or symptom of distress—such as those listed below—does not mean that a child has been abused; however, the presence of several signs may indicate that a child is at risk. It is important for child protection programme personnel and people working in community protection networks to be aware of some of the common signs of distress among children, and take these signs seriously as a possible indicator for sexual abuse.

Infants and Toddlers (0–5)

- Crying, whimpering, screaming more than usual.
- Clinging or unusually attaching themselves to caregivers.
- Refusing to leave 'safe' places.
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping constantly.
- Losing the ability to converse, losing bladder control and other developmental regression.
- Displaying knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age.

Younger Children (6–9)

- Similar reactions to children ages 0–5. In addition:
- Fear of particular people, places or activities, or of being attacked.
- Behaving younger than their age (wetting the bed or wanting parents to dress them).
- Suddenly refusing to go to school.
- Touching their genitals a lot.
- Avoiding family and friends or generally keeping to themselves.
- Refusing to eat or wanting to eat all the time.

Adolescents (10–19)

- Depression (chronic sadness), crying or emotional numbness.
- Nightmares (bad dreams) or sleep disorders.
- Problems in school or avoidance of school.
- Displaying anger or expressing difficulties with peer relationships, fighting with people, disobeying or disrespecting authority.
- Displaying avoidance behaviour, including withdrawal from family and friends.
- Self-destructive behaviour (drugs, alcohol, self-inflicted injuries).
- Changes in school performance.
- Exhibiting eating problems, such as eating all the time or not wanting to eat.
- Suicidal thoughts or tendencies.
- Talking about abuse, experiencing flashbacks of abuse.

(Adapted from **International Rescue Committee and United Nations Children's Fund. 2013. Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse**, <<http://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CCS-Guidelines-lowres.pdf>>)



- Support the development of specialized programmes within community spaces to prevent and mitigate GBV (e.g. safe touch programmes for children; empowerment and skills-building programmes for adolescent girls; discussion groups for girls and boys—both separately and together—on violence and gender; sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents; parenting support groups; etc.). *Ensure parenting support groups are extended to caregivers of children with disabilities, and include disability sensitization as well as positive parenting skills or strategies.*

3. Support the provision of age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive multi-sectoral care and support for child survivors of GBV.

- ▶ Work with relevant child protection and GBV specialists to identify safe, confidential and appropriate systems of care (i.e. referral pathways) for child survivors of GBV. Ensure these systems of care include health and medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, security/police services, legal assistance, case management, education and vocational training opportunities, and other relevant services.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Referral Pathways

A 'referral pathway' is a flexible mechanism that safely links survivors to supportive and competent services, such as medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, police assistance and legal/justice support.

- ▶ Advocate for procedures for child survivors of GBV to be included within all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for multi-sectoral GBV prevention and response.
 - Implement agreements on service-level coordination, information-sharing protocols, and referral pathways among child protection actors, GBV actors, partner agencies and service providers.
 - Ensure that the SOPs provide information about how to report cases of GBV against children and adolescents—with provisions for how to address this issue when the alleged perpetrator is a family member.
- ▶ Compile a directory of child-friendly GBV-related services and make it available to child protection staff, GBV specialists, multi-sectoral service providers (e.g. health-care providers, mental health and psychosocial support providers, lawyers, police, etc.) and communities.



PROMISING PRACTICE

In Sudan, UNICEF agreed with the police headquarters to develop a gender appropriate investigation process within the Children and Women Police Protection Units for child survivors, witnesses and offenders. In order to ensure that investigations and police support to girls are carried out sensitively, UNICEF is advocating for an increase in the number of female police.

(Adapted from **Ward, J. 2007**. *From Invisible to Indivisible: Promoting and protecting the right of the girl child to be free from violence*, p. 62, <https://www.unicef.at/fileadmin/media/Infos_und_Medien/Info-Material/Maedchen_und_Frauen/From_Invisible_To_Indivisible_-_Rights_of_Girl_Child.pdf>)

4. Where there are gaps in services for children and adolescents, support the training of medical, mental health and psychosocial, police, and legal/justice actors in how to engage with child survivors.

- ▶ Ensure service providers understand and apply basic steps and procedures for engaging with child survivors in age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate ways. These include:
 - Upholding the guiding principles for working with survivors (e.g. promoting the child's best interests; ensuring the safety of the child; comforting the child; ensuring



appropriate confidentiality; involving the child in decision-making; treating every child fairly and equally; and strengthening the child's resiliencies).

- Following informed consent/assent procedures according to local laws and the age and developmental stage of the child.
- Applying confidentiality protocols to reflect the limits of confidentiality, as in circumstances where a child is in danger.
- Assessing a child survivor's immediate health, safety, psychosocial and legal/justice needs, and using crisis intervention to mobilize early intervention services that ensure the child's health and safety.
- Providing immediate mental health and psychosocial support (including psychological first aid) to the child and, where necessary and available, providing referrals to longer-time support.
- Ensuring, where necessary, that child safety in family/social contexts is assessed in an ongoing way after disclosure of abuse, and that decisive and appropriate action is taken when a child needs protection.
- Identifying strengths and needs to engage the child and family in a resilience-based care and support process.
- Proactively engaging any non-offending caregivers.
- Knowing other child-friendly service providers in the local area and initiating referrals properly.



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

Core Child-Friendly Attitude Competency Areas

Service providers must have the ability and commitment to put child-friendly values and beliefs into practice, and to ensure child-friendly attitudes are communicated during the provision of care. The overarching values that are essential for service providers working with children include the recognition that:

- Children are resilient individuals.
- Children have rights, including the right to healthy development.
- Children have the right to care, love and support.
- Children have the right to be heard and to be involved in decisions that affect them.
- Children have the right to live a life free from violence.
- Information should be shared with children in a way they understand.

In addition, there are specific beliefs that are absolutely vital for service providers to have when working with child sexual abuse survivors. They include the beliefs that:

- Children tell the truth about sexual abuse.
- Children are not at fault for being sexually abused.
- Children can recover and heal from sexual abuse.
- Children should not be stigmatized, shamed or ridiculed for being sexually abused.
- Adults, including caregivers and service providers, have the responsibility to help a child heal by believing them and not blaming them for sexual abuse.

(Adapted from **International Rescue Committee and United Nations Children's Fund. 2013. *Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse*, <<http://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CCS-Guidelines-lowres.pdf>>**)



- ▶ Ensure service providers use age-appropriate lengths of time to speak with children and adolescents about their exposure to sexual assault or other forms of violence:
 - Thirty minutes for children under the age of 9;
 - Forty-five minutes for children aged 10–14 years;
 - One hour for children 15–18 years old.
- ▶ Ensure service providers understand national and/or local laws, policies and procedures related to mandatory reporting of violence. Ensure they apply best practices in settings where mandatory reporting systems exist, including:
 - Maintaining the utmost discretion and confidentiality of child survivors.
 - Knowing the case criteria that warrant a mandatory report and ensuring that mandatory reporting processes are done in accordance with the best interests of the child.
 - Making verbal and/or written reports (as indicated by law) within a specified time frame (usually 24 to 48 hours).
 - Providing only the minimum information needed to complete the report; explaining to the child and her or his caregiver what is happening and why; documenting the report in the child's case file; and following up with the family and relevant authorities.



PROMISING PRACTICE

Children and adolescents of all ages can benefit from a service provider who has several methods of giving and receiving information, such as drawings, stories or the use of dolls. As with all interventions, these methods must be age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate. In a refugee camp, a social worker interviewed a six-year-old boy about his experiences with sexual abuse. The child had been sexually abused by an older boy, and the child told the social worker that he was hurt in his 'bum'. The social worker wanted to make sure that she, and her child client, had the same understanding of the word 'bum'. So she brought out her boy doll and she asked the child survivor to show her where the bum was located on the doll. The boy took the doll and pointed to the doll's rear end. This confirmed for the social worker that she accurately understood what the child survivor was saying.

(Adapted from **International Rescue Committee and United Nations Children's Fund. 2013. Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse**, <<http://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CCS-Guidelines-lowres.pdf>>)

5. Monitor and address the risks of GBV for separated and unaccompanied girls and boys.

- ▶ Staff reception areas for separated and unaccompanied children with a mixed team of male and female GBV specialists and/or child protection personnel with GBV-related expertise. Ensure they are trained to engage supportively and in an age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate manner with girl and boy survivors and equipped to provide safe, confidential and timely referrals for immediate care and support (including in cases where children disclose violence that occurred prior to flight or in transit, and/or are encountering ongoing violence).
- ▶ Design interim care placements and shelters for separated and unaccompanied children in ways that protect against GBV risks:
 - Undertake a protection risk assessment when identifying interim care placements in order to support the best interests process.
 - Ensure privacy for children, both girls and boys (e.g. sex-segregated washing facilities and sleeping rooms).
 - Regularly monitor the placements and facilities for GBV risks. Ensure ongoing monitoring processes involve safe and confidential consultation with girls and boys.



- ▶ When seeking long-term alternative care solutions for separated and unaccompanied children, screen kinship and foster care systems for potential GBV risks to children in placement and implement strategies to prevent exposure to GBV. Ensure follow-up visits to monitor these placements.
- ▶ Ensure staff members and caregivers in placement centres:
 - Are carefully vetted.
 - Understand and have signed a code of conduct on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
 - Receive training on gender, GBV, women’s rights and children’s rights, social exclusion and sexuality, and individual needs of children in their care.
 - Understand and can implement SOPs related to confidential systems of care for child survivors.
 - Receive regular supervision and support.
- ▶ Prominently display GBV prevention messages—as well as information about where children and caregivers can report risk and how survivors can access care for GBV—in reception areas, shelters and other interim care placements. Ensure children are aware of what constitutes abuse and what to do if abuse occurs in a placement.
- ▶ Include an analysis of GBV risks in follow-up visits to families reunified with their children. Consider the need for specialized prevention and mitigation measures for children and adolescents at high risk of GBV (e.g. targeted cash transfers and/or livelihoods support to families where poor children are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, or where families may seek to place girls in early marriages; relocation for children who are being sexually abused by family members, taking into careful consideration the potential negative consequences of breaking family or community ties and support mechanisms; etc.).



6. Incorporate efforts to address GBV into activities targeting children associated with armed forces/groups.

- ▶ Ensure that child protection actors working to prevent and respond to child recruitment are sensitized to the differential and discrete risks for girls and for boys (e.g. risk of girls being recruited and used for sexual purposes and/or child marriage, and boys being recruited into fighting forces and/or subject to sexual abuse). Undertake advocacy and facilitate coordination with relevant authorities and community-based groups to address these discrete risks.
- ▶ Integrate strategies into disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes that identify and assist girls who may otherwise be overlooked because they are dependents or ‘wives’ of members of armed forces/groups. Address the particular needs of girls who are pregnant or have children, and ensure support to their children.
- ▶ Undertake non-stigmatizing social reintegration programming for children formerly associated with armed forces/groups who have been exposed to sexual and other forms of GBV. Ensure that the concerned community benefits from the reintegration support provided to boys and girls, and that family and community members are assisted in protecting and supporting child survivors rather than stigmatizing them.





PROMISING PRACTICE

In Sierra Leone's reintegration programming for girls, UNICEF worked with implementing partners to provide educational opportunities to girls formerly associated with fighting forces. These programmes combined classroom and vocational training with childcare and feeding programmes so that girls with infants could attend while their children were nearby in a positive, safe environment. Importantly, schools that received former captive children were 'rewarded' with additional supplies and books that benefited all students in the community, thereby avoiding the appearance that only former captive children received educational assistance. Additionally, accelerated schooling helped older girls gain basic literacy and math skills they missed due to the length of time spent in fighting forces.

(Adapted from **Ward, J. 2007**. *From Invisible to Indivisible: Promoting and protecting the right of the girl child to be free from violence*, p. 56, <https://www.unicef.at/fileadmin/media/Infos_und_Medien/Info-Material/Maedchen_und_Frauen/From_Invisible_To_Indivisible_-_Rights_of_Girl_Child.pdf>)

7. Ensure the safety and protection of children in conflict with the law.

- ▶ Monitor detention facilities where children or adolescents are held to identify potential GBV risks. Ensure that girls and boys are being held in separate facilities (or departments of facilities), and that children are being held separately from adults. Raise awareness among detention facility staff on issues of gender, GBV, women's rights and children's rights, social exclusion and sexuality, and advocate for the establishment of complaint-reporting mechanisms in detention facilities. Ensure that the input of girls and boys is incorporated into the development of complaints mechanisms.
- ▶ Where necessary and appropriate, support the establishment of women's desks and gender desks in police stations.
- ▶ Analyse and monitor customary and informal law procedures in which children may be involved to identify risks of violence. Ensure that such procedures protect the rights of children who use or are subject to them.
- ▶ Advocate for the use of alternative sanctions in all cases to ensure that detention is only ever used as a last resort. Monitor alternative sanctions such as probation or community service to identify risks of violence.
- ▶ Advocate with authorities to ensure that children who have been exploited and abused through commercial sexual exploitation are treated as survivors and are not subject to prosecution or punishment.

Integrating GBV Prevention and Response into Child Protection POLICIES

1. Incorporate relevant GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into the policies, standards and guidelines of child protection programmes.

- ▶ Identify and ensure the implementation of programmatic policies that (1) mitigate the risks of GBV and (2) support the participation of women, adolescent girls and other at-risk groups as staff and leaders in child protection activities. These can include, among others:
 - Policies regarding childcare for child protection staff.
 - Standards for equal employment of females.
 - Procedures and protocols for sharing protected or confidential information about GBV incidents.
 - Relevant information about agency procedures to report, investigate and take disciplinary action in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse.



- ▶ Circulate these widely among child protection staff, committees and management groups and—where appropriate—in national and local languages to the wider community (using accessible methods such as Braille; sign language; posters with visual content for non-literate persons; announcements at community meetings; etc.).

2. Support the reform of national and local laws and policies (including customary laws) to promote and protect the rights of children to be free from GBV.

- ▶ Review laws, regulations, policies and procedures, and advocate with relevant stakeholders (including governments, policymakers, customary/traditional leaders, international organizations and non-governmental entities) to promote adherence to international laws and standards regarding the rights of children, gender equality and the empowerment of girls.
- ▶ Where necessary, advocate for the revision of customary laws and processes regarding harmful traditional practices against children (e.g. child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, child labour, etc.) that are not aligned with constitutional and international standards.
- ▶ Advocate for, and provide technical support on, the inclusion of the rights of children in rule-of-law and security sector reform.
- ▶ Encourage attention to GBV against children and adolescents in all return, relocation and reintegration frameworks; developmental action plans; and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. Such frameworks and action plans should contain measures to prevent and respond to GBV against children, provide adequate care and support to child survivors, and support gender equality and the empowerment of girls.
- ▶ Support relevant line ministries in developing implementation strategies for GBV-related policies and plans. Undertake sensitization and awareness-raising campaigns highlighting how such policies and plans will benefit communities in order to encourage community support and mitigate backlash.

Integrating GBV Prevention and Response into Child Protection COMMUNICATIONS and INFORMATION SHARING

1. Ensure that child protection programmes sharing information about reports of GBV within the child protection sector or with partners in the larger humanitarian community abide by safety and ethical standards.

- ▶ Develop inter- and intra-agency information-sharing standards that do not reveal the identity of or pose a security risk to child survivors, their caretakers or the broader community. Consider using the international Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), and explore linkages between the GBVIMS and existing Child Protection Information Management Systems.³



ESSENTIAL TO KNOW

GBV-Specific Messaging

Community outreach initiatives should include dialogue about basic safety concerns and safety measures for the affected population, including those related to GBV. **When undertaking GBV-specific messaging, non-GBV specialists should be sure to work in collaboration with GBV-specialist staff or a GBV-specialized agency.**

³ The GBVIMS is not meant to replace national child protection or other information systems collecting GBV information. Rather, it is an effort to bring coherence and standardization to GBV data collection in humanitarian settings, where multiple actors often collect information using different approaches and tools. For more information, see: <www.gbvim.com>.

2. Incorporate GBV messages into child protection-related community outreach and awareness-raising activities.

- ▶ Work with GBV specialists to integrate awareness-raising on GBV into child protection-related messaging.
 - Ensure this awareness-raising includes information on prevention, survivor rights (including confidentiality at the service delivery and community levels), where to report risk and how to access care for GBV.
 - Conduct workshops with children on safe and unsafe touch and how to report abuse.
 - Disseminate child-friendly versions of referral pathways and other key information, using multiple formats and languages to ensure accessibility (e.g. Braille; sign language; simplified messaging such as pictograms and pictures; etc.).
 - Target affected populations and key stakeholders (including government, humanitarian workers, local authorities, police, teachers, families, children, adolescents, religious and community leaders, and community members).
 - Engage (separately when necessary) women, girls, men and boys in the development of messages and in strategies for their dissemination so they are age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate.
- ▶ Thoroughly train child protection outreach staff on issues of gender, GBV, women's rights, children's rights, social exclusion, sexuality and child-friendly psychological first aid (e.g. how to engage supportively with child survivors and provide information in an ethical, safe and confidential manner about their rights and options to report risk and access care).
- ▶ Engage males, particularly leaders in the community, as agents of change in child protection outreach activities related to the prevention of GBV. Ensure that men are actively engaged in discussions about the traditionally female area of childcare and day-to-day child protection responsibilities.
- ▶ Consider the barriers faced by women, girls and other at-risk groups to their safe participation in community discussion forums and educational workshops related to child protection (e.g. transportation; meeting times and locations; risk of backlash related to participation; need for childcare; accessibility for persons with disabilities; etc.). Implement strategies to make discussion forums age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive (e.g. confidential, with females as facilitators of separate girls' discussion groups, etc.) so that participants feel safe to raise GBV issues.
- ▶ Provide community members with information about existing codes of conduct for child protection personnel, as well as where to report sexual exploitation and abuse committed by child protection personnel. Ensure appropriate training is provided for staff and partners on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.





KEY GBV CONSIDERATIONS FOR COORDINATION WITH OTHER HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

As a first step in coordination, child protection programmers should seek out the GBV coordination mechanism to identify where GBV expertise is available in-country. GBV specialists can be enlisted to assist child protection programmers to:

- ▶ Design and conduct safe and ethical GBV-related assessments and other data collection related to child protection, and strategize about ways these risks can be mitigated.
- ▶ Conduct background research on the nature and incidence of specific forms of GBV against children in the setting.
- ▶ Provide trainings for child protection staff on issues of gender, GBV and women's rights.
- ▶ Identify where survivors who may report instances of GBV exposure to child protection staff can receive safe, confidential and appropriate care, and provide child protection staff with the basic skills and information to respond supportively to survivors.
- ▶ Provide training and awareness-raising for the affected community on issues of gender, GBV, women's rights and children's rights as they relate to child protection.

In addition, child protection programmers should link with other humanitarian sectors to further reduce the risk of GBV. Some recommendations for coordination with other sectors are indicated below (to be considered according to the sectors that are mobilized in a given humanitarian response). While not included in the table, child protection actors should also coordinate with—where they exist—partners addressing gender, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), HIV, age and environment. For more general information on GBV-related coordination responsibilities, see **Part Two: Background to Child Protection Guidance**.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- ▶ Work with CCCM actors to:
 - Provide safe registration sites and accommodations for male and female children, taking into account the particular risks of GBV
 - Promote the involvement of adolescents, especially females, in decision-making processes within the camp
 - Provide child-friendly safe spaces and accommodation for separated and unaccompanied children, child-headed households, child mothers and other children at heightened risk of GBV
 - Ensure that spaces for children are located in safe locations (e.g. away from busy roads, markets, etc.)
 - Increase camp lighting in strategic/insecure areas of the camp frequented by children and adolescents
 - Monitor the safety of non-food item (NFI) distribution sites, and identify situations in which girls and boys are at risk of violence or exploitation (consulting with boys and girls where feasible)

Education

- ▶ Work with education actors to:
 - Ensure GBV-related child protection concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of education programmes
 - Monitor instances of child violence, exploitation and abuse in and around educational settings, and implement strategies to mitigate these risks (e.g. escorts to and from school; codes of conduct for teachers and staff, etc.)
 - Develop vocational skills training programmes for children, especially girls, that reduce their risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Link with livelihoods programmes to ensure vocational skills are utilized

Food Security and Agriculture (FSA)

- ▶ Collaborate with FSA actors to incorporate child protection standards into food security interventions and ensure food distribution is aligned to protect children and adolescents from GBV, including protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- ▶ Develop systems to ensure that child-headed households and children in foster care receive adequate food and supplements
- ▶ Coordinate to ensure that the process of obtaining registration and identity documentation does not act as a barrier for girls and boys receiving food assistance

Health

- ▶ Work with health actors to ensure girl and boy survivors have access to quality health services delivered in a protective, child-friendly way that takes into account their age and developmental needs
- ▶ Support health actors in addressing GBV-related medical concerns of children and adolescents upon their arrival at reception centres

Livelihoods

- ▶ Work with livelihoods actors to:
 - Plan and implement safe livelihoods opportunities for adolescent girls and boys, taking into account minimum working ages and implementing strategies to mitigate risks of child labour
 - Ensure that participants in livelihoods interventions include children most at risk of GBV
 - Ensure age-, gender-, and culturally sensitive protection standards for children and adolescents are incorporated into livelihoods interventions
 - Carefully assess the benefits (e.g. increased income) and risks (e.g. school drop-out, exploitation) of livelihoods opportunities for adolescent girls and boys

Nutrition

- ▶ Ensure girls and boys of all ages, especially pregnant and breastfeeding girls and child-headed households, have access to safe, adequate and appropriate nutrition services and food.
- ▶ Identify opportunities for improving children's and adolescents' nutritional status (e.g. background gardens; supplemental foods; school feeding programmes; etc.)

Protection

- ▶ Enlist support of protection actors to link with law enforcement as partners in addressing GBV-related safety needs of children and adolescents travelling to/from school and other venues
- ▶ Work with protection actors to ensure detention centres for children in conflict with the law meet basic international standards

Shelter, Settlement and Recovery (SS&R)

- ▶ Work with SS&R actors to:
 - Assess the number of children living alone or without shelter, paying particular attention to the location of child-headed households (e.g. ensuring they are not near the outer edges of a camp)
 - Ensure SS&R staff are trained on child protection issues (including child labour) and can use referral pathways for separated and unaccompanied children and child survivors of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect
 - Ensure that the processes of registration, obtaining ration/assistance cards and obtaining identity documentation are not preventing girls or boys from receiving shelter assistance and putting them at greater risk of GBV

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- ▶ Support WASH actors in:
 - Monitoring the safety and accessibility of WASH facilities for girls and boys
 - Integrating safe and accessible WASH services in childcare centres, schools and other child-friendly spaces





KEY GBV CONSIDERATIONS FOR

MONITORING AND EVALUATION THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAMME CYCLE

The indicators listed below are non-exhaustive suggestions based on the recommendations contained in this TAG. Indicators can be used to measure the progress and outcomes of activities undertaken across the programme cycle, with the ultimate aim of maintaining effective programmes and improving accountability to affected populations. The '*Indicator Definition*' describes the information needed to measure the indicator; '*Possible Data Sources*' suggests existing sources where a child protection programme or agency can gather the necessary information; '*Target*' represents a benchmark for success in implementation; '*Baseline*' indicators are collected prior to or at the earliest stage of a programme to be used as a reference point for subsequent measurements; '*Output*' monitors a tangible and immediate product of an activity; and '*Outcome*' measures a change in progress in social, behavioural or environmental conditions. Targets should be set prior to the start of an activity and adjusted as the project progresses based on the project duration, available resources and contextual concerns to ensure they are appropriate for the setting.

The indicators should be collected and reported by the child protection sector. Several indicators have been taken from the child protection sector's own guidance and resources (see footnotes below the table). See **Part Two: Background to Child Protection Guidance** for more information on monitoring and evaluation.

To the extent possible, indicators should be disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other vulnerability factors. See **Part One: Introduction** for more information on vulnerability factors for at-risk groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators

INDICATOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	POSSIBLE DATA SOURCES	TARGET	Stage of Programme		
				BASE-LINE	OUT-PUT	OUT-COME

ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

Inclusion of GBV-related questions in child protection (CP) assessments⁴	$\frac{\text{\# of CP assessment that include GBV-related questions* from the GBV Guidelines} \times 100}{\text{\# of CP assessment}}$ <p><small>* See page 42 for GBV areas of inquiry that can be adapted to questions in assessments</small></p>	Assessment reports or tools (at agency or sector level)	100%	✓	✓	
Female participation in assessments	$\frac{\text{\# of assessment respondents who are female} \times 100}{\text{\# of assessment respondents and \# of assessment team members who are female} \times 100}$	Assessment reports (at agency or sector level)	50%	✓	✓	

(continued)

⁴ Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 30 November 2012. Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at the Country Level. IASC Transformative Agenda Reference Document, <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/4.%20Reference%20module%20for%20Cluster%20Coordination.pdf>

INDICATOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	POSSIBLE DATA SOURCES	TARGET	Stage of Programme		
				BASE-LINE	OUT-PUT	OUT-COME
ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND PLANNING (continued)						
Existence of child-friendly safe spaces in a community during the assessment⁵	$\frac{\text{\# of targeted communities that have a safe space for children during the assessment} \times 100}{\text{\# of targeted communities during the assessment}}$	Direct observation, W matrix	Determine in the field	✓	✓	
Existence of child-friendly multi-sectoral services for child survivors of GBV⁵	$\frac{\text{\# of targeted communities with child-friendly multi-sectoral services* for child survivors of GBV} \times 100}{\text{\# of targeted communities}}$ <i>* Multi-sectoral services include child-friendly health care, mental health and psychosocial support, security and legal/justice response</i>	W matrix	Determine in the field	✓		✓
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION						
Inclusion of GBV risk reduction in child protection (CP) funding proposals or strategies	$\frac{\text{\# of CP funding proposals or strategies that include at least one GBV risk-reduction objective, activity or indicator from the GBV Guidelines} \times 100}{\text{\# of CP funding proposals or strategies}}$	Proposal review (at agency or sector level)	100%	✓	✓	
Training of child protection staff on the GBV Guidelines	$\frac{\text{\# of CP staff/agencies who participated in a training on the GBV Guidelines} \times 100}{\text{\# of CP staff/agencies}}$	Training attendance, meeting minutes, survey (at agency or sector level)	100%	✓	✓	
IMPLEMENTATION						
► Programming						
Female staff in child protection programmes	$\frac{\text{\# of staff in CP programmes who are female} \times 100}{\text{\# of staff in CP programmes}}$	Organizational records	50%	✓	✓	
Ratio of boys and girls in child-friendly community spaces <i>Disaggregate by age groups (aged 0–6, 7–12, 13–18)</i>	<i>Quantitative:</i> $\frac{\text{\# of girls attending child-friendly community spaces}}{\text{\# of boys attending child-friendly community spaces}}$ <i>Qualitative:</i> What are barriers to girls' participation in child-friendly safe environments? What are barriers to boys' participation?	W matrix, organizational records, focus group discussion (FGD), key informant interview (KII)	Determine in the field	✓		✓

(continued)

⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Humanitarian Indicators Registry, <www.humanitarianresponse.info/applications/ir/indicators>



INDICATOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	POSSIBLE DATA SOURCES	TARGET	BASE-LINE	OUT-PUT	OUT-COME
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IMPLEMENTATION (continued)

► **Programming**

<p>Consultations with the affected population on accessing services for child survivors of GBV⁵</p> <p><i>Disaggregate consultations by sex and age</i></p>	<p><i>Quantitative:</i></p> <p>$\frac{\text{\# of services* for child GBV survivors conducting consultations with the affected population to accessing the service} \times 100}{\text{\# of services for child GBV survivors}}$</p> <p><i>Qualitative:</i></p> <p>What types of barriers do children experience in accessing services for GBV?</p> <p><i>* Services include health care, mental health and psychosocial support, security and legal/justice response</i></p>	Organizational records, FGD, KII	100%	✓	✓	
<p>Service provider knowledge of core child-friendly attitude competency areas</p>	<p>$\frac{\text{\# of service providers* who, in response to a prompted question, correctly say the core child-friendly attitude competency areas**} \times 100}{\text{\# of surveyed service providers}}$</p> <p><i>* Service providers include medical, mental health and psychosocial, police and legal/justice response; criteria should be determined in the setting</i></p> <p><i>** See page 49 for description of core child-friendly attitude competency areas</i></p>	Survey	Determine in field	✓		✓
<p>Placements for separated and unaccompanied children that are receiving visits to monitor risk factors of GBV⁵</p>	<p>$\frac{\text{\# of placements for separated/unaccompanied children who are receiving visits to monitor risk factors of GBV} \times 100}{\text{\# of placements for registered separated/unaccompanied children}}$</p>	W matrix, CP Information Management System	Determine in the field	✓	✓	
<p>Coverage of services for child survivors of GBV participating in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes</p>	<p>$\frac{\text{\# of DDR programmes that provide services* for child survivors of GBV} \times 100}{\text{\# of DDR programs}}$</p> <p><i>* Services include medical, mental health and psychosocial, police and legal/justice response</i></p>	Organizational records, KII	Determine in the field	✓		✓
<p>Existence of alternative measures for children in conflict with the law</p>	<p>$\frac{\text{\# of specified locations with measures other than detention for children in conflict with the law} \times 100}{\text{\# of specified locations}}$</p>	KII, desk review	100%	✓		✓
► Policies						
<p>Inclusion of GBV prevention and mitigation strategies in child protection policies, guidelines or standards</p>	<p>$\frac{\text{\# of CP policies, guidelines or standards that include GBV prevention and mitigation strategies from the GBV Guidelines} \times 100}{\text{\# of CP policies, guidelines or standards}}$</p>	Desk review (at agency, sector, national or global level)	Determine in the field	✓		✓

(continued)



INDICATOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	POSSIBLE DATA SOURCES	TARGET	Stage of Programme		
				BASE-LINE	OUT-PUT	OUT-COME

IMPLEMENTATION (continued)

► Communications and Information Sharing

Staff knowledge of standards for confidential sharing of GBV reports	$\frac{\# \text{ of staff who, in response to a prompted question, correctly say that information shared on GBV reports should not reveal the identity of survivors} \times 100}{\# \text{ of surveyed staff}}$	Survey (at agency or programme level)	100%	✓		✓
Inclusion of GBV referral information in child protection community outreach activities	$\frac{\# \text{ of CP community outreach activities programmes that include information on where to report risk and access care for GBV survivors} \times 100}{\# \text{ of CP community outreach activities}}$	Desk review, KII, survey (at agency or sector level)	Determine in the field	✓	✓	

COORDINATION

Coordination of GBV risk-reduction activities with other sectors	$\frac{\# \text{ of non-CP sectors consulted with to address GBV risk-reduction activities}^* \times 100}{\# \text{ of existing non-CP sectors in a given humanitarian response}}$ <i>* See page 56 for list of sectors and GBV risk-reduction activities</i>	KII, meeting minutes (at agency or sector level)	Determine in the field	✓	✓	
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RESOURCES

Key Resources

- **United Nations Children's Fund. 2010.** *Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action*. New York: UNICEF, <www.unicef.org/cholera/Chapter_1_intro/05_UNICEF_Core%20Commitments_for_Children_in_Humanitarian_Action.pdf>
- **Child Protection Working Groups (CPWG). 2012.** *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action*, <http://toolkit.ineesite.org/toolkit/INEEcms/uploads/1103/Minimum-standards-Child_Protection.pdf>
- **International Rescue Committee, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and United Nations Children's Fund. 2008.** *Action for the Rights of Children*, <www.unhcr.org/3bb825cd2.pdf>
- **Handicap International and Save the Children. 2011.** 'Out from the Shadows. Sexual violence against children with disabilities' (draft), <www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/HarmfulPractices/HandicapInternationalandSavetheChildren.pdf>
- **Save the Children, United Nations Children's Fund, International Rescue Committee, International Committee of the Red Cross, and World Vision. 2004.** *Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, <www.unicef.org/protection/IAG_UASCs.pdf>
- **Child Protection Working Group and GBV Area of Responsibility. 2014.** *Fundraising Handbook for Child Protection and Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Action*, <www.gbvguidelines.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/03/FUNDRAISING_HANDBOOK.pdf>. This handbook has been developed to help field practitioners meet the expectations of donors when planning and implementing child protection and GBV responses.
- **International Rescue Committee and United Nations Children's Fund. 2012.** *Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Guidelines for health and psychosocial service providers in humanitarian settings*, <<http://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CCS-Guidelines-lowres.pdf>>
- **World Health Organization. 2007.** *WHO Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies*, <www.who.int/gender/documents/violence/9789241595681/en>
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2008.** *Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child*, <www.unhcr.org/4566b16b2.pdf>
- **Child Protection Working Group. 2011.** 'Child Protection Rapid Assessment', <www.alnap.org/resource/7481.aspx?tag=461>. A Child Protection Rapid Assessment (CPRA) is an inter-agency, cluster-specific rapid assessment, designed and conducted by CPWG members in the aftermath of a rapid-onset emergency. It is meant to provide a snapshot of urgent child protection related needs among the affected population within the immediate post-emergency context, as well as act as a stepping-stone for a more comprehensive process of assessing the impacts of the emergency.
- **International Rescue Committee and University of California, Los Angeles, Centre for International Medicine. 2008.** *Clinical Care for Sexual Assault Survivors: A multimedia training tool – Facilitators guide*, <<http://iawg.net/ccsas/ccsas-resources>>

Additional Resources

- **Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies. 2011.** *Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, response, recovery*, <www.ineesite.org/eietrainingmodule/cases/learningistheirfuture/pdf/Minimum_Standards_English_2010.pdf>
- **Ward, J. 2007.** *From Invisible to Indivisible: Promoting and protecting the right of the girl child to be free from violence*. New York: UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.at/fileadmin/media/Infos_und_Medien/Info-Material/Maedchen_und_Frauen/From_Invisible_To_Indivisible_-_Rights_of_Girl_Child.pdf>
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2008.** *UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls*, <www.unhcr.org/47cfae612.html>
- **Child Soldiers International. 2012.** 'Louder Than Words: An agenda for action to end state use of child soldiers', <http://child-soldiers.org/global_report_reader.php?id=562>. For more information, see also <www.warchild.org.uk/issues/child-soldiers>
- **Handicap International. n.d.** *Disability Checklist for Emergency Response*, <www.handicap-international.de/fileadmin/redaktion/pdf/disability_checklist_booklet_01.pdf>. This booklet provides general guidelines for the protection and inclusion of injured persons and persons with disabilities in humanitarian settings, and includes a page on protection related to women and children with disabilities.
- **Save the Children UK. 2008.** *No One to Turn To*, <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/No_One_to_Turn_To_1.pdf>
- **NGO Advisory Council for Follow-Up to the UN Study on Violence against Children. 2011.** *Five Years On: A global update on violence against children*, <https://www.crin.org/docs/Five_Years_On.pdf>
- **Pinheiro, P. 2006.** *World Report on Violence against Children*. United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, <[www.unicef.org/lac/full_tex\(3\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/lac/full_tex(3).pdf)>



