

Key Humanitarian Indicators: Methodological guidance and Definitions 2024

Purpose of Methodology Note

This methodology note aligns key humanitarian indicators across corporate planning and reporting processes for all agencies and organizations engaged in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP). It provides standardized definitions, enabling consistency in tracking, reporting, and interpreting results across different platforms. Results should be interpreted, recorded and reported in the same way across the different planning and reporting platforms to ensure:

- Standard and comparable definitions of key humanitarian indicators at country, regional and global levels.
- External reporting of country, regional and global results is harmonized.

This methodology note guides the tracking and aggregation of data reported by all operations for the indicator of the number of people who benefited from specialized GBV programmes, disaggregated by age and gender.

Indicator: # of people who benefited from specialized GBV programmes

Indicator description

This indicator measures the number of people who directly benefited from specialized GBV programmes within the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response during the reporting period. It includes beneficiaries of services and initiatives aimed at preventing and responding to GBV, e.g., case management, individual psychosocial support, as well as community-based GBV prevention and risk mitigation, such as activities aimed at promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, as much as GBV awareness/orientation sessions.

The indicator should aim to exclude double counting of people whenever possible to aim for a count of unique persons.

Specialized GBV programmes¹ include services and initiatives aimed at preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV, and can include:

- Community awareness sessions aimed at preventing or mitigating GBV;
- Information sessions on available GBV services;
- Empowerment and life skill sessions/ initiatives for women and girls at risk (those facing increased vulnerability in humanitarian situations, including survivors of gender-based violence, single-headed households, and women with limited access to protection and services).

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¹ In line with the inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* (2015)

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- GBV response services (access to police and justice systems, safe housing and legal assistance) provided by service providers trained in GBV survivor centered approaches;
- Clinical management of rape (CMR) and medical services for GBV survivors (Reported under health);
- GBV case management: GBV Case Management, individual psycho-social counselling;
- Group-based psychosocial support sessions with women and girls (provided in-person or remotely, through e.g. Helplines/Hotlines, Women and Girls' Safe Spaces, Government Social Workers). Services can be provided in the context of community-based protection activities and household or individual interventions.

This indicator does not include mass information or awareness-raising campaigns (e.g., radio adverts, leaflet distribution).

What the Indicator Tracks

NB: The unit of measurement of the RRP indicator is a number.

This indicator tracks the number of all persons – meaning all children and adults – who were reached and provided with specialized GBV services, risk mitigation and prevention activities in the reporting period.

All GBV awareness interventions must include information on how survivors can access support. The diverse range of interventions must also focus on ensuring availability of services and enhanced access.

Preventing GBV incidents, as a general concept, requires working along a spectrum ranging **from immediate risk mitigation** in the acute emergency (i.e., safety assessments, mappings, and sector specific activities mitigating risks associated with service provision, etc.) to **prevention through longer term social norms and systemic change**. According to the IASC GBV Guidelines, “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.), [while 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.)”.²

This indicator further seeks to quantify prevention activities that fall further on the spectrum and relate to addressing harmful social norms and socio-cultural behaviour.

This includes empowering girls and women economically and socially, supporting legal and policy reform, and transforming harmful social norms/attitudes that perpetuate gender inequality and normalize the use of violence. As such, each of the following activities should also be included under prevention:

- **Social and economic empowerment:** life skills programs, language or literacy classes, leadership trainings, vocational trainings, as well as more extensive livelihood and economic empowerment programmes for women and girls. These activities can take place within safe spaces or through collaboration between GBV and other sectors (livelihood/cash/inclusion). It is important to ensure proper coordination with other sector leads when implementing or supporting access to these activities.

² : Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2015. Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery (“IASC GBV Guidelines”), at p. 1, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/563713544.pdf>.

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For purposes of calculating the indicator, the # of persons attending training sessions, classes or similar types of interventions within the framework of social and economic empowerment programmes for women and girls during the reporting period are counted.

- **In-depth awareness-raising** sessions on GBV and its causes and contributing factors. These sessions go beyond the information on risks and referral services noted under “community outreach” (above) and fall short of full social and behavioral change curricula (noted below). They include comprehensive sessions on GBV core concepts, targeting both women and girls as well as men and boys. These sessions should be adapted to the targeted audience and can include different approaches based on the context. These sessions should delve deeper into GBV, its root causes and its consequences, with the aim of expanding awareness of GBV, including the harmful societal norms that contribute to it. These sessions require that they be implemented at the community level, in person, in a safe space, **following a proper risk assessment** to ensure safe and effective implementation (see below for more on risk assessments relating to prevention programming).

For purposes of calculating # of persons reached via in-depth awareness raising sessions, persons attending the sessions during the reporting period are counted.

- **Social norm/behavioral change curricula:** Interventions aimed at transforming harmful social and gender norms and behaviors and promoting healthy, safe and equitable ones. These activities are often community-based and include behavioral change curricula/sessions addressing harmful gender related social norms at different levels of the ecological model (i.e., *Girl Shine*, *SASA*, *Women Rise*, *EMAP sessions*, *Communities Care*, *Multi-Session Women Centered Participatory Discussions*, or other similar curricula addressing gender inequality and related harmful social norms, i.e., such as child marriage or other). Prevention interventions include engaging the whole of the community, including men and boys, in becoming allies for gender equality through community mobilization and targeted curricula.

For purposes of calculating # of persons reached via social norms/behavioural change curricula, persons attending the sessions are counted per each curriculum rather than per session. (A curriculum can consist of a series of sessions; a person attending sessions under the curriculum should be counted only once.)

Note:

- Because prevention programming often seeks to change social norms, it can inadvertently cause backlash or resistance when not implemented carefully. This backlash may not only be targeted to women and girls who are a part of the prevention programming, but also to other women and girls in the community where the programming is taking place. It is important to anticipate and mitigate this backlash in programming.³
- Report also prevention activities that explicitly aim to challenge harmful gender norms and promote gender equality, ensuring that prevention efforts are tracked in a way that highlights their contribution to gender equality.

³ Adapted from Viswanathan, R. (2021), *Learning from Practice: Resistance and Backlash to Preventing Violence against Women and Girls* (New York, United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women).
https://untf.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20UNTF/Publications/2021/Prevention%20briefs/Resistance%20and%20backlash/Synthesis%20Review%207%20-%20resistance%20and%20backlash_v2_compressed.pdf

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- For further guidance on safe and effective prevention programming, including the core principles associated with prevention programming in emergencies and pre-implementation assessment tools, please see IRC's [EMPOWER: Preventing violence against women and girls in acute emergencies \(2022\)](#).

What the Indicator does NOT Track

Excluded from this indicator are initiatives on addressing mass information or awareness raising campaigns (e.g., radio adverts, leaflets, mass media) .

Not covered by this indicator are also largely process-related interventions of agencies and implementing organizations that are standard recommendations for GBV risk mitigation across all sectors, such as proactive measures for hiring/retaining women as staff and volunteers, completing an analysis of barriers/risks women and girls face when accessing services/programming (for example, using the [AAAQ framework](#)), consulting with women and girls (for example key informant interviews, focus group discussions) throughout the entire humanitarian programme cycle, conducting ongoing safety audits as part of regular assessments and/or programmatic monitoring and evaluation, using safety audits and consultations with women and girls to inform or improve programme design, and incorporating GBV risk mitigation considerations into core guidance and planning documents.

Method of Calculation

Number:

Count the number of women, girls and boys and men in humanitarian situations who were provided with specialized GBV activities or prevention interventions on GBV during the reporting period.

Data sources:

At the country level, data for this indicator come from various reports and administrative data from government and implementing partners across sectors. Typically, data sources are:

- Data collected from GBV implementing partners on GBV-specific and -related activities that have taken place. Data on prevention is typically aggregated by GBV specialists based on reports and/or administrative data.
- Ensure gender balance in the teams responsible for collecting, reporting, and analyzing data as this can lead to more nuanced reporting and better identification of gender-related issues.

Data Privacy:

Ensuring data privacy and confidentiality in collecting and reporting GBV-related data is crucial⁴. It involves obtaining informed consent, anonymizing data, and providing staff **training**.

Disaggregation:

Disaggregation enables a more nuanced and comprehensive analysis of the impact and effectiveness of these programs. It helps identify areas where additional resources or adjustments in program activities are needed, enabling better-informed decision-making and more targeted interventions to combat gender-based violence effectively.

By gender: female/male/other

By age: eg under 10 years; 10-14 years; 15-17 years; 18 years and above

⁴ GBVIMS User Guide and IASC GBV Guidelines

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- It is **recommended** that country teams consider **further disaggregation** of the indicator at national level including by disability status (and under “other” indicate binary: yes/no but also "prefer not to say" to capture non-binary gender identities, ensuring that the full spectrum of gender identities is represented), by type of intervention, by migration status. Intersectional reporting is encouraged.
- Focus also on as gender equality reporting (and analyses)⁵: try to highlight gender-sensitive approaches applied to programs tracking down initiatives undertaken in this regard (adaptation of content or capacity building on gender sensitivity) and interpret data accordingly (for instance, if women are overwhelmingly represented in GBV services usage but men or non-binary and other gender individuals are not, this could indicate barriers for those groups) that link GBV data to gender equality goals enabling to assess how effectively gender equality goals are being met.

Training:

Providing guidance on training personnel for data collection and reporting, especially regarding sensitive GBV cases, would be valuable. Ensuring among those you include training on data privacy and confidentiality in GBV-related data collection for staff.

¹¹ Alexander-Scott, M. Bell, E. and Holden, J. (2016) DFID Guidance Note: Shifting Social Norms to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). London: VAWG Helpdesk, found at [VAWG-Shifting-Social-Norms.pdf \(preventgbvafrica.org\)](#); See also, Oxfam, Ten Harmful Beliefs that Perpetuate Violence against Women and Girls, found at [Ten harmful beliefs that perpetuate violence against women and girls | Oxfam International](#); Oxfam, Challenging and Changing Harmful Social Norms Contributing to Violence Against Women and Girls: Enough Campaign Progress and Learnings Report 2016-2019, found at [Challenging and Changing Harmful Social Norms Contributing to Violence Against Women and Girls: Enough Campaign Progress and Learnings Report 2016-2019 - World | ReliefWeb](#).

¹² See, UNHCR Policy on the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation, and Response to Gender-Based Violence (2020) (“UNHCR GBV Policy”), found at <https://www.refworld.org/es/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain/opendocpdf.pdf?reldoc=y&docid=60adc5c94> Ibid., p. 323, citing United Nations. 2000. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, www.osce.org/odihr/19223?download=true.

⁵ An enhanced reporting could include to track how many women, men, and others participate in empowerment activities like vocational training, economic empowerment, and leadership programs as it helps assess whether gender equality efforts are reaching diverse groups equally.