

# **GBV Core Group Terms of Reference**

## **Beirut, Lebanon**

### **2025 Revised Version**

#### **1. Background and Context**

Over the last few years, and particularly during 2024, Lebanon has faced a series of crises that have strained the country's social, economic, financial, and environmental stability. The escalation of hostilities along Lebanon's southern border and the expansion of conflict and displacement to other areas of the country exacerbated existing challenges and humanitarian needs of the different population groups requiring humanitarian aid. In parallel, Lebanon has been facing an extended political vacuum that has hampered its response to the impact of the war and immediate recovery efforts. With the cessation of hostilities with Israel as well as a newly elected president and the nomination of a new Prime Minister, 2025 has begun with a renewed sense of optimism for stability across Lebanon. At the same time, the fall of the Assad regime in Syria has shifted the geo-regional landscape, causing a new wave of displaced Syrians to cross into Lebanon, as well as initial spontaneous returns to Syria.

The Gender-based Violence Working Group is a sub-sector under the overall umbrella of the Protection Sector, as part of the coordination structure of the Lebanon Response Plan 2024-2026 (LRP). The LRP is an integrated humanitarian and stabilization response plan co-led by the Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, supported by international and national partners. The plan sets out to respond to protection risks, humanitarian and developmental needs in a holistic manner by providing immediate assistance to and ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations, supporting service provision through national systems, and supporting Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability. The Protection Chapter, including the GBV response framework, presents the overall strategy of the sub-sector.

The temporary nature of the LRP serves to reinforce the essential collaborative action that is required outside of the confines of a humanitarian and stabilization response plan to secure lasting solutions for a better future for people across the country. This includes action to manage multifaceted, regional displacement crises, including through enhanced border security and labor migration management, and addressing barriers to return in safety and dignity; to advocate for and support the country's reform agenda; and to address pre-existing structural development constraints and support Lebanon's sustainable development trajectory, among other common objectives shared by the Government of Lebanon and the international community.

In collaboration with GBV Working Group members and outlined in the [GBV WG ToR](#), the Core group will provide strategic guidance, leadership, and technical support on the development of essential guiding documents and other resource mobilization strategies, including advocacy at different levels. The GBV Core Group will share information concerns and find solutions to the GBV risks and needs of affected populations, including displaced Syrians, vulnerable Lebanese, Palestine refugees from Syria and Lebanon,

and migrants, and ensure accountability towards the funds dedicated to GBV prevention, mitigation and response programs.

## **2. Purpose of the GBV WG Core Group**

The Gender-Based Violence Core Group (GBV Core Group) will provide technical support, strategic direction, and leadership to the GBV Working Group's work. The Core Group, composed of key local and international operational GBV partners elected from the pool of GBV WG members will guide the WG and its membership in a consultative and participatory manner.

### **Key Guiding Principles for the Core Group**

- I. GBV core group will be guided by humanitarian and protection principles in its work, including, but not limited to, impartiality, neutrality, and Do No Harm.
- II. Partners will adhere to GBV data sharing protocol and Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women (WHO, 2016)<sup>1</sup>
- III. Members will ensure to abide by the survivor-centered approach.

## **3. Scope of Work**

In Collaboration with GBV WG coordinators, leading agencies, and GBV WG members, the Core group will perform the following roles and responsibilities:

### **3.1 Strategic role**

- Support the development of the sector strategy and work plan, including with respect to setting priority interventions, targets, and indicators;
- Support the development of the sector's annual work plan, including its operationalization, with sector leads and Core Group members assuming roles and responsibilities for actions;
- Share and collectively validate GBV trends regularly to ensure the timely identification and discussion of emerging risks and concerns
- Provide strategic direction on advocacy initiatives, including identifying advocacy priorities and, where relevant, developing and aligning messaging on specific topics;
- Review and advise on priority locations and resource mobilization strategies, including, but not limited to, the Lebanon Response Plan and Common Humanitarian Fund allocations such as the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund.
- Monitor implementation of the sector's objectives against the LRP and Flash appeal targets and assist in the identification of significant gaps;

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<sup>1</sup> [WHO \(2007\), Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies.](#)

- Validate common processes related to the sector's response, such as contingency planning, interventions' modalities, prioritization and targeting, agreement of common standards and approaches, or use of common data collection and information management tools;
- Deliberate and take strategic decisions in consultation with GBV WG members;
- Provide support and participation in other sectors, focusing on GBV mainstreaming and risk mitigation;
- Support internal and external evaluation of the GBV sub-sector and share lessons learned; and,
- Support the development or harmonization of technical guidance for the sector's response.

### **3.2 Technical support role**

- A. Provide technical guidance to GBV WG members as well as relevant inter-agency forums, such as the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and Donors as appropriate;
- B. Contribute towards the development of position papers, GBV situation updates, and statements on GBV issues and guide WG inputs into broader Protection Cluster initiatives;
- C. Contribute towards the development of contingency and response plans as well as recommendations of priority interventions;
- D. Conduct technical review and endorsement of concept notes and proposals upon request and on behalf of the GBV WG, including but not limited to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and other funding opportunities;
- E. Identify capacity gaps of GBV WG members and make recommendations to address the gaps;
- F. Advise on mechanisms to improve and strengthen the GBV WG's overall structure, capacity, and effectiveness at the national and sub-national levels.
- G. Take part in joint-assessment initiatives to inform GBV programming.

### **3.3 Advocacy and Advisory role**

- A. Support development and implementation of GBV advocacy strategies on agreed-upon priorities;
- B. Advising and supporting advocacy efforts of the GBV WG Coordinators on GBV priorities that need to be brought to the attention of the ISWG, the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), the Protection Sectors, and other Sectors or stakeholders as appropriate;
- C. Support the GBV WG Coordinators on Advocacy for fundraising at various forums and levels, specifically humanitarian pooled funds.

## **4. Composition of the Core Group**

The Core Group membership shall be between ten to fifteen members, composed of the lead agencies (majorly representation from UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF), Government of Lebanon (representation from MoSA), four from International Non-governmental Organizations (INGO), and four representations from the National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGO). Of the national NGOs, at least one position shall

be reserved for a Women-Led Organization specialized in GBV services. Additional agencies may be invited on an ad-hoc basis based on the requirement and to strengthen the Core Group's function.

GBV WG partners and UN agencies interested in the Core Group will apply to the GBV WG based on the eligibility criteria mentioned below and selection will be made based on the highest score. Membership of the WG will be on a per year rotational basis, as per the criteria and eligibility. The GBV WG co-chairs will convene and facilitate the Core Group meetings.

#### **4.1 Membership eligibility**

- UN agencies, International Non-governmental Organizations (INGO), and National Non-Governmental Organizations with operations in Lebanon and field operational presence are eligible for nomination. Organizations with an office and staff presence outside Beirut are also eligible.
- Members of the GBV Core Group must implement GBV prevention and response programming for a **minimum of one year** as a core program within the organization and be willing to commit time and staffing who can provide technical inputs and can make decisions: representative and an alternate (required).
- Core Group members ideally have a presence and implementation of activities across the country and in more than one location.
- Possess a solid understanding of the scope and work of the GBV WG and opportunities it presents and GBV programming.
- Organizations should have been active in the GBV WG consistently for at least one year (required).
- Members of the Core Group shall commit to actively participating in driving the work plan and strategic directions of the GBV WG forward.
- Commit to represent the GBV Core Group and WG in other relevant inter-agency platforms, if required.
- Provide evidence through examples of applying the 16 Inter-Agency Minimum Standards in programming or response activities (required).
- Organizations with strong skills in Gender, Protection, and Advocacy may be eligible for membership on an exceptional basis.
- Organizations should have been reporting their GBV activities in the ActivityInfo form in a timely manner.

#### **4.2 Accountability and Reporting: Methods of Work of the Core Group**

- Ordinarily, the Core Group will meet on a monthly basis
- During an emergency, the Core Group can decide to meet twice a month (one week before and one week after the GBV WG meeting) - this is the second Wednesday a month as well as the fourth Wednesday a month, or as required on an ad-hoc basis.

- The GBV Coordinators will convene and facilitate the meetings. Ad-hoc meetings may be called by the Coordinator and/or the Coordinator or at the request of members as appropriate.
- The Core Group meetings will be held in Beirut, Lebanon, and prepared and either chaired in person or through a hybrid modality. Outside of meetings, necessary decision-making and endorsement will be undertaken electronically among Core Group members.
- The GBV WG coordinator will circulate an invitation and agenda before the Core Group meetings.
- GBV WG members may raise emerging GBV issues to the attention of the Core Group and may attend specific Core Group meetings for that reason, if required. This requires informing the co-chairs of the GBV WG and stipulating the issue. Should an agreement be reached that the Core Group should address the issue raised, and upon consultation with the members, the Core Group will determine the appropriate course of action. As applicable, the requesting member will be tasked with addressing the issue and reporting it back to the Core Group.
- Decisions by the Core Group must be submitted to the GBV WG members for endorsement. Notwithstanding this rule of principle, the Core Group may take executive decisions on behalf of the GBV WG members in case of urgency. In this case, the Core Group must report its actions to the GBV WG members for post-factum endorsement. Methods for voting on an issue will be decided on a case-to-case basis and based on the consensus of members through discussion.
- Additional participation from donors, representatives of the affected population, and representatives from other organizations can volunteer to be observers of Core Group on an ad-hoc basis.

## **5. Quorum for Core Group meeting/decision-making**

- Half (50%) of the Core Group members are required to be present for the Core Group meeting to proceed and decisions should be made by consensus amongst members through guided discussion.

## **6. Review and Revision of Terms of Reference (ToRs)**

- Membership will be reviewed annually or when a vacancy occurs based on submitted expressions of interest. The selection process is based on a set of eligibility criteria, which is explained in Annex 1.
- The ToRs will be reviewed yearly or earlier at the request of Core Group or GBV WG members.
- All documents will be circulated among the Core Group Members, who are expected to consult their respective constituents. Agreed-upon documents generated and endorsed by the Core Group shall be posted on the [GBV WG portal](#) and circulated to members of the GBV WG. This shall be agreed upon collectively with Core Group members to anticipate any sensitivities.

### **ANNEX I:- Process of Selection of Core Group Members**

### Call for Expressions of Interest

- GBV WG Coordinators will email all member agencies instructions on how to apply via expressions of interest (Eoi) application (with the criteria to be a Core Group member).
- The Eoi should include a short paragraph explaining the their background, expertise, and geographical scope of the agency as well as the motivation and relevant resources of the applying agency interested in pursuing as Core Group members (a maximum of one page, presenting three issues) and the responses to a standardized questionnaire capturing the eligibility requirements.

## Expression of Interest - National GBV Working Group GBV Core Group Membership Nomination

### Expression of Interest for the Application as GBV Core Group Member

**1) Name of organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2) Type of Organization (click all that apply):**

- UN agency
- local NGO
- international NGO
- national/ governmental entity
- Women-led organization
- Community-based

**3) Name/Email ID/ Designation of the staff member applying for Core Group membership:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**4) Are you an active member of the national GBV Working Group (GBV WG)? Yes / No**

*Explain your engagement in National GBV WG meetings, note your engagement in key areas of work for the sector in 2024 i.e., guidance drafting, involvement in previous core groups, task forces, presentations, etc.*

**5) Please provide a brief description of your organization's GBV response and prevention activities as well as some of the current projects and initiatives you are running and have technical expertise on which would be of interest to GBVWG members in 2025.**

**Please tick and describe all services that apply:**

- GBV response services
- Legal aid Services
- Focused or non-focused Psychosocial Support
- Individual support for persons at heightened risk
- Awareness programs through community engagement
- GBV prevention interventions (please outline a specific curriculum if followed)
- Advocacy/research on GBV
- CMR or other SRH services
- Other

**6) Please specify the geographical interventions of your organization in terms of GBV activities**

- BML
- Tripoli Akkar
- Bekaa Baalbek
- South El Nabatieh
- National

**7)(a) Please state the reason(s) your organization is interested in nominating itself as a core group member and (b) what contributions you and your organization can provide to the group in 2025? (c) If you are already a member of the core group, please also indicate your organization's contribution to the sector through your active participation as a CG member in 2024.**

**8) Is your agency willing to commit one representative to the GBV Core Group and one alternate?**

- Yes
- No