

# GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROJECTS

## WHY GENDER EQUALITY MATTERS IN GBV PREVENTION & RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS

Conflicts and natural disasters have different impacts on women, girls, boys and men. Risks, vulnerabilities, capacities, needs and access to services and resources vary across contexts. During a crisis, such as armed conflict or natural disaster, institutions and systems that provide physical and social protection may be weakened or destroyed. Families and communities are often separated, which can result in a further breakdown of existing community support systems and protection mechanisms.

Gender-based violence (GBV) can escalate during and following emergencies. GBV is a term used to describe the vulnerability of women and girls to violence as a result of their subordination to men in systems of patriarchy. The term has also been used to refer to any violence that is related to the socially ascribed roles of men, women, boys and girls, such as violence against men that is informed by norms related to masculinities and/or violence against gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) individuals and groups that is informed by norms related to sexuality and sexual identity. Regardless of how the language is interpreted, it is generally agreed that GBV primarily affects women and girls. Therefore, the majority of GBV projects in humanitarian settings will focus their efforts on prevention of and response to violence against women and girls. In order to be effective, these projects must address issues of women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality, and must include men and boys as partners in prevention.

How programmers and policy makers define GBV will determine priorities for their GBV work. Some projects will therefore focus GBV prevention and response efforts specifically on the problem of violence against women and girls. Others may include certain types of violence against men and boys and/or LGBTI populations. It is important that projects not lump violence against different groups (e.g. women/girls; men/boys; LGBTI) under one overarching 'gender' or 'GBV' intervention. The role that gender plays in relation to violence against each of these groups is distinct and will require distinct approaches in how projects addressing these groups are designed and implemented. Evaluations of the degree to which projects are gender-responsive should be based on the specific objectives of each project. For example, when evaluating GBV programming that specifically targets the problem of violence against women and girls in terms of its gender-responsiveness, the focus of a gender analysis will be on the extent to which these programs include an understanding of the gender-based inequalities that make women and girls vulnerable to specific types of violence, and that inform women's and girls' ability to access violence-related services as well as their ability to be free from violence. When evaluating 'GBV' programming for LGBTI individuals and groups, the focus of a gender analysis will be on how these programmes understand and link problems of violence to homophobia and social norms related to sexuality and sexual identity.

The IASC Gender Marker is a tool that codes, on a 2 - 0 scale, the extent to which humanitarian projects are designed to ensure that the needs of women, girls, men and boys are being appropriately addressed in humanitarian contexts, so to ensure gender equitable access to services, resources and outcomes for women, girls, men and boys. GBV prevention and response projects that demonstrate sound gender analysis to justify the proposed interventions are coded as 2b (targeted action). Nearly all projects coded as 2b will concentrate specifically on violence against women and girls, so as to acknowledge the need in most humanitarian contexts to centre GBV activities on women and girls and to give these projects greater visibility in terms of donor prioritisation and funding. GBV projects that include a broader focus on violence against men/boys and/or LGBTI individuals should demonstrate a strong justification based on a detailed gender analysis. A full description of the IASC Gender Marker and its application can be found in the Gender Marker Overview Tip Sheet.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENTS → ACTIVITIES → OUTCOMES

A **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** is the essential first step to identify the causes and contributing factors to and impacts of the various types of GBV that projects may seek to address. It provides an understanding of the gender dynamics that might particularly affect the security and well-being of the affected population. This analysis should clearly inform project **ACTIVITIES**. The project's **OUTCOMES** should capture the change that is expected for female and/or male beneficiaries. Outcome statements should show whether and how target groups have benefitted from interventions.

GENDER IN GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROJECT NEEDS ASSESSMENT	
✓	<b>DISAGGREGATE</b> data by sex and age <i>and according to other demographic variables as feasible.</i>
✓	<b>DEFINE</b> the forms of GBV that are to be addressed by the project.
✓	<b>DISTINGUISH</b> the risks to and protective factors of the form(s) of GBV to be addressed.
SAMPLE GENDER IN GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	
✓	According to the proposed target group focus of the project, organise single-sex, age-segmented (and other demographically sensitive) focus group discussions to illicit perceptions of violence, barriers to accessing care and the kinds of culturally appropriate services that the target group requires/requests.
✓	Train male and female providers across key health, psychosocial, security, and legal/justice sectors to provide safe, ethical and respectful services (e.g. male and female medical staff in the clinical management of sexual violence, best practices for ethical and safe patient intake and referral, including how to adhere to the guiding principles of safety/security, confidentiality, respect and non-discrimination, and coordination).
✓	Train humanitarian actors across sectors (e.g. Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter, etc.) on how to ensure that actions to prevent and respond to GBV are addressed across their sectoral actions.
✓	Provide training sessions for clan, traditional, religious and male and female community leaders on human rights, gender, and GBV and its consequences for the whole of the community, and mobilize community leaders in the prevention of GBV and the necessity of supporting survivors rather than stigmatizing them, as well as ensuring that communities know how, why and where to access GBV services once they are in place.
SAMPLE GENDER IN GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROJECT OUTCOMES	
✓	Males and females, including youth, older people, disabled, etc. involved in culturally-appropriate prevention activities
✓	Service providers respond to survivors in safe, ethical, and respectful manner
✓	Increased numbers of survivors (disaggregated by age and sex) access care and report positive outcomes in terms of quality of care and ability to manage GBV experience

## DESIGNING MINIMUM GENDER COMMITMENTS FOR GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE:

In order to translate humanitarian actors' commitments to gender-responsive projects into reality, minimum gender commitments can be developed with the aim of being applied systematically in field-based GBV prevention and response initiatives. The commitments must be phrased in a way that can be understood clearly by all, both in terms of value added to current programming and in terms of the concrete actions, which need to be taken to meet these commitments. They should constitute a short body of core actions and/or approaches to be applied by all partners. They should be practical, realistic and focus on improvement of current approaches rather than on a drastic programme reorientation. Finally, they should be measurable for the follow-up and evaluation of their application.

The commitments should be the product of a dialogue with cluster members and/or within the organisation. A first list of commitments should be identified and then discussed, amended and validated by the national cluster and sub-clusters and/or organisation's staff working in the sector. It is important to note that commitments need to reflect the key priorities identified in a particular setting. *The commitments, activities and indicators below, which are drawn directly from the 'disaggregate – define – distinguish- describe' framework set out above, are provided as samples only:*

1. **Disaggregate data by sex and** *and according to other demographic variables as much as is possible.* Using evidence-based analysis from pre-crisis information if necessary, specify who among the crisis-affected population is most at-risk to various form(s) of GBV, e.g. females of all ages or of specific age (adolescents, young girls, elderly women), disabled women and girls, lesbian women and girls, indigenous and other minority women and girls, etc. In some cases this analysis might also include and/or specifically focus on boys/men and/or broader categories of LGBTI individuals and groups.

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
According to the proposed target group focus of the project, organise single-sex, age-segmented (and other demographically sensitive) focus group discussions to illicit perceptions of violence and the kinds of culturally appropriate services that the target group requires/requests, as well as strategies for addressing the underlying gender dimensions of the violence they experience	Focus group discussions on the nature, extent, risk and protective factors related to GBV have been conducted with relevant target group(s), such as women, adolescent girls, adolescent boys and men in x and x IDP camp. Recommendations for how to address the specific gender dimensions of the types of violence have been solicited (e.g. livelihoods, women's participation and leadership, skills building for families and youth). Analysis for risks and vulnerabilities, as well as protective factors has been undertaken

2. **Define the forms of GBV that are to be addressed by the project**, e.g. rape and other forms of sexual violence, domestic violence, early/forced marriage, trafficking, forced prostitution, , etc.

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>Conduct a coordinated rapid situational analysis (in accordance with Action Sheet 2.1 of GBV Guidelines)</i>	<i>A coordinated rapid situational analysis involving sex-appropriate assessors and affected persons is conducted by [date] and defines the nature and extent of GBV in [camp/region].</i>

3. **Distinguish the risk factors of the form(s) of GBV to be addressed.** While gender inequality and discrimination are the root causes of GBV against women and girls globally, various other factors determine the type and extent of violence women and girls experience in each setting, such as age, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, poverty, etc. For men and boys, certain forms violence against them might be the result of masculinities that are imposed, acceded to, or even acclaimed by male victims/survivors as well as by perpetrators. For LGBTI groups, certain forms of violence they experience might be related to social norms regulating sexuality and sexual identity. Be specific about the factors that increase women's, girls', boys' and men's risk of exposure to the form(s) of GBV to be addressed by the project.

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>Through a series of meetings, liaise with other clusters such as WASH, CCCM, Shelter &amp; NFIs, Protection, Health, etc., to discuss the possible risk factors that may increase exposure to GBV and measures to mitigate them</i>	<i>Meetings have been conducted with each of the clusters to discuss possible factors that could contribute to an unsafe environment for women/girls and/or men/boys in [name of camp/area] and recommended measures to mitigate them..</i>

4. **Describe the type of action(s) proposed – preventative, responsive, environment building.**

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>Consolidate and analyse data from coordinated rapid situational analysis, single-sex, age-segmented focus discussions, secondary data and reports on GBV in [area], mapping exercises, meetings with other Clusters, etc., and confirm specific focus – prevention, response and/or environment building of the project.</i>	<i>All available data has been consolidated and analysed and a clear strategy confirmed for the focus of the project.</i>

For more information on the **Gender Marker** go to [www.onereponse.info](http://www.onereponse.info)

For the e-learning course on “**Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men**” see [www.iasc-elearning.org](http://www.iasc-elearning.org)