

## **Background**

Preventing and responding to cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) requires a sensitive, highly coordinated and systematic approach. An effective SGBV strategy must contain three core elements – prevention/mitigation, response and coordination. Without strong interagency coordination it is not possible to achieve the required multi-sectorial approach for an effective humanitarian response to SGBV. SGBV Working groups are established in the different locations/settlements of Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Oruchinga and also Nyakabande Transit Centre with a multi sectorial approach involves different stake holders to prevent and respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

The different stakeholders, including Government of Uganda, UN Agencies, International and National NGOs, Community Based Organizations and Refugees themselves are engaged in prevention of and response to SGBV and VAC in the different refugee settlements in South West.

The South West SGBV Sub-Working group to the Protection working group is important to act as a coordinating body of all these actors in the prevention and response to SGBV activities from the field to strengthen and enhance the efforts of all stakeholders working in prevention of and response to SGBV in the settlements and transit centers.

## **Definition of sexual and gender based violence**

Sexual and gender based violence is violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex. It includes any harmful act that is perpetrated against one person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.<sup>1</sup>

## **Objective**

Using a survivor-centred, Community-based and rights-based approach, the objective of the South West sub Sector working groups to prevent and respond to SGBV is to develop effective and inclusive protection mechanisms that promote organizational accountability through a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach to SGBV in the South West refugee operation that covers the settlements of Nakivale, Oruchinga, Kyaka II and Rwamwanja while extending services to Bubukwanga, Nyakabande and other transit sites that may be established over the period of operation. Activities include the prevention, care, support, recovery, and efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.

The SGBV sub Sector working group will work to ensure:

- 1- Non-duplication of SGBV prevention and response interventions among actors;

---

<sup>1</sup>Taken from UNHCR: Action against Sexual and Gender Based Violence: An Updated Strategy (2003)

- 2- Sharing of good practices among the different partners and locations;
- 3- Holistic planning and implementation of SGBV interventions;
- 4- Development of common/harmonized language, tools for data collection, reporting and awareness raising (IEC);
- 5- Coordinated capacity building,
- 6- the operation of settlement specific SGBV working groups
- 7- Development of an information system for coordination e.g WWW, SOPs, standard GBV resources, among others.
- 8- Conduct Advocacy e.g Appeals for GBV funding are made.
- 9- Mainstreaming of GBV into other sectors.
- 10- Conducting of assessments, data collection and monitoring.

### Membership

Members of the SGBV Working group include;- Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, American Refugee Council (ARC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), African Humanitarian Action (AHA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HIJRA, Windle International Uganda (WTU), Uganda Police, Tutapona, Nsamzi, Medical Teams International (MTI), Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), Local Government, Representatives from refugee hosting districts in South West Uganda, Refugee Leadership structures and Save the children.

The multi sectorial -composition membership of the working group will ensure holistic and multi – sectorial approach in prevention of and response to SGBV.

Members of the Working Group are the SGBV focal points representing their organizations in prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence and are expected to participate as active members of the working group team.

Members agree to follow guiding principles for ethical SGBV response programming including never offering any information related to SGBV cases (even hearsay or unconfirmed cases or information) that could lead to the identification of the survivor/victim or alleged perpetrator.<sup>2</sup>

### Leadership

UNHCR and the Office of Prime Minister, Department of Refugees have the overall responsibility and accountability for the coordination of the SGBV programming and serve as the lead-agency. UNHCR and UNFPA will co-chair – the SGBV Sub working group thus will ensure the smooth running of SGBV and support the coordination efforts at field level. The leading Agency, UNHCR will be responsible to:

- Ensure the secretariat of the meeting, including information sharing and the organization of action oriented meetings with the support of the co-chair.

---

<sup>2</sup> Following the principles set out in the UNHCR Guidelines on Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response among Displaced Populations (2003) and including the guidelines for working with survivors of violence: respect, confidentiality, safety and non-discrimination.

- Identify gaps and opportunities for programming.
- Advocate and engage across sectors and with government entities to increase awareness of and strategic response to SGBV issues and concerns;
- Work with other sectors to effectively mainstream prevention and response to SGBV in their programming, and to mitigate risks
- Ensure close and effective collaboration with members and leadership of other working groups by encouraging participation, promoting coordination and information sharing among key actors.
- Provide strategic and technical support to partners.

#### Roles and Responsibilities of the Secretariat

- Co-ordinate with the leadership on SGBV meetings
- Plan, organize and invite members for the SGBV sub working group.
- Take minutes and share with the members of the SGBV sub working group.

#### Meetings

The South West SGBV working group shall meet bi-monthly at the sitting of the regional Protection working group in South West.

The SGBV sub working group in the settlements and Transit centers will meet at least every month with the exception during emergency response situation where the working group will be meeting on a weekly basis and / or as need arises. The schedules of the meetings shall vary in each location within their calendars.

The minutes of each location of the SGBV Working group shall be circulated within five days after the meeting during non-emergency situations.

#### Linkages with other working groups

The SGBV sub working group will establish and maintain close links with other working group at both the Regional and field level operations (CPSWG, Education WG) and work closely with the SGBV National working group in Kampala. In addition to its responsibility to address specific protection concerns related to GBV, the SGBV coordination mechanism will work with other sectors to ensure that SGBV prevention and response activities are integrated into sector strategies, work plans, programming, etc, as per the IASC GBV Guidelines. In this way, the GBV coordination mechanism can provide technical and other assistance to sectors in meeting their GBV-related responsibilities and can facilitate coordination of **multi-sectoral** GBV activities to ensure that all sectors are working as collaboratively and efficiently as possible with one another and with the GBV coordination mechanism.

#### Reporting

The SGBV sub working group in the settlements and transit centre shall share their minutes with the UNHCR South west SGBV focal point and all members in their respective locations.

Through the SW SGBV focal point the SGBV sub working group shall update the Protection working group at each sitting.

#### Amendments

The TOR will be reviewed once a year. However, the South west Sub sector Working Group TOR is a working document and may be altered by agreement of the majority of the members.

*Last revised on: 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018*