

Priority Life-Saving Actions:

For Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response in Gaza



Follow your organization's safety and security measures/instructions at all times before helping others. While the current conditions are severely constraining the provision of GBV response on the ground, preparations can be undertaken for a quick and coordinated gender-based violence (GBV) response once communication lines re-open and services can be resumed.

The following life-saving interventions should be prioritized as soon as possible by GBV service providers operational in Gaza to ensure GBV survivors and those at risk of violence have access to essential services and goods such as medical care, psychosocial support, safety, protection and feminine hygiene products.

Update and disseminate referral pathways



- For GBV Partners operational in Gaza: Join the GBV Response in Gaza Whatsapp group by scanning the QR code or sending a message to the GBV Coordinator (+972 54-662-9927), sharing your name, organization and type of services provided in Gaza. Please share with other GBV service providers in Gaza.
- As soon as communication lines re-open, call or visit the service providers in the affected areas; confirm status of essential service provision both in-person and remotely; confirm whether service providers feel safe doing their jobs; update the referral pathways based on the information received.
- Disseminate the updated referral pathway and the GBV Pocket Guide widely to communities, PSEA networks, other clusters etc. through multiple mediums such as sms, email, and radio. Engage as a priority with Shelter, WASH and Food Security clusters.

FOCUS ON HEALTH

At the very least, ensure GBV survivors can access life-saving medical treatment. Identify functioning health centers where survivors can go to receive treatment for GBV. Ensure these health centers have the appropriate staff and medical supplies and are trained to provide treatment for GBV survivors, including PEP, emergency contraception, antibiotics etc., or can transfer to hospitals with trained staff.

If a life-saving service has been "suspended," ask the provider what support is needed to maintain it (e.g. closure of a women and girls safe space) and/or if they have explored alternative methods of delivery.

Provide dignity kits

- Ensure women and girls have access to life-saving dignity and hygiene items to maintain basic hygiene, facilitate their movement, and to mitigate the risk of women and girls from adopting harmful coping strategies to obtain these essential items.
- Identify/map existing stocks in Gaza and at entry gates (Rafah) through GBV AoR partners. If there are no stocks, identify the items most needed by women and girls (eg. feminine hygiene products) and

explore whether they can be procured locally. If not, contact the national GBV Coordinator (Yuri Kajita, kajita@unfpa.org).

- Identify possible access/entry points for distribution of dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls in Gaza; consider collaborating with other clusters such as NFI, health, and WASH and other key humanitarian responders including ICRC, UNRWA, OCHA and the Red Cross.

Do no harm in the dissemination of supplies

- Ensure risk mitigation measures and coordinate with partners to avoid causing harm during dissemination. Ensure that partners distributing supplies and who are in-contact with affected populations are aware of SEA zero-tolerance policies; disseminate key messages on SEA; and understand reporting requirements and channels. As soon as possible, establish or reestablish community-based complaints and feedback mechanisms

Share information about humanitarian assistance and GBV services

- Ensure that women and girls, especially those belonging to marginalized groups (eg. adolescents, elderly and disabled) know where to go to access humanitarian assistance (eg. food distribution sites) as well as essential GBV services such as health, psychosocial support and safe spaces.
- Identify front-line staff and mobile outreach workers from NFI, WASH, Health and other sectors; prioritize those that have attended PFA training; share information on available GBV services and the GBV Pocket Guide so that they can safely disseminate it during their activities.
- Use all available communication lines; consider radio outreach.

Facilitate psychological first aid (PFA) training

- Facilitate psychological first aid (PFA) training (2-3 hours max) to inter-sectoral front-line NGO and government staff who are staying in the affected areas or are deployed there; include sessions on the GBV Pocket Guide with specific attention given to safe and ethical referral of GBV survivors.
- Prioritize front-line health staff at health facilities are most likely the first formal entry point to provide care for survivors of GBV.

Disseminate risk mitigation messages to other sectors

- Engage with other sectors to mitigate GBV risks; prioritize engagement with NFI, Shelter, Food and WASH clusters
- Share the following resources with partners: [GBV risk mitigation messages](#), GBV referral pathways and the GBV Pocket Guide (available in [English](#) and [Arabic](#))

These are a few life-saving activities that should be prioritized at the very onset of the emergency. This is not a comprehensive package of GBV activities. A more comprehensive package of proposed GBV activities is recommended and further guidance will be shared depending on how the crisis develops. This is a living document and updates will be shared accordingly.