

TERMS OF REFERENCE

GBV AoR Policy and Advocacy Reference Group (PARG)

BACKGROUND

The Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), led by UNFPA, is the global level forum for coordinating prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian and other crisis settings. Its members consist of NGOs, UN entities, donors, academics and independent experts. Since 2008, it has been one of four functional components of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC). The GBV AoR works to promote a comprehensive and coordinated approach to GBV at the field level, including prevention, care, support, recovery, and holding perpetrators accountable. The GBV AoR accomplishes this through four key areas of work:

- Supporting field operations
- Building knowledge and capacity
- Setting norms and standards
- Advocating for increased action, research and accountability at global and local levels

POLICY AND ADVOCACY REFERENCE GROUP BACKGROUND

Whilst advocacy is a collective responsibility, there must be one entity who is designated to lead on this element of work and coordinate its organisation, planning, implementation and monitoring. Influencing policy, at multiple levels of the humanitarian architecture is essential, as is influencing the policy and practice of humanitarian actors (inclusive of I/NGOs, IOs, Governments).

The GBV AoR have operated an Advocacy Task Team for many years. As of 2015, the main purpose and focus of the Task Team was completed with the publication of the GBViE Advocacy Handbook. During the lifetime of the Advocacy Task Team, there have been many positive shifts in donor and humanitarian policy and practice. These positive shifts have meant that there has been an increase in focus on GBV in humanitarian contexts. However, there is still more to do to take these policies into practice and ensure prioritisation of GBV response, prevention and mitigation in humanitarian contexts by donors and other humanitarian actors. Further, there is a need to work collaboratively with humanitarian actors and influencers from within the AoR as well as externally in order to develop research and analysis geared towards influencing policy and opinion formers. In order to remain informed and up to date in our thinking, we will share recent pieces of research which are relevant to our member's work and will present opportunities to provide input into papers, development of research designs (driven by field-based need), build partnerships with research institutions and will seek to fund research initiatives which will inform and influence the policy agenda.

Goals

1. To support new and forgotten crises with advocacy training and support in developing advocacy materials and strategies taking into account global, regional, and country level needs;
2. To ensure that humanitarian programming in all emergencies is designed and implemented — across all sectors, through all stages, and by all stakeholders — in a manner which substantially reduces the risk, promotes resilience, and supports lasting solutions to GBV.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The Policy and Advocacy Reference Group will:

1. Rapidly develop an influencing strategy, which will include: identification and prioritisation of policy influencing papers for the GBV AoR membership to address over the next 2-years; analysis of key moments and research/policy development initiatives over the next 2-years; the development of several key 'asks' to be embedded into influencing output over the next 2-years;
2. Update the GBViE Advocacy Handbook in light of recent progress and recent geopolitical and humanitarian paradigm shifts;
3. Link and collaborate with the Call to Action process, and other influencing groups working on similar and related issues in the global North and Global South;
4. Produce 1 joint policy paper per year;
5. Produce advocacy briefs specifically for new L3 emergencies;
6. Hold one face to face meeting per 2-year period.

The task team will meet to discuss each objective to plan how each will be achieved, by whom and by when.

WORKING MODALITIES

The Advocacy and Policy Reference Group will be co-led by ActionAid and CARE until the 2020 annual planning meeting, where this role may be renewed or taken up by another member of the AoR. The chairs will be responsible for convening and facilitating quarterly meetings of the task team and organizing any meetings or events needed to advance the objectives. All activities and meetings will be discussed and agreed on by consensus.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITMENT

Each agency or independent consultant who is part of the task team must participate consistently, or arrange for a fully briefed alternative or back-up. The broader membership of the AoR is responsible for regularly flagging upcoming research initiatives or events, or updating the rest of the members of relevant activities and research findings. Members of the AoR will be encouraged to assign a person with specific advocacy and/or policy expertise to this Reference Group from their respective agencies, although the Reference Group will remain open to all AoR members and representatives of agencies who may wish to meaningfully engage in the work of the group.