

Global Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to GBV in Emergencies: Task Team Terms of Reference (PHASE 3)

Background:

The Minimum Standards Task team supported a two and a half year process to develop *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender Based Violence in Emergencies Programming*. After an assessment and development phase, the *Minimum Standards* was published in November 2019.

This need for Minimum Standards was identified by the September 2014, “Current State of GBV Response Capacity in Humanitarian Settings: A synthesis of information, resources, and opportunities”, coordinated by the GBV Area of Responsibility Learning Tasks Team, and was included as a deliverable in the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Roadmap (Outcome 5)¹. This paper notes that as the spotlight of increased attention has turned to GBV programming, “the gaps in the humanitarian community’s ability to respond are beginning to show. Too often, GBV coordination and programming remain *ad hoc*, poorly staffed and funded, and fail to deliver adequate services for survivors in most settings.” The initiative is also explicitly linked with Outcome 5 of the *Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies*, specifically the indicator 5a on a “set of core GBV services for all crisis phases is established and agreed by Call to Action partners.” Lastly, guidance was available for GBV prevention and risk mitigation across humanitarian action through the *IASC GBV Guidelines* for non-specialized programming and for GBV coordination through the *Coordination Handbook*; through *this* Task Team, a niche was filled for minimum standards for agencies/actors who wish to implement specialized GBV programming.

GBV Minimum Standards Task Team:

The Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) is one of four AoRs that are part of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC). As part of GBV AoR’s mandate to provide guidance on prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies, the Task Team coordinated a process to develop global inter-agency minimum standards for a specialized core program package to prevent and respond to GBViE. Although the AoR does not cover refugee settings, key considerations for specialized GBV programming in refugee settings are integrated within the document.

The overall goal of interagency Minimum Standards is to enhance accountability among GBV specialists and ensure program consistency, set a minimum threshold for quality, and provide clarity on what constitutes effective GBV prevention and response in volatile and rapidly changing humanitarian contexts. In the spirit of the Grand Bargain’s commitment to make principled humanitarian action as local as possible, such an endeavor will build the institutional capacities of local partners on the frontlines while supporting collective accountability to global standards. When programming is aligned to the set of agreed upon Standards, programmes will ultimately support:

- Survivors of GBV safely accessing survivor-centered services;
- The prioritization of the safety of women and girls;
- Reducing the risk of GBV faced by persons in humanitarian settings, particularly women & girls.

¹ Outcome 5. Specialized GBV prevention and response services are implemented in each phase of an emergency, from preparedness and crisis onset through transition to development. Outcome 5.1 Establish a package of core GBV services for specialized GBV prevention and response to be undertaken during each phase of an emergency. <http://gbvaor.net/call-to-action/>

This ToR outlines the role of the existing GBV AoR MS Task Team as the focus moves to supporting and guiding the roll out and uptake of the Minimum Standards. The GBV Minimum Standards roll out will equip a diverse range of actors implementing specialized GBV programming in humanitarian settings with an understanding of the Standards' content and how to apply the content in their setting without doing harm.

The *Minimum Standards* is intended for actors and agencies implementing (or interested in beginning to implement) GBV-specialized programming and these actors will be targeted in roll out activities. The objectives of the roll-out are for GBV actors to:

- Gain an applied understanding of the Minimum Standards;
- Feel confident in taking appropriate action to achieve the Minimum Standards in the settings where they work;
- Monitor the extent to which they are collectively achieving the Minimum Standards.

Task Team Purpose:

The objectives of the Task Team include:

- 1 To outline a set of roll out activities which can effectively reach GBV actors over the next 2 years;
- 2 To advocate for funding from potential donors to prioritise funding for the agreed upon roll-out activities;
- 3 To advise (make decisions, provide recommendations and support) the process of rolling out the Minimum Standards;
- 4 To take the lead on rolling out the Minimum Standards within their own organizations, with a particular focus on uptake within organizations in humanitarian contexts and at the policy level;
- 5 To promote the roll out of the Minimum Standards at the humanitarian response level in a way that engages new local actors, particularly women-led organizations;
- 6 To facilitate ongoing learning around the Standards, including development of an M&E framework which can be used to monitor achievement of quality GBV programming according to the standards;

Duties and Responsibilities of the Minimum Standards Task Team:

Task Team Members will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Contribute to roll out of the Minimum Standards
- Engage in substantive discussion and provide feedback on roll out products, planning and training/contextualization methodology
- Participate in monthly /bi-monthly conference telecons
- Review criteria for any country workshop location(s) selection for prioritized roll out
- Support country level responses to roll out the Minimum Standards, including by promoting interagency and GBV WG led MS roll out activities for uptake in various contexts.
- Provide feedback to the task team on roll out activities and needed resources

Task Team Membership Criteria:

The Task Team includes representatives from agencies with specialized GBV programming and expertise.

Furthermore, Task Team members need to be appropriately positioned within their organization to meet the roles and responsibilities of the Task Team, regarding influencing decision makers and colleagues within their own agencies and representing their organization. In addition, individual consultants and experts can be called upon to join Task team meetings as necessary or beneficial to advise on specific issues. All AoR members will be periodically updated on progress.

Task Team Members
UNFPA (Co-Chair and Facilitator)
UNICEF (CO-CHAIR)
IRC (CO-CHAIR)
UNHCR
Mercy Corps
GBV Guidelines Ref Group
The Global Women's Institute at GWU
IOM
Raising Voices
Irish Consortium on GBV
IMC
WHO
GBV AOR