

# Guidance to Gender-Based Violence Coordinators

Addressing the Needs of Male  
Survivors of Sexual Violence in  
GBV Coordination

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# Purpose and Use

## Purpose

This guidance note does not dictate an approach, rather it acknowledges the practical needs of GBV coordinators working in crisis affected contexts for information and provides a summary of available evidence and optional considerations for addressing the needs of male survivors of sexual violence within the core functions of coordination.

## Who is the Guidance Note for?

The guidance note is written for GBV coordinators working in humanitarian contexts under the GBVAoR

## Using the Guidance Note

This guidance note is intended to guide GBV coordinators in addressing sexual violence against men and boys. It is designed to ensure male survivors have access to support services without impacting the specific needs of women and girls.

# Disclosures and Help-Seeking

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When men and boys do disclose their experiences of sexual violence, they often disclose in different ways to women and girls. Typically, men and boys choose to prefer to seek help from non GBV specific services.

## The needs and diversity of male survivors

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Men and boys who are at particular risk of sexual violence by other men include men and boys with disabilities, young boys, adolescent boys, older men, men and boys with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), and men and boys from ethnic and religious minorities. Other forms of discrimination that lead to increased risk of sexual violence and sexual exploitation for men and boys include discrimination based on socioeconomic status, birth country and legal status, including asylum status.

## Potential Points of disclosure for male survivors<sup>18</sup>

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Adult males</b>
Family members including siblings	Health centres or hospitals
Friends	Services for torture survivors
Health centres or hospitals	Help-lines
Teachers	MHPSS services (Non GBV Specific)
Care-givers	Community awareness raising sessions on GBV
Reintegration services for children associated with armed forces and groups	Demobilization Disarmament Reintegration programs for former combatants
Child friendly spaces	Detention monitoring/ upon release from detention
Child help-lines	Community centres
Child protection case workers	LGBTIQ+/Diverse SOGIESC support services (*survivors of diverse SOGIESC)
Community centres and recreational services	Legal aid clinics
Youth centres/ youth programs	

# Including the Needs of Male Survivors in GBV Coordination

- **Risk Factors and Safety Considerations**
- **Collaboration and Partnerships**
- **Needs Assessments**
- **Service mapping and referral pathways**
- **Standard Operating Procedures**

# Risk Factors and Safety Considerations for Supporting Male Survivors

- Criminalisation of same-sex relations and lack of legal protection for male survivors
- Discrimination and violence against persons of diverse sexual orientation gender identity, expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)
- The need to preserve female-only spaces and services

# Service Mapping and Referral pathways:

- **Protocols should be in place for referring the case to a service provider with appropriate service entry points for men and/or boys.**
- Dedicated or specialised services for male survivors of sexual violence may not be available, however there may be services that are appropriate and accessible for male survivors such as clinical management of rape and sexual assault services available in health centres and hospitals.
- **There may be other non-GBV specialised actors that are providing services to male sexual violence survivors-** such as MHPSS services, services geared to torture survivors, or services for reintegration after forced recruitment that could be appropriate for referrals.

# Standard Operating Procedures

- In many contexts, **the response to male survivors of sexual violence may be delivered entirely by non GBV actors-there is still the need to include information on this in GBV SoPs** and to ensure GBV service providers understand where they can refer male survivors for safe, appropriate and quality support.
- Review existing **protocols and procedures that include specific information on male survivors, such as CMR protocols and reflect this within SoPs**, either within the main text or as an annex.
- Include **information on any partnerships with other humanitarian actors for support to male survivors of sexual violence and referral options**, such as the division of responsibilities or arrangements with CP for boy survivors of sexual violence.



# Information for Coordinators in Supporting GBV Service Delivery

- Work-force Considerations: Male survivors of sexual violence will have varied and individual preferences
- Men/boy survivors may not identify as a survivor.
- Ensuring that Clinical Management of Rape and sexual assault services are accessible and meet the needs of male survivors-both men and boys
- Location of services: Consult with key informants from the target community to identify a location that adult male sexual violence survivors can safely and routinely access without arousing suspicion or drawing attention to themselves.
- Access to Justice- criminalisation, legal definition, Military justice systems
- Help-lines: Training and sensitisation of help-line operators
- Public information and communications: