

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUB WORKING GROUP- JORDAN CROSS BORDER TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Background

GBV coordination started in the Amman hub in 2015, embedded in the protection coordination structure. Ad hoc meetings were organized and chaired by UNFPA to discuss specific GBV issues. Coordination of GBV service provision has emerged as an urgent need by the Jordan hub operations into Syria in the last year, especially as GBV service coverage increases and services become more multi-faceted. Against this backdrop, GBV partners recognized the need to establish SOPs to guide GBV operations from the Jordan hub. This was supported through the formation of a GBV Reference Group in July 2017, which aimed to develop and follow up on the implementation of the aforementioned SOPs, thus ensuring proper utilization and adherence to GBV minimum standards. The GBV Reference Group has since broadened its role to focus on co-ordination, technical support to partners, advocacy and mainstreaming of GBV minimum standards.

This Terms of Reference (TOR) enlarge the scope of the group and describes the goal and main functions of the GBV sub working group (SWG). The group changed name from reference group to sub-working group to mark this passage to a wider scope. This TOR was developed and endorsed in April 2018, and will be revised after six months. The GBV SWG is a sub-group of the Jordan Protection working group, and its ToRs are established within the framework of the ToRs for the Protection working group.

The GBV SWG adopted the definition contained in the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. *Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females.* GBV includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. Acts of GBV violate a number of universal human rights protected by international instruments and conventions. Many—but not all—forms of GBV are criminal acts in national laws and policies; this differs from country to country, and the practical implementation of laws and policies can vary widely.

### 2. Key Responsibilities of the GBV Sub Working Group

The GBV SWG is a coordinating body with the objective to reduce risks and mitigate consequences of GBV experienced by women and girls in South Syria. The term 'GBV' is most commonly used to underscore how systemic inequality between males and females—which exists in every society in the world—acts as a unifying and foundational characteristic of most forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls. Because GBV happens more to women and girls the group will focus on this category but will also work to ensure male engagement in prevention activities and access of men and boys to GBV specialized services when needed and other protection services.

GBV sWG works to facilitate multi-sectoral, inter-agency action aimed to prevent GBV, and to ensure a principled approach to the provision of accessible, prompt, and survivor-centered services to survivors of GBV. The GBV SWG focuses on populations affected by the armed conflict in South Syria reachable through cross-border operations from Jordan.

The GBV SWG develops and implements the GBV components of the broader protection strategy, as reflected in the Whole of Syria Response Plan (HRP), and ensures, in coordination with the Protection working group and Whole of Syria GBV AoR, the integration of GBV prevention,

mitigation and response in the multi-sectoral humanitarian response.

Specific Objectives, in line with core functions of GBV coordination bodies<sup>1</sup>, are as follows:

1. *Developing information systems, strategy and guidance for coordination*
  - Promote ethical data collection and best practices for GBV in emergencies;
  - Enhance accountable, predictable, timely and effective GBV prevention and response activities and programs in accordance with the priorities and principles identified in the HRP;
  - Ensure regular monthly coordination meetings are held, minuted and all minutes are shared in a timely fashion;
  - Maintain updated information- and tools- shared folders (online drop box), and on the humanitarian response website;
  - Develop, and regularly update, the GBV SWG Work Plan, in line with the WoS GBV framework, identifying priority areas, key activities, time frames and designation of responsibilities;
  - Mapping and ongoing monitoring of the 4Ws in all of the key areas related to GBV prevention and response activities in accordance with the information sharing protocol of the Protection working group and reporting requirements of the WoS GBV AoR;
  - Coordinate GBV SWG members' inputs for reporting under the WoS HRP and other processes.
2. *Making appeals for GBV funding*
  - Engage in collaborative resource mobilization initiatives at sectoral and inter-sectoral levels;
  - Advocate with and mobilize donors to fund GBV and women's empowerment initiatives;
  - Advocate for Humanitarian pooled funding to include GBV, engage in priority setting and allocation;
  - Determine GBV sector funding requirements to input to inter-sectoral response planning documents, including the HRP.
3. *Conducting advocacy*
  - Develop common advocacy messages for key GBV concerns and undertake advocacy activities to support prevention and response;
  - Feed into WoS Protection advocacy messages;
  - Work with other sectors to ensure that GBV risk prevention considerations, including cross-cutting issues, guide all aspects of the humanitarian response operations for Syria from Jordan;
  - Ensure that the humanitarian community, CBTF and HC, is kept abreast of GBV and protection issues and concerns through standard and ad hoc reporting on major protection concerns in South Syria.
4. *Mainstreaming GBV across other sectors*
  - Lead cross-sector contextualization of the GBV Guidelines in order to promote context specific understanding of GBV risks and priorities for action;
  - Foster coordination on joint programming responses across WGs/sectors to ensure a comprehensive response to GBV;
  - Act as expert advisers to any WG/sector or agency developing policies to prevent, mitigate and—for some WGs/sectors—respond to GBV as part of humanitarian action;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://gbvaor.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Handbook-for-coordinating-GBV-Interventions-in-Humanitarian-Settings-2010.pdf>

- Lead on training on the Guidelines and hold orientations with key decision makers;
  - Collect and keep updated information on local GBV response capacities and referral pathways and share this proactively with all WGs/sectors and key decision makers so that they can refer any survivors to the appropriate channels of support/response;
  - Conduct regular monitoring of the Guidelines' implementation during the response, and regularly share results in inter-WG/sector forums and meetings with donors and other key stakeholders;
  - Contribute to the development of WoS risk mitigation strategy and approach, and support advocacy and resource mobilization efforts.
5. *Support development and dissemination of SOPs*
- Develop, implement and monitor SOPs for all actors involved in GBV response in collaboration with Protection and Child Protection working groups;
  - Contribute to existing mapping and Conducting specific mapping of services and support mechanisms for survivors of GBV;
  - Develop, implement and monitor the referral pathways per area to reinforce the referral system's focus on providing prompt and appropriate services to GBV survivors.
6. *Building capacity of GBV partners*
- Conduct trainings and workshops on GBV prevention and response activities for members of the GBV SWG and other relevant protection partners;
  - Support the capacity building of relevant stakeholders and service providers, especially health services providers;
  - Support capacity building in preparedness and contingency planning;
  - Identify good practices, guidelines and tools, including monitoring and evaluation indicators, and ensure timely dissemination amongst members;
  - Work with partners to develop and/or revise resources and materials according to best practices and local context and implement relevant joint training sessions;
  - Working individually with partners on key issues, including having them 'shadow' experts where learning opportunities exist.
7. *Developing information, education and communication materials*
- Support the development of shared information, education, and communication materials;
  - Work with media and disseminate existing guidance on dealing with media for ethical GBV reporting and support partners as requested.
8. *Conducting assessment, data collection and monitoring*
- Promote ethical data collection and best practices for GBV in emergencies;
  - Lead yearly data collection on trends emerging in the Humanitarian Needs Overview;
  - Review and consolidate existing assessments on the GBV/protection situation and/or work with relevant humanitarian agencies, IDP and host communities to conduct participatory assessments on GBV/protection;
  - Promote assessment and roll out of information management systems at service level;
  - Mindful that GBV-related data may be sensitive, disseminate reports to stakeholders regarding the GBV situation and the response in accordance with the information sharing protocol detailed in the GBV SOPs.

### 3. PRINCIPLES

The GBV SWG will undertake its activities within a framework which promotes action based on gender analysis, participation, transparency, partnership, and survivor-centered principles. In line with the Protection working group (Jordan Hub), members of the GBV SWG are guided by the Protection Principles contained in the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response. Namely:

- **Do No Harm:** avoid exposing people to further harm as a result of your actions;
- **Impartiality:** ensure people's access to impartial assistance - in proportion to need and without discrimination;
- **Participatory approach:** ensuring, to the extent possible, consultation with all members of the community (women, girls, boys and men) in GBV activities/ programmes. Participation will be encouraged also at coordination level ensuring representation of local NGOs and CBOs, and promoting participation from the field when security and connection allows;
- **Neutrality:** a non-partisan approach in providing services to survivors - not taking sides.

The work of the GBV SWG will also be guided by the following principles:

- **Confidentiality:** No identifying information will be revealed in data resources, nor during discussions in coordination and other meetings, when reference is made to specific GBV cases. In GBV SWG meetings, we do not discuss single cases. Measures will be promoted and disseminated to ensure partners abide to the principle of confidentiality. Survivors have the right to decide with whom they share information and informed consent must be obtained for service provision;
- **Safety:** all actors will prioritize the safety of the survivor, beneficiary, family, witnesses and service providers at all times. At coordination level, we will ensure coordination prioritizes the safety and security of GBV service providers, survivors and beneficiaries;
- **Respect:** actions and responses of all actors will be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and the dignity of the survivor and beneficiary;
- **Non-discrimination:** non-discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, religion, political views, sexual orientation, social or other status. The GBV SWG will promote tailored programming for the most vulnerable groups to ensure we promote survivor-centred services that are accessible for all across status, background, age and disability.

### 4. STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP

The GBV SWG will ensure strategic linkages and work in partnership with the Protection working group in line with global AoR. The group will also liaise with other relevant coordination mechanisms within the cross border operations into Syria managed from Jordan.

#### **Leadership**

The GBV SWG will be chaired by UNFPA, with Relief International as Co-Chair. Selection of co-chair is based on length of experience in provision of GBV services with the Jordan GBV hub operations into Syria, interest, availability and human and financial resources to cover coordination costs. The position of co-chair shall be reviewed periodically at the be-quest of group members and conditional to the respect of aforementioned parameters and consensus from the group.

Core responsibilities of the chair and co-chair include:

- Chairing monthly meetings and ensuring that appropriate stakeholders are continuously engaged in the implementation of the SOPs;



- Regularly sharing minutes and documents with the GBV SWG members and the Protection working group;
- Overseeing implementation of the GBV SWG Work plan, including organization of capacity building activities;
- Representing the GBV SWG in inter-sectoral forums, and actively liaising with GBV coordinators in other hubs. Ensuring a Protection and CP focal point are part of the GBV SWG and are included in the mailing list and consulted on strategic decisions. Ensuring representation at relevant sector meetings and other humanitarian coordination fora.

The GBV SWG is part of the Protection WG as well as of the Whole of Syria Coordinating System. The GBV SWG is represented at the inter-sector working group by the GBV coordinators and at the Cross Border Task Force by UNFPA. The Protection working group will coordinate with the GBV SWG in relation to the information management function.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP

Members of the GBV SWG group are UN agencies, international and national NGOs (Syrian and Jordanian) and international organizations involved in the provision of GBV services. This includes PSS and health actors and organizations focused on women’s empowerment and community protection approaches to address GBV. Members operate in areas reachable through cross border operations from Jordan into South Syria, in Dara, Quneitra and Eastern Ghuta. Humanitarian actors providing legal and security services to survivors in the framework of the multi-sectorial response to GBV are eligible to be members. Organizations are encouraged to be represented by technical staff. Members of the GBV SWG are members of the Protection working group.

Non-members may be invited to attend GBV SWG meetings (to present specific agenda items and/or as observers) on an ad hoc basis upon invitation by the Co-Chairing Agencies after consultation with the GBV SWG Group members.

Members commit to:

- Attend and actively participate in GBV SWG meetings on a regular basis;
- Submit the GBV 4ws on a monthly basis;
- Actively participate in the GBV SWG coordination, including supporting the development and implementation of the work plan and SOPs;
- Provide inputs into interagency tools and resources produced by the GBV SWG, according to area of expertise, mandate and interest. Lead on specific developments in coordination with the group;
- Participate and engage in GBV sub-sector response planning and implementation;
- Uphold, use and actively promote agreed principles, standards and tools with staff and partners;
- Follow guiding principles for ethical GBV programming including never offering any information related to GBV cases (even anecdotal or unconfirmed cases or information) that could lead to the identification of the survivor or alleged perpetrator.

Coordination meetings will be held on a monthly basis. If security allows, quarterly participation of field staff will be encouraged, using remote programming mechanisms – skype, zoom etc. Ad hoc meetings may be called by the Chairs or at the request of other members of the SWG when it is considered necessary to address an issue of urgent matter, as well as task forces which may be created for specific tasks.

For any information, contact the co-chairs

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