

Addressing Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Action

unicef 
for every child



Defining Gender Based Violence

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is an **umbrella term**
- Any harmful act that is perpetrated against a **person's will**
- Based on **socially ascribed** (i.e. gender) differences between males and females.
- It includes 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**.

Principles of the Humanitarian Charter

The principles of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter recognize the following rights of all people affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies

- **The right to life with dignity**
- The right to receive humanitarian assistance, including **protection from violence**
- The right to **protection and security**

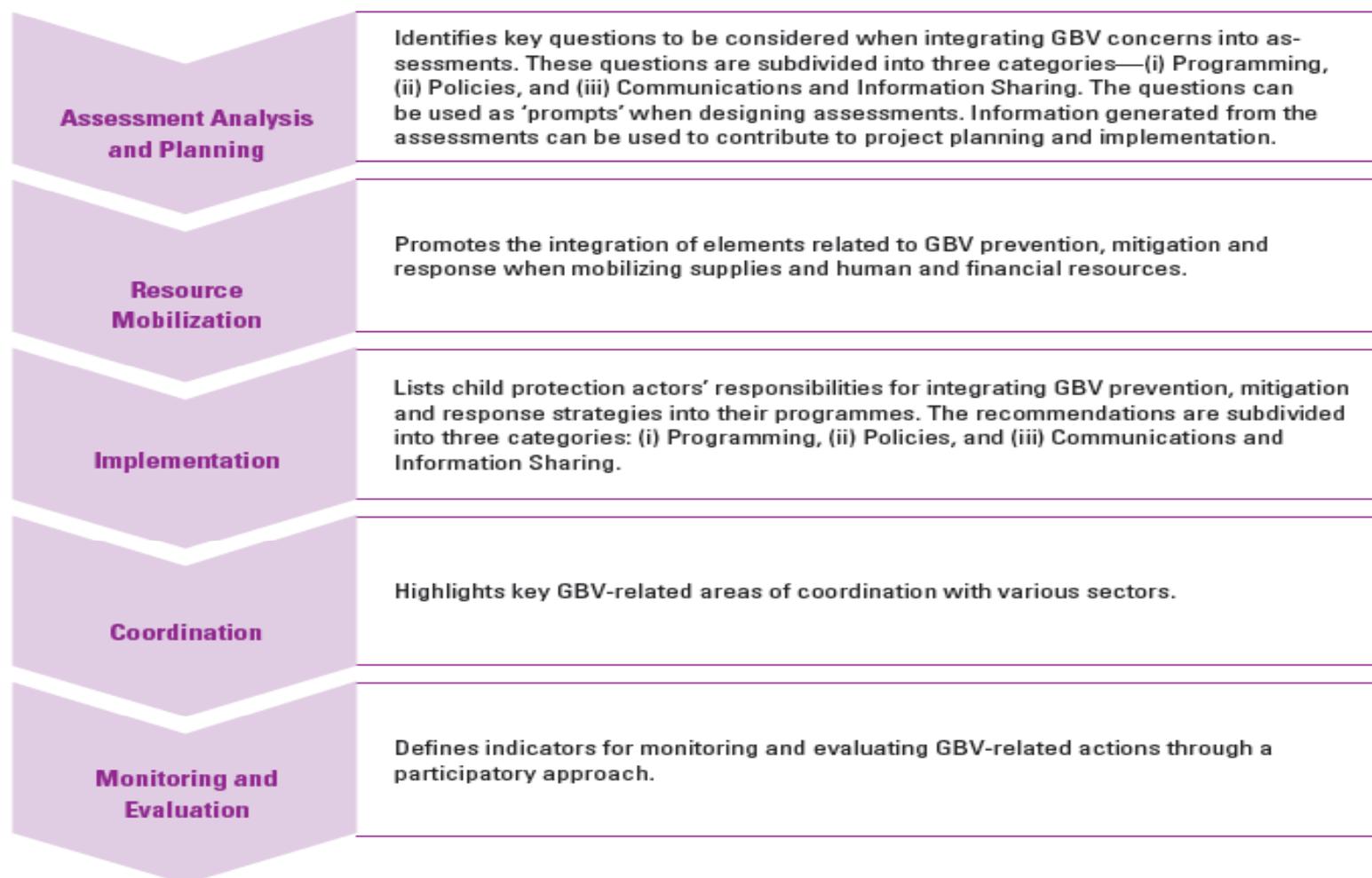
Guidance note 16

Women and girls can be at particular risk of gender-based violence.

Guiding Principles

- GBV encompasses a wide range of human rights violations.
- Preventing and mitigating GBV involves promoting gender equality and promoting beliefs and norms that foster respectful, non-violent gender norms.
- Safety, respect, confidentiality and non-discrimination in relation to survivors and those at risk are vital considerations at all times.
- GBV-related interventions should be context-specific in order to enhance outcomes and 'do no harm'.
- Participation and partnership are cornerstones of effective GBV prevention.

GBV Response Programme Cycle Framework



Element 1: Assessment, Analysis and Planning

Who to Assess

- Key stakeholders and actors providing services in the community
- GBV, gender and diversity specialists
- Males and females of all ages and backgrounds of the affected community, particularly women, girls and other at-risk groups
- Community leaders
- Community-based organizations (*e.g. organizations for women, adolescents/youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, etc.*)
- Representatives of humanitarian response sectors
- Local and national governments
- Members of receptor/host communities in IDP/refugee settings

Element 1: Assessment, Analysis and Planning

When to Assess

- At the outset of programme planning
- At regular intervals for monitoring purposes
- During ongoing safety and security monitoring

How to Assess

- Review available secondary data (existing assessments/studies; qualitative and quantitative information; IDP/refugee registration data; etc.);
- Conduct regular consultations with key stakeholders, including relevant grass-roots organizations, civil societies and government agencies
- Carry out key informant interviews
- Conduct focus group discussions with community members that are age-, gender-, and culturally appropriate (*e.g. participatory assessments held in consultation with men, women, girls and boys, separately when necessary*)
- Carry out site observation
- Perform site safety mapping
- Conduct analysis of national legal frameworks related to GBV and whether they provide protection to women, girls and other at-risk groups

Element 2: Resource Mobilization

- Recognizing GBV Prevention and Response as Life-Saving
- Addressing GBV is considered life-saving and meets multiple humanitarian donor guidelines and criteria, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Element 3: Implementation

- Establish shared standards and improve the overall quality of GBV-related **prevention** and **mitigation** and response services
- Establish GBV-related responsibilities that should be undertaken by all child protection actors, regardless of available data on GBV incidents.
- Maximize immediate protection of GBV survivors and persons at risk. Foster longer-term interventions that work towards the elimination of GBV.

3Ls During the Implementation

LOOK

- Check for safety.
- Check for people with obvious urgent basic needs.
- Check for people with serious distress reactions.



LISTEN

- Approach people who may need support.
- Ask about people's needs and concerns.
- Listen to people, and help them to feel calm.



LINK

- Help people address basic needs and access services.
- Help people cope with problems.
- Give information.
- Connect people with loved ones and social support.



Element 4: Coordination

- GBV is best addressed when multiple sectors, organizations and disciplines work together to create and implement unified prevention and mitigation strategies.
- Put in place mechanisms for regularly addressing GBV at child protection coordination meetings, such as including GBV issues as a regular agenda item and soliciting the involvement of GBV specialists in relevant child protection coordination activities.

Element 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

GBV Case Reporting

For a number of safety, ethical and practical reasons, **this TAG does not recommend using the number of reported cases (either increase or decrease) as an indicator of success.** As a general rule, GBV specialists or those trained on GBV research should undertake data collection on cases of GBV.

It is the responsibility of all child protection actors to ensure safety, confidentiality and informed consent when collecting or sharing data

Four essential and interrelated approaches

1. Human Rights-Based Approach
2. Survivor-Centered Approach
3. Community-Based Approach
4. Systems Approach

Survivor-Centred Approach

To be treated with
dignity and respect

To choose

To privacy and confidentiality

To non-discrimination

To information

VS.

Victim-blaming attitudes

Feeling powerless

Shame and stigma

Discrimination on the basis
of gender, ethnicity, etc.

Being told what to do

(Excerpted from GBV AoR. 2010. *GBV Coordination Handbook* (provisional edition), p. 20, <www.gbvguidelines.org/tools-resources>)

Reference materials for GBV

Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action .

Sphere Handbook and Humanitarian Charter