

Minimum Standards

for Prevention and Response to
Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies



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Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS v

FOREWORDvi

LIST OF ACRONYMSvii

INTRODUCTION.....ix

PART ONE FOUNDATIONAL STANDARDS

1. PARTICIPATION 2

STANDARD: Communities, including women and girls, are engaged as active partners to end GBV and to promote survivors’ access to services..... 2

 1. Ensuring the participation of women and girls 4

 2. Engaging men and boys 5

 3. Ensuring the participation of marginalized groups..... 5

2. NATIONAL SYSTEMS 8

STANDARD: Actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in emergencies strengthen national systems and build local capacities. 8

 1. Working with national systems 10

3. SOCIAL & GENDER NORMS 12

STANDARD: Emergency preparedness, prevention and response programming promotes positive social and gender norms to address GBV..... 12

 1. Behaviour change communication 13

4. COLLECTING & USING DATA 16

STANDARD: Quality, disaggregated, gender-sensitive data on the nature and scope of GBV and on the availability and accessibility of services informs programming, policy and advocacy. 16

 1. Data collectors in humanitarian contexts 19

 2. Using the GBVIMS 19

 3. National and non-GBVIMS data systems 20

5. HEALTHCARE	24
STANDARD: GBV survivors, including women, girls, boys and men, access quality, life-saving healthcare services, with an emphasis on clinical management of rape.	24
1. Clinical management of rape.....	25
2. Minimum Initial Services Package.....	26
3. Specialized health care services for survivors	27
6. MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT	30
STANDARD: GBV survivors access quality mental health and psychosocial support focused on healing, empowerment and recovery.	30
1. Mental health and psychosocial support: programme approaches	32
2. Safe spaces	33
7. SAFETY & SECURITY	36
STANDARD: Safety and security measures are in place to prevent and mitigate GBV and protect survivors.	36
1. Safety audits.....	38
8. JUSTICE & LEGAL AID	41
STANDARD: The legal and justice sectors protect survivors' rights and support their access to justice consistent with international standards	41
1. Legal aid services	43
2. Working with informal justice mechanisms	43
9. DIGNITY KITS	46
STANDARD: Culturally relevant dignity kits are distributed to affected populations to reduce vulnerability and connect women and girls to information and support services.	46
1. Tailoring dignity kits to the humanitarian context	48
10. SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	50
STANDARD: Women and adolescent girls access livelihood support to mitigate the risk of GBV, and survivors access socio-economic support as part of a multi-sector response.....	50
1. Livelihoods programming in emergencies	51
11. REFERRAL SYSTEMS	54
STANDARD: Referral systems are in place to connect women, girls and other at-risk groups to appropriate multi-sector GBV prevention and response services in a timely and safe manner.	54
1. Establishing GBV referral systems in emergencies	56
2. Case management	56
12. MAINSTREAMING	58
STANDARD: GBV risk mitigation and survivor support are integrated across humanitarian sectors at every stage of the programme cycle and throughout the emergency response.	58
1. Integrating GBV in humanitarian action.....	59

PART THREE COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

13. PREPAREDNESS & ASSESSMENT	62
STANDARD: Potential GBV risks and vulnerable groups are identified through quality, gender-sensitive assessments and risk mitigation measures are put in place before the onset of an emergency.....	62
1. Gender-sensitive participatory assessments.....	64
2. Addressing the link between disaster risk reduction and GBV	65
14. COORDINATION	68
STANDARD: Coordination results in effective action to mitigate and prevent GBV and promote survivors’ access to multi-sector services.	68
1. Humanitarian coordination.....	69
2. Humanitarian reform: The Transformative Agenda and the Cluster Approach.....	69
3. The GBV Area of Responsibility	70
4. The provider of last resort	70
15. ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS	72
STANDARD: Coordinated advocacy and communications lead to increased funding and changes in policies and practice that mitigate the risk of GBV, promote resilience of women and girls and encourage a protective environment for all.	72
1. Advocacy strategies	73
2. Working with the media	74
3. UNFPA Communications Protocol.....	74
16. MONITORING & EVALUATION	76
STANDARD: Objective information collected ethically and safely is used to improve the quality and accountability of GBV programmes.	76
1. Monitoring GBV programmes: approaches and principles	76
17. HUMAN RESOURCES	79
STANDARD: Qualified, competent and skilled staff are rapidly recruited and deployed to design, coordinate and/or implement programmes to prevent and respond to GBV in emergencies.....	79
1. Supporting staff performance by encouraging self-care and safety.....	80
2. Competencies for GBV staff working in humanitarian contexts	82
3. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	82
18. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION	84
STANDARD: Dedicated financial resources are mobilized in a timely manner to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV in emergencies.	84
1. Funding strategies.....	85

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Foreword

Gender-based violence is a life-threatening, global health and human rights issue that violates international human rights law and principles of gender equality. It is also a threat to lasting peace and an affront to our common humanity. United Nations Member States have called for urgent action to end GBV in emergencies, recognizing that in crises, the risk of GBV is heightened, particularly for women and adolescent girls.

As a strategic priority, UNFPA is committed to scaling up our humanitarian response and enhancing our efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. These Minimum Standards will help us deliver on this strategic objective – providing clear and unambiguous guidance for UNFPA staff and partners on how to prevent gender-based violence in emergencies, and facilitate access to multi-sector response services for survivors. These Standards provide concrete actions that can be contextualized across all emergency situations where UNFPA operates, including situations of conflict and natural disasters.

The Minimum Standards comprise a set of 18 inter-connected standards that draw upon UNFPA's *comparative advantage* and *global expertise* and are based on international best practice. The Standards speak to UNFPA's mandate to coordinate GBV prevention and response in emergencies as co-lead with UNICEF of the Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster. Working in coordination with other UN agencies and international organizations, UNFPA can support national authorities and partners to build and strengthen existing health and protection systems. Contained in the Standards are tools to address the bottlenecks that prevent the prioritization of GBV prevention and response in emergencies, and guidance on working in partnership with survivors and members of the crisis-affected population to build individual and community resilience.

I urge all UNFPA staff to apply the 18 Minimum Standards in all humanitarian contexts and in all crisis preparedness efforts. Together we must ensure that action to prevent and respond to gender-based violence is a priority — a systematic and unquestionable part of our humanitarian response, at the heart of UNFPA's work to improve the health, safety, and well-being of women and girls in emergencies. It is our collective responsibility to uphold the dignity and rights of all affected persons, particularly to reach those who are most at risk.

Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director
UNFPA

List of Acronyms

AoR	Area of Responsibility
BCC	behaviour change communication
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CLA	Cluster Lead Agency
CMR	clinical management of rape
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRR	disaster risk reduction
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
EC	emergency contraception
ERF	Emergency Response Funds
FGM	female genital mutilation
GBV(iE)	gender-based violence (in emergencies)
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GPC	Global Protection Cluster
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HFCB/PD	Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts Branch/Programme Division
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IEC	information, education and communication

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