

USING THE INTER-AGENCY MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GBV IN EMERGENCIES PROGRAMMING AND THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES PACKAGE ACROSS CONTEXTS

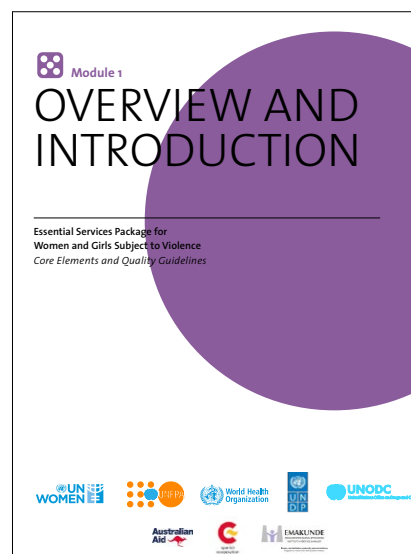




INTRODUCTION



[The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming](#)



[The Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence](#)

UNFPA implements programmes addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in 153 countries and territories, many of which face humanitarian emergencies. Leading resources used by GBV practitioners include the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming (the GBViE Minimum Standards) released in 2019 and the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence released in 2015. Experiences across UNFPA have shown that GBV practitioners have faced challenges in determining when and how to use these tools and how to adapt different approaches to diverse contexts.

The Essential Services Package is largely used in development and stable settings where GBV programmes, including for law and policy development and implementation, aim to build systems linking different response sectors. Systems must be sufficiently resilient to

exogenous shocks, however, which are increasing due to climate change. As such, even systems in stable settings must be prepared for humanitarian crises, whether from conflict or natural disaster. This requires understanding the

intersection between the Essential Services Package and the GBViE Minimum Standards. The latter help ensure a high level of preparedness, including through supporting partnerships, coordination and planning.

Once an emergency phase is activated, GBV programming must pivot to meet new and emerging needs. UNFPA is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)-mandated coordination lead of the GBV Subcluster, under the Global Protection Cluster. It is also the provider of last resort. UNFPA's role to ensure that preparedness systems and support structures are in place prior to an emergency is critical to mitigating its impacts. Systems and structures must be established during development or stable settings if possible, building on existing capacities and applying the GBViE Minimum Standards to ensure that work under the Essential Services Package can withstand and adapt to an emergency setting.

During emergencies, national systems weaken, communities confront reduced service access and responders may face restricted access to populations. Gender and social norms also shift, and women and girls face increased risk of GBV and intersectional discrimination. Although national and local actors are critical in humanitarian responses, in particular government and civil society actors (CSOs), UNFPA may have a different mix of counterparts and implementing partners. These may include more United Nations and international non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to absorb a surge in caseloads and adapt to the needs of particular affected populations. The most significant shift in emergencies may be in UNFPA's relationship with national governments that are parties to the conflict or when authorities are not able or willing to integrate affected populations into national systems. In these cases, IASC clusters might be activated, meaning UNFPA takes on coordination leadership and must in some cases be ready to provide GBV

services to fill critical gaps.¹ The overarching responsibility to protect remains with the government. Where appropriate and possible, the government will co-lead humanitarian GBV coordination.

As country contexts are increasingly fluid and the average duration of forced displacement longer, UNFPA country teams and partners need to work flexibly across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This encompasses transitioning from the GBViE Minimum Standards to the Essential Services Package and utilizing the Standards when the package is already being implemented.

Resource scarcity, conflicts and displacement caused by climate change and environmental degradation typically deepen existing gender inequalities. Women are over represented among the global poor and are more likely to be constrained by discriminatory gender and social norms that undercut their adaptive capacity and resilience, including their mobility, access to information, education and health care, and decision-making opportunities, including in political life. Gender-based violence is often used to reinforce privileges and control resources, including as a result of climate change. The Essential Services Package and the GBViE Minimum Standards provide foundations to build flexible response services while ensuring preparedness to support comprehensive and planned emergency responses to natural disasters. During protracted crises due to climate change, the Essential Services Package can complement and build on systems established during emergency responses to help establish more resilient systems.

This brief guidance note defines the distinct objectives of and links between these two resources. It supports GBV practitioners in navigating the use of both across a range of contexts.

¹ IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at Country Level, revised July 2015 (p. 44). Available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-transformative-agenda/iasc-reference-module-cluster-coordination-country-level-revised-july-2015>.

PROGRAMMING USING THE GBViE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES PACKAGE: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Resource objectives

GBViE Minimum Standards

The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

Programming define what agencies working on specialized GBV programming in emergencies need to achieve to prevent and respond to GBV and deliver multisectoral services. The 16 minimum standards establish a common understanding of minimum prevention and response programming in emergencies.

Essential Services Package

The Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence guides service providers in supporting comprehensive responses to all women and girls who have experienced GBV in development settings. It is based on a multisectoral and coordinated approach across the health, social, security, police and justice sectors. It comprises essential services that must be provided by each sector as well as guidelines for coordinating services, facilitated by the government.

Comparison

- **Both** resources are guided by the survivor-centred approach and focus on compassionate quality care for women and girls.
- **Both** provide components to design and implement GBV programmes, including coordination mechanisms and provision of multisectoral service responses based on safe and effective referral pathways.
- **Both** require contextualization for implementation.

Context

GBViE Minimum Standards

Humanitarian emergencies, including preparedness, response and recovery.

Essential Services Package

Recovery and development contexts: The Essential Services Package states that “the elements, quality standards and guidelines do not apply to humanitarian settings, which require a different set of considerations”. The “different set of considerations” refers to the GBViE Minimum Standards.

Comparison

- The two resources focus on different contexts but each may have some utility in the other context. Periods of transition, flux and recovery exist between emergencies and stability/preparedness and may occur cyclically. Use of the resources should be calibrated to the immediate situation but where feasible, elements should be introduced to build capacity for the next stage.
- The GBViE Minimum Standards are used in contexts where CSOs and national and international NGOs are key service providers. The government may or may not be a key partner in specific localities, even where government services are strong.
- The Essential Services Package supports implementation in development contexts where the government can be engaged and supported in leading a multisectoral GBV response. While it is not applicable as the primary tool in designing and implementing GBV programme interventions during emergencies, it may be adapted to support systems-building in protracted crises where the government may have some ownership and responsibility, even where this role may be supported by the United Nations, international NGOs and CSOs. This is particularly the case where countries plan and transition from emergency to more stable and development settings. The transition period will require using the Essential Services Package to lay foundations for longer-term systems-building. In general, use of the Essential Services Package would not be encouraged during a humanitarian crisis; however, when the government is already a central service provider, package structures and partnerships may be adapted to meet emergency needs. This includes relying on existing partnerships, service providers and coordination mechanisms.

How the resource is used

GBViE Minimum Standards

UNFPA implements humanitarian action with key partners, selecting relevant standards and elements. As the GBViE Minimum Standards represent a minimum in humanitarian settings, they should be met in development settings as well. They are often used to design programmes and train staff and partners.

Essential Services Package

Developed as a programme framework, the Essential Services Package has become a standard for providing services. As a normative framework that sets expected characteristics of services, it supports engagement with health, social, justice and police actors that may be operating with the support of the government or CSOs. Online training is available for GBV practitioners. Regions and countries use the training to support systems-building and policy development as a foundation for GBV interventions.

Comparison

– **Both resources are used** to establish common agreement and measurable expectations regarding GBV programming, enhance quality programming, monitor the effectiveness of interventions, increase accountability among all stakeholders and train staff or partners.

Target audience

GBViE Minimum Standards

Useful for all GBV response practitioners. Provides practical GBV interventions across and within sectors during a humanitarian crisis. Standards are baseline requirements for services that meet humanitarian and GBV guiding principles (see standard 1).

Essential Services Package

Supports governments and CSOs in designing, implementing and coordinating multisectoral GBV response services.

Comparison

- **Both resources support quality GBV interventions by GBV practitioners.**
- **The GBViE Minimum Standards** address risk mitigation practices applicable to all sectors in emergencies.

Links with other guidelines and programmes

GBViE Minimum Standards

The Minimum Standards are based on international best practice and integrate existing global guidance and technical standards, including the Sphere Project and its Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, the IASC GBV Guidelines and the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Outcome 5 of the Call to Action roadmap is on GBV specialized services and uses the GBViE Minimum Standards as the metric for quality programming (there are over 80 members of the Call to Action).

Other important guidelines in implementing the GBViE Minimum Standards:

- [WHO Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner Violence Survivors](#)
- [Interagency GBV Case Management Guidelines](#)
- [Handbook for Coordinating GBV Interventions in Emergencies](#)
- Safe Space Toolkit

Essential Services Package

The RESPECT framework, which supports implementation of prevention programmes.

Spotlight Initiative Pillar 4 (services) supports the response to GBV and covers the Essential Services Package sectors (note that this is a programme, not guidance).

Other important guidelines in implementing the Essential Services Package:

- [UNODC guidance](#) on police, prosecution and the judiciary
- [WHO guidance on responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women](#)
- WHO, UNFPA and UN Women clinical handbook on [health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence](#)

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_31867

