



Module 1

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Essential Services Package for
Women and Girls Subject to Violence
Core Elements and Quality Guidelines





MODULE 1

Introduction

The Essential Services Package comprises five Modules:

Module 1. Overview and introduction	Module 2. Health	Module 3. Justice and policing	Module 4. Social services	Module 5. Coordination and governance of coordination
<p>Chapter 1: Introduction to essential services package</p> <p>1.1 Introduction 1.2 Context 1.3 Purpose and scope 1.4 Language and terms</p>	<p>Chapter 1: Introduction to essential health services</p> <p>1.1 Introduction 1.2 Purpose and scope 1.3 Language and terms</p>	<p>Chapter 1: Introduction to essential justice and policing services</p> <p>1.1 Introduction 1.2 Purpose and scope 1.3 Language and terms</p>	<p>Chapter 1: Introduction to essential social services</p> <p>1.1 Introduction 1.2 Purpose and scope 1.3 Language and terms</p>	<p>Chapter 1: Introduction to essential coordination and governance actions</p> <p>1.1 Introduction 1.2 Purpose and scope 1.3 Language and terms</p>
<p>Chapter 2 Common principles, characteristics and foundational elements</p> <p>2.1 Principles 2.2 Common characteristics of quality essential services 2.3 Foundational elements</p>	<p>Chapter 2 Framework for essential services package</p> <p>2.1 The overall framework 2.2 Unique features of the framework specific to essential health services</p>	<p>Chapter 2 Framework for essential services package</p> <p>2.1 The overall framework 2.2 Unique features of the framework specific to essential justice and policing services</p>	<p>Chapter 2 Framework for essential services package</p> <p>2.1 The overall framework 2.2 Unique features of the framework specific to essential social services</p>	<p>Chapter 2 Framework for essential services package</p> <p>2.1 The overall framework</p>
<p>Chapter 3 How to use this tool</p> <p>3.1 Essential services guidelines framework</p>	<p>Chapter 3 Guidelines for essential health services</p>	<p>Chapter 3 Guidelines for essential justice and policing services</p>	<p>Chapter 3 Guidelines for essential social services</p>	<p>Chapter 3 Guidelines for essential coordination and governance actions</p> <p>3.1. Guidelines for national level coordination and governance of coordination of Essential Services 3.2. Guidelines for local level coordination and governance of coordination of essential services.</p>
<p>Chapter 4 Tools and resources</p>	<p>Chapter 4 Tools and resources</p>	<p>Chapter 4 Tools and resources</p>	<p>Chapter 4 Tools and resources</p>	<p>Chapter 4 Tools and resources</p>

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CHAPTER 1:

INTRODUCTION TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES PACKAGE

1.1 Introduction

The **United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence** (the “Programme”), a partnership by UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC, aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender based violence.

The Programme identifies the **essential services** to be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors (the “Essential Services”) as well as guidelines for the coordination of Essential Services and the governance of coordination processes and mechanisms (the “Coordination Guidelines”). Service delivery guidelines for the core elements of each essential service have been identified to ensure the delivery of high quality services, particularly for low and middle income countries for women and girls experiencing violence. Taken together, these elements comprise the “**Essential Services Package**”.

The Essential Services Package comprises five overlapping modules:

- Module 1 Overview and Introduction
- Module 2: Health Essential Services
- Module 3: Justice and Policing Essential Services
- Module 4: Essential Social Services
- Module 5: Essential Actions for Coordination and Governance of Coordination

The Essential Services Package reflects the vital components of coordinated multi-sectoral responses for women and girls subject to violence. The provision, coordination and governance of essential health, police, justice and social services can significantly mitigate the consequences that violence has on the well-being, health and safety of women and girls’ lives, assist in the recovery and empowerment of women, and stop violence from reoccurring. Essential services can diminish the losses experienced by women, families and communities in terms of productivity, school achievement, public policies and budgets, and help break the recurrent cycle of violence. The Essential Service Package also plays a key role in poverty reduction and development and efforts to achieve the newly agreed 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Essential Services Package aims to fill the gap between the agreements and obligations made at the international level for the provision of services for VAW, including the agreed conclusions of the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women, and country level activity by providing technical guidance on how to develop quality essential services.” services-responses. These obligations are detailed in human rights instruments, international agreements and accompanying declarations and policies that provide global norms and standards upon which to build the Essential Services Package. While extensive commitment to respond to, and prevent violence against women and girls has occurred at a global level over

the last decades, many women and girls have inadequate or no access to the range of supports and services that can protect them, assist in keeping them

1.2 Context

Violence against women and girls is widespread, systemic and culturally entrenched. The United Nations Secretary-General has described it as reaching pandemic proportions.¹ Violence against women consists of “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”² Gender-based violence, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or which affects women disproportionately,³ takes many forms. In addition to physical and sexual violence, violence against women and girls includes psychological and emotional harm and abuse, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, abuse resulting from allegations of sorcery and witchcraft, so-called honour killings of women and girls, trafficking of women and girls, female infanticide and other harmful practices. Intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence are among the most pervasive and insidious forms of violence against women and girls. The term ‘violence against women’ includes violence against girls, particularly girls that could use the essential services provided for women.

According to a 2013 global review by the World Health Organization (WHO), 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual

safe, and support them to address the short and long term consequences of experiencing various forms of violence.

intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.⁴ More than seven percent of women globally reported ever having experienced non-partner sexual violence.⁵ Some country studies show that up to 70 percent of women experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetimes, the majority by a husband or other intimate partner.⁶ It is estimated that one in five girls has been abused in childhood with estimates from some countries as high as one in three.⁷ Gender based power relations within society put many girls at a much higher risk than boys for some forms of violence, and sexual violence in particular. A study of men’s use of violence in selected sites in seven countries in Asia and the Pacific revealed that 26-80 percent of men reported having perpetrated physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, and 10-40 percent of men reported committing non-partner rape, citing sexual entitlement as the most common motivation.⁸

4 WHO, Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women, p. 2 (“Only women aged 15 years and older were included, to differentiate violence against women from child sexual abuse.” p. 12), retrieved from http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf.

5 *Ibid*, p. 18.

6 UN Women “Violence against Women: Facts and Figures” SAY NO UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, retrieved from www.saynotoviolence.org/issues/facts-and-figures. Population surveys have found that between 10-70% of

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