



interoffice memorandum

To: UNFPA All Staff
From: Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director, UNFPA
Subject: Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to GBV
in Emergencies

Date: 20 November 2015
Phone: 1-4979
File: FCB/PD - GBV

Gender-based violence is a life-threatening, global health and human rights issue. We know that during emergencies the risk of GBV is heightened, particularly for women and adolescent girls. UNFPA has committed to scale up humanitarian action by strengthening our efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies as a key priority of the Strategic Plan (2014-17).

To coincide with the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence”, I am pleased to launch the [Minimum Standards](#) that will help us deliver on our strategic objective by 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.

The Standards and roll-out tools are available here: www.unfpa.org/GBViEStandards I urge all UNFPA managers and staff to apply the 18 Minimum Standards in all humanitarian contexts and in all crisis preparedness efforts.

These Standards provide concrete actions that can be contextualized across all emergency situations where UNFPA operates, including situations of conflict and natural disasters. In line with the commitment enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals to leave no one behind, the Minimum Standards guide our collective responsibility to uphold the dignity and rights of all affected persons and to reach those who are most at risk.

The Minimum Standards draw upon UNFPA’s global expertise, are based on international best practice and are aligned with UNFPA’s internal policies and procedures. The Standards are the product of extensive consultation – I extend my thanks to more than 50 UNFPA staff and 43 UNFPA country offices that provided crucial inputs in their development. The Standards speak to UNFPA’s mandate to coordinate GBV prevention and response in emergencies, working in partnership with national authorities, other UN agencies, humanitarian organizations and communities.

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.

Thank you.