

Terms of Reference for National GBV Sub-Cluster July 2010

Region covered: Southern Kyrgyzstan and national coordination in Bishkek
Sector covered: Protection/Gender Based Violence prevention and response
Co-leads: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM

Background

Gender-Based Violence has been identified as a critical protection concern in the southern Kyrgyzstan emergency. GBV is defined as gendered violence, recognizing that this is different for men, women, boys and girls. Violence during the civil unrest in the South of Kyrgyzstan has been gendered, with women targeted for assault and rape, while men and young men have been arbitrarily detained, beaten, taken hostage and killed.

In the absence of clear and confidential reporting mechanisms, reported numbers of GBV survivors vary from 40 to more than 400 cases. An estimated 3,200 people have been directly or indirectly exposed to some type of GBV. In addition, the current risk of continued incidence of GBV, including sexual violence, remains high. People without adequate shelter and IDPs are at particular risk. Among them, an estimated 50,000 women and girls are especially vulnerable.

Addressing GBV in Southern Kyrgyzstan requires short, medium and longer-term strategies and programmes and is dependent on the active commitment of all actors. In the short-term there is an immediate need to deliver emergency response for survivors of sexual violence as well as other types of GBV in crisis-affected areas and to minimize the risk of ongoing violence through humanitarian action. Beyond the urgent need for psychosocial support to GBV survivors and their communities, it is crucial to support community resilience and cohesion in face of continued risks. Civil society and community-based organizations are well-positioned to leverage their potential as agents of change to bring communities together and respond to immediate protection needs-

Another, but related, objective is to integrate emergency/humanitarian GBV interventions into United Nations, Government and non-governmental structures to support longer-term, sustained, structural and systemic interventions that protect populations in Kyrgyzstan, especially women and girls, from gender-based violence.

A strong GBV coordination of multiple actors should be ensured in Bishkek and Osh/Jalalabad, including through inter-cluster collaboration to strengthen the multi-sectoral response to GBV. For this purpose, the GBV cluster was established within the Protection Cluster. Through it, it is fully accountable to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

General Objective:

Through systemic coordination, provision of technical support and advocacy at the central and Oblast level, expand and maximise existing Government, NGO, UN and other actors' capacities to prevent and respond to GBV.

The GBV sub-cluster has been established to specifically respond to the humanitarian crisis in southern Kyrgyzstan, but all efforts will be made to ensure that humanitarian programming supports and can transition into ongoing programming on VAW, GBV prevention and response and SC resolution 1325/1820 implementation.

Specific Objectives:

Inclusion of key partners responding to GBV:

- Ensure inclusion of key humanitarian partners in the sub-cluster, respecting their respective mandates and programme priorities

Establishment and maintenance of GBV sub-cluster coordination mechanisms:

- Ensure appropriate coordination with all humanitarian partners through establishment/maintenance of appropriate coordination mechanisms at the national level and in Southern Kyrgyzstan;
- Ensure the complementarity of different humanitarian actors' actions;
- Supporting the roll-out of IASC guidelines on GBV;
- Ensure effective links with other clusters;
- Represent the interests of the GBV sub-cluster group in discussions with the Humanitarian Coordinator and other stakeholders on prioritization, resource mobilization and advocacy;

Coordination with national/local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors:

- Ensure that humanitarian responses build on local capacities;
- Ensure appropriate links with national and local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors and ensure appropriate coordination and information exchange with them;
- Facilitate access and advocacy to the government and local authorities at both national and oblasts levels for problem solving, reducing barriers, clarifying, strategising and increasing general awareness of GBV prevention and response mechanisms.

Mainstreaming of GBV issues in other clusters

- Ensure integration of GBV issues in sectoral needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response;
- Advocate within the UN Country Team for resource allocations commensurate with the scope of the GBV problem;

- Contribute to the development of appropriate strategies to address these issues;
- Identify and address capacity gaps and ensuring all actors are working in line with accepted GBV prevention and response standards;
- Ensure gender-sensitive programming and promote gender equality and that the needs, contributions and capacities of women and girls as well as men and boys are addressed.

Planning and programming

- Develop/update agreed response strategies and action plans for the sector through joint programmes, matrixes, “Who does What Where” and other tools;
- Support the identification of gaps in GBV response through field assessments and other mechanisms.

Monitoring and reporting

- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the GBV sub-cluster and progress against implementation plans;
- Ensure adequate reporting to the Protection Cluster lead, OCHA, the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Global GBV Area of Responsibility;
- Provide regular inputs into the KG humanitarian response website.

Membership

Membership is open to all national and international organizations and donors working on or funding any aspects of gender based violence prevention and response in relation to the Southern Kyrgyzstan crisis.

A list of members will be regularly updated and posted on the KG humanitarian response website.

Responsibilities

Sub-Cluster Coordinator Responsibilities:

While UNIFEM and UNFPA coordinated the assessment and the establishment of the GBV working group in the immediate crisis, UNICEF is coordinating during the six month period (July-December) to establish a referral network and survivor-centered protocol, as well as strengthening the protection and Mental Health Psychosocial (MHPSS) dimensions of programming. UNFPA will host the coordination role (January-June) in order to ensure sustainable transition to ongoing programming on GBV and VAW. This coordination arrangement will be reviewed every quarter and adjusted accordingly.

Cluster Co-Leads Responsibilities:

Each of the co-lead agencies is responsible for supporting programming within their area of comparative advantage under the overall coordinator and working group strategy. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Capacity-building for immediate response focal points (essentially crisis centers): UNIFEM/UNFPA joint programme, with UNIFEM leading implementation and UNICEF Specialist as adviser to the centers.
- Capacity-building for health service providers, including RH providers: UNFPA (CERF and possibly additional funds through revised Flash) -- rapid trainings for health service providers, drafting of SOPs, procurement of RH supplies.
- Psychosocial support, including community-based and occupational activities: UNICEF and UNIFEM.

A joint action plan (logframe) will be prepared by sub-cluster co-leads to ensure a good division of labour.

Members Responsibilities:

International and national NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and government counterparts are the front line implementers of GBV prevention and response programming, and have important contacts with the community. They are able to advise on culturally appropriate strategies, partnerships and programming best practice. Their responsibilities are to:

- Regularly attend Sub Cluster meeting
- Coordinate and share information about activities and the field challenges encountered
- Agree to follow guiding principles for ethical GBV programming

Immediate coordination priorities

- Develop a joint action plan to clarify programming priorities on the short, medium and long-term and ensure a good division of labour;
- Establish a sound referral network and survivor-centered referral protocols.
- Maintain and update the list of partners working on GBV;
- Strengthen links with government structures;
- Develop and update a “Who What Where” database
- Provide support to the Protection cluster lead in revising the Flash Appeal and regular reporting.

Time and venue of meetings

Weekly meetings to be held in Osh, with meetings also organized in Bishkek on an as needed basis. The GBV coordinator will chair these meetings. UNFPA will continue to maintain the GBV website and a current membership list and circulation of meeting announcements and minutes.