

Terms of Reference for the National GBV working group

Tripoli- Sexual & Gender-Based Violence Sub Sector

Region covered: Tripoli

Introduction

The Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector (GBV SS) was established as a Protection Sector subgroup to deal with Gender Based Violence in humanitarian setting, with a specific focus on sexual violence being the most immediate and dangerous type of violence. The working group will also address other forms of GBV such as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking, domestic violence and harmful traditional practices.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) defines the role and responsibility of the group, objectives, approaches, structure and intra/inter cluster relationships and other humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

RATIONALE / JUSTIFICATION:

In relatively volatile security context, socio-cultural attitudes towards rape survivor's absences of protection setting and mechanism to deal with such problems will permit lifelong stigmatization. Handling Gender Based Violence (GBV) requires a well thought, sensitive, highly coordinated and systematic approach. An effective GBV strategy must contain three core elements – prevention/mitigation, response and coordination. Without strong interagency coordination it is not possible to achieve the required multi-sectorial approach for an effective humanitarian response to GBV.

Definition of gender based violence within the context of the GBV Sub Cluster

It is defined broadly as any form of violence directed against women, girls, boys, men and elderly that violates their fundamental rights such as right to security of person, right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman degrading treatment and the right to life, based on socially ascribed gender differences.

GBV shall be understood to comprise, but not be limited to:

1. Physical, psychological violence occurring within the family in vulnerable groups, including battering, sexual exploitation, sexual abuse of children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.

2. Physical, psychological violence occurring within vulnerable groups, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation, in health and educational institutions and elsewhere, as well as trafficking of women, girls, boys and men, and forced prostitution.

3. Physical, psychological violence perpetrated by some institutions wherever it occurs.

II Objectives of the GBV working group

1. Ensure that GBV sectorial coordination mechanisms are adapted over time to reflect the capacities of local actors and the engagement of development partners by creating effective communication channels and promoting capacity building and engagement of local actors.
2. Within the humanitarian settings across the conflict areas, the GBV working group shall target and prioritize GBV issues relating to most vulnerable or affected groups and individuals. The GBV working group is aware that there will be different priorities related to situations, and that the priorities should be determined by all stakeholders.
3. Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the GBV working group against implementation plans.
4. Promote best practice in the emergence of a shared vision, integrated strategies, coordinated activities, and common protocols
5. Advocate to the relevant UN and Government structures (UNCT, HCT, other coordination working groups on critical gaps and issues related to GBV response, e.g. safety, impunity, legal policies, access to comprehensive multi-sectoral services, etc.
6. Facilitate access, advocacy and reducing barriers; clarifying, strategizing and increasing general awareness of GBV prevention and response mechanisms, strengthening GBV related legislation, policies, protocols, and guidelines.

III The structure and membership of the GBV Sub Sector

1. Leadership

The GBV Sub Sector will be chaired by MoSA and UNFPA. IMC will also provide support

2. Membership

a. In order to ensure a holistic and multi-sectorial approach in the prevention of and response to GBV, membership of the working group will be extended to international and national NGOs, international organizations, Government representatives and other entities providing services in the health, education, psycho-social, legal and security sectors.

b. UN agencies Protection group gender focal points will be the members of the GBV working group.

c. Membership of the national NGOs and government entities shall be encouraged, in order to ensure ownership and sustainability.

d. Focal points from relevant entities and institutions.

IV Meetings

1. The working group will meet once every month and the smaller group once every week
2. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Chair or at the request of the other members of the working group, when it is considered necessary to address an issue of urgent matter.
3. A draft agenda will be composed by all members of the Sub Sector and circulated to the members by the Chair at least one to 2 days before the regular weekly meeting, giving the members the opportunity to suggest additional items for discussion.
4. The Minutes will be taken by MoSA or appointed party and the draft minutes will be circulated within five days after the meeting is over.
5. In the absence of the chair another member will be identified by the chair to lead the group.

V. Reporting and information sharing

a. Members of the group, including the Focal points (GBV Sub-groups) in the field will submit a monthly brief report whenever there are issues to report about to the Chair/Deputy Chair.

b. The reports should highlight the protection and human rights issues the members and their field counterparts are addressing, the challenges they are facing and highlighting any issues that require action by the GBV working group. These issues will be discussed at the monthly meetings.

c. The GBV is a Sub Sector of the Protection Sector and UNFPA will report monthly on the relevant issues raised in all received reports/briefs, as well as on any decisions and actions taken (through the Minutes and/or briefs and short notes) to the Protection Sector Chair.

d. UNFPA on behalf of GBV working group will participate in the Protection Sector and Child Protection Sub –Sector meetings and may request the assistance of the cluster members on any particular issue relevant for the work of the GBV working group.

VI. Secretariat

- A. The GBV working group will be chaired by the MoSA with assistance from UNFPA.

- B. This team will serve as Secretariat of the GBV Sub-Sector and will have the responsibilities of preparing the agenda for the meetings, calling the meetings, collecting and circulating the minutes after the meeting as well as preparing and circulating various reports/briefs and notes.
- C. MoSA or UNFPA will provide the space for work and trainings.
- D. The task force group will comprise of a smaller appointed group

VI Functions of the SGBV working group.

1. In line with the TOR for the GBV working group, as well as identified responsibilities, the working group will consolidate, coordinate, support and improve the efforts and activities of all relevant stakeholders in the prevention of and response to GBV, within the context of humanitarian and human rights interventions.

a. Mapping and updating relevant GBV prevention and response actors in focus areas (who, what, where);

c. Establishing reporting and monitoring mechanism to ensure coordination of efforts and activities of members and relevant stakeholders;

d. Assisting in providing and creating tools for the collection and analysis of age, sex, social, ethnical/tribal and political disaggregated GBV data and training interested stakeholders as needed.

e. Coordinating GBV activities in the field and acting as advisory body for all newly initiated and funded activities by its members to ensure that there are no duplications of efforts.

f. Ensuring that international and domestic standards are equally applied and that all actors/members have the same understanding of the needs in the field.

g. Establishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on GBV

h. Address problems of sexual abuse and exploitation by humanitarians by promoting compliance and adherence mechanisms to the Secretary General's Guidelines on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

i. Promote/ensure gender mainstreaming by addressing gender discrimination, including ensuring that women, girls, boys and men become full participants in decision making as a crucial step in eradicating GBV

j. Providing a forum for sharing information on activities, lessons learned, identifying needs and gaps in prevention and response, as well as for planning GBV inter-agency activities;

k. Engaging in inter-agency, multi-sectoral field missions to assess programming successes and challenges and identify gaps in GBV programming;

l. Provide technical support to national authorities and NGOs working together in building and further improving the referral systems to respond to GBV;

m. Facilitating and supporting awareness-raising initiatives, targeting government bodies and community structures for the prevention of GBV;

n. Strengthening the capacity of governmental bodies, NGOs and humanitarian staff to prevent and respond to GBV by coordinating trainings, providing technical support and tapping into existing training/capacity development opportunities;

o. Liaising with relevant working groups/clusters and other relevant bodies to ensure that GBV issues are integrated into all humanitarian response efforts.

2. The work of the GBV Working Group will be guided by the following principles:

- Confidentiality: ensuring that survivors, witnesses, and information sources are protected. No identifying information will be revealed in data resources, or during coordination or other public meetings, when reference is made to (specific) GBV cases;

- Impartiality: non-discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, religious belief, political views, sexual orientation, social or other status;

- Safety and security: all actors will prioritize the safety of the survivor, family, witnesses and service providers at all times;

- Participatory approach: ensuring, to the extent possible, consultation with all members of the community (women, girls and boys, men and elderly) throughout the GBV programming cycle;

- Independence: working without influence of the states, government bodies, parties to a conflict or other political entities;

- Respect: actions and responses of all actors will be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and the dignity of the survivors.

VII. Amendments

This TOR is a working document and may be altered to meet the current needs of all members (at national level) by agreement of the majority of the members.

