



## 2017 Annual Report on the REGA Initiative

January 1 – December 31, 2017

### 1. Executive Summary

The Regional Emergency GBV Advisors (REGA) team was established in 2014 as a resource for the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR)<sup>1</sup> aimed to support the country level GBV sub-clusters. Their role is to build sustainable long-term capacity at country and regional levels, anchored in the needs of the Inter-Agency GBV Sub-clusters; national, subnational and local actors. The REGAs work to address the full cycle of emergencies: preparedness and GBV risk reduction and mitigation, response, recovery, and transition, in addition to building the leadership of national partners for sustainable solutions. In so doing, the REGA conduct inter-agency country missions and provide remote support and mentoring to build coordination leadership and enhance cluster response capacity. They develop and co-facilitate inter-agency capacity building workshops on GBViE, and support countries with the integration of GBV into the Humanitarian Program Cycle.

Underscoring the important capacity building role of the REGAs, the independent GBV AoR Leadership Review Report<sup>2</sup> described the deployments as well-functioning and a strong operational asset to the GBV AoR. Mission feedback shows consistent high satisfaction levels with REGA support.<sup>3</sup> The senior inter-agency role of the REGA coupled with their in depth understanding of the regional context, enables the REGA to effectively engage with humanitarian leadership, including donors, to advocate with authority for GBV response and risk mitigation needs<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, during the 2017 GBV AoR Strategy Consultations<sup>5</sup>, many GBV country coordinators highlighted the value of the REGA function and in particular their ability to provide remote advice and assistance on an ongoing basis. Feedback from the related survey confirmed the need for increased<sup>6</sup> and sustained focus from the GBV AoR on training and capacity building, in particular of local actors, as well as to ensure coordination standards are met at country level As GBViE is a relatively new field of work, the need for capacity support continues to be in high demand. Many participants also raised the need for additional technical expertise in information management, to supplement the role of the regional advisors.

2017 was an exciting year for the GBV AoR and the REGAs, marked by a new strategic direction following extensive consultations with core membership on the role of the REGA. The REGA team was part of, and contributed actively to, the November Strategy Meeting in Portugal for Country GBV Coordinators, as part of an extensive bottom-up consultation process for the new GBV AoR Strategy. It was a very busy year for the team, with missions to L3 contexts (Iraq and DRC), to establish new coordination mechanisms (Libya), to

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<sup>1</sup> The GBV AoR is a functional component of the Global Protection Cluster.

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA and UNICEF commissioned an independent GBV AoR Leadership Review during Q4 2015 - Q1 2016, on the basis of which the two agencies agreed to transition leadership of the GBV AoR to UNFPA sole leadership. The transition phase was initiated during the second half of 2016 and was completed in April 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Post mission feedback results are provided in the monitoring section of this report.

<sup>4</sup> 2015 REGA Review highlighted the effectiveness of the REGAs as inter-agency advocates vis-a-vis leadership and partners.

<sup>5</sup> In November 2017, the GBV AoR gathered its country level GBV sub-clusters for a global meeting to kick off consultations for the new GBV AoR Strategy (2018-2020). Consultations included key informant interviews with partners and a widely distributed survey, in addition to structured consultations with core membership.

<sup>6</sup> Survey responses (376 responses from 46 countries): When asked what areas needed much more attention from the GBV AoR in the upcoming years, 61% responded capacity of local organizations, 57% said training and capacity building, and 51% said ensuring coordination standards are met. These were the top four areas together with support to resource mobilisation.

protracted and fragile contexts (Sudan, CAR, Chad), to enhance disaster GBViE preparedness (Burundi, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea) and support to IFRC and OCHA regional capacity to develop a stronger evidence base for GBV in disaster settings (Laos, Indonesia, Sri Lanka) among others. The GBV AoR and the REGA team engaged strongly with the GBV sub-cluster in Nigeria on GBV mainstreaming across sectors, building up a multi-partner project in collaboration with ECHO to support the Call to Action Road Map implementation there in 2018. Also the REGA team laid the groundwork for twinning arrangements for emerging GBV specialists that resulted in two junior professionals being deployed to Cairo in 2017 and in Nairobi in early 2018.

The project contributes to the implementation of the GBV AoR five-year capacity building strategy and fosters strong linkages between the global, regional and country levels, anchoring the work of the GBV AoR in field priorities and needs. The regional approach enables the REGA to strategically engage with regional networks and to facilitate exchanges of knowledge between similar countries, hence, increasing the capacity to respond adequately to GBV in humanitarian action.

This annual report covers the activities of the REGA team<sup>7</sup>, and includes project activities funded by Switzerland, UNFPA Emergency Funds, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)<sup>8</sup>, OFDA, BPRM and DfID. As illustrated in the table on geographic coverage below, 2017 was again a challenging year in terms of sustaining REGA funding.

**2. The Regional Emergency GBV Advisor deployments**

The REGAs are hosted in UNFPA regional hubs where UNFPA provides daily management and logistical support. In addition, the team is comprised of a REGA Manager based in Geneva, who works in close consultation with the GBV AoR global Coordinator. The REGA Manager also acts as Acting Deputy GBV AoR Coordinator. The REGA deployments are implemented through the Norwegian Refugee Council (Standby Partner Agreement).



2017 REGA team: Catherine Andela, Jessica Gorham, Andrea Cullinan and Alexina Rusere.

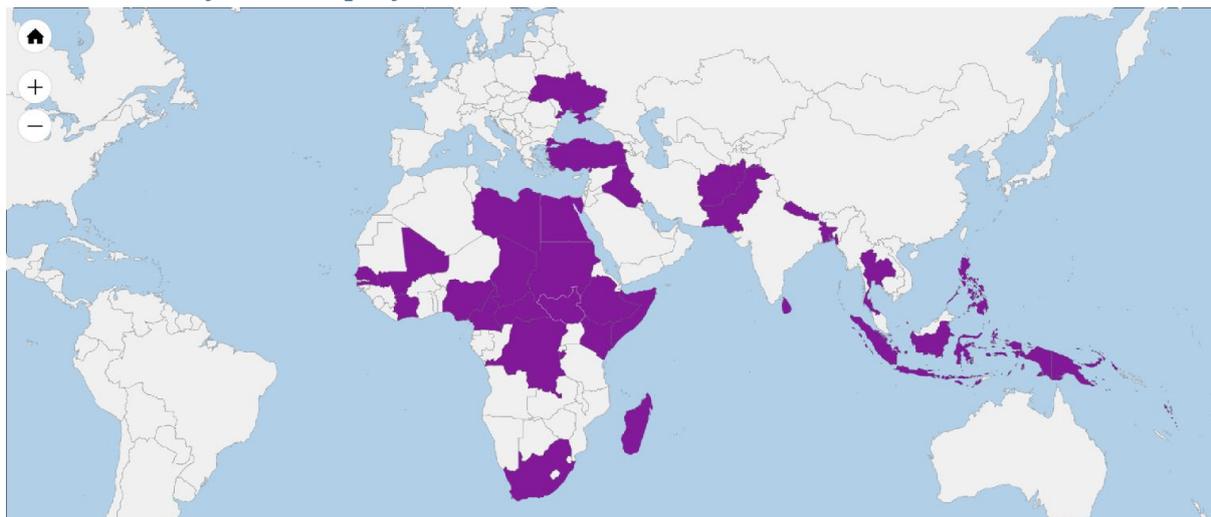
The below table lists all REGA deployments, funding source and geographic coverage in 2017:

Geographic coverage	REGA	Status	Funding source
East Africa (South Africa)	Jessica Gorham	Ongoing	USA (OFDA) and Switzerland
Central and West Africa	Catherine Andela	Ongoing	Switzerland, USA (OFDA)
Arab States and North Africa	Alexina Rusere	Ongoing	UNFPA Emergency Funds (Norway), Norwegian Refugee Council (Norway), DfID
South East Asia and the Pacific	Andrea Cullinan	Until Nov 2017	Norwegian Refugee Council (Norway), OFDA and BPRM (USA),
REGA Manager based in Geneva	Astrid Haaland	Ongoing	Switzerland (secondment)

<sup>7</sup> The annual report does not capture all REGA activities and engagement, but aims to capture the highlights and common themes across the regional portfolios.

<sup>8</sup> NRC funds were financed through NorCap contributions by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### 3. Country level deployments



Since 2015, the REGA team has conducted 50 inter-agency missions. They were deployed to help establish new GBV coordination mechanisms (Libya/Tunis (3), Madagascar), scale-up the drought response in Horn of Africa (Kenya (1), Ethiopia (2) and South Sudan (2)), support of L3 response scale up (Whole of Syria (2), Democratic Republic of Congo(2)), protracted and fragile contexts (Central African Republic (2), Somalia, Sudan (2)), Contingency Planning and Preparedness (Burundi (2) and Cote d'Ivoire(1)), Ukraine (2), Iraq (2), India (1), Lake Chad region and the context of Boko Haram (Nigeria (3), Cameroon (2) and Chad (2), Vanuatu (2), Pakistan (2) and Afghanistan, Bangladesh (2), the Philippines, Laos, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, since they were first deployed in the summer of 2015.

The REGA provide country level support to the GBV sub-cluster coordinators and members, HCTs and UNCTs, national governments, civil society organizations, and national and international NGOs by responding to requests for inter-agency country missions. The missions, varied in content with a duration of anywhere from several days to five weeks. The mission requests are developed through an inter-agency consultative process and require at least two agencies at the country level to sign off. The requests are then shared with the GBV AoR core members, who are also the requesting agencies' global technical focal points.

#### 3.1 Country Mission Table: Mission impact

Country	Main focus of Mission
<p><b>Bangladesh</b></p> <p>8-17 January</p> <p>Request: IOM</p>	<p>The REGA accompanied IOM on a mission to provide technical support for the expansion of GBV prevention and response activities in Cox's Bazar.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitation of a two-day workshop on GBV Case Management to ensure a primary cadre of GBV case managers are capacitated and able to provide frontline support to survivors.</li> <li>● Health and psychosocial service providers mapped.</li> <li>● Draft referral pathway (to be field tested and disseminated to communities) and development of referral and intake forms.</li> <li>● Explore strategies with country actors to address the ongoing challenges in responding to GBV in Cox's Bazar.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>The mission was catalytic in establishing a GBV referral pathway for immediate implementation in makeshift settlements. In particular, the most suitable partners for future coordination and for service delivery were identified, in terms of availability and quality. GBV key concepts were clarified for partners resulting in improved skills.</p>

	Awareness on the need for GBV coordination was raised.
<p><b>Regional – South Africa</b></p> <p>24-27 January</p>	<p>The mission was conducted by the REGA and REGA Manager to increase awareness among regional partners based in South Africa about the role of the GBV AoR, to facilitate linkages and regional collaboration on GBV.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered presentation on regional GBV trends and the role of the AoR at the regional inter-agency coordination meeting hosted by OCHA.</li> <li>Met one-on-one with key partners such as FAO, OCHA, and UNFPA to discuss the need to collaborate on preparedness activities and GBV mainstreaming.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> The REGA strengthened ties with key agencies which led to increased collaboration. For example, OCHA is now reaching out to the REGA to provide input on their quarterly regional briefs; UNFPA invited the REGA to attend their Leadership Conference so she could discuss GBV coordination with all of the Representatives in the region and FAO will likely co-facilitate a GBV assessment in Madagascar due to the relationship building that happened at that meeting.</p>
<p><b>South Sudan</b></p> <p>20-25 February</p> <p>Request: UNFPA and UNICEF</p>	<p>The mission supported GBV mainstreaming with Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) actors, strengthening of existing capacities for emergency preparedness among GBV coordination staff for national GBV actors to take on emergency planning and coordination roles.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A two-day training to GBV sub-cluster members on emergency preparedness, coordination and response.</li> <li>One-day meeting between CCCM and GBV partners to finalize the documents and guidelines for a mainstreaming work plan between the clusters in 2017, and a one-day workshop on practical implementation of the IASC GBV Guidelines (co-facilitation by REGA).</li> <li>Remote technical support to finalize templates and guidance notes agreed upon in meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> GBV and CCCM clusters finalized an agreement that is in accordance with professional best practices and standards on actions to improve communication and monitoring of GBV mainstreaming; CCCM actors are empowered to take the lead to implement the mainstreaming agenda within their sector and move forward with a good understanding of ethical guidelines for data collection and sharing; enhanced capacity of GBV actors to prepare and respond to heightened periods of humanitarian emergencies and increased understanding of early warning indicators, with a particular focus on the capacity of national GBV partners and NGO GBV Working Group co-leads; enhanced capacity of GBV and CCCM Cluster leads and co-leads to attract resources to implement their work plan and emergency response.</p>
<p><b>Papua New Guinea (PNG)</b></p> <p>13 – 17 March</p> <p>OHCHR, UNDP and Save the Children</p>	<p>The mission was conducted in support of the newly re-established Protection Cluster, to build capacity and encourage government leadership. The mission took place as PNG was introducing humanitarian architecture (the Protection Cluster was revitalized in December 2016) to spur thinking about GBV in emergency situations. The government, which is relatively new to the humanitarian system, participated throughout the workshop.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated a three-day REGA GBVIE Preparedness workshop for the Protection Cluster participants: 29 service providers and government counterparts.</li> <li>Consultations with line ministries to reinforce the efforts of the Protection Cluster</li> <li>Contributions to internal cluster discussions to explore strategies and approaches to practically address the ongoing protection challenges in responding to GBV in disasters in PNG.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> The REGA mission helped focus government attention on GBV and protection issues in</p>

	<p>emergencies and galvanized increased commitment to engage in the Protection Cluster. Furthermore, a joint work plan was developed. There was increased understanding of the development-humanitarian nexus as development actors' knowledge and skill sets were shared enabling learning for humanitarian response, and development actors were sensitized on humanitarian action. It was useful to talk to the donors explicitly about shifting views from development into humanitarian responses, and in particular, advocate for preparedness.</p>
<p><b>Sudan</b></p> <p>26 March – 30<sup>th</sup> April (four weeks)</p> <p>UNHCR and UNFPA</p>	<p>The mission focused on building inter-sector ownership and increased integration of GBV mitigation measures across the humanitarian response, and strengthened GBV coordination.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p>Three GBV Guidelines trainings (2 in Khartoum, 1 in Darfur) to build a stronger understanding of GBV prevention and mitigation across sectors, co-facilitated with GBV coordinator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 humanitarian actors, spanning Health, Child Protection, WASH, Food Security, Shelter and Livelihoods, and the Protection Cluster were trained on GBV mainstreaming.</li> <li>• Sector Action Plans were developed as well as further dissemination plan, for the GBV coordinator to follow up on implementation through the trained cluster focal points.</li> <li>• Consultations and support on SOP and strategy development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>Humanitarian actors were sensitized on GBV and sector specific resources for mainstreaming and GBV sub-cluster has increased capacity to embark on strategy development. The mission resulted in an inclusive process with national actors to develop SOPs in North Darfur being on track. There was also strong advocacy with donors on the need for the GBV response to have the support of the Ministry of Health and Justice Ministries to work with GBV survivors.</p>
<p><b>Chad</b></p> <p>16 April-3 May</p> <p>UNHCR and UNFPA</p>	<p>Support to national and Bagasola GBV sector working groups to strengthen coordination, through improved planning and understanding of tools. During the mission, 120 persons were sensitized and trained on GBViE.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailored capacity building workshops with the GBV working groups at national and sub-national to solve bottlenecks, strengthen the referral pathway including all sectors. The workshop also included revision of action plans.</li> <li>• Workshop delivered for security and judiciary officials on standards for GBV services and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA).</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>The REGA mission contributed to repositioning GBV as an issue of concern for the HCT, improved linkages between capital and sub-national coordination groups (Bagasola) and strengthened GBV coordination capacity through a discussion on concrete steps to address challenges.</p> <p>Military from the multinational regional security force, judicial and senior legal officials were sensitized on PSEA and trained on key GBV issues and response. As Child Protection and GBV is coordinated within the same group in Bagasola, workshop participants discussed and agreed on the particular considerations for children for all aspects related to referral.</p>
<p><b>Kenya</b></p> <p>15 - 19 May</p>	<p>The REGA supported the drought response in Kenya, declared a national emergency by the government, and promoted preparedness measures to mitigate GBV risks prior to national elections.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CERF funding secured for the Kenya Red Cross to provide GBV prevention services in the drought stricken regions.</li> <li>• Mentoring of agency staff leading GBV coordination.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Technical support during the development of a drought-related GBV assessment</li> <li>● Support to analysis of assessment data</li> <li>● Training facilitated (reinforcing global standards) on GBV service provision to implementing partners</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> GBV programming is informed by relevant and up-to-date data; implementing partners have increased capacity to deliver GBV services that meet global standards; functioning coordination mechanism is in place to coordinate GBV activities during the drought and promote preparedness activities during the run up to the national elections.</p>
<p><b>Madagascar</b></p> <p>UNICEF, UNFPA</p> <p>1-5 May</p>	<p>Capacity building of emergency response staff to mainstream GBV prevention measures throughout the Cyclone response, as well as gender and GBV issues in Madagascar.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Training co-facilitated on the 2015 GBV Guidelines and gender tip sheets for emergency response staff.</li> <li>● One-on-one consultations with leads of Food Security, Education, GBV and Child Protection Sectors to discuss GBV-related protection concerns.</li> <li>● Coordination tools shared with the lead of the newly formed GBV sub-cluster.</li> <li>● Recommended the deployment of a GenCap Advisor to Madagascar who would focus on gathering SADD and carrying out a detailed gender analysis to inform programming.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> Increased capacity of emergency personnel working in five sectors to utilize the GBV Guidelines and other mainstreaming tools; increased awareness of GBV protection concerns by authoring a comprehensive report detailing the findings of a secondary data review and her interviews with key stakeholders; more sustainable/long term technical support has been promoted through the introduction of a GenCap deployment; and strengthened GBV coordination at national level through mentoring and sharing tools with the sub-cluster Coordinator.</p>
<p><b>Iraq</b></p> <p>May (four weeks)</p> <p>IMC and UNFPA</p>	<p>A follow-up mission to ensure validation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), initiated through a REGA mission in 2016. The validation of the SOPs in four governorates was important to make sure that all actors, the majority local service providers and national partners, agree and have a shared understanding of the referral pathway, accountabilities, and international standards of care.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitation of SOP validation workshops in four governorates (Dohuk, Central South, Sulaymanya and Central) and agreement on roll-out.</li> <li>● ToT agenda and roadmap for SOP development in other governorates provided for country colleague follow-up.</li> <li>● Consultation with relevant ministries.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> Chronic issues and new developments in GBV provisions have been addressed across Iraq and local actors have been targeted with capacity building. In particular, agreement was reached on local-level accountability and clarity in roles for supporting survivors. The roles and accountabilities of different government agencies, especially between federal agencies and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) agencies, were clarified. Cultural or traditional practices that may contradict best practices (e.g., mediation, home visits) were examined and addressed (or taken into consideration). Health providers (including MHPSS) have been included into referral pathway and coordination, and SOPs are aligned with new CMR Protocol and mandatory reporting procedures.</p> <p>Other key issues raised during the workshops were the lack of shelter for survivors of violence. The majority of survivors have no access to shelter which means they continue to live with their perpetrators since there are no safe shelter/house to go. MOSA has shelters but mainly for domestic violence and not open to survivors of sexual violence because of limited space.</p>

	<p>Central South observed that there was an increase in the number of children and babies dying in the IDP settlements. It is suspected to be a deliberate move by women and girls due to fear of reprisal, stigmatization, and honour killings as they prepare to reunite with their families. The GBV Working Group in Baghdad was tasked to follow up on this issue.</p> <p>Coordination and engaging with community actors including civil society organisations was raised as an issue that requires improvement.</p>
<p>Regional Initiative (ASEAN) in Lao Philippines Indonesia</p> <p>Three shorter missions in May/ June/July</p> <p>IFRC and OCHA</p>	<p>The rationale for this mission was to address the the lack of regional knowledge on GBV in disasters, including on good practices for GBV response and mitigation. REGA support was provided to a regional IFRC initiative, implemented by IFRC in collaboration with OCHA and ASEAN, to establish a stronger evidence base for GBV response and mitigation in natural disasters.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> 1) To enhance understanding of how GBV affects women and girls, boys and men and LGBT communities differently during and after disasters; 2) Map essential GBV response services that remain functional during disasters; and 3) Understand how public authorities (including ASEAN coordinated response) and humanitarian actors have responded to and coordinated disaster affected communities in the areas of GBV prevention and response. Collect good practices but also recommend what could be done better</p> <p><b>Activities/REGA role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review the data collection tools, ensure they comply with the WHO ethical and safety recommendations for research, documentation and monitoring of sexual violence in emergencies, as well as suggest refinements and additional areas to address, sharing tools and resources</li> <li>● Suggest which additional guidelines and tools could be useful</li> <li>● Conduct sessions on survivor-centered approach, GBViE and overview of coordination</li> <li>● Assist the other facilitators and data collection team members with focus group discussion and questionnaire practice sessions</li> <li>● Conduct a session on self-care for data collectors</li> <li>● Advise the research team on good practices and emerging issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcome:</b> A better understanding of GBViE for governments and humanitarian actors enabling scale-up of GBV response and mitigation in natural disasters.</p>
<p>Pakistan</p> <p>UNFPA, UNHCR, NDMA</p> <p>(National Disaster Management Authority)</p> <p>29 May - 8 June</p> <p>6-22 September</p>	<p>The Government has asked clusters to deactivate and start transitioning to government leadership. While there is ongoing advocacy to retain the Protection Cluster the mission was a very good opportunity for engaging government partners on GBV in Humanitarian Action, for increased GBViE preparedness capacity among partners in Islamabad and the GBV sub-cluster members Peshawar. It should be noted that the GBV sub-cluster formally operates in Peshawar and that there is no formal sub-cluster at national level, and a strategic objective for the mission was to work with line ministries on how to nationalize GBViE including a cluster-like arrangement under NDMA leadership.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Two three-day disaster preparedness workshops for service providers and government counterparts on key aspects of protection and GBV and facilitated the development of GBV preparedness plans (56 participants).</li> <li>● One half-day workshop facilitated for UN Gender Task Force members and gender focal points, upon request from OCHA (21 participants).</li> <li>● Groundwork for potential GBV Guidelines rollout with senior leadership and technical staff within the National Disaster Management Unit (NDMA).</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>The Peshawar GBV sub-cluster in Peshawar (preparedness and response focused) and the Islamabad Gender Humanitarian Task Force together with the National Disaster Management Authority have increased capacity to coordinate and implement GBViE preparedness and response actions. Transition planning with line-ministries was initiated</p>

	<p>with participants in the Islamabad preparedness training selected as influencers within their ministries, as part of the transition strategy to government leadership of coordination at national level. Constructive dialogue on what it takes to have national leadership and ownership took place. The central role of local NGOs in transition process promoted. A GBV Preparedness Plan for the KP-FATA province is available for the GBV sub-cluster to take forward.</p>
<p><b>South Africa Regional</b></p> <p>6-8 June</p> <p>UNICEF and UNFPA</p>	<p>The mission addressed the need for strengthened capacity of GBV/gender/protection specialists across the region to better <i>prepare</i> for cyclical natural disasters.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three-day GBV Emergency Preparedness training was organized and co-facilitated with UNICEF regional advisor, based on content and presentations prepared by the team.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> Participants (from eight countries) developed a framework for preparedness planning for each of their contexts and have increased awareness of global standards and tools to mitigate the risk of GBV prior to the onset of cyclical natural disasters.</p>
<p><b>Burundi</b></p> <p>6-8 July</p> <p>GBV sub-cluster (UNFPA, IRC)</p>	<p>The mission aimed to build the capacity of sub-cluster members (majority being local actors) in GBV emergency preparedness and response, and to strengthen coordination.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A two-day workshop on how to develop behavioral change communication as part of preparedness activities (the SASA approach). This workshop was co-facilitated with the Sub-cluster Coordinator.</li> <li>• Preparation and co-facilitation of workshop for Strategy and Capacity Development with sub-cluster members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> Sub-cluster participants are better equipped to sensitize their communities <b>prior</b> to a disaster to mitigate risks of GBV during disaster and potential population movements. A communication strategy was developed and endorsed by the requisite ministries. Based on the strategy, materials will be developed and disseminated to members. The mission enabled implementation of Burundi (sub-cluster and government) Preparedness Action Plan agreed during REGA GBViE Preparedness Workshop (December 2016).</p>
<p><b>Central African Republic</b></p> <p>19 -30 July, 2017</p> <p>UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR</p>	<p>The mission objectives were to prepare for a new GBV strategy, to build GBV sub-cluster capacity to deliver effective GBV response, and assess access and quality of GBV services in the most volatile regions in Bambari and Kangabandoro. The overall mission was a success, despite the cancellation of the two field missions due to new eruption of violence. Government partners, Health, Justice, Gender and Women Affairs were all engaged during the REGA mission. A new court has been created to deal with cases of PSEA. Minusca and UNDP have established a one-stop center for rapid intervention against sexual violence.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A two-day workshop with sub-cluster participants (40): one day reviewing the GBV situation in CAR (service capacity, coordination capacity), and elaborating a road map giving the strategic direction and operational steps to initiate the inter-agency consultations for the National GBV Strategy.</li> <li>• Review advocacy and coordination tools with mini SAG.</li> <li>• Visits to public hospitals, meeting with doctors and WHO focal points, to monitor quality and access to services.</li> <li>• Consultations on GBV Global Minimum Standards (in coordination with Task Team Coordinator).</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> Agreement was reached on the bigger lines of the Strategy and the state of operational needs. There is a roadmap in place as a basis for the National GBV Strategy, outlining existing capacities, gaps and areas that need strengthening, such as clarity of roles and coordination among national partners. GBV sub-cluster participants were introduced to global resources, including the UNFPA Minimum Standards.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Libya</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 – 28 July</p>	<p>The main purpose of the mission was to facilitate strengthening of GBV in the Humanitarian Needs Overview HNO for 2018, by reviewing and consolidating GBV information; this was in addition to advocating for a GBV Coordination mechanism in Libya.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Technical advice to humanitarian actors in Libya, including guidance on way forward to operationalize capacity for GBV prevention and response, strengthening existing structures and initiatives, and foundational frameworks for the establishment of the new GBV working group.</li> <li>● Advice on data collection on GBV for the 2018 HRP (GBV assessment)</li> <li>● Consultations on potential need and focus of new Global GBV Minimum Standards with local actors (13 participants from the Protection Sector and the Gender Task Force).</li> <li>● Review of GBV assessment tools and consultancy TORs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> REGA enabled GBV issues to be articulated in the HNO. The REGA advocacy resulted in prioritization of GBV during the HRP process, and to the establishment of an inclusive GBV Coordination Working Group. (Official launch: Q1 2018)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>South Sudan</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">3-9 September</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNFPA/IRC</p>	<p>The mission aimed to increase the coordination team’s understanding of their roles and responsibilities with relation to the functions of coordination, and to strengthen the capacity of the national/subnational coordination team to deliver on core functions.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <p>Facilitated two, one-day training for <i>core members</i> of the national GBV sub-cluster in South Sudan focusing on their role and responsibilities in addition to specific functions of coordination such as communication, and introduction of new/existing tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Facilitated a two-day training to approximately 15 members of the Coordination team, which include the Coordinators from the various sub-national field sites such as Bentiu and Malakal and members of the national-level team which include a roving Coordinator, IM specialists, and the two co-chairs.</li> <li>● Developed all training materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b> Coordination team members have an increased understanding of their role and responsibilities within the sub-cluster leading to more efficient and timely inputs. Capacity of the national/subnational coordination team is enhanced leading to a more effective coordination mechanism at both national and subnational level.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DRC</b></p> <p><b>Mission I: REGA Mission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNICEF and UNFPA, 18 November - 3 December</p> <p><b>Mission II: Global Cluster Coordinators Mission to DRC – Humanitarian Architecture Review, 12-21 November (REGA joined last stretch)</b></p>	<p><b>I. REGA Mission: technical support mission in support of L3 in Kasai region</b></p> <p>The purpose of the REGA mission is to reinforce GVB sub-cluster coordination and to build capacity of the GBV sub-cluster members, including national partners.</p> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consultations and workshops in Kinshasa and in Kasai to strengthen capacity of GBV: sub-cluster members including CPiE actors.</li> <li>● Guiding note for the elaboration of the GBV sub-cluster strategy developed on the basis of consultations, as well as for the revision of the national GBV strategy outlining how to ensure a continuum between humanitarian and development actors on GBV at national and provincial level.</li> <li>● A first draft of the joint strategy of GBV SC and CPiE SWG for Adolescent Survivors of GBV was issued and provided to CP and GBV sub-clusters for review and finalisation.</li> </ul> <p><b>II. Global Cluster Coordinators Mission: GBV AoR participation in Architecture review mission in DRC (See Highlights Section, page 11)</b></p> <p>UNFPA and the HCT recommended for the GBV AoR (REGA) representation on this mission, to look at GBV positioning within the humanitarian architecture and contribute to the general review. Specific recommendations were issued t the HCT about the restructuring of GBV coordination across regions in DRC.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nigeria</b></p> <p>Deputy HC Office and UNFPA</p> <p>19 October- 3 November</p>	<p>The Deputy HC and UNFPA requested GBV AoR support to ensure stronger integration of GBV in HPC processes (2017) as well as an inter-agency GBV assessment in the north-east (fielded early 2018).</p> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In-country support to OCHA and cluster leads during the HNO/HRP development for the integration of GBV.</li> <li>● Inputs on GBV provided for the HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy.</li> <li>● An adapted GBV inter-agency assessment tool for Nigeria.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> The missions resulted in successful integration of GBV risk mitigation measures into the Protection, Food Security, Health, and WASH sector response plans in Nigeria; provided prolonged in-country support to OCHA and Cluster leads during the development of the HNO/HRP in Nigeria. Furthermore, the mission enabled sensitization on the Call to Action and paved the way for increased engagement and partnership between the GBV AoR and Nigeria for road map implementation. Finally, the REGA elaborated the inter-agency assessment tools that were rolled out during a phase 2 Nigeria mission early 2018.</p>
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The REGA team implemented twenty-one REGA missions in 2017, in addition to country travel for participation on a Protection Panel on Hunger at ECOSOC in the UN Palais (Geneva) and REGA engagement in the Portugal Strategy Consultations Meeting (November 2017) in Portugal.

#### 4. REGA Highlights - beyond the missions

##### 4.1 Anchoring global guidance in field needs

The REGA team plays an important role in ensuring that global initiatives are known and taken up by country operations, and that country realities influence global processes and initiatives. In 2017, the REGA led four country level inter-agency consultations (Kenya, Indonesia, Libya and CAR) to explore the need for GBV Global Minimum Standards. The outcomes of these discussions contributed to a broad consultation process led by the Global Minimum Standards Task Team that culminated in a decision (Q1 2018) for the AoR to develop new global minimum standards in response to a clear field demand.

The team also responded to OCHA’s call for revisions of the global CERF guidelines; through the provision of in-depth feedback, expanding their knowledge of what constitutes “life-saving” interventions in GBV prevention and response programming.

##### 4.2 Support to IASC GBV Guidelines roll-out

In addition to the Sudan (one month comprehensive roll-out) and South Sudan missions that were dedicated to the GBV Guidelines roll-out and practical steps for GBV integration into other clusters/sectors, the REGA team also introduced the GBV Guidelines through various training/workshops to colleagues in Libya, Madagascar, South Sudan, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Kenya, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Malawi, Angola. GBV related tools and guidelines were also introduced to coordination groups in Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and DRC.

##### 4.3 Integrating GBV into humanitarian plans, assessments and guidance

The REGA team provided remote support to the **HRP and HNO processes** in addition to the guidance shared through the global coordination team, including:

- In-depth remote support was provided to Somalia, South Sudan and Burundi during the development of the HNOs/HRPs; integrated protection/GBV/gender throughout the narratives of the “Country Strategy” and the Protection Cluster’s “Operational Response Plan”
- Support to the RRRP (Regional Refugees Response Plan) coordination by integrating GBV into the Nigeria + LBC countries’ documents.

- Reviewed the revision of the HRP of Mali, Chad and CAR while pleading for more GBV integration and mainstreaming.
- Support to Libya during the development of the HNO and HRP, by carrying out a desk review exercise to position gender based violence in humanitarian response. The support has culminated in the Humanitarian Coordinator highlighting the importance of GBV mainstreaming across cluster/sectors in her Foreword. As a result, all sectors have considered protection risks with WASH cluster being able to mainstream GBV prevention and response through the response strategy.

Furthermore, the REGA team supplied timely, in-depth feedback to the development of **Centrality of Protection Strategies** in more than six countries (Yemen, DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria as well as countries in the Central and West Africa region) in 2017.

#### ***4.4 Influencing the IASC Annual GBV Operational Review (January 2017)***

The GBV AoR Coordination Team organized a series of phone conferences in January with country-level GBV sub-clusters in preparation for the Emergency Director's annual assessment of the Humanitarian Coordinators' leadership and operations, including inputs on actions related to GBV. This enabled strong context specific advocacy on GBV leadership, sub-cluster capacity, and integration of GBV across sectors, and appreciation of the usefulness of HPC processes for enabling strategic response.

This was the basis for advocacy by the lead-agency (UNFPA) which contributed to GBV being introduced as a non-negotiable issue in the Terms of References of Humanitarian Coordinators, for the response to be guided by GBV analysis and be included as appropriate in dialogue with local government partners.

#### ***4.5 Regional and Global Advocacy***

The GBV AoR Advocacy and Policy Task Team was revitalized in 2017, and the REGAs contributed to meetings and with drafting of advocacy notes (for example on *The Impact of the Kasai Crisis on Women and Girls*, for the Kasai crisis). Furthermore, to increase the visibility of the drought crisis in East Africa, the REGA participated in a GPC-sponsored side event convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (Geneva) on Hunger and the Protection of Human Rights in Geneva. She highlighted the negative impact of drought on the lives of families, specifically women and girls, and how prevailing gender roles and practices, lead to women bearing a heavier load and a potential increase in GBV. In addition, an advocacy note for the Horn of Africa, illustrating the impact of conflict and drought crises on women and girls, and analyzing this in terms of needs per sector, was produced by the REGA in March 2017 (See Annex). At the regional level, the REGA consulted with key stakeholders about the impact of the drought to increase awareness of GBV issues and integration of GBV across sectors.

#### ***4.6 Global Clusters Humanitarian Architecture Review Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, 12-22 November):***

Upon the request of the HCT, the Global Clusters were asked to undertake a first ever comprehensive review of humanitarian coordination since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2006. The REGA based in Dakar joined the mission team on behalf of the Global Protection Cluster. The team consisted of the Global WASH Cluster, the Global Food Security Cluster, the Global Cluster for Early Recovery and OCHA. The mission found that there is a range of GBV coordination groups in place, involving the integrated mission, humanitarian and government actors and the structures at national, regional and provincial levels do not necessarily speak to each other. The GBV sub-cluster at capital level is strong and is in a position to influence the strategic level of the humanitarian response, but some gaps remain in the regions. It is recommended that the HCT's role in engaging with the integrated mission on protection issues, including GBV, should be clarified, as part of the new HCT Compact and the HCT Protection Strategy.

#### ***4.7 Implementing the GBV AoR Capacity Building Strategy***

The REGA Initiative sprung out of the GBV AoR five-year capacity building strategy. Accordingly, the main objective of the REGA team has always been to build sustainable inter-agency GBV capacity at country and regional levels. Each mission has a capacity building component, such as facilitating workshops and trainings,

mentoring GBV coordinators and local GBV actors within the sub-clusters and raising awareness on GBViE across sectors and advocacy with humanitarian leadership, HCTs, government counterparts and donors.

For the third year in a row, the REGA based in Nairobi has coordinated a **two-week Masters level short course on GBViE (11 – 22 September) at the University of Nairobi**, to build a pool of emerging practitioners who can be deployed to emergencies after graduation. The REGA oversaw the administration of the course, taught classes, and coordinated a six-months internship program (that involved recruiting students and receiving agencies), monitoring students' progress and pairing them with senior mentors.

The GBV AoR Coordination Team advocated with academic institutions to partner or otherwise contribute to this program, to help make this a sustainable intervention that the University of Nairobi can incorporate into their regular curriculum. The University of Dublin was invited to take part in the two-week program, and an MoU was signed for **collaboration between the two academic institutions**. The GBV AoR Coordinator represents the GBV AoR on the Board for a new project initiated by the University of the City of Dublin (UCD) in collaboration with the Irish Consortium, IRC, Raising Voices, University of Nairobi and NOVA to be part of the planning for a new academic summer program to build the technical capacities of NGO partners and University students who are interested in managing GBV programming.

Further contributing to building capacity of emerging GBV experts and coordinators, the REGA team is collaborating with Standby partners to build their roster capacities, to meet the future demand for GBV emergency deployments. In 2017, a **twinning arrangement was established**, leading to the deployment by NRC of a junior professional to Cairo in October 2017. The groundwork was laid for further twinning arrangements during the first quarter of 2018, when Switzerland (SDC) dispatched a Child Protection expert to Nairobi for a one-year learning opportunity, with progressive skills building expected to develop into a more autonomous technical advisory role under REGA supervision.

Furthermore, the Dakar based REGA organized and co-facilitated (with GenCap) a regional capacity building training in collaboration with UN Women, UNHCR and UNFPA, and trained regional humanitarian participants on Gender Equality Programming and GBV. The participants included GBV and non GBV actors from Mali, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The REGA team also helped organize a French-speaking webinar on the new Case Management Guidelines issued by IRC, in collaboration with the GBV IMS team, for GBV coordinators and partners in West, Central and East Africa.

#### **4.8 GBViE Preparedness Capacity:**

The REGAs continued to build GBViE preparedness capacity in 2017. They have developed GBViE preparedness training material from existing global resources and guidance. This work is being anchored in the needs of GBV coordination and is in line with OCHA's regional priorities on inter-agency emergency preparedness.

The missions to Papua New Guinea and Pakistan are examples of missions that have built GBV preparedness capacity of sub-cluster members and government counterparts. In Pakistan, a contextualized GBViE preparedness workshop was conducted in Peshawar for the sub-cluster there, and the REGA had extensive consultations at the capital level with the National Disaster Management Unit on GBViE preparedness and the role of GBV risk mitigation.

A regional GBViE preparedness workshop was organized in Johannesburg<sup>9</sup> and co-facilitated by the REGA and the regional UNICEF Gender Advisor. Approximately 30 participants from southern African countries attended.

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<sup>9</sup> This workshop took place 6-8 June, 2017. A first GBViE preparedness workshop was rolled out by the REGA team in 2016, in Nairobi.

GBV/Gender specialists and their government counterparts came from eight countries in the region (South Africa, Swaziland, Malawi, Madagascar, Angola, Mozambique, Uganda and South Sudan). Each country team developed three practical preparedness-themed action points to follow up on over the next six months.

## 5. Management of the REGA Initiative

### 5.1 A new REGA strategy

The REGA team has developed a REGA Strategic Framework based on two consultations with core-members (see Annexes) and informal consultations with the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team, based on their observations on GBV sub-cluster capacity and humanitarian leadership during the Peer-to-Peer missions. The Strategy still needs adjustment to ensure it supports and is in line with the new GBV AoR Strategy (to be finalized end of March) and is therefore still in draft form. However, the REGA strategy consultations have already helped shape a stronger consensus among GBV AoR Core Members and fostered a shared understanding of how the REGA role complements the UNFPA surge of GBV coordinators.

The Strategy places the REGA role within the evolving humanitarian landscape, in terms of the Centrality of Protection and the recent inclusion of GBV in HC TORs and HCT Compacts, as a non-negotiable issue to guide humanitarian response, the need to localize coordination and the need for strengthened linkages between development and humanitarian; as the nexus is back center-stage. Key opportunities and challenges remain to build on the momentum of the Centrality of Protection and HCT strategies, the need for reinforced GBV data and analysis to underpin an increase in GBV sub-cluster response capacity, building on the potential of local actors, and embracing new ways of working.

The REGA Strategy focuses on two Outcomes: 1) GBV is well-positioned at the strategic level of the humanitarian response, is prioritized and integrated across humanitarian response; and 2) GBV survivors receive timely, safe, relevant and comprehensive quality services. For each Outcome, there is a list of Strategic Actions to guide REGA missions in 2018 and 2019.

The relevance of the REGA outcomes were confirmed by the GBV AoR Strategy Survey, which concluded that the top three challenges of GBV sub-clusters are 'insufficient funding', 'quality of response/operational focus' and 'GBV not being seen as a priority within the humanitarian system'.

The core members have agreed on a combined role for the REGAs, that focuses on sustained capacity building to support GBV sub-clusters and cluster-like coordination groups perform their core cluster functions, including strategic engagement with humanitarian leadership and reinforced capacity to do so, and the need for the REGAs to continue being field driven and help fill important operational gaps, in line with cluster accountabilities.

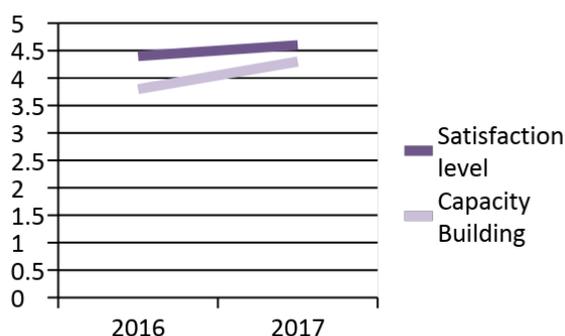
### 5.2 Monitoring:

#### 5.2.1 Impact on humanitarian actors

In 2017 alone, **the REGA team has reached and built the capacity of more than 2416 humanitarian actors** (Source: REGA reporting on workshops and capacity building meetings, per region). Over time, this should bring about a multiplier effect, with more sustainable GBV capacity being built in each region.

#### 5.2.2 Capturing country colleague feedback

The project manager reaches out to country colleagues to receive mission feedback after each REGA mission. Feedback is received mainly through a standard feedback form. The agencies that have signed off on the mission, as well as the GBV coordinator, are encouraged to provide feedback.



2017 REGA feedback shows a clear positive trend towards increased satisfaction and impact, according to country partners.

### Summary of Country Feedback<sup>10</sup>:

	2016	2017
<b>Satisfaction levels for REGA missions:</b> average scoring on a scale from one to five, with 'five' being the highest level of satisfaction.	4.4	4.7
<b>Impact of capacity building missions:</b> average score on a scale from one to five, with 'five' illustrating the highest level of impact.	3.8	4.3

The scoring for impact on sub-cluster capacity in Pakistan and Libya was scored at '3' which contributed to a decrease in average scores on this indicator. The reason for the low score in Pakistan was that planned remote and country support was interrupted when the REGA deployment for the Asia region was discontinued during the last quarter of 2017, due to unsustainable funding. In Libya, impact was considered low because the new GBV coordination group, which was the fruits of REGA consultations, had not yet formally been agreed upon. The process to establish a new GBV coordination group was initiated in 2016 with a REGA mission. The HCT approved the new coordination group in December 2017, and it was inaugurated under the Protection Cluster in February 2018 with a line to the Mixed Migration Working Group.

**Did REGA missions deliver?** According to feedback from 15 countries, the REGA missions delivered on all agreed mission outputs, except for Pakistan (as REGA role was discontinued, as explained above).

**66% of missions** were wrapped up with a **debriefing with senior humanitarian management or leadership**, in an effort to advocate for GBV prevention and response and ensuring leadership buy-in. Senior management is always offered a debriefing by the REGA, however, due to conflicting schedules this is not always possible.

Overall, REGA post mission feedback points to a high rate for follow-up of mission recommendation. **REGA recommendations were considered achievable and realistic.** However, in DRC support was provided to the L3 response in Kasai, and due to the urgent and complex needs there, it was reported that implementing the recommendations will demand 'a lot of work' in all humanitarian hubs but that only Kinshasa and Kananga have substantial capacity. Consequently, further REGA support is planned in 2018.

## 6. Challenges and Next Steps

It remains a challenge to maintain predictable and long-term funding that ensures contract continuity, stability for staff, and longer-term work planning. However, when it became clear that funding was precarious, it was very positive for the team to realize that the regional offices were ready to support resource mobilization.

The REGA position for the Asia region was not continued beyond November 2017. The position is based in Bangkok, where visa procedures are cumbersome, including an obligation to leave the country during new work permit and visa requests, creating an impediment for predictable planning of technical support unless the GBV AoR can find more predictable funding for this region. It has been more difficult to fundraise for this

<sup>10</sup> Source: REGA post mission feedback forms.

position than for the other geographical portfolios. The Asia region is very different from the African and Middle Eastern humanitarian contexts that are characterized by conflict; the Asia and the Pacific region is disaster prone, governments are reluctant to engage with traditional humanitarian architecture and the focus is therefore more on preparedness and working with national disaster management units. In 2018, the GBV AoR would like to reintroduce senior GBV advisory support in the Asia region, but the role will need to be adapted to this particular context to maximize impact, and sustainable funding needs to be available from the beginning.

In terms of GBV AoR resources, the GBV AoR and REGA team have received a global grant from ECHO to help facilitate the roll-out of the Call to Action Road Map, in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The GBV AoR considers this a strategic engagement, enabling the country level planning, coordination and implementation of such country specific Road Maps to be anchored in/expanding and building upon the work of the GBV sub-clusters. This will enable the GBV AoR to contract one more senior GBV advisor, and help in promoting the Call to Action within the GBV Coordinators Group in collaboration with the REGAs, as an effective advocacy tool to build inter-agency joint action on GBV. Most importantly, the new GBV Advisor will coordinate implementation and provide technical support to facilitate DRC and Nigeria Road Map activities. The new GBViE expert will be part of the REGA team, ensuring shared learning and capacity building.

Scarcity of senior GBV experts available for deployment is also a challenge for the project. It has meant that the GBV AoR has not been able to build up to full capacity and global reach. The REGA twinning arrangement and the initiative at the University of Nairobi aim to help build a new community of GBV experts for future deployments to humanitarian crises.

Moving into 2018, the GBV AoR will soon have a new GBV AoR Strategy, and the REGA deployments will be part of the new work plan. They are expected to continue serving as a core resource within the GBV AoR Coordination Team

There is a clear need for continued ‘senior GBV expert generalist support’ to build capacity, as GBViE work is less developed than some other sectors. In addition, the GBV AoR is looking at new partnerships and ways to increase technical Information Management support through additional deployable staff for field sub-clusters, by building up regional and country level capacity in collaboration with the REGAs, as increased IM capacity is essential for GBV analysis, response planning and fundraising, and therefore a mandatory cluster resource according to the IASC.

The REGAs will also collaborate with the Child Protection and GBV AoR, Child Survivors’ Initiative, a joint project with two deployable Child Survivors Coordinators and a technical advisor, a new project in 2018, to support learning and GBV sub-clusters capacity to improve coordination between the two AoRs and strengthen service provision to children and adolescent survivors of GBV. . The GBV AoR has also received funding for the REGA team to lead five coordination workshops for GBV and CP actors, resulting in Action Plans on practical steps to improve services that are adapted to the needs of children and adolescents. Learning from these workshops will feed into the GBV AoR Coordination Handbook revision process.

## **7. Annexes:**

- I. Draft REGA Strategic Framework
- II. Core Member Consultations, August 2017, on REGA role (REGA strategy consultations)
- III. Core Member Consultations, May 2017, on REGA role (REGA strategy consultations)
- IV. List of capacity building workshops and events
- V. Table of REGA mission feedback and follow-up