

TERMS OF REFERENCE – 2018-2020

GBV AoR Learning Reference Group

BACKGROUND

The Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) is the global-level forum for coordination and collaboration of GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings. The GBV AoR constitutes a focus area within the Global Protection Cluster (GPC). The GBV AoR brings together non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, academics, and others under the shared objective of ensuring life-saving, predictable, accountable, and effective GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response in emergencies, both natural disaster and conflict-related humanitarian contexts.

The Learning Reference Group is an ongoing initiative of the GBV AoR to steer and support capacity building initiatives for GBV specialists, including program managers and inter-agency coordinators, at the local, national, and international level.

To strengthen coordination of GBV capacity building opportunities, GBV AoR members first established a Training Task Team (TTT) in 2011. The Task Team met for less than one year and was then re-organized in 2014 with a broader focus as the Learning Task Team (LTT). In 2014, the LTT led a review of capacity to address GBV that resulted in a paper titled *Current State of Capacity for Addressing GBV in Humanitarian Contexts*. To address needs identified in this review, the LTT further led the development of a five-year *GBV AoR Capacity Building Strategy (2015-2020)* and a *Core Competency Framework* for GBV specialists (program managers and inter-agency coordinators). The group has been active since 2014.

In 2018, the GBV AoR determined that functional groups of the GBV AoR requiring sustained support should be considered “reference groups,” whereas “task teams” will focus on time-bound initiatives. The LTT was therefore re-titled Learning Reference Group (LRG).

REFERENCE GROUP GOAL

The Learning Reference Group seeks to identify, guide, undertake, share, and promote key resources and learning initiatives that will advance the field of addressing GBV in humanitarian contexts,

SPECIFIC REFERENCE GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Learning Reference Group identifies and supports the development of learning opportunities and related resources for GBV specialists and ensures progress toward specific capacity-building outputs in the GBV AoR Capacity Development Strategy.

From 2018-2020, the Learning Reference Group will:

1. Promote the implementation of the Capacity Development Strategy and the Core Competency Framework.
 - a. Review member proposals to advance key elements of the Capacity Building Strategy and identify areas of potential synergy for members to work together (as well as key gaps)
 - b. Proactively solicit and engage with key partners, including academic and learning institutions, to expand learning options for GBV in emergencies

- c. Develop a short summary document with essential points from the Capacity Building Strategy for members to use in advocacy
 - d. Continue to refine, promote, and circulate the GBV AoR Core Competency Framework
 - e. Outline a roadmap for emerging practitioners to become GBV specialists
2. Identify, strengthen and promote learning opportunities for GBV professionals
 - a. Maintain awareness of GBV-related training initiatives and other learning opportunities at global and regional levels
 - b. Share and disseminate information, encouraging clarity to help differentiate opportunities for field actors
 - c. Review resources, including tools and training materials, and provide feedback on resources in development
 - d. Identify gaps in learning materials/opportunities related to the Core Competency Framework and develop/promote materials/opportunities to address them.
 - e. Provide guidance to donors interested in supporting GBV capacity building initiatives
3. Support key GBV AoR capacity-building initiatives **and ensure linkages with the GBV AoR Work Plan**
 - a. Review and provide support as needed to the development of GBV AoR products and initiatives, including:
 - i. Coordinate with the Minimum Standards Task Team
 - ii. Steer the process for updating the GBV Coordination Handbook with the international consultant under the supervision of the GBV AoR Global Coordinator
 - iii. Support continued implementation of the GBV AoR Managing GBV in Emergencies multi-phased learning programme (MGBViE), including formalization of mentorship opportunities for emerging GBV specialists and further roll-out and support of the GBV AoR Community of Practice
 - iv. Support the GBV AoR Coordination Team in developing a specialist training course on GBViE information management
 - b. Support the GBV AoR Coordination Team in identifying best practices and learning on collaboration between Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and GBV
 - c. Work with the GBV AoR Coordination Team to explore the feasibility and steps necessary for establishing an AoR endorsement process

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITMENT

Members will engage consistently in the Learning Reference Group. Members represent a range of UN agencies, NGOs, as well as academic institutions and independent experts.

Learning Reference Group members have technical expertise in GBV, relevant knowledge and experience working in humanitarian settings, experience developing and/or reviewing resources and training materials, and commitment to the GBV AoR's vision and mission.

Time commitment and responsibilities: Members are expected to participate in monthly teleconferences (one hour in length) and to devote at least two hours per month reviewing plans, documents and/or learning resources. Additionally, members should be actively engaged in broader GBV AoR activities.

Co-chairs are expected to devote additional time to organize meetings, update members, and represent the LRG within the broader GBV AoR. Co-chairs are also responsible for the following:

- Ensure reporting and alignment of LRG activities with the GBV AoR Work Plan.
- Update the GBV AoR Coordination Team on LRG achievements and challenges in relation to the GBV AoR Work Plan
- Work to raise funds for LRG activities included in the GBV AoR Work Plan, with support from the GBV AoR Coordination Team

Committed LRG members:

Co-chairs: Micah Williams, International Medical Corps; Sara Tognetti, UNFPA

Members:

*Additional GBV AoR members and GBV experts may participate on an ad-hoc basis in LRG meetings and activities.

Interested Members:

Please contact Micah Williams mwilliams@internationalmedicalcorps.org and Sara Tognetti tognetti@unfpa.org if you are interested in serving the Learning Reference Group.

