

## WHY?

Gender Based Violence is a cross-cutting issue and therefore should be integrated into all aspects of emergency humanitarian response. All humanitarian actors share a responsibility to ensure that their activities do not lead to or perpetuate discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation. All sector activities should promote and respect human rights and enhance the protection of women, girls, men and boys.

The factors that contribute to Gender Based Violence in Somalia are complex and varied. The protective environment, which is already fragile in South and Central Somalia, is only expected to deteriorate under the current circumstances. The GBV Working group, with support from the Protection cluster and IASC GenCap adviser has developed this checklist to ensure the mainstreaming of GBV into the work of clusters. Below are cluster specific actions to ensure the mainstreaming of GBV.



## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Women are extremely vulnerable as they try to ensure food security for their families and children, be alert to women and girls being sexually exploited in exchange for food and access to assistance.

- ✓ **ENSURE ALL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES ARE INFORMED** on the 'zero tolerance policy on SEA' as highlighted in the SG Bulletin 2005 and are aware that involvement in SEA of beneficiaries will lead to immediate dismissal. The PSEA contact person details should be circulated widely for reporting cases.
- ✓ **ENSURE THAT YOU CONSULT WITH WOMEN AND MEN EQUALLY** during your needs assessment, and include women in your assessment teams.
- ✓ **PROVIDE INFORMATION THROUGH SIMPLE AND DIFFERENT METHODS** to ensure communication on food distributions reaches women, men, boys and girls. Communication messages should stress that food assistance being distributed is free and should not be provided in exchange for cash, goods, or sexual favours. Women, girls, boys and men should be provided with information on whom and where to make complaints in safety and confidence.
- ✓ **ENSURE DISTRIBUTION LOCATION AND TIME IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE** for women and girls, such as begin and end food distributions during the day to allow women, girls and other vulnerable groups to return home safely.
- ✓ **MONITOR SECURITY** on departure roads and ensure that women, girls and other vulnerable groups are not at increased risk of violence by having received food assistance.
- ✓ **ENSURE WOMEN ARE REPRESENTED** in food-distribution committees.



## HEALTH

- ✓ **INVOLVE FROM THE OUTSET WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN** in health assessments, and hire and deploy female and male local health workers.
- ✓ **ENSURE HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE AFFECTED LOCATIONS ARE ACCESSIBLE** and able to provide emergency response (medical and psycho-social) to survivors of sexual and gender based violence. If these services are not available locally, the community should be informed of the nearest health facilities where they can receive medical and other support.
- ✓ **ENSURE AN URGENT, APPROPRIATE AND COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE** to survivors of GBV. Build the capacity of medical and psychosocial staff to ensure effective response.

- ✓ **ENSURE SAME-SEX INTERVIEWERS** for individuals who have been exposed to GBV.
- ✓ **CONFIDENTIALLY GATHER AND DOCUMENT DATA** on Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
- ✓ **LIASE WITH UNFPA** for provisions of PEP kits for health facilities.
- ✓ **ENSURE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE SEEN** by the same sex health practitioner and that consultations/examination are private and confidential.
- ✓ **THROUGHOUT ALL PHASES OF THE EMERGENCY** the GBV working group and the health cluster should collaborate closely on linking protection-related GBV activities, health interventions and data collection and monitoring.



## PROTECTION

Access to scarce resources creates tensions and heightens risk of sexual and gender based violence. Women, men, boys and girls who can no longer sustain themselves during such crisis, often engage in risky and unconventional coping mechanisms. The lack of security and physical protection in the affected locations further increases the vulnerability of women, men, boys and girls.

- ✓ **STRENGTHEN DATA COLLECTION** including analysis on sexual and gender based violence in the affected locations, ensuring safety and confidentiality of survivors.
- ✓ **LINK UP WITH OTHER CLUSTERS** undertaking needs assessments to include questions on the nature and extent of sexual and gender based violence and SEA for monitoring and support.
- ✓ **IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS AT RISK** and link them to community based mechanisms and agencies for legal, medical and others support, including their integration in the family.



## SHELTER / NFIs

- ✓ **BEGIN AND END NFIS DISTRIBUTIONS DURING THE DAY** to allow women and girls to return safely. Monitor security on departure roads and ensure that women, girls and other vulnerable groups are not at increased risk of violence by having received NFIs.
- ✓ **DESIGN THE PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF IDP CAMPS** to promote a sense of community and reinforce community based protection, such as safe spaces for women, girls and boys, fence existing settlements to ward of wild animals and intruders, and lighting in communal areas.



## WATER AND SANITATION

When using communal water and sanitation facilities, women and girls are vulnerable to sexual violence. Women and girls also often have to walk long distances to fetch water, or wait a long time in queues to receive water; or to use toilets – increasing their exposure to sexual violence and abuse. To minimize these risks, the WASH cluster is advised to pay particular attention to safety and security risks for women and girls.

- ✓ **INVOLVE WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN** in all consultations and assessments to identify safety and security risks, and to identify locations of water points and sanitation facilities that are accessible and safe.
- ✓ **DESIGN SANITATION FACILITIES TO ENSURE PRIVACY AND SAFETY** such as bathing facilities and toilets have doors with locks on the inside, facilities are located in visible and central locations, and are well lit.
- ✓ **ENSURE WOMEN ARE REPRESENTED** in WASH committees.

# PSEA – ALL CLUSTERS

- ✓ **ALL CLUSTERS SHOULD ENSURE** that all staff and implementing partners are informed and aware of the zero tolerance policy on SEA as highlighted in the SG Bulletin 2005. All implementing partners including UN contractors must sign a code of conduct informing them of their obligations as well as consequences of involvement in SEA.
- ✓ **ENSURE THE PSEA FOCAL POINT CONTACT DETAILS** for your cluster are circulated widely to ensure beneficiaries and others are aware of the SEA reporting mechanism.

The GBV working group will circulate a list of service providers in South Central Somalia, who are able to provide legal, medical, psychosocial and other support to survivors of Gender Based Violence.

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