

Contextualizing the Minimum Standards

The **Contextualization Tool** outlines a **process** for applying the Minimum Standards to participants' local setting. The Contextualization Tool aims to support GBV implementing organizations and partners to assess and improve GBV programming components that are currently being implemented in their specific context toward achieving the GBV Minimum Standards. The GBV Minimum Standards contextualization process may be an intervention in itself as it supports reflection, planning, and collaboration among team members, organizations and partners.

Contextualization is the process of collectively: (1) assessing the extent to which GBV programming components are being implemented according to a GBV Minimum Standard in a particular context; and (2) identifying which Key Actions for each Minimum Standard, and/or additional actions, must be prioritized, initiated, adapted, sustained, strengthened or better coordinated to achieve the Minimum Standard in a specific context. The contextualization process may also include identifying appropriate partners and other resources, including women's organizations¹, with whom to coordinate to achieve the Minimum Standard.

All of the Minimum Standards contain a non-exhaustive list of Key Actions to: (1) achieve the Standard; and (2) contextualize implementation. Although the Standards are applicable in all settings, all Key Actions may not apply to all settings or to all stages of a humanitarian response.² Each Minimum Standard represents common agreement on what needs to be achieved for each specific programmatic element to be of adequate quality and avoid doing harm.

Contextualizing the GBV Minimum Standards is important because the contextualization process will result in GBV programming that is survivor-centred, of adequate quality and responsive to the evolving needs of diverse women and girls in that specific context. It is also an important process toward building a stronger community of practitioners, activists and policy-makers who are invested in the development and delivery of quality, accountable GBV response and prevention services.³

The contextualization process can also serve as a useful team-building and capacity-strengthening activity, where implementing actors cultivate ownership and inform the process of fulfilling the GBV Minimum Standards. Contextualisation can support managers and coordinators to listen and learn from implementing team members and women's organizations, who hold critical context-specific knowledge and understanding of GBV programming and the realities, challenges and opportunities in each location.

All of the Minimum Standards are based on international humanitarian and human rights frameworks which apply even in a crisis. Therefore, it is important for contextualization not to lower the Standards in a difficult context, or alter the rights-based foundations on which the Minimum Standards are based. Instead, contextualization should support identification of

¹ Women's organizations include national, regional and local civil society entities, including women-led and women-focused organizations, women's rights organizations and feminist movements.

² GBV Minimum Standards, p. xv.

³ GBV Minimum Standards, p. xv.

gaps and inspire GBV actors to implement programmes that reflect good practice and do not cause further harm.

Based on an analysis of the context, including the potential for harm or shortfalls in the quality of certain services, it may be necessary to place strategic focus on some Minimum Standards over others. In some circumstances, local factors (e.g. security, access, etc.) may make realization of the Minimum Standards and critical Key Actions unattainable in the short term. It is critical to reflect on the realities of the local context and identify strategies for change in order to address challenges and realize the Minimum Standards.

It may not be possible to achieve a particular Minimum Standard if other Standards are not yet achieved. For example, if a programme does not meet certain Minimum Standards, like Standard 1: GBV Guiding Principles, there may be a need to shift priorities to ensure that programming adheres to the GBV Guiding Principles and does not cause harm. As another example, Standard 13: Transforming Systems and Social Norms, requires that response services be available and accessible before engaging in prevention programming. In other words, it is not possible to fully achieve Standard 13 unless response services are in place. In this case, a programme may decide to prioritize contextualizing the GBV Minimum Standards that focus on response services, safety and risk mitigation, before focusing on prevention programming. The final step of the contextualization process, focused on planning, is an opportunity to outline actions toward fulfilling each Standard.

Purpose of the Contextualization Tool

The purpose of the Contextualization Tool is to support GBV implementing organizations, including government partners where appropriate, in assessing and improving GBV programming components that are currently being implemented in the specific setting toward achieving the Minimum Standards.

The Contextualization Tool takes participants through four key steps to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent is the Minimum Standard currently being implemented?
2. What Key Actions are necessary to achieve the Standard?
3. What tools and resources can accelerate implementation?
4. Who will do what and by when (based on identified activities or Key Actions)?

The process should entail a substantive reflection by GBV actors to evaluate achievement of the Minimum Standards in their context. It is critical to note that additional tools are not required to navigate the four steps described below.

The Contextualization Process: Four Steps

The four steps of the contextualization process are outlined in the following table:

	Contextualization Step	Explanation
1.	To what extent is the Minimum Standard currently being implemented?	<p>ASSESS current implementation of a Minimum Standard.</p> <p>How is the Standard implemented in context? What is your programme doing well with regard to this Standard?</p> <p>Is the Standard equally applied and/or accessible for all affected persons (adolescent girls, older women, women and girls with disabilities, or those with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities)? Are there women and girls who are being excluded?</p>
2.	What Key Actions are necessary to achieve the Standard?	<p>IDENTIFY what priority actions are necessary – either from the Key Actions contained in the Minimum Standard, and/or additional actions – to achieve the Standard.</p> <p>Note that some actions may need to be initiated, while other actions may need to be adapted to better fit the social and cultural context; other actions may need to be sustained, strengthened or better coordinated.</p>
3.	What tools and resources can accelerate implementation?	<p>COORDINATE. Identify who and what resources are available to support achievement of the Minimum Standard.</p> <p>Who are appropriate partners, including women’s organizations with whom to coordinate?</p> <p>Are there tools and resources that will help to implement the Standard?</p> <p>What is needed to maintain adequate quality for services that are already in place?</p>
4.	Who will do what and by when (based on identified activities or Key Actions)?	<p>PLAN. Prioritize, agree and plan action steps to support achievement of the Minimum Standard and promote accountability.</p> <p>Based on the activities and actions identified, plan for next steps within an organization, among implementing agencies, and/or within the GBV coordination group, if applicable.</p>

The Contextualization Process

The Contextualization Tool is set up as follows:

1. The four steps – Assess, Identify, Coordinate and Plan – define the columns in the tool. The four steps are framed as questions to reflect and generate discussion.
2. Each of the 16 rows represents one of the Minimum Standards and includes a non-exhaustive list of questions for each Standard. These 3-4 broad questions should support reflection on achievement of the Standard in a specific context. *Facilitators are encouraged to use the questions that seem most relevant to the context and to add additional questions.*

Facilitating the Contextualization Process

1. Remind participants which Minimum Standard(s) are targeted for contextualization in this session. It may be useful to explain why the targeted Minimum Standard(s) were chosen, i.e. the programming components are at the core of your agency's programming or, if in a coordination or group setting, why the targeted Minimum Standards need to be prioritized in the implementation area.
2. Designate a participant or co-facilitator to complete the Action Planning form (format provided below) to document the session. Alternatively, write each heading on a flip chart and document the discussion and agreements during the session.

Action Planning Format:

Minimum Standard	Prioritized Actions	Critical Contributors (new or existing)	Lead (person or organization)	Resources or Tools to Improve Implementation	Next Steps	Due Date
Standard Number/ Name						

3. Refer to the column headings outlining the four contextualization steps: Assess, Identify, Coordinate and Plan. Explain the steps according to the above table.
4. Note that the objective of the contextualization session is to stimulate strategic thinking on:
 - Current implementation of the Standard in a specific context;
 - The Key Actions necessary to achieve the Standard in the specific context;
 - The main resources (partners, tools, etc.) available to support achievement of the Standard; and
 - Actions points to promote achievement of the Standard in the context.
5. For each Standard, refer to the *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming* by specifying pages or sections. In the tool below, find the row that correlates to the Minimum Standard(s) that are the focus of the session.
6. For each Standard, discuss and answer the most relevant questions listed for each step. Reminder: The questions in the tool are not an exhaustive list and do not address *all dimensions* of each Standard.

7. Promote space for discussion of challenges and constructive approaches toward improving application of the GBV Minimum Standards in the local context.
8. To ensure accountability, revisit the table of prioritized actions and next steps in a follow-up meeting or subsequent sessions.

Although some aspects of the contextualization process may be challenging, additional tools should not be necessary to answer the questions for each Standard.

ASSESS	IDENTIFY	COORDINATE	PLAN
<p>To what extent is the Minimum Standard currently being implemented?</p>	<p>What Key Actions are necessary to achieve the Standard?</p>	<p>Who are the main actors that will need to work together to achieve the Standard? What tools and resources can accelerate implementation?</p>	<p>Who will do what and by when (based on activities or Key Actions)?</p>
<p>STANDARD 1: GBV Guiding Principles</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Which of the GBV Guiding Principles are well understood, and widely applied? • Which of the GBV Guiding Principles are less well understood, and less widely applied? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions are you already taking to ensure application? • What further Key Actions could you take to ensure better application? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 2: Women's and Girls' Participation and Empowerment</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • What constraints have you noted in regard to the participation of women and girls, particularly those most excluded and marginalized? • What have you been doing to mitigate constraints to their participation? • How are you monitoring any possible negative consequences/adverse impacts of the initiative on women and girls? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What further action can you take to maximize women and girls' participation? • What will you do to ensure that women and girls inform the design of GBV programming? • How can you implement programming that addresses power imbalances explicitly? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 3: Staff Care and Support</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Does your office have anything in place for 1) staff capacity, 2) safety and 3) well-being? • How can your office improve its policies and practices in order to meet the Minimum Standard? • What areas are most in need of improvement? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What further action can you and/or your office take to improve staff care and support? • What measures can be put in place to provide sufficient technical and psychosocial support for staff? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 4: Health Care for GBV Survivors</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Are GBV survivors able to access: (1) quality, (2) confidential, (3) age-appropriate and (4) compassionate health-care services? • What are some of the barriers to ensuring the standard is fully met? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions can you take to maximize women's, girls' and their community's participation and decision-making in health care? • How can you work with health-care actors and providers to identify and address gaps in service delivery to survivors of GBV? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial to working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 5: Psychosocial Support</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Are GBV survivors able to access (1) survivor-centred and (2) age-appropriate psychosocial support services that build community resilience, and support positive coping mechanisms? • What are some of the barriers in ensuring the Standard is fully achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions can you take to ensure that women and girls participate in the design of services that promote their psychosocial well-being. • What actions can you take to ensure that psychosocial support within your programmes are delivered in line with the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial to working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 6: GBV Case Management</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Which types of coordinated support within the Standard (medical treatment, psychosocial care, safety and protection, legal, education/ livelihood, and/or other protection services) are being implemented well? • What are some of the barriers to ensuring the Standard is fully met? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions can you take to ensure that GBV caseworkers are equipped with the knowledge, resources and tools they need to meet the Standard? • What actions can you take to ensure that Case Management services are delivered in line with the Standard, including ensuring access and support to all GBV survivors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 7: Referral Systems</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Does the current referral system provide quality multi-sectoral services, through a well-established referral system that support survivors' timely, safe and confidential access to services? • What are some of the barriers to ensuring the Standard is fully met? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions can you take to ensure that referral systems safely connect women, girls and other at-risk groups to appropriate multi-sector GBV prevention and response services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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STANDARD 8: Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date, how has the Standard been applied in your specific country/emergency context? Do the WGSS currently meet all 5 standard objectives? Are some better met than others? What are some of the barriers to ensuring the Standard is being met? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What Key Actions can you take to ensure that all 5 standard objectives of WGSS are being met? How could you ensure that community groups, particularly women and girls, are participating in the design and delivery of WGSS services? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 9: Safety and Risk Mitigation</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • What are all the ways in which you are promoting women's and girls' safety and reducing their GBV risk? • Are there specific sectors that could improve risk mitigation and/or women's and girls' participation? • What are some of the barriers to making progress? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you are meeting the Standard? • How can you ensure that GBV risk assessments and the development of safety strategies involve women and girls? • What can you do to promote the uptake of the <i>IASC GBV Guidelines</i> in other clusters/ sectors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 10: Justice and Legal Aid</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Do current systems (1) allow and support survivors to determine what constitutes justice, and (2) protect their safety and dignity? Do the systems respond to survivor's decisions, and are they non-discriminatory, fair and transparent? • What are some of the barriers to attaining the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you are meeting the Standard? • What can you do to ensure you and other actors are promoting a survivor-centred approach, that prioritizes respect and dignity of survivors? • What are you doing to ensure women's organizations and groups are leading in the achievement of this Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 11: Dignity Kits, Cash and Voucher Assistance</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Are Dignity Kits and Cash and Voucher Assistance programmes designed to meet the needs of women and girls? Is distribution fair, transparent and wide-reaching? How did you determine this? • What are some of the barriers to attaining the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you are meeting the Standard? • What can you do to assess, minimize, monitor and address GBV risk in CVA programmes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 12: Economic Empowerment and Livelihoods</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • How are you ensuring that you and other livelihood actors are delivering economic empowerment programmes that consider and respond to the potential harms/risks of women's participation? • What are you doing to ensure that women participate in the process of assessing risks, mapping needs and developing appropriate and responsive programmes? • What are some of the barriers to attaining the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you and other actors are meeting the Standard? • How can you support better coordination and collaboration between GBV and livelihoods sectors/clusters? • What can you do to address the underlying power structures that exclude women from economic opportunities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 13: Transforming Systems and Social Norms</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Which aspects of GBV programming explicitly analyse and address harmful social norms and systemic gender inequality, and are they accountable to women and girls? • What are the limiting factors in prioritizing and implementing programmes that help to transform systems and norms? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you and other actors are meeting the Standard? • What would you do during the preparedness, response and recovery stages? • How will you ensure that women and girls are leaders in initiatives that address transforming systems and norms? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 14: Collection and Use of Survivor Data</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Consider this in regard to (1) GBV-IMS and Other Systems (e.g. MARA), (2) Information-Sharing Protocols; (3) National GBV data systems; and (4) Reporting and communications on GBV. • Which aspects of the 5 main activities (data-collection, informed consent, data storage, data analysis and data-sharing) meet the Minimum Standard? • What are some of the barriers to attaining the Minimum Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you are meeting the Minimum Standard? • What can you do to promote safe and ethical information management, storage and use? • How could you ensure that other actors are also meeting the Minimum Standard? • How would you ensure that staff (and particularly those involved with communications and media) employ a survivor-centred approach in dealing with data? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 15: GBV Coordination</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • How well do you think that your organization and the GBV sub-cluster/sector or working group are implementing their six core functions? • What are some of the barriers to performing the six core functions/attaining the Minimum Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you are meeting the Minimum Standard? • How can you assess if the sector is working together in coordination of results in timely, concrete action to mitigate risks, and prevent and respond to GBV? • What kinds of training/ resources/leadership could you provide to other actors in GBV coordination? • How would you address problem areas in GBV coordination, collectively with other actors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?

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<p>STANDARD 16: Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Standard applied in your specific country/ emergency context? • Does your data-collection process include participatory approaches and alignment with the WHO ethical considerations? • What mechanisms are established to ensure regular input from all women and girls? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Key Actions could you take to ensure that you are meeting the Minimum Standard? • Do your routine data-collection and monitoring methods prioritize safety for women and girls? • How could your data-collection efforts be more participatory? • Do your routine data-collection activities empower local communities and generate data that the communities could use? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will work together to achieve these Key Actions? • What other available resources, such as tools or training, will be beneficial for working together to achieve the Standard? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you know you have achieved the identified Key Actions (who is responsible for reporting back, by which date, and how will you measure success)?