**Concept Note**

**Call to Action Annual Meeting Side Event:**

**Growing Momentum: The GBV AoR’s Strategic Priorities (2021-25)**

Tuesday, 14 September 2021, 5:15pm-5:45pm CET

**In partnership with** Representatives of the GBV AoR Core Membership (UNICEF, UN Women, UNHCR, WHO, OCHA, IOM, Save the Children, International Medical Corps, Women Refugee Commission, Trocaire, Plan International, Norwegian Church Aid, International Rescue Committee, Intersos, World Vision International, Oxfam, InterAction, ActionAid, CARE International, IFRC, ICGBV, IPPF), the Global Protection Cluster and the Child Protection AoR.

**Background:**

The Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) is the global-level forum for coordination and collaboration on GBV prevention and response and advancing risk mitigation in humanitarian settings under the Cluster System. The GBV AoR constitutes a focus area within the Global Protection Cluster (GPC). The GBV AoR works to strengthen system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian crises, bringing together non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, academics and others under the shared objective of ensuring life-saving, predictable, accountable and effective action on GBV. UNFPA is the lead-agency of the GBV AoR.

The GBV AoR is a member of the 96 partner strong Network of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. Its core members and decision making body are Call to Action Partners. Hence, the GBV AoR has an unwavering commitment to the Call to Action, and contributed actively to shaping the new Outcome Area dedicated to Field Coordination in the CtA Road Map. Its leadership enables effective coordination of GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response across more than 30 countries, significantly contributing to its successful implementation. Furthermore, the GBV AoR was instrumental in bringing the Call to Action to the field (Northeast Nigeria and DRC).

The main functions of the GBV AoR are; global leadership and coordination, support to field level coordination mechanisms, advocacy, communications and partner engagement, learning, development and capacity building and policy and standard setting. Furthermore, the GBV AoR, including its regional support teams (the REGA) and its global members, is increasingly providing technical support to set up coordination structures to address GBV during the additional challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic and across preparedness settings as climate change is heightened. At field level, the GBV AoR has a membership of 1809 individuals and organizations, the majority being national and local actors, including government counterparts, service providers, women led organizations and civil society.

**Side event:**

2020 marked a change in the landscape of gender-based violence (GBV) for the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR). The global COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges to people living in emergency contexts and saw an increase in the scourge of GBV. Restrictions on movement and social isolation have augmented intimate partner violence and other forms of GBV and decreased access to support and services. The GBV AoR remains at the forefront of the humanitarian response. It keeps adapting services for and increasing frontline workers’ capacity to respond to GBV and advance prevention and risk mitigation through its global, regional, and national teams.

This side event proposed, ‘**Growing Momentum: The GBV AoR’s Strategic Priorities for 2021-25**’ will specifically focus on the AoR’s strategic priorities for the next 5-year period and its vision for addressing GBV in emergencies by further supporting coordination based on lessons learned and emerging circumstances. In this new Strategy, the GBV AoR focuses on the following strategic objectives:

1. Support Strong and Effective Coordination of GBV Action in Humanitarian Contexts
2. Strengthen Partnerships and Facilitate Joint Advocacy to Ensure that Action on GBV is Integrated into All Humanitarian Response Efforts and is Central to Humanitarian Action
3. Promote Learning, Set Standards and Communicate Good Practice and Inclusive Approaches for GBV Prevention and Response Services
4. Support a Strong, Diverse and Inclusive GBV Community that Continues to Innovate and Work in Partnership Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

In alignment with the findings and recommendations of its consultation process, and in alignment with the Call to Action Roadmap 2021-2025, the newly published GBV AoR Strategic Plan for 2021-25 calls for stronger participation and leadership of women and girls at all levels, particularly, those affected by humanitarian crises.

The event will be an opportunity for the GBV AoR and its members to learn more about the new GBV AoR Strategy and how it positions GBV coordination as a cornerstone of humanitarian preparedness and response across all contexts, aligned with Call to Action Roadmap and commitments.

The Strategy builds on progress made, the challenges that remain, and the new unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic globally and particularly within humanitarian settings, to guide the way forward. The experience of the GBV AoR over 2018 to 2020 has demonstrated that, despite advances in reinforcing GBV coordination mechanisms to ensure timely service provision, the gaps in humanitarian programming to effectively meet the needs of displaced populations and survivors, have been aggravated by the global pandemic. There is an imperative for the meaningful inclusion and participation of the affected population in GBV planning, decision-making, and response from the start of any emergency.

While the overall affected population in any conflict or disaster is at risk, women and girls continue to be affected disproportionately, and remain the most underserved. In addition, women and girls with disabilities, men and boys of non-heterosexual orientations, and other marginalized groups face additional barriers to gaining access to lifesaving GBV services. Strong, sustained GBV coordination continues to be needed within the humanitarian sector. As humanitarian practitioners continue to reckon with ongoing emergencies linked to conflict, climate change, and disasters, the GBV AoR, led by UNFPA, remains at the forefront of the coordination of GBV prevention and response in emergencies that result in forced displacement. The new AoR Strategy provides the framework for a holistic approach to GBV coordination that is both responsive and anticipatory of these shifts.

**Format:**

This event will consist of formal speeches, followed by a concise virtual presentation of the GBV AoR Strategy and interventions from the floor.

The Strategy launch is held in honour of field GBV sub-cluster coordinators, the GBV AoR core membership, Call to Action Representatives, as well as UNFPA humanitarian staff, and other relevant guests and partners.

**Objectives:**

* Present the new GBV AoR Strategy 2021-25’s new strategic priorities.
* Illustrate the alignment and relationship between the GBV AoR strategic priorities and the new CtA Road Map.

**Agenda:**

Moderator:

* **Ms. Manisha Thomas**, Geneva Representative, Women’s Refugee Commission

Opening remarks:

* **Ms. Mette Thygesen**, Head of Department, Humanitarian Action, Civil Society and Engagement, Denmark;

Introductory remarks:

* **Ms. Shoko Arakaki**, Director of the Humanitarian Office, UNFPA;
* **Ms. Andrea Studer**, Deputy Head of Humanitarian Aid, Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development;

Presentation of GBV AoR Strategy:

* **Ms. Jennifer Chase**, Global Coordinator of the GBV AoR;

Remarks by AoR Member:

* **Ms. Nicole Behnam,** Senior Director, Violence Prevention and Response Unit, IRC.

Interventions from the floor.

**Invited stakeholders:** Call to Action Members, GBV AoR members and partners, Regional Experts (REGA Teams) GBV Coordinators, UNFPA humanitarian and other staff, humanitarian donor partners

**To register,** please visit:

English: [https://diagnostics.phap.org/s3/CTA2021-register-EN-AOR](http://english)

French: <https://diagnostics.phap.org/s3/CTA2021-register-FR-AOR>

Arabic: <https://diagnostics.phap.org/s3/CTA2021-register-AR-AOR>

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