

TERMS OF REFERENCE

GBV AoR Task Team on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Background

As one of four functional components of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) is the global level forum for coordinating prevention and response to GBV in humanitarian and other crisis settings. The need for a Task Team dedicated to MHPSS within the GBV AoR has re-emerged following the publication of the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming. Since, there has been an exciting, increased focus on articulating and strengthening MHPSS dimensions of GBViE programming. This Task Team seeks to build off and complement the GBViE Minimum Standards and other initiatives.

Purpose and Objectives

The MHPSS Task Team aims to capture key operational and technical challenges partners are facing; strengthen the coordination, quality and effectiveness of GBV preparedness and response; and, harmonize efforts to identify, promote, and support implementation of MHPSS interventions for survivors of GBV in humanitarian settings.

Outcomes:

Building on GBV AoR requests and in alignment with existing AoR member initiatives informing the GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings, the MHPSS Task Team will collectively work to:

- **Outcome 1: Collate country-level technical, operational and coordination challenges**
 - Consult with partners and GBV Sub-cluster/sector teams to capture/collate questions related to implementation challenges faced by GBV actors and partners to support the MHPSS needs of survivors
 - Review expressed concerns and gaps--and if needed, liaise with subject matter experts--and propose context-adapted measures and tools
 - Identify approaches and channels for engaging inputs and perspectives from country/community-level practitioners.
- **Outcome 2: Support the technical review of MHPSS-GBV resources, as requested**
- **Outcome 3: Capture and share lessons learned, good practices**
 - Present opportunities for knowledge construction and learning widely using multiple methods and highlighting diverse theoretical constructs and approaches within GBV MHPSS work
 - Promote dialogue-based peer learning and exchange to expose GBV actors to MHPSS strategic approaches and principles; Capture and share key lessons and good practice on GBV MHPSS preparedness and response

- Support country GBV Sub-Cluster/Sector to adopt guidance (e.g., through thematic webinars; key messages, etc.)
- **Outcome 4: Strengthen coordination between GBV and MHPSS sectors**
 - Increase representation in MHPSS fora at global, regional, and country level (e.g. MHPSS Reference Group, MHPSS working group(s), and high level events/conferences)

All activities and meetings will be discussed and agreed on by consensus, culminating in a work plan that will guide the Task Team's work. While the Task Team sits within the GBV AoR, members will explore ways for future collaboration with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on MHPSS in Emergency Settings.

Membership and Commitment

Membership is open to all GBV AoR members (to be defined further in current revision of the GBV AoR governance). Each agency or independent consultant who is part of the task team should participate consistently, or arrange for a fully briefed alternative or back-up. The broader membership of the AoR is responsible for regularly flagging upcoming MHPSS initiatives or events, or updating the rest of the members of relevant activities and initiatives. Members are encouraged to assign a person with specific MHPSS expertise to this Task Team from their respective agencies, although the Task Team will remain open to all representatives of agencies who may wish to meaningfully engage in the group's work.

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 other resources.

Coordination and Governance

The Task Team is chaired by two core member agencies (e.g., one UN, one INGO). Co-chairs are expected to devote time to organize meetings, update members, and represent the Task Team within the broader GBV AoR. Co-chairs are also responsible for ensuring Task Team activities are aligned with the GBV AoR Work Plan. Chairing of the Task Team will be reviewed in line with stipulations to be made in current revision of the AoR governance structure (or earlier if a current chair departs before the end of their term) to ensure opportunities for rotation and open election with the member group. If and when a vote is required for any business of the Task Team, there will be one vote allotted to each agency.