

# **GBV Working Group for Somalia**

## **Terms of Reference -2012**

### **Background**

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Somalia is prevalent and is manifested in many forms including but not limited to; rape, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. It also encompasses harmful traditional practices such as female genital cutting/mutilation, early and forced marriages. Various actors, including UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs and local authorities are involved in GBV prevention and response activities in Somalia. Accordingly, there was need to establish the Somalia Gender Based Violence Working Group (GBV WG) as a coordinating body to strengthen and enhance the efforts and activities of stakeholders in the country, in the prevention of and response to Gender-Based Violence. The GBV working group ToR is established within the framework of the ToR for the Somalia Protection Cluster.

### **Definition of GBV**

The GBV working group aims to consider all types of gender-based violence in its coordination, planning and advocacy activities. The working group has adopted the definition in the IASC Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian settings which defines GBV as: an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.

### **Overall purpose**

The GBV working group for Somalia aims to co-ordinate and support the activities of all relevant stakeholders in the prevention of and response to GBV in Somalia. The GBV working group recognizes that there may be different contextual factors that will guide the priorities and strategies in Puntland, Somaliland and South Central regions of Somalia and that these should be determined at field level with the support and guidance of the working in Nairobi.

## **Membership of GBV WG**

The membership of the GBV working group includes UN agencies, INGOs, donors and national/local NGOs although membership in the field includes relevant local authorities/ministries. Members of the working group both in Nairobi and in the field are GBV focal persons representing their organization's activities in prevention and response to gender-based violence and are expected to participate as active members of the working group. Members are expected to share information on GBV activities regularly with the working group and the protection cluster. The GBV working group in Nairobi, in close collaboration with other coordinating bodies, discusses implementation and co-ordination from a national perspective, providing support, problem solving and provides the overall policy level action for the field working groups. The field working groups discuss details of co-ordination and implementation, identifying problems and needs, problems solving and ensuring direct delivery of services.

## **Leadership**

The working group at the Nairobi level is co-chaired by UNFPA and UNHCR. The coordinating agencies will be responsible to ensure the smooth running of the GBV working group in Nairobi and support co-ordination efforts in the field by designing effective GBV strategies and activities, and provide technical support to relevant stakeholders. The leadership will also ensure close and effective collaboration with the leadership of working groups in the field by encouraging participation, convening regular meetings, promoting coordination and information sharing among key multi-sectoral actors.

## **Meetings**

The Working Group in Nairobi will meet on the second Wednesday of every month. Working groups in the field are encouraged to schedule their monthly meetings a week ahead to allow their discussions to feed into the agenda of the GBV working group in Nairobi. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the chairs or at the request of members of the Working Group, when this is considered necessary to address an issue of urgent matter. A draft agenda will be circulated to members of the Working Group at least five days before the regular monthly meeting, giving the members the opportunity to suggest additional items for discussion. Draft minutes will be circulated within one week of the meeting. The minutes will then be circulated to GBV working groups in the field.

## Principles

The work of the Somalia GBV working group will be guided by the following principles;

- **Confidentiality;** ensuring that survivors, witnesses and information sources are protected. No identifying information will be revealed in data resources, nor during discussions in coordination and other meetings, when reference is made to specific GBV cases.
- **Safety;** all actors will prioritize the safety of the survivor, family, witnesses and service providers at all times.
- **Respect;** actions and responses of all actors will be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and the dignity of the survivor.
- **Neutrality;** a non- partisan approach in providing services to survivors.
- **Impartiality;** non discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, religion, political views, sexual orientation, social or other status.
- **Participatory approach;** ensuring to the extent possible, consultation with all members of the community (women, girls, boys and men) in GBV activities/ programmes.
- **Independence;** working without influence of states, government bodies, parties to a conflict or other political entities.

## Reporting

The Protection Cluster in Nairobi (together with its sub-clusters in the field) is the primary body for development and coordination of the Protection strategy in Somalia. The GBV WG is a sub-cluster of the Protection Cluster, tasked with the responsibility to incorporate GBV and provide relevant information and recommendations to the Protection Cluster for inclusion in the overall protection strategy. GBV working groups, through its national coordination mechanism in Nairobi, will keep the Protection Cluster informed of its activities and strategies and the chairs will liaise to ensure complementarities of the two working groups. The GBV WG's in the field will report to the Protection Cluster's in the field and the GBV working group in Nairobi. The GBV WG will participate in all Protection Cluster meetings and provide feedback on developments.

## **Linkages with other working groups/bodies**

The GBV working group will establish and maintain close links with other working groups within the Protection cluster such as; Child Protection working group, Protection Monitoring Steering committee and the Mixed Migration Task Force in addressing issues of common interest. The working group will also work closely with the Gender Theme Group and the Reproductive health working group.

## **Responsibilities and Key Activities of the National GBV Working Group**

The GBV working group serves as the primary body for coordination, policy development, technical advice and oversight of prevention and response to GBV in Somalia. The working group will maintain effective communication and coordination with field level working groups.

### **1. Improving co-ordination and information shairing**

- Conduct regular mapping of the 4Ws in all of the key areas related to GBV prevention and response.
- Develop and maintain a training information matrix;
- Develop and maintain an information management site e.g through the OCHA website and ensure that the GBV site is well organized and continuously updated with information.
- Regularly identify and document key achievements, best practices, lessons learned, and other information on effective mechanism to address GBV, and utilize the information for future planning and programming.
- Ensure co-ordination with other gender groups; Human rights and Gender Thematic Group (GTG).
- Update the GBV ToR and strategy on an annual basis.
- Prepare a plan of action each year.

### **2. Developing information systems and Conducting assessments**

- Support the safe collection of GBV data though rolling-out of GBVIMS in all field locations.

- Review and consolidate existing assessments on the GBV situation and/or work with relevant agencies and the displaced and host populations to conduct relevant participatory assessment on GBV.
- Distribute regular and consistent reports to all stakeholders to keep them informed about the nature and extent of Gender Based Violence and how it is being addressed.

### **3. Making appeals for GBV funding**

- Conduct regular partner/activity mapping to know the funds available/committed by actors for GBV programmes;
- Explore other sources of funding and follow up with identification, and contact building with relevant donors;
- Provide necessary information to GBV partners about funding opportunities, requirements and processes;
- Facilitate the channeling of GBV projects through appropriate clusters/sectors; and
- Provide technical guidance for both funding and implementing agencies.

### **4. Mainstreaming GBV into other clusters/sectors**

- Regularly participate in various cluster/sector meetings to represent GBV concerns as appropriate;
- Enhance the participation of other clusters/sectors in the GBV working group; and
- Making periodic presentations in various fora such as Cluster co-ordination meetings, IASC, UNCT etc.

### **5. Support development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

- Provide technical support to the field working groups in the process of developing, implementing and monitoring Standard Operating Procedures for all actors involved in GBV response.

### **6. Building capacity of GBV partners to prevent and respond to GBV.**

- Conduct trainings and workshops on GBV for members of the working group to increase knowledge base on GBV.
- In collaboration with other clusters and experts, support the capacity building of relevant stakeholders and service providers.

- Develop, implement and monitor the referral pathway to ensure the referral system focus on providing prompt and appropriate services to GBV survivors, including HIV related services.
- Work with partners to develop and/or revise GBV materials according to local context and implement relevant training sessions for multi-sectoral prevention and response on GBV.
- Support the enrollment of partners into GBV related courses and learning programmes.

**7. Conducting advocacy**

- Support the field working groups in conducting advocacy at the local level e.g through community mobilization, supporting behavior change and develop IEC materials.
- Develop strategic partnerships with trusted advocacy organizations and journalists.
- Educating the donor community and provide recommendations on how and where donor funds for GBV activities can be most effective.
- Through the protection cluster, work with the RC/HC to facilitate joint advocacy action through the UNCT, IASC.

<b>Contact</b>
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For further information regarding the GBV Working Group in Nairobi and in the field kindly contact;

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<b>Amendments</b>
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This ToR is a working document and may be altered to meet the current needs of all members (at national level and field level) by agreement of the majority of the members. Unless there is a specific request from members to make amendments, the ToR will be reviewed once a year to re-affirm responsibilities of the working group.