



Terms of Reference

GPC Gender-Based Violence Working Group (GBV WG)

March 2026

Purpose of the GBV WG

The primary aim of the global GBV WG is to enhance access for survivors to quality survivor-centered GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings by supporting the GPC in fostering inter-agency coordination, ensuring alignment with global GBV standards and guidelines, and amplifying the voices of local actors, particularly WLOs, frontline service providers.

This TOR covers the transition period (March 2026 - February 2027) and responds to a request from the core members of the global GBV Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), recognizing that the streamlined functioning of the group, and modalities, will rely also on the broader ways of working within the consolidated Global Protection Cluster. To ensure that the GBV WG remains relevant and is fit for purpose, these TORs will be in effect for one year upon endorsement, and shall be reviewed and adjusted as needed.

The GBV WG will support integration of GBV within the consolidated Protection Cluster, as per the Humanitarian Reset, while promoting dedicated technical support, advocacy and specialized attention to GBV prevention and response. It supports the GPC global team to implement **key objectives of its annual workplan**, including with regard to country support and global advocacy and engagement. This will be carried out as follows:

- I. **Support prioritization, alignment and visibility of GBV within the consolidated Global Protection Cluster**; raising relevant issues to the GPC global team and SAG; channeling the voices of Cluster Coordination teams, including country GBV working groups where established¹, and WLOs, supporting the implementation of the GPC Strategic Framework, contributing to GPC related guidance and fora (including the Advocacy Working Group and other relevant WGs) with GBViE expertise.
- II. **Support the representation and participation of GBV actors** in the Global Protection Cluster, the SAG, task teams, reference groups and other platforms, (see end of document), IASC mechanisms and other inter-agency forums to ensure GBV concerns are integrated across sectors, as part of a coordinated protection strategy.

¹ When and where established, GBV WGs are an integral part of the country Protection Cluster.

- III. **Ensuring a platform where partners can coordinate dedicated GBV action²**, specialized advocacy, raising field priorities, and promoting participation and inclusion of WLO and local GBV responders in protection coordination/GBV groups.

GBV WG Functions

1. **Uphold and promote agreed GBV standards, principles, approaches**, and tools for GBV prevention and response, as a primary focus while supporting gender-responsive humanitarian principles, intersectionality, disability inclusion and accountability to affected populations.
2. **Participation: Amplify the voices of women-led organizations** in global and regional fora, as well as their engagement in country level PC SAGs and GBV working groups (where these exist), including coordination leadership (identifying funding for travel for in-person meetings when feasible).
3. **Supporting country Protection Clusters, including GBV working groups where established, to connect with the global GBV WG members' field counterparts**, including to facilitate the sharing of relevant GBV resources and promoting joint and inclusive capacity strengthening opportunities, in support of and coordination with the GPC country support team.
4. **Prioritization:** Adopt a collective approach to prioritization, focusing energy on essential initiatives. Support to Country Protection Clusters with identifying priority GBV interventions as relevant and requested (for example what are lifesaving interventions within streamlined structures). The same approach will be taken to meetings and platforms, aiming to reduce parallel structures as feasible and promoting efficient engagement via focal points system.
5. **Global advocacy in support of countries:**
 - Raise critical issues from field operations to the global level through the GPC Coordination team for targeted advocacy or technical support, leveraging the GPC Advocacy WG and donor fora to elevate critical issues and promote GBV prevention and response as a life-saving and cross-cutting humanitarian priority within and external to the IASC system.
 - Capture learning on what works from diverse humanitarian contexts and communicate good practices with external platforms (such as Call to Action, SVRI, CSW, PSEA, HNPW, etc.) via coordinated GBV WG engagement, as well as between country operations.

² The focus of the GBV WG is on specialized GBV action, but joint initiatives with other clusters on integration and GBV risk mitigation, engaging with the GBV Guidelines Reference Group and other partners working on risk mitigation and prevention, can be considered (within the GBV WG workplan).

- Sharing country GBV data and analysis to monitor progress on the consolidation of the Protection Cluster and impact of funding cuts (on both protection and specialized areas), to advance advocacy and policy goals.

6. Contribute to fundraising efforts for agreed priorities, including through joint proposals and shared visibility products, including for initiatives impacted by global political pushbacks on gender and rights.

Ways of Working

Working within the Global Protection Cluster, the GBV WG will provide technical leadership and collective advocacy to strengthen GBV prevention, mitigation and response.

The GBV WG will contribute to system-wide gender equality commitments, recognizing that GBV prevention and response is both a life-saving protection priority and a prerequisite for women's meaningful participation and access to services.

Chairing: The group will be chaired by the GBV lead (from UNFPA) within the GPC global team. Co-chairing by an NGO could be considered at a later stage.

Meetings: The GBV WG will convene members based on needs. Frequency of meetings will be agreed during the group's first meeting.

Relationship with GPC Strategic Advisory Group: The GBV WG is an inter-agency platform that sits within the Global Protection Cluster. While the day-to-day, technical relation of the GBV WG is with the GPC global team, the GBV WG is formally endorsed by the GPC SAG and GBV lead(s) within the GPC global team, as well as GBV partners members of the SAG (UNFPA, IMC and possibly SOFEPADI and CAFI network), will ensure that issues of strategic significance raised by the GBV WG will be brought to the SAG's attention.

Technical GBV WG leadership: IASC clusters have a guidance and standard setting function. The GBV WG embodies this function regarding GBViE for the Protection Cluster, in line with and support of the GPC global team. (inclusive of the GBV lead).

The GBV WG works within a simplified humanitarian architecture, characterized by significant resource constraints at country level, impacting negatively on GBV prevention and response service delivery. In such an environment, the development of new global technical guidance is not a priority and may even be considered a distraction. Instead, as relevant, the group will promote the uptake of existing standards and guidance, support Protection Cluster and other sectors with technical oversight, integration of standards and GBV expertise. There may be requests for light guidance to coordinators because of the Humanitarian Reset and in response to global policy shifts. In such

cases, the global GBV coordination lead may consult GBV WG members to provide quality assurance and ensure adherence to existing minimum standards.

GBV WG products and use of GPC logo: In line with the consolidation of the Protection Cluster and the [Terms of Reference of the GPC SAG](#), any statement and product of strategic significance produced by the GBV WG must be coordinated with the GPC global team, through the GBV lead(s), and can be brought to the SAG where deemed relevant. Having a Protection Cluster logo strengthens recognition of the document within the IASC system and to some donors as well as increase utilization by additional protection actors.

Membership

- Active core members of the former GBV AoR, which include UN, international and national NGOs, and women-led organizations, committed to ensuring a coherent, accountable and effective response to GBV in emergencies, will transition to the global GBV WG during the one-year transition period.
- To maximize coherence and synergies across the cluster, new membership of GPC SAG GBV representatives (CAFI, SOFEPADI) will be considered once the GBV WG is established, as well as one GBV lead from a country Protection Cluster coordination team (based on interest and availability). Any requests from other GPC SAG members who have GBV programs will be considered positively.
- UNFPA Regional Emergency Advisors (REGAs) and GBV leads in country Protection Clusters can be invited to meetings, as well as the global GBV AoR Community of Practice Coordinator to ensure efficient sharing of resources and communication to the GBVIE community.

Link to related coordination / interagency GBV platforms

The GBV WG may decide to have a focal point system, coordinated by its chair(s), to ensure efficiency and synergies with GBV platforms outside of the formal cluster system. In general, the GPC and its GBV WG are mindful of the need to avoid parallel structures and reduce the number of demands on its members and partners. Existing and/or potential collaborations include:

- The Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies
- UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Relevant IASC bodies: Gender Reference Group and the PSEA Technical Advisory Group
- The GBV Guidelines Reference Group (led by UNICEF and CARE), focused on promoting GBV risk mitigation across sectors
- The GBV Response, Data & Innovation Initiative (GBV RDI) (previously GBV IMS Steering Committee)
- Global GBV Technical Hub managed by UNICEF
- GBV Community of Practice (GBV CoP) managed by UNFPA