



Gender-based violence

(Area of responsibility within protection)

Young people’s risk of various forms of violence increases in humanitarian settings. Adolescent girls and young women are at increasing risk of violence, due in particular to the worsening of existing inequalities between young men and young women.¹⁸⁶ Girls and young women with disabilities are more likely to face physical and sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and are less likely to be able to access services, due to a variety of physical, societal and communication barriers.¹⁸⁷ Homophobia and transphobia not only contribute to GBV but also significantly undermine LGBTQIA+ GBV survivors’ ability to access support, most acutely in settings where sexual orientation and gender identity are policed by the state.¹⁸⁸

Humanitarian actors should assume that GBV is happening even in the absence of accurate data, which may be impossible to collect during a crisis.

Adolescent girls and young women are at risk of sexual assault and rape, especially if food, water or fuel sources are located far from settlements or in unsafe areas. Sexual exploitation, including the exchange of sex for essential goods and services, trafficking and sexual slavery, may increase during emergency situations. Soldiers or armed groups can perpetrate opportunistic or systematic sexual violence, including as a weapon of war, including against boys and young men. Violence in the home can escalate during emergencies as young men lose their jobs and status – particularly in communities with traditional gender roles and where family violence is normalized. Girls are also more vulnerable to child marriage during emergency situations.¹⁸⁹

Addressing GBV requires a joint effort among allies, partners and activists, including boys and young men, but male involvement should not end up diverting funding and capacity from women’s organizations, or perpetuating gender inequality.



Tip sheet

Key actions for GBV programming at each stage of the humanitarian programme cycle [HPC]

HPC phases	What to do	Tips for young people’s participation
Needs assessment and analysis 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Review data related to GBV within the context, but assume that GBV is happening even in the absence of accurate data. → As determined within the GBV coordination mechanisms, collect data on the differing GBV risks and needs of young people, and analyse these data disaggregated by sex, age and disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hold consultations – grouped by age and sex of participants – with a diverse cross-section of young people to identify their GBV needs and priorities and to inform responses.

HPC phases

What to do

Tips for young people's participation

Needs assessment and analysis

1

- Gather information on:
 - specific GBV services available for adolescents, especially girls and young women;
 - GBV services that are and are not accessible to young people with disabilities;
 - the internally displaced person (IDP)/refugee registration and profiling systems/staff and how they address the rights and needs of girls and young women, GBV survivors and other at-risk groups.
- Analyse data to understand:
 - whether specific GBV services are sufficiently available and accessible to adolescents (especially girls and young women) and to young people with disabilities;
 - how sexual violence has affected adolescent boys and young men;
 - whether or not the IDP/refugee registration and profiling systems or staff respect the rights and needs of girls and young women, GBV survivors and other at-risk groups.
- Respect confidentiality and safety of young people when sharing GBV-related concerns.

- Hold consultations – grouped by age and sex of participants – with a diverse cross-section of young people to identify their GBV needs and priorities and to inform responses.

Strategic planning

2

- Identify if there is a coordination mechanism on GBV in place within Protection, and establish whether adolescent girls and young women are participating.
- Allocate a GBV focal point for adolescents and youth.
- Programme for the needs and priorities of young people within the GBV Area of Responsibility, and develop age- and gender-appropriate interventions for younger adolescents, older youth, boys and young men, disabled young people, those living in remote areas, and other vulnerable groups.
- Plan to address physical safety needs in and around sites as this relates to risks of GBV. Consider the Sphere standards; lighting; need for women-, youth- and child-friendly spaces; when, where, how and by whom security patrols are conducted; safety of water, distribution sites for food and other goods; accessibility for persons with disabilities, etc.
- Plan for GBV prevention and response programmes to take into account service provision for all young people, prioritizing at-risk groups.

- Ensure young people – particularly adolescent girls and young women – are included in the design, implementation and monitoring of GBV programming.
- Engage young women in community-based interventions to identify Protection needs, map available services, take part in patrols, provide basic psychosocial support and strengthen referral pathways.

HPC phases	What to do	Tips for young people's participation
Resource mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Develop information and key messages on adolescents and youth, such as from assessment reports, to influence GBV funding priorities. → Report on gaps in funding for adolescents and youth in GBV to donors and other humanitarian stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Work with young people to develop advocacy messages on GBV for funding.
Implementation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Continuously ensure awareness is raised with colleagues and young people that identification of GBV survivors is never recommended and that consultations should not be designed in a way that specifically targets or isolates them. → Ensure safe access to GBV services, including functioning referral pathways for young people, especially adolescent girls and young women, and young people with disabilities. → Apply a 'gender lens' to all programming for young people, encouraging them to think about the positive effects of balancing power in relationships between men and women, boys and girls. → Train staff and stakeholders working with young people in basic awareness on issues related to gender, GBV, women's rights, social exclusion and sexuality, and ensure they know how to handle GBV case reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ensure that male engagement programmes are not unduly prioritized over GBV prevention and response programmes for females. → Build the capacity of older youths to register, manage and refer relevant cases, in community volunteer roles.
Operational peer review and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Review projects in the GBV response plan to assess to what extent young people were effectively reached through humanitarian programming. → Document and share good practices on addressing the needs of young people in GBV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Engage young people in GBV policy review without causing them harm and maintaining their confidentiality.