

Key Messages for GBV Prevention and Response During Monsoon/Heavy Rains

1. Ensure Safe Spaces for Women and Girls

It is crucial to maintain and ensure that Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces and Multipurpose Women Centers are well-prepared and accessible during emergencies. These spaces should provide temporary shelter for women and girls while catering to their safety and dignity. In addition, community centers can serve as temporary shelters for men, boys, and other extended family members. These facilities must be equipped to provide protection from GBV, offering essential services in a secure environment.

In cases where GBV service facilities are unavailable or overcrowded, it is essential to liaise with SCCM focal points in advance to identify alternative temporary shelters or ECRC (Emergency Communal Relocation Centers) for referral.

2. Dignity Kit Distribution and Storage Planning

3. Keeping GBV Referral Pathways in Hand:

All facilities must have an updated GBV referral pathway accessible both in physical form and as digital copies on caseworkers' phones or laptops, facilitating timely and effective responses to GBV incidents during emergencies. It is crucial to liaise with GBV Camp Focal Points to ensure access to the most up-to-date referral pathways for GBV actors, while the referral pathway for non-GBV actors is available on the website. Always ensure the hotline remains functional. Volunteers must be familiar with the referral pathway information to ensure that women and girls can easily access appropriate services such as medical care, psychosocial support, legal aid, and safe shelter when needed.

4. Mobilize Volunteers for Community Information Dissemination

Trained GBV volunteers must be mobilized to reinforce the dissemination of critical information on available GBV services, including shelter options, health services, psychosocial support, and GBV prevention measures.

Volunteers should maintain close communication with SCCM and other sectoral volunteers to ensure that important messages, such as weather updates, shelter locations, and safety



information, reach those most at risk. This includes women and adolescent girls in remote or hard-to-reach areas, as well as elderly women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups who are more vulnerable during emergencies.

5. **Monitor Emerging GBV Risks:** Monitor emerging GBV risks that may arise or escalate during the monsoon, such as domestic violence, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and trafficking. Report these incidents to GBVSS using the <u>risk monitoring tool</u>.

6. Ensure Secure Case Files and Confidentiality

Agencies must have a backup plan (digital backups, secure storage, and proper disaster management protocols) in place to protect case files and sensitive survivor information if

facilities are affected by emergencies such as heavy rainfall or floods. Paper-based case files must be secured to prevent any damage or leakage that could compromise the confidentiality of survivors. Breaching the confidentiality of a survivor not only violates their rights but could also expose them to further risk and harm.