



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

RISK MITIGATION IN UNICEF-LED CLUSTERS/AoR

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BACKGROUND

GBV Risk Mitigation is good programming which promotes participation of women and girls in decision-making, addresses gender inequality, improves their safety in emergencies and supports women and girls' empowerment. GBV risk mitigation also contributes to achieving all sectors' goals by ensuring the most vulnerable girls' and women's safe access to humanitarian response. Humanitarian clusters play critical roles to promote and institutionalize GBV risk mitigation in humanitarian responses in humanitarian countries.

Since the launch of the revised IASC *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* (GBV Guidelines) in late-2015, the UNICEF Global Cluster Coordination Unit (GCCU) has made significant efforts to achieve gender equality, empower women and girls and improve their safety and equal access to humanitarian response in their work through GBV risk mitigation across UNICEF-led clusters and Area of Responsibility. UNICEF has taken a two-tier approach:

- Providing direct technical support at country level on GBV risk mitigation as well as remote and on-site technical support to identify and address GBV risks and gender inequality.



- Institutionalizing the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Handbook and the IASC GBV guidelines, as well as compiling practical examples of GBV risk mitigation from different countries and sectors.

In May 2019 at the Oslo conference on gender-based violence in humanitarian crises, UNICEF's Executive Director Fore made a number of commitments on GBV including to increase the visibility of GBV risk mitigation in all UNICEF-led clusters' Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) based on the ongoing work by clusters/AoR. This further accelerates efforts to systematically include GBV risk mitigation into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC).

"GBV risk mitigation for me means ensuring that the emergency WASH response, or more generally, WASH programmes that are implemented by UNICEF and its partners, address essential needs for the dignity and safety of women and girls"
- Deputy Global WASH Cluster Coordinator

CLUSTER ACHIEVEMENTS

The UNICEF-led clusters developed a common commitment to cross-cutting issues which include GBV risk mitigation to further institutionalize GBV risk mitigation.



The Child Protection Area of Responsibility included GBV risk mitigation into their core work to support national coordinators through its helpdesks and Rapid Response Team. The CP AoR also contributed to revise the new Child Protection Minimum Standards which includes a new standard on Sexual and Gender-based Violence.



The Global Education Cluster has integrated GBV risk mitigation into core resources including the Coordination Training Package and Guide to Coordinated Education in Emergencies Needs Assessment and Needs Analysis.



The Global Nutrition Cluster has included GBV risk mitigation actions into its Preparedness Guidelines. GBV risk mitigation knowledge and skills are included in the Competency Framework for coordinators. A first gender and GBV responsive nutrition programming training was piloted and launched.



The Global Wash Cluster made five minimum commitments to safety and dignity of affected populations, documenting how to integrate gender and other cross-cutting issues. The Quality Assurance and Accountability Project (QAAP) has been ongoing to establish a quality assurance and accountability system (QAAS) for WASH in emergencies coordination. Gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, and GBV risk mitigation are integral parts of the QAAS.

COMMON ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since 2017, UNICEF has employed a GBV Specialist who supports all UNICEF-led clusters/AoR to integrate and institutionalize the IASC GBV Guidelines into each cluster's work at both global and field level.
- In 2019, various GBV risk mitigation trainings aimed at building capacity of global cluster coordination teams to provide necessary support to country coordination groups regarding gender and GBV, were conducted for UNICEF-led clusters and UNICEF's standby partners.
- In 2019, a stock-taking workshop on GBV risk mitigation brought together colleagues working in Camp Coordination and Camp Management, GBV, Shelter, and WASH. The workshop facilitated mutual learning and further collaboration among clusters to mitigate risks of GBV and increase women and girls' participation throughout the programme cycle. For example, after the workshop UNICEF Nigeria conducted a multi-sectoral safety audit together with other clusters based on the example from Somalia that was shared during the workshop.
- UNICEF-led clusters have taken a streamlined approach to institutionalising cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Disabilities and Localization. In 2019, the team conducted a joint analysis for HNOs and HRPs and in 2020, the team organized a webinar targeting all UNICEF-led clusters/AoR coordinators and UNICEF staff to share their commitment to cross-cutting issues including GBV risk mitigation and systematically supporting clusters/AoR to integrate GBV risk mitigation.

"All cluster coordinators and Information Management Officers need to be able to demonstrate that they are familiar with GBV and other cross-cutting issues and know how to integrate GBV in all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle [...]. This is why we included skills and knowledge on GBV and other cross-cutting issues as one of our key competency indicators."

- Nutrition Cluster Coordinator, Rapid Response Team, Global Nutrition Cluster

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Strength-based approach



UNICEF has built on the strengths of each cluster and respected priorities of each cluster to integrate gender and GBV risk mitigation. This approach allows each cluster to foster their strengths and identify the best way to integrate gender equality and GBV risk mitigation in the cluster's work.

Coordinated approach



UNICEF's cross-cutting specialists have provided support to the clusters in a coordinated manner. Cross-cutting issues were positioned as a programming strategy that helps clusters achieve their sectoral goals.

Practical approach



UNICEF has integrated the recommendations from the IASC guidelines into clusters' resources and tools using language and terminology that is familiar to them. This helps practitioners understand how GBV risk mitigation is directly relevant to their day-to-day work. Good practices and lessons-learned from the field have also been compiled and shared.

DEVELOPED DOCUMENTS

This section provides the documents that include GBV risk mitigation as described under the cluster achievements section.

- [UNICEF-Led Clusters Common Commitment](#)
- [Global Nutrition Cluster Preparedness Guidelines](#)
- [Global Nutrition Cluster Competency Framework for Coordinators](#)
- [Global Nutrition Cluster, GBV and Gender Responsive GBV nutrition](#)
- [Global Wash Cluster Quality Assurance and Accountability Project](#)
- [Global Wash Cluster Five Minimum Commitments](#)



For more information contact Masumi Yamashina, GBV Specialist; myamashina@unicef.org. More information as well as perspectives from the clusters/AoR will be uploaded in the [UNICEF podcasts](#).