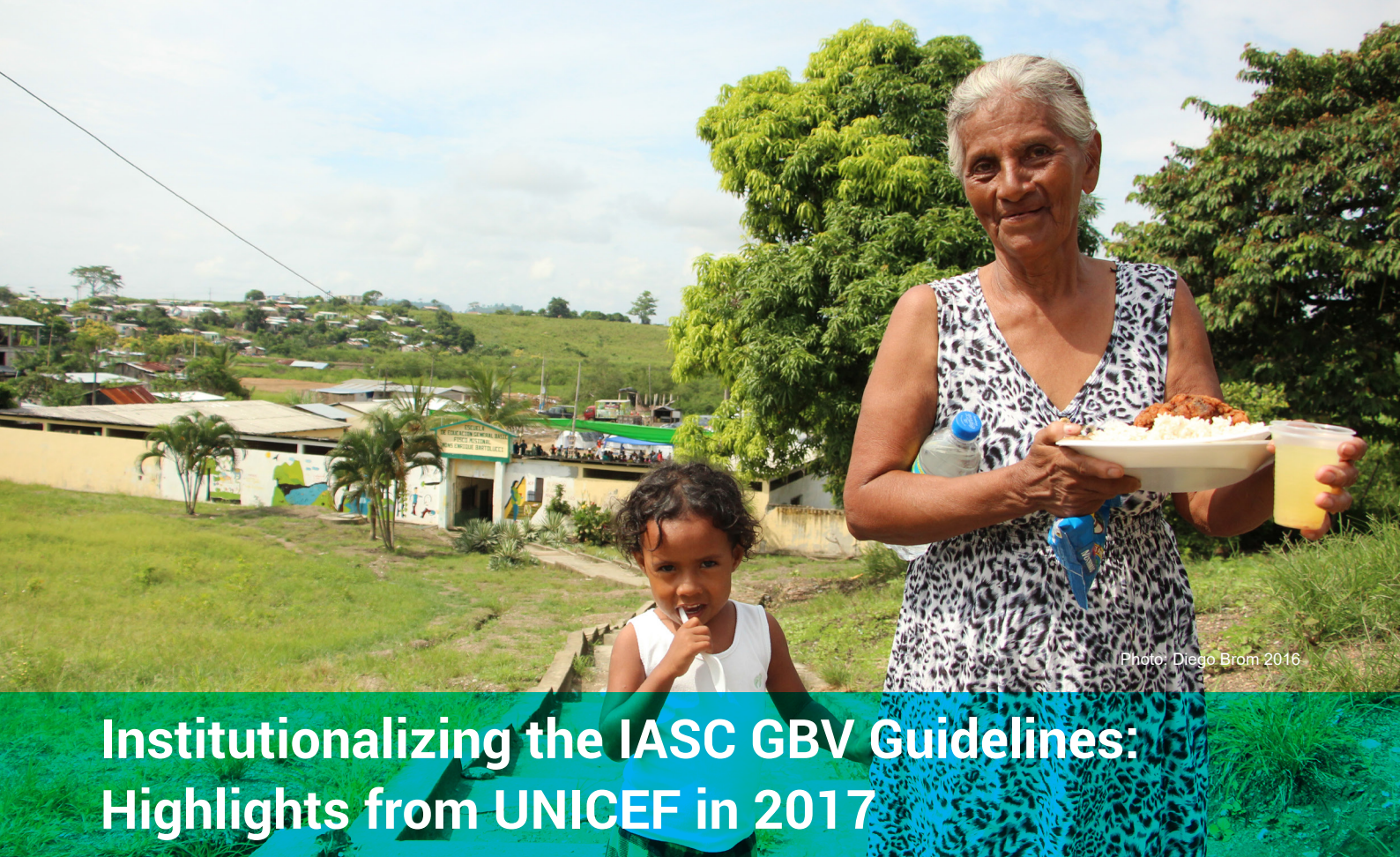


Institutionalizing the IASC GBV Guidelines: Highlights from UNICEF in 2017

*Integrating the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines for Addressing
Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Action*



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Integrating the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) *Guidelines for Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Action*

Since the launch of the revised IASC *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* (GBV Guidelines) in late-2015, UNICEF has demonstrated its institutional commitment to implementing the IASC GBV Guidelines at global, regional and field levels. Some of the keys to success thus far have included:

- **Integration into key strategic documents and processes** – Since the release of the revised IASC GBV Guidelines, UNICEF has systematically integrated the Guidelines recommendations within its institutional strategic and policy documents. For example, the forthcoming Gender Action Plan 2018-2021 features Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) as one of the corporate priorities for combatting gender inequality. The new Strategic Plan also includes a focus on GBViE, both as a specific programmatic area and as an integration component across other sectors.
- **Capitalizing on UNICEF's leadership role across multiple humanitarian sectors** – As the lead agency for WASH, Nutrition, Child Protection and Education, UNICEF is working to ensure all of its sectors incorporate GBV risk mitigation measures. Some examples include ensuring GBV response services meet the needs of child survivors, supporting safe WASH facilities in schools, integrating GBV referrals into nutrition facilities, and increasing participation of women and adolescents in programme planning, design and monitoring across all sectors.
- **Dedicated human resources support to GBV integration** – In addition to funding and providing strategic advice to the inter-agency GBV Guidelines Coordinator, UNICEF currently hosts three positions on the global inter-agency Implementation Support Team for the GBV Guidelines rollout and has hired dedicated mainstreaming consultants in two countries (South Sudan and Lebanon), which helps to ensure consistent and sustainable support to GBV integration efforts.
- **Documentation and knowledge generation** – The experiences and feedback generated through UNICEF's field-based GBV integration activities are continuously compiled and analyzed in order to inform implementation of the Guidelines in other contexts and strengthen the repository of resources available at global level.

Highlights from UNICEF's GBV integration work in the field

In addition to GBV integration advancements at global level, over the course of 2017 UNICEF has also invested significant resources in implementing the GBV Guidelines at the field level. The examples below summarize just a few of the innovative ways UNICEF has approached implementation of the GBV Guidelines across a diverse range of contexts.

Institutionalizing GBV risk mitigation within other sectors: South Sudan

UNICEF South Sudan continues to make significant progress to integrate GBV in its other programmatic sectors – namely Child Protection, Education, WASH, Health, Nutrition and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)¹ – and the country office's achievements are consistently cited as a leading example in this area of work. A recently completed multi-country evaluation of UNICEF's GBViE programming in emergencies programming highlighted UNICEF South Sudan's work on GBV mainstreaming in the WASH sector as a global best practice.

In order to solidify ownership of the integration work within each sector and facilitate more systematic documentation of successes and lessons-learned, UNICEF South Sudan and the global GBV Guidelines Implementation Support Team have developed a structured model for institutionalizing GBV prevention and risk mitigation. The vision is to create a network

consisting of a) GBV focal points from each of the targeted sectors and b) sector-specific counterparts from the GBV sub-cluster, each of whom would be responsible for providing ongoing technical support to an individual sector, including overseeing implementation of the respective sector's action plan. The project aims to provide training, practical guidance, and ongoing technical support to the network members over a six-month period. In addition, a focused monitoring and evaluation component will be incorporated from the outset of the project to allow for strong documentation of successes and lessons learned, both to strengthen programming in South Sudan and to support learning in other humanitarian contexts around the world.



Adapting the GBV Guidelines to development contexts, emergency preparedness activities and systems strengthening: Georgia and Ecuador

Though the GBV Guidelines were primarily designed for emergency settings, recent GBV integration activities led by UNICEF country offices in Georgia and Ecuador provide useful examples of how the recommendations can also be applied outside of traditional humanitarian response contexts. In both Georgia and Ecuador, the Guidelines have been used as a foundation for reflecting on past emergencies,

conducting emergency preparedness exercises, and generally strengthening GBV systems.

For example, in Georgia, for example, OCHA recently initiated a process to formally establish the cluster system, define roles and responsibilities for lead agencies, and develop cluster terms of reference and contingency plans. UNICEF Georgia utilized the GBV Guidelines to ensure that all UNICEF-led sectors incorporated GBV risk mitigation into these foundational cluster documents and processes. During a joint mission conducted by the UNICEF GBViE Sector Specialist and the Regional Gender Advisor for Europe and



¹ Rapid response mechanisms (RRMs) are short-term programmatic interventions that provide an integrated package of life-saving humanitarian interventions to areas inaccessible by other means. They generally involve a combination of food distribution (coordinated by WFP) along with UNICEF interventions in WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Child Protection.

Central Asia Regional Office in March 2017, UNICEF facilitated a two-day GBV in Emergencies training workshop to introduce GBViE concepts, identify mechanisms to strengthen Georgia's GBV response system, and tailor the GBV Guidelines to the Georgia context. The outcome of this workshop was an inter-agency action plan aimed at strengthening institutional (non-emergency) GBV prevention and response systems and better equipping service providers to adapt these systems in case of future emergencies.



In June 2017, UNICEF Ecuador, along with the national GBV working group, hosted a two-day workshop for child protection and GBV partners from government, UN agencies and civil society. This workshop – facilitated by UNICEF Gender and GBV specialists from Headquarters, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, and the Ecuador and Colombia Country Offices – served as an opportunity to introduce participants to the IASC GBV Guidelines; reflect on successes and lessons learned in relation to GBV prevention and response during the 2016 earthquake response; and identify priority areas for strengthening GBV and child protection preparedness – including assessment

tools, information sharing mechanisms, and capacity building for service providers. The training will also be used as a model for developing a training of trainers in Spanish tailored to the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Utilizing the GBV Guidelines in urban settings: Greece

While becoming increasingly common across the world, humanitarian response within urban environments creates a unique set of GBV risks and challenges as compared to more traditional, camp-based settings. As part of the interagency Guidelines rollout in Greece, UNICEF adapted the GBV Guidelines recommendations to strengthen its overall response within Education and Child Protection programming, including safety audits adapted to urban school settings, one-stop resource centres that provide critical information for refugees and migrants, and tailored life skills programming for unaccompanied minors. One particularly innovative practice within UNICEF Greece's programming is adolescent-friendly service mapping, where adolescent girls and boys interview service providers to learn about what role they play in the community. After conducting

these interviews, the adolescents then compile the information into simple pamphlets targeted at their peers.



Additional resources and information

www.gbvguidelines.org

We would like to thank the United States Government for its generous support.

