

GBV Coordination in Emergencies

Key Messages

- From the largest multi-dimensional international peacekeeping mission to the smallest local women's group, **each actor has an important role to play in preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV.**
- **Good coordination identifies key problems, needs, capacities and gaps** in GBV prevention, mitigation and response; it also **builds ownership and collective responsibility** for addressing GBV across local, national and international humanitarian systems.
- UNICEF participates in and leads numerous coordination fora related to GBV. **Participation in GBV coordination helps to ensure linkages are established between humanitarian response to GBV and child protection.** In doing so, UNICEF helps to promote the needs, rights and perspectives of child survivors of GBV and those at high risk.
- Humanitarian coordination mechanisms are **pivotal for determining humanitarian priorities and influencing resource mobilization.**
- Good coordination between GBV actors and other sectors is important for **ensuring GBV risk mitigation is integrated across all humanitarian sectors and clusters in line with the IASC GBV Guidelines.** As a cluster-lead agency for numerous clusters, UNICEF has particular responsibilities for ensuring effective inter-cluster coordination.
- Participating in coordination mechanisms provides an opportunity to **build capacity of national and local partners and civil society actors.**

Effective coordination is a pillar of humanitarian action. Humanitarian coordination brings together relevant stakeholders to ensure a coherent and effective response to an emergency. There is no ‘one size fits all’ coordination model – the best approach in each setting is determined by the nature of the emergency, the phase of response, the capacity and mandate of different actors, national disaster management frameworks and capabilities, and other factors.

The primary models for humanitarian coordination include:

- **Government-led coordination**, with sector groups reporting to a designated government disaster management body;
- **UNHCR-led coordination** in refugee settings; and
- **Internationally-led coordination** under the cluster approach.

UNICEF’s commitment to coordination in humanitarian action is articulated in the *Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action*, and UNICEF is involved in sector and cluster coordination at country level before, during and after emergencies.

Good coordination between all actors working to address gender-based violence (GBV) is essential because of the multi-disciplinary, multi-sector and multi-agency nature of GBV prevention, mitigation and response. Good coordination is also vital for integrating GBV risk mitigation across humanitarian sectors. Addressing GBV requires coordinated partnerships between government, civil society and the community – and, in some settings, with international security forces.

UNICEF and GBV coordination

UNICEF participates in and co-leads numerous humanitarian and peace and security coordination fora related to GBV. These can include:

- Participation in the GBV sub-cluster and co-leadership at sub-national level;
- Co-leadership of Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Networks;
- Participation in inter-cluster coordination as a cluster lead-agency;
- Co-leadership of working groups for the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism established under Security Council Resolution 1612;
- Participation in working groups for the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements established under Security Council 1960; and
- Participation in relevant civilian-military coordination.

Kit 3.5: Programming – GBV Coordination in Emergencies

provides an overview of the essential elements of GBV coordination in humanitarian response. It complements existing guidance on both GBV and cluster coordination.

