

Assessment

Key Messages

- GBV assessments involve **collecting and examining *the right amount of relevant information to facilitate appropriate action* that strengthens care and support for survivors and prevents further acts of GBV.**
- Information about the GBV situation can be generated from **multi-sector, sectoral and GBV-specific assessments.**
- **Collecting data on GBV without being able to provide adequate support services is unethical** and should only be done in exceptional circumstances after consulting with GBV specialists.
- Don't wait for an assessment to 'prove' that GBV is happening in emergency contexts. **Assume that GBV is occurring and treat it as a serious and life-threatening problem**, regardless of whether or not there is concrete evidence.

UNICEF's gender-based violence (GBV) programming is shaped by the **context and circumstances** surrounding each emergency, as well as the needs and capacity on the ground to deliver life-saving services to survivors of GBV and to reduce GBV through risk mitigation and prevention efforts.

While some aspects of GBV programming in emergencies follow standard procedures – for example, establishing clinical management of rape services and a referral pathway for survivors – other aspects depend on the nature of GBV taking place, the contributing factors and other **context-specific** issues.

Analysis of relevant aspects of the GBV situation is necessary to **guide the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation** of effective, context-specific GBV prevention, mitigation and response programmes.

In humanitarian settings, **assessments are the key tool** for understanding the nature, scope and impact of a crisis, as well as for planning appropriate humanitarian action to save lives, protect rights and help communities cope and recover.

GBV assessments involve **collecting and examining the right amount of relevant information** to facilitate appropriate action that strengthens care and support for survivors and prevents further acts of GBV.

UNICEF and other humanitarian actors should not wait for prevalence data or 'verified' incidence of GBV before providing services for survivors in humanitarian contexts. As GBV is under-reported worldwide, humanitarian actors should **assume that GBV is occurring and treat it as a serious and life-threatening problem**, regardless of the presence or absence of concrete evidence.

Collecting useful information about GBV must be done in a sensitive and confidential manner **aligned with ethical and safety principles**. This includes not collecting data on GBV unless adequate services are available to support GBV survivors.

Key information about GBV assessments

- GBV assessments happen in **all phases of the emergency management cycle** – during preparedness, immediately following a crisis to facilitate immediate response, and at any time during ongoing response and recovery efforts.
- GBV assessments are conducted by **GBV specialists** and aim to collect information to inform GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response activities.
- UNICEF launches GBV assessments where there is a **lack of adequate existing information** for planning and delivering GBV interventions, and where there are no inter-agency, joint or other GBV assessments planned.

Kit 2: Assessment provides guidance on safely incorporating questions about GBV into multi-sectoral and other assessments that take place as part of humanitarian response. It also provides information and tools to help UNICEF country offices and partners carry out rapid and comprehensive GBV assessments when it is appropriate to do so. It includes five sections:

Section 1 *Introduction to GBV Assessments in Emergencies* provides an overview of different types and timing of GBV assessments in emergencies; types and sources of information; and methods for collecting it.

Section 2 *Good Practice in GBViE Assessments* overviews basic good practice such as participation, ethics and safety, and a survivor-centred approach.

Section 3 *How to do GBViE Assessments* describes the steps to follow when (a) integrating questions about GBV into joint or sectoral assessments and (b) conducting rapid or comprehensive GBV assessments in emergency situations.

Section 4 *Introduction to Rapid GBViE Assessment Tools* provides an overview of the eleven Rapid Assessment Tools included in the *Assessment Tools Booklet* in this kit.

Section 5 *Introduction to Comprehensive GBViE Assessment Tools* provides an overview of the seven Comprehensive Assessment Tools contained in the *Assessment Tools Booklet* of this kit.

Kit 2: Assessment includes an *Assessment Tools Booklet* that contains eleven Rapid GBViE Assessment Tools and seven Comprehensive GBViE Assessment Tools. These tools are introduced in *Sections 4 and 5* of the Kit.

Kit 2: Assessment also includes *Introduction to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Assessments*, a Learning Module designed to build knowledge on GBV assessments in emergencies and help facilitate planning for implementation of UNICEF's **Minimum GBViE Response Package**.