



SGBV Sub-Working Group

## SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) SUB-WORKING GROUP – EGYPT

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

March 2015

### BACKGROUND

Sexual and Gender-based violence (SGBV) among Syrian, African and Iraqi refugees<sup>1</sup> is manifested in many forms, including domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, early and forced marriage, FGM, and denial of resources and access to services. Reported incidents of SGBV have occurred at all stages of displacement but particularly in the country of origin and in Egypt.

### OBJECTIVE

The SGBV Sub-Working Group (SGBV SWG) is a coordinating body with the objective of supporting a comprehensive and coordinated approach to SGBV, including prevention and response activities. The SGBV SWG prioritizes life-saving intervention and the provision of prompt, safe, confidential and appropriate services to all survivors of SGBV. It also facilitates multi-sectoral and inter-agency action aimed at prevention.

The SGBV SWG contributes to a shared vision and to implement the SGBV strategy to better address SGBV through a survivor-centered and rights-based approach. It works towards supporting refugees and asylum seekers from all nationalities in Egypt.

### DEFINITION OF SGBV

The term Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is used by the SGBV SWG as an equivalent of Gender-based Violence (GBV) and as, *'an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females'*.<sup>2</sup> This includes violence perpetrated against men, women, boys and girls.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The work of the SGBV SWG is guided by the following principles:

- *Confidentiality*: ensuring that survivors and their families, witnesses, and information sources are protected. No identifying information will be revealed in any documents, or during coordination and other public meetings. No reference is made to specific SGBV cases.
- *Safety and security*: all actors will prioritize the safety of the survivor, family, witnesses and service providers at all times.

<sup>1</sup> The UNHCR Operational Update, December 2014, refers to 191,496 refugees and asylum seekers from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan and Iraq residing in Egypt with the vast majority living in urban centres in Greater Cairo, Alexandria and Damietta.

<sup>2</sup> IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

- *Respect*: actions and responses of all actors will be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and the dignity of the survivors.
- *Non-discrimination*: on the basis of nationality, race, religion, political views, sexual orientation, social or other status.
- *Participatory approach consistent with Age, Gender, Disability Mainstreaming (AGDM)*: ensuring, to the extent possible, consultation with all members of the community (women, men, girls and boys, including youth and older people) in SGBV activities/programming.
- *Human rights based and survivor centered approach*: ensure that the interest and wishes of the survivor are fully respected and that all actions are guided and based upon key human rights principles.
- *Best interests of the child*: if the survivor is a child then the best interest principles should be used to inform decisions about what type of care and support is provided.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SGBV SWG**

### **Coordination and information sharing**

- Develop of qualitative standards and harmonized approaches and work that those are followed and upheld by all service providers and other actors addressing SGBV in their activities and programming;
- Enhance access to information on available services for affected communities, in particular survivors of SGBV, persons-at-risk of SGBV and the most vulnerable;
- Develop common tools and standardized approaches.

### **Developing information systems and conducting assessments**

- Coordinate the safe and ethical collection and analysis of data on SGBV trends and patterns through coordinated information management systems and assessments based on standardized system and tools;
- Work with relevant humanitarian agencies, refugee and host communities to conduct participatory assessments on SGBV.

### **Support development and implementation of SOPs and SGBV Strategy**

- Support the revision, effective implementation and monitoring of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), including effective referral pathways at national and sub-national levels to enhance provision of prompt and appropriate services, equally accessible to SGBV survivors;
- Support effective implementation of the inter-agency SGBV Strategy.

### **Building capacity of SGBV partners**

- Enhance the application of international standards, and national standards that adhere to those, as well as best practices on SGBV;
- Support the capacity building of service providers and other actors working on SGBV;
- Support the development of shared information, guidelines and communication material.

### **Advocacy**

- Develop evidence-based, strategic messages and activities aimed at facilitating SWG members and other agencies to speak with one voice on key SGBV issues;

- Advocate and engage across sectors to increase awareness of, and strategic response to, SGBV issues and concerns;
- Work with other sectors to effectively integrate prevention and response to SGBV in their programming and mitigate related risks.

### **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The membership to the SGBV SWG is open to national and international humanitarian/human rights organizations, agencies and service providers directly working on SGBV prevention and response in relation to refugees and asylum seekers living in Egypt.

- Regularly attend SWG meetings and report information about activities and challenges encountered;
- Designate an agency focal point for managing communication with the SWG;
- Commit to actively participate and contribute to achieve commonly agreed tasks and objectives of the SGBV SWG;
- Commit to follow the guiding principles for ethical SGBV programming and individual response;
- Identify and report about innovative approaches and promising programming models and share information about key initiatives, new identified trends, challenges, lessons learned and good practices within the Egyptian context;
- Coordinate planning and activities with all members to reinforce multi-sectoral approaches, avoid duplication and address gaps including geographical and programmatic gaps;
- Ensure that adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place within participants' own organizations to review outcome and impact of programmatic interventions and progress against agreed action plans.

### **CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Provide strategic and technical support to members and facilitate the development of common tools;
- Strengthen collaboration with other working groups by promoting coordination and information sharing among key actors;
- Support effective implementation of SGBV SOPs and SGBV Strategy;
- Represent the SGBV SWG in Inter-sector Working Group meetings;
- Identify gaps and opportunities for programming, conduct advocacy accordingly and mobilize resources;
- Highlight and share key initiatives from SGBV SWG through the SGBV Briefing Note and other updates;
- Identify capacity building needs of organizations involved in SGBV prevention and response and share information about training opportunities across the region;
- Support by helping to organize trainings, sharing technical documents and working together with ad hoc technical task forces to find solutions to technical issues as required.

## STRUCTURE AND WORKING MODALITIES OF THE SWG

- UNHCR chairs the SGBV SWG and convenes meetings on a regular basis.
- An updated list of members will be circulated on regular basis.
- The SGBV SWG reports to the Protection Working Group and works under the guidance of the Deputy Representative (Protection) UNHCR Egypt.
- UNHCR is responsible for circulating the agenda and the minutes of the meeting. A summary of the meeting minutes is uploaded to the Syrian Response Portal.
- The ToR and the SGBV SWG strategy will be reviewed once a year or as needed due to changes in the context and when the members, in consensus, agree to revise the documents;
- Based on needs, a technical task force can be formed to find/recommend solutions to specific issues and to quick-start the development of strategic tools.
- The SGBV SWG works in close collaboration with the:
  - Protection Working Group,
  - Child Protection Sub Working Group,
  - Health Working Group,
  - Education Working Group,
  - Basic needs and livelihood Working Group,
  - Psycho-social Working Group.

For further information regarding the SGBV SWG, please contact **UNHCR Egypt**:

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