



Risk Mitigation

Interventions to reduce the risk of GBV exposure

GBViE risk mitigation refers to a range of activities within all sectors of the humanitarian response that aim to first deliberately identify GBV risks and then take specific actions to reduce the immediate risk of exposure to GBV. These actions should be carried out by both GBV specialists and non-GBV specialists.

GBV risks are the factors which increase the likelihood that an incident of GBV will occur. GBV-related risks can exist in the general environment, within families and communities, and in or as a result of humanitarian service provision.

In practical terms, GBV risk mitigation in emergency settings means taking actions to:



Avoid risk of GBV: Avoid causing or increasing the risk of GBV associated with humanitarian programming.



Monitor access to services: Facilitate and monitor vulnerable populations' safe access to and use of humanitarian services.



Reduce risk of GBV: Identify and actively reduce the risks of GBV in the environment and programming/service delivery

The key global guidance for supporting the integration of GBV risk mitigation actions in humanitarian programming is the 2015 Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. This guidance is known as the IASC GBV Guidelines and is the basis for this note.

The IASC GBV Guidelines

The purpose of the **GBV Guidelines** is to assist humanitarian actors and communities affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions for the prevention and mitigation of GBV across all sectors of humanitarian response. The GBV Guidelines provide **sector-specific recommendations for integrating GBV risk mitigation** across each element of the program cycle, with a specific Thematic Area Guide (TAG) per sector.

All GBViE risk mitigation actions within CARE programs should be **based on the GBV Guidelines**. Program teams should consult the GBV Guidelines for **sector-specific support on integrating GBV risk mitigation** in their sector.

Examples of GBViE risk mitigation actions which should be contextualized to each specific context include:

- Consult with women and girls to understand their different needs, challenges, risks and concerns and systematically include in program design.
- Set up facilities and service delivery to ensure they are accessible, safe, private and convenient for women and girls.
- Disseminate information about available services and known risks of GBV
- Disseminate key messages on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment, Exploitation & Abuse and Child Abuse (PSHEA-CA) to inform communities of the behaviors, standards and expectations they should have of aid workers.
- Recruit a gender balanced team of frontline workers to ensure the program can access and engage equally with women and girls.
- Ensure proper lighting and shelter/latrines locks to reduce safety risks in immediate environment.
- Distribute materials to help keep women and girls safer (cash, food, dignity kits, solar lanterns/stoves) in a manner that does not increase risks to those collecting distributions.
- Train frontline workers on how to respond to GBV disclosures.



Training for Frontline Staff

All humanitarian staff have a responsibility to respond appropriately to disclosures of GBV and to act intentionally to mitigate the risks of GBV.

All frontline staff (those that are delivering services or any kind of assistance directly to community members) should be trained by a GBV specialist on how to respond to a GBV disclosure and safely provide referrals and basic psychological first aid. This is one area of GBViE risk mitigation which overlaps with GBViE response. This does not mean that staff seek out information on GBV incidents or ask community members about their experiences of GBV, but if, in the course of delivery emergency services, a survivor discloses they have experienced GBV, this ensures the humanitarian actors knows how to respond to the disclosure without causing additional harm.

In emergency settings, training on **responding to GBV disclosures** should be based on the GBV Pocket Guide. A training package specifically designed to strengthen the capacity of non-GBV specialists across all sectors is included in the online resources for the GBV Pocket Guide.

GBV risk mitigation training aims to strengthen staff capacity to **integrate GBV risk mitigation into humanitarian programming**. This should be considered for frontline staff who are not GBV specialists. Further details are available on the GBViE pages of the GBV Hub on CARE Shares.

Key resources:

[GBV Pocket Guide](#), including training package

CARE staff can access further resources through the [GBV Hub](#) on CARE Shares



Integrating Across All Sectors

CARE aims to integrate GBV risk mitigation across all sectors.

Program staff should use the appropriate Thematic Area Guide from the GBV Guidelines to identify sector-specific actions to integrate GBV risk mitigation into their programming.



Camp coordination & camp management



Child protection



Education



Food security & agriculture



Health



Housing, land & property



Humanitarian mine action



Livelihoods



Nutrition



Protection



Shelter, settlement & recovery



Water, sanitation & hygiene

In many ways, GBV risk mitigation is just good programming: it should not be viewed as something separate from—or additional to—a sector’s work. Integrating GBV risk mitigation actions into the sector's programs, across all elements of the program cycle, not only contribute to safer programming overall, but often results in better outcomes for other sectors as well.

For example:

WHAT	HOW	IMPACT
A WASH program improves safety for women and girls using latrines.	Ensuring proper materials, lighting and locks to reduce the risk of GBV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are safer • Women are more likely to use latrines so WASH outcomes are improved
An education program identifies and mitigates risks associated with the routes that students must take to get to schools.	Organizing safety patrols or escorts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls are safer • Girls are more likely to attend school so education outcomes are improved
A VSLA or Cash & Voucher Assistance program identifies & reduces risks of robbery & violence resulting from women having money in their possession.	Having all money held in a double-locked box that rotates around with the members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are safer • Women are more likely to participate so economic outcomes are improved
A health program addresses lack of access to support services resulting from social stigma.	Training frontline health workers on principles of Do No Harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are safer • Women are more likely to access services so health outcomes are improved
A shelter program identifies and mitigates risks of sexual harassment associated with distribution of non-food items.	Organizing gender-disaggregated distribution lines and safe access routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women are safer • Women are more likely to access basic needs so shelter outcomes are improved

GBViE risk mitigation actions are the responsibility of all humanitarian actors.

The [IASC GBV Guidelines](#) are a key resource to guide actions sector by sector.

WOMEN LEAD IN EMERGENCIES & GBVIE RISK MITIGATION

Women Lead in Emergencies (WLiE) is one of the four focus areas of CARE's approach to Gender in Emergencies.

WLiE is a model and toolkit for humanitarians to use in multi-sector humanitarian programs to support crisis-affected women to participate in decision-making and to take collective action on issues that matter to them. Integrating WLiE in CARE programs supports locally led humanitarian practice by women (across all sectors) and gender transformation in emergency settings—and can **contribute to GBVie risk mitigation**.

For example, a mandatory component of WLiE is a Rapid Gender Analysis on Power and Participation (RGA-P), which identifies the barriers to women's participation and risks to women when they become more active in community and public life and decision-making. Reflect sessions with women's groups explore the findings of the RGA-P, including discussion of GBV risks and mitigation.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT GBVIE RISK MITIGATION

- [2015 Revised IASC GBV Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#), including the GBV Guidelines' sector-specific thematic area guides (TAGs).
- [GBV Guidelines Knowledge Hub](#)
- [GBV Pocket Guide](#)
- [GBV Guidelines Tipsheet on Identifying & Mitigating Gender-based Violence Risks within the COVID-19 Response](#)
- [Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality Framework \(AAAQ Framework\)](#)
- Women's Refugee Commission's [Resources for Mainstreaming Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) Considerations in Cash and Voucher Assistance \(CVA\) and Utilizing CVA in GBV Prevention and Response](#)

Further resources specific to CARE staff include:

- [GBV Hub](#) on CARE Shares
- [CARE's Checklist for Integrating GBV Risk Mitigation into Proposals](#)
- [CARE's Safer Programme Guidance](#)

This GBVie Implementation Guide is a supporting resource for CARE's
Guidance Note on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies