

Guidelines

for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

Focusing on Prevention of and Response to
Sexual Violence in Emergencies



Please note that all of the photos are of people in conflict situations, but that they are not specifically victims/survivors of gender-based violence.

Photo credits: Top row, left to right: IRIN; Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children; IOM 2003 - MMD0002 (Photo: Iurie Foca)

Bottom row: WFP/Vanessa Vick; IOM 2003 – MRU0030 (Photo: Cemil Alyanak) (top); IOM 2002 – MAF0102 (Photo: Jeff Labovitz) (bottom)

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September 2005

Acknowledgments

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This version of the *Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies: Focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence* will be field-tested in 2005-2006 and a final version of these *Guidelines* will be prepared and endorsed by the IASC by the end of 2006.

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Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
World Bank

Significant contributions to the development of these guidelines were made by UNIFEM and the following partners: the members of the Reproductive Health Response in Conflict Consortium; Médecins sans Frontières; Oxfam; International Medical Corps; Christian Children's Fund. The following academic institutions made substantial contributions: The International Centre for Reproductive Health of the Ghent University and The University of Grenoble.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) was established in 1992 in response to General Assembly Resolution 46/182 which called for strengthened coordination of humanitarian assistance. The resolution set up the IASC as the primary mechanism for facilitating interagency decision-making in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters. The IASC is formed by the representatives of a broad range of UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. For further information on the IASC, please access the IASC website www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2005)
*Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings:
Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies* (Field Test Version)
Geneva: Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Foreword

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has issued these Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Emergencies: Focusing on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence to meet the need for a coherent and participatory approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This is a tool to for field actors to establish a multisectoral coordinated approach to gender-based violence programming in emergency settings.

Sexual violence in armed conflict is a crime against humanity and is being used as a method of war to brutalise and instil fear in the civilian population, especially women and girls. The humanitarian community must come together and act together to put into place systems to prevent violence from occurring and when it does, to respond to the needs of survivors/victims. The Guidelines provide practical advice on how to ensure that humanitarian protection and assistance programmes for displaced populations are safe and do not directly or indirectly increase women's and girls' risk to sexual violence. The Guidelines also detail what response services should be in place to meet the need of survivors/victims of sexual violence.

I call upon all those who are involved in the provision of protection and humanitarian assistance to use these Guidelines and work together to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. We need a collective effort to put an end to the brutality of sexual violence and respond compassionately and more effectively to those affected.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jan Egeland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jan Egeland
Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs

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