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USAID's Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV)

Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development

Overview

Analytical Services IV Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ)
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AOR

Agreement Officer's Representative

COR

Contracting Officer's Representative

GBV

Gender-based violence

LGBTQI+

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people, and those of other diverse sexual orientations and gender identities

POC

Point of contact

SOGIESC

Sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics

USAID

United States Agency for International Development

Purpose

The *Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development* (hereafter, the *Foundational Elements*) are intended to support USAID’s vision of increased and sustained commitment to and investment in gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, mitigation, and response across its development portfolio, with the overall goal being to reduce GBV globally. They are designed to promote collective action by supporting USAID staff and implementing organizations to strengthen the quality and quantity of USAID’s GBV programming in development contexts.

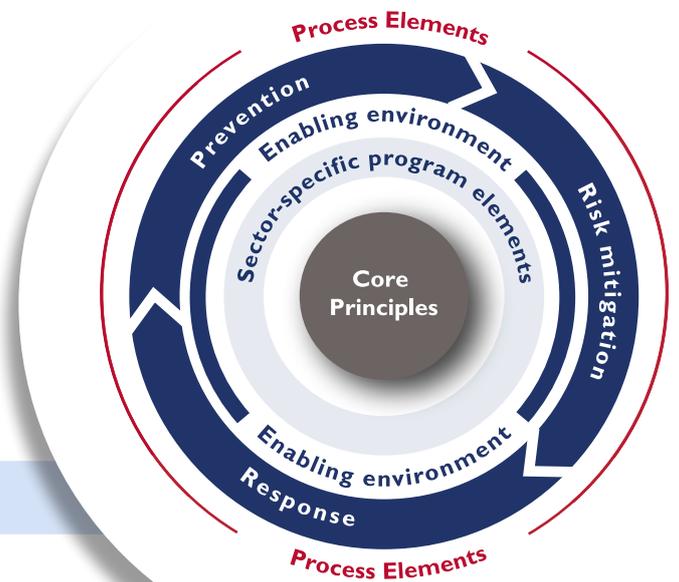
This is a guidance document. It is not meant to be a detailed how-to guide on the implementation of GBV activities. Instead, it provides accessible grounding in evidence-informed approaches for reducing GBV. The *Foundational Elements* offer the most salient information to date, with links to existing policies, requirements, and materials for further reading. Importantly, they elevate a survivor-centered approach—which serves to empower survivors of GBV and promote their dignity and agency—for all aspects of GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response, as well as for the cultivation of an enabling environment (see Section 2.0. Core Principles: Core Principle #2: Survivor Centered).

Audience

The *Foundational Elements* were developed for use by USAID and implementing partner staff, as well as others who do not have extensive expertise in GBV but will be providing guidance to, approval of, or technical oversight for GBV programs or incorporating GBV programming into their work. This guidance should be especially helpful for USAID Agreement Officer’s Representatives (AORs), Contracting Officer’s Representatives (CORs), Gender Advisors, Gender Points of Contact (POCs), and other sectoral technical staff. However, all USAID and other funders’ staff and implementing organizations would benefit from understanding the foundational elements of GBV programming and how to apply them. Whether staff are developing country, regional, or global strategies, seeking to integrate GBV prevention, mitigation, and response into a sectoral program, or developing a new GBV-focused program, having a solid understanding of GBV programming is critical.

Contents

Overview of the *Foundational Elements*:



- Core Principles
- Program Elements
- Process Elements

1 Introduction

The introduction describes foundational concepts about GBV, including the types of GBV, its root causes and drivers, who experiences it, and where GBV occurs. The relevance of GBV to development programming and how to integrate GBV throughout the USAID program cycle are explained, along with how standalone and integrated GBV programming are mutually reinforcing approaches to addressing GBV.

2 Core Principles

The eight core principles, grounded in evidence and practice-based knowledge from GBV programming, should underpin GBV strategies and activities. These principles echo throughout the guidance in the *Foundational Elements* and should be part of all programming.

3 Program Elements

The program elements consist of guidance for USAID staff to support implementation of GBV activities in four areas: prevention, risk mitigation, response, and the enabling environment. Each area is addressed in a separate subsection. In addition, sector-specific guidance on incorporating the program elements into 12 development sectors describes why and how to integrate GBV into USAID's sector-specific work.

4 Process Elements

Extending beyond the program cycle, the process elements consist of ways USAID and implementing partners can ensure that internal organizational structures and processes are contributing to ending GBV. These process elements should be integrated into all programming. The "Program Example" boxes in this section illustrate how various institutions have embedded core values and anti-GBV actions in their day-to-day operations.

Glossary

3.0 Overview

3.1 Prevention

3.2 Risk Mitigation

3.3 Response

3.4 Enabling Environment

3.5 Sector-specific

- Agriculture
- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation
- Crisis and Conflict
- Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance
- Economic Growth and Trade
- Education
- Energy and Infrastructure
- Environment and Natural Resource Management
- Global Health
- Land and Property Rights
- Technology
- Water Security, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Each section (Core Principles, Program Elements, Process Elements) includes the following information:

- Description of each principle or element
- Explanation of why each principle or element is important for USAID and implementing partner staff to understand and apply
- Program examples showcasing how various organizations have successfully addressed different types of GBV¹
- Questions for USAID staff to consider while designing solicitations or providing technical oversight to projects²
- Tools and resources for more information

A list of acronyms and abbreviations appears at the beginning of each section, and a references section is included at the end of each section.

At a Glance: Important Considerations Regarding Limitations of the Evidence

It is important for those using the *Foundational Elements* to understand that most examples and evidence from programming around the globe focus on violence against women and girls. There is limited evidence about strategies for prevention and response to GBV for people of diverse SOGIESC, as well as men, boys, and other diverse populations who experience GBV.

USAID staff and implementing partners should engage in formative research and careful monitoring, evaluation, and learning to ensure that activities targeting diverse populations do no harm and achieve the desired outcomes. USAID staff should also be attentive to (and seek for their portfolios to support) emerging research on GBV best practices, particularly for populations other than cisgender women and girls.

¹ Where possible, examples from USAID GBV programming are highlighted. A range of populations who experience GBV are featured, including people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), also referred to as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people, and those of other diverse sexual orientations and gender identities [LGBTQI+ people]; see Glossary for more information on the use of these terms.

² If the guidance from the Foundational Elements was not incorporated at the solicitation phase, USAID staff can adapt the solicitation questions to be able to assess proposals and program design.

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Michele Lanham and Diane Gardsbane led the development of the *Foundational Elements*. The document was written by Mary Beth Hastings, Michele Lanham, and Diane Gardsbane, with significant technical contributions by Alyssa Bovell, Jennifer Davis, Leah Goldmann, Paula Majumdar, Fatima Saeed, Kimberly Dixon, Mary Kincaid, Aishwarya Nagar, and Sophie Namy.

Fatima Saeed and Michele Lanham led the development of the sector-specific program elements, and the writers and reviewers of the sector-specific guidance are listed in each document (see Section 3.5).

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We dedicate the *Foundational Elements* to every individual, organization, and movement working to create a more gender-equal world. For those who are new to this work, take courage— together we can create collective action to end all forms of gender-based violence.

SUGGESTED CITATION

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The goal of the Collective Action to Reduce Gender-Based Violence (CARE-GBV) activity is to strengthen USAID’s collective prevention and response, or “collective action” in gender-based violence (GBV) development programming across USAID. For more information about CARE-GBV, click [here](#).

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