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

Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development

Section 3.0. Program Elements: Overview

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

GBV

Gender-based violence

USAID

United States Agency for International Development

WHO

World Health Organization

Introduction

Section 3 describes the four foundational “program elements” in gender-based violence (GBV) programming: (1) prevention, (2) risk mitigation, (3) response, and (4) enabling environment. Each program element is discussed in a separate subsection (Sections 3.1–3.4.) that covers the fundamentals of the element, why it is important for USAID grantmaking and oversight, useful tools and resources, program examples, and questions to consider when developing solicitations and assessing proposed, ongoing, or completed GBV activities. In addition, sector-specific guidance on the integration of the program elements into 12 development sectors is provided in Section 3.5.

The guidance is intended to help those who implement and oversee standalone and integrated GBV programs. Individual USAID GBV programs across the globe will vary in the extent of their focus on three of the program elements—that is, prevention, response, and enabling environment. However, all USAID programs should incorporate GBV risk mitigation into their programming (see Section 3.2. Program Elements: Risk Mitigation). In addition, keep in mind that the four program elements are connected and interdependent; for example, prevention is an important aspect of response and vice versa.

Section 3.1. Prevention provides seven strategies for evidence-based GBV prevention programming that are based on the RESPECT Women framework (WHO 2019) and implementation package (UN Women 2020). These strategies, expressed as outcomes in keeping with the RESPECT Women framework, are:

- **R**elationship skills strengthened
- **E**mpowerment of women
- **S**ervices ensured
- **P**overty reduced
- **E**nvironments made safe
- **C**hild and adolescent abuse prevented
- **T**ransformed attitudes, beliefs, and norms



At a Glance: Program Elements of GBV Programming



Section 3.2. Risk Mitigation describes the measures *all* USAID programs should take to minimize the risk of GBV to program participants and staff before and during program implementation.

Section 3.3. Response discusses key aspects of response programming that meet the short- and long-term needs of survivors of GBV. A holistic response to GBV is discussed and includes three key elements—accessible, high-quality services; a robust referral network; and prevention of further violence.

Section 3.4. Enabling Environment is adapted from the RESPECT Women framework (WHO 2019) and implementation package (UN Women 2020) and addresses four strategies to strengthen the broader environment for GBV programming. These strategies are building political commitment, investing in women’s rights organizations, supporting and implementing laws and policies, and promoting the allocation of resources.

Section 3.5. Sector-Specific Program Elements consists of guidance on incorporating the program elements into development work in 12 sectors:

- 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

Cross-cutting strategies for GBV programming that apply across sectors are described in Sections 3.1–3.4. on each program element. **Sector experts should read these sections, as well as the sector-specific program elements.**

For each sector, the guidance includes:

- A brief overview of the intersection between each sector and GBV
- Strategies for integrating GBV into sectoral programming, including sector-specific approaches to prevention, risk mitigation, response, and enabling environment
- Examples of how programs have integrated GBV, using USAID examples whenever possible
- Tools and resources for additional information

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SUGGESTED CITATION

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- UN Women. 2020. "RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence Against Women – Implementation Package." New York, NY: UN Women. Accessed May 26, 2022. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/07/respect-women-implementation-package>.
- World Health Organization (WHO). 2019. "RESPECT Women: Preventing Violence Against Women." Geneva, Switzerland: WHO. Accessed May 26, 2022. <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/violence/respect-women-framework/en/>.

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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