PROVISIONAL GUIDANCE NOTE

INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN THE MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS (MARA) & THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (GBVIMS)

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gender-based violence information management system

Provisional Guidance Note on the Intersections Between the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) & the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)[1]

OVERVIEW

In recent years, efforts have been made at national and international levels to devise and develop information systems to support better collection and management of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) data in the context of a humanitarian crisis. Two global efforts – the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) and the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) – take different and potentially complementary approaches toward gathering and sharing data on GBV, including CRSV data, in view of strengthening the prevention of and response to GBV.

The intersection between the GBVIMS and the MARA presents opportunities for the organizations addressing GBV and CRSV to improve collaboration and deepen the global response to GBV. The GBVIMS was created to harmonize data collection on GBV in humanitarian settings, to provide a simple system for actors providing services to GBV survivors to collect, store and analyse their data and to enable the safe and ethical sharing of reported GBV incident data within and between relevant entities. Since 2008, the GBVIMS has been rolled-out at various levels and to various degrees with qualified agencies working in crisis-affected areas of twenty (20) countries[2]. The MARA was established in 2010 by UN Security Council Resolution 1960 "to ensure the systematic gathering of timely, accurate, reliable and objective information on conflict-related sexual violence against women, men and children in all situations of concern"[3]. The GBVIMS can be used to systematically collect information on GBV in contexts that are affected by conflict, and therefore may contain information related to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

[1] This Guidance Note will be revised and updated periodically according to lessons learned from implementing the MARA in contexts where the GBVIMS is rolled out.

[2] The list of countries where the GBVIMS is implemented is available page 10.

[3] Provisional Guidance Note – Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010) on Women, Peace and Security (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence), June 2011, p:4: http://www.stoprapenow.org/uploads/advocacyresources/1414440497.pdf

Documenting sexual violence in any context is a complex and sensitive undertaking. This Guidance Note is meant to help actors to better understand both the GBVIMS and MARA tools, approaches and methods, and to navigate the differences between them. The present Guidance Note only relates to the intersections between the GBVIMS and the MARA, and does not purport to guide or regulate other modes of informal information sharing on CRSV that may take place at country-level.[4]

In conflicts and humanitarian contexts, including post-conflict contexts where access to services, risk of retaliation, high community stigma and political sensitivities may all be in play, any effort to collect information in order to prevent and respond to sexual violence is challenging and potentially dangerous. In these contexts, characterized by the breakdown of law and order and widespread disruption of community and family support systems, inquiring about sexual violence can have unintended life-threatening implications not only for the survivors themselves, but for their families, communities, those providing them with care and those actors who are collecting the survivor's information. Hence, information gathering must be approached with utmost caution and care through systematic mechanisms for data protection.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE NOTE IS TO:

1. **Explain in detail what the MARA and the GBVIMS are, and how they work;**

2. **Outline guiding principles and recommendations on if, how and when (under what circumstances) data from the GBVIMS could contribute to data collection on CRSV, including advice on ways the GBVIMS may complement the implementation of the MARA.**

THIS NOTE TARGETS THREE MAIN AUDIENCES:

1. Direct GBV service providers who are currently implementing (or planning to implement) the GBVIMS in contexts where humanitarian actors and GBV service providers are requested to share data on incidents of CRSV[5].

2. Other actors with responsibilities for documenting CRSV, including but not limited to: UN officials, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (where there are peacekeeping or political missions) or Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinators

[4] This note also does not seek to guide or regulate the intersections between the GBVIMS, MARA and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on six grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict, which is another Security Council mechanism that also monitors and reports on CRSV. Guidance on the intersection with the MRM will be developed in the future.

[5] E.g. for the purposes of contributing to the Secretary-General's annual reports on sexual violence in conflict or children and armed conflict, and to enhance prevention, response and protection in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013) on Women, Peace and Security (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence), and 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) on children and armed conflict.

(where there are no peacekeeping or political missions), DPKO/DPA Women Protection Advisers, Child Protection Advisers, Gender Advisers, and DPKO/DPA/OHCHR Human Rights Officers, and other focal points or UN entities working on GBV in conflict affected areas, in addition to Fact Finding Missions/Commissions of Inquiry.

3. Those actors who influence and/or help define CRSV data collection and reporting, including relevant HQ and regional-level UN entities, donors, and NGOs/civil society actors, including those addressing GBV and CRSV at the policy and/or advocacy level, such as the partners who are part of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action).

I PURPOSE AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE MARA

A. DEFINITIONS AND PURPOSES

In December 2010, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1960 on Women, Peace and Security (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence). SCR 1960 expands the mandate of the Security Council to comprehensively address sexual violence when used as a tactic of, or resulting as a consequence of conflict. Conflict-related sexual violence refers to incidents or patterns of sexual violence that occur in conflict or post-conflict situations with a direct or indirect link to conflict. Sexual violence may include rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity, against women, men, girls, and boys[6].

A central component of SCR 1960 is the establishment of Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA). The MARA aim to: "ensure the systematic gathering of timely, accurate, reliable and objective information on conflict-related sexual violence against women, men, and children in all situations of concern [to the Security Council][7]." The Resolution also requests that information on incidents including details on parties to conflict (entities and/or individuals) that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence be made available to the Security Council.

FIG. 1 MARA PURPOSES[8]

1. **Anonymized information on patterns & trends is collected and analyzed to enhance prevention, protection and early-warning mechanisms, and a coordinated response to CRSV in collaboration with the Mission, UNCT & other service providers (this includes cross-referrals)**
2. **Information is collected and verified to improve strategic advocacy, accountability and access to justice, in order to end the culture of impunity for perpetrators**

The intention of the MARA is to use qualitative and quantitative information gathered to enhance prevention (including through early-warning mechanisms) and response to CRSV,

[6] According to the UN Action Analytical and Conceptual Framing of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Provisional Guidance Note, "conflict-related sexual violence" refers to incidents or patterns (for SCR 1960 listing purposes) of sexual violence that occur in conflict or post-conflict settings or other situations of concern (e.g. political strife). They also have a direct or indirect nexus with the conflict or political strife itself. The Analytical Framing note references articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2187, No. 38544) to define the typologies of sexual violence and elements of sexual violence crimes. http://www.stoprapenow.org/uploads/advocacyresources/1321456915.pdf;

[7] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 4.

[8] In the first box, cross-referrals are further explained on p. 20, section E. It refers to referrals between GBVIMS users and other entities implementing the MARA.

while promoting adherence to safe and ethical practices. The information gathered is also intended to inform the development of comprehensive strategies to address CRSV, including programmatic responses for survivors at the country-level, and to serve as a basis for advocacy, resource-mobilization and Security Council action at the international level.

Country-contextualized mechanisms are to be established to collect, analyse, verify and report on CRSV incidents. They are meant to build on existing coordination mechanisms and strengthen the information management systems that may already be in place in-country in an effort to avoid duplication and unnecessary burden on field actors. At the country-level, a variety of sources and type of data will inform the MARA, including information gathered from peacekeeping and political missions, UN Country Team (UNCT) actors, local and international NGOs, civil society organizations, and other health and psychosocial service organizations.

One of the outputs of the MARA at the global level will be the contribution of information to the Annual Report of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. This report raises concerns about documented aggregated and anonymized incidents, patterns and trends of CRSV; describes actions taken and challenges to respond to CRSV, including the implementation of MARA; and makes recommendations to address this issue. An Annex to the report presents a list of parties to conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Security Council's agenda[9].

One core component of the MARA is the Security Council review and actions using the list of parties to conflict who are responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence to leverage political commitments and behavioural change. Listing and de-listing parties is one strategy that can be used to inform targeted responses to CRSV, in particular by the Security Council, who may impose sanctions and other specific measures including through Sanctions Committees. The Security Council can also adopt other strategic measures such as including sexual violence explicitly in peacekeeping mandates, raising concerns about sexual violence in their diplomatic and press engagements, including sexual violence crimes in International Criminal Court (ICC) referrals, including sexual violence as part of the listing criteria for sanctions regimes, and making the issue a central concern during their country visits. It can also be used by senior officials to engage in structured dialogue with parties to conflict to secure commitments to prevent and end the use of sexual violence, including as a tactic of warfare.

[9] In addition to the inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on SVC, the Working Group on CRSV is responsible for periodic reporting (this includes the Working Group bi-annual review on CRSV, and in the context of UN Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions, inputs on SV as a specific aspect of the country/mandate report of the SG to the SC (periodicity determined by relevant SC resolution).

B. MARA COUNTRY-LEVEL ARRANGEMENTS

As articulated in the *Provisional Guidance Note – Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010) on Women, Peace and Security (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence)*, at country level, the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) or the Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) (where there are no peacekeeping or political missions), is meant to be responsible for timely implementation of SCR 1960, with Women Protection Advisors (WPAs) being placed within UN missions to operationalize the process[10]. When they are in place, WPAs are responsible for convening and leading a Working Group on CRSV which is intended to be a technical level, UN-lead and UN-comprised body expected to "review information, monitor and verify incidents of sexual violence, analyse data, trends and patterns, prepare reports, and build capacity to strengthen MARA[11]."

According to the *Provisional Guidance Note*, the SRSG or RC/HC in consultation with the UN Country Team will determine which UN entities will constitute the Working Group, based on expertise and capacity in: GBV programming; monitoring, verification and reporting of human rights violations; gender analysis; and other security/protection expertise[12]. The Working Group is a small group composed of UN agencies that operate in full compliance with protection standards.

As leading UN agencies in addressing and coordinating GBV in humanitarian settings, and as founding partners of the GBVIMS, it is suggested that UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR participate in and contribute to this Working Group whenever present.

The functions of the Working Group consist in reviewing information, monitoring and verifying incidents of sexual violence, analyzing data, trends and patterns, preparing reports, and building capacity to strengthen MARA.[13]

Another body, the Joint Consultation Forum (JCF) on CRSV, has been proposed to engage a larger number of entities for consultation purposes, including relevant national institutions and NGOs. This forum is intended to build on existing arrangements for consultation and coordination on GBV in humanitarian settings (e.g. GBV sub-clusters or working groups). As outlined in the *Provisional Guidance Note*, the JCF "will review and discuss available (aggregated and

[10] The Senior Women Protection Advisor is located in the office of the SRSG and is responsible for coordinating among UN actors in order to strengthen the monitoring, reporting, prevention and response to CRSV against women, men and children pursuant to resolutions 1820, 1882, 1888, 1960 and 2106. The Senior WPA works in close collaboration with WPAs designated within human rights and gender components of UN missions, as well as with Child Protection Advisors (CPAs).

[11] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 7.

[12] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 6.

[13] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 7.

anonymized) information and analysis on CRSV"[14] but will not be charged with the identification of perpetrators or with the verification of information on incidents. The JCF "may also make recommendations for advocacy and action to prevent and respond to sexual violence to the Working Group and SRSG/RC/HC."[15]

The *Provisional Guidance Note* indicates that MARA should always be designed and implemented in conformity with established principles, ethics and safety criteria as outlined in the WHO *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies*, including security, confidentiality, anonymity, informed consent, safety and protection from retribution, and protection of the data, and special precautions for working with children.[16]

Five countries were selected for an "accelerated rollout" of the MARA: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and South Sudan. MARA working groups are operational in three out of these five countries.

As of November 2014, senior WPAs have been deployed to Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Mali (MINUSMA), South Sudan (UNMISS), and DRC (MONUSCO) with further senior WPAs envisaged for Darfur (UNAMID), and Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). WPAs within the Human Rights and Gender components have also been deployed in some of these missions.

[14] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 9.

[15] Provisional Guidance Note, p.10.

[16] Provisional Guidance Note, p.5, p.20

II GBVIMS: PURPOSE AND COMPONENTS

A. GBVIMS BACKGROUND AND TOOLS

The conceptualization of the GBVIMS began in 2006 in an effort to address the acute gap within the humanitarian community for a commonly endorsed and accessible mechanism for the effective and safe storage, analysis and sharing of reported GBV incident data in humanitarian contexts. The creation of the GBVIMS in 2006 pre-dates the series of Security Council resolutions on CRSV, and therefore did not specifically include CRSV as an incident classification type. Hence, the two systems are complementary but differ in terms of type of information recorded (see part IV and b further below).

Further developed through a partnership between UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the GBVIMS is intended to: assist service providers in identifying trends and patterns in relation to the GBV cases being reported to them; enable actors to share data both internally across project sites within a single organization, and externally with interested agencies for broader trends analysis and improved coordination of the GBV response. The GBVIMS is currently one of the most recognized and widely used information management systems that adhere to globally-recognized best practices for GBV data management based on the WHO *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies*.

Data generated by the GBVIMS can be used to improve programme interventions and to support advocacy and donor reporting[17]. However, as the data represent only reported incident cases from a sub-set of GBV service providers collected at the point of intake and assessment, GBVIMS data do not measure the total number of GBV cases coming to the attention of service providers, nor does the GBVIMS provide data on prevalence.[18] The GBVIMS records self-reported cases of survivors, meaning that the information collected is based on survivors' direct testimony without any further verification. Finally, the GBVIMS is not a case management tool, and therefore cannot be used to track progress on individual cases.

[17] See Annex 1.

[18] The GBVIMS captures a snapshot of GBV incidents. Each event or occurrence of GBV reported for service provision is recorded in the GBVIMS as a separate incident. For example, if five women report having been sexual assaulted at the same time, the GBVIMS would record this as five incidents. The GBVIMS only provides data on reported cases through service provision.

Using a globally-standardized GBV incident classification system, direct service providers record information about reported cases using standardized incident intake forms, and then enter data into a customized and locked Excel-based spread sheet (the Incident Recorder, IR) that is password protected and contains only de-identified incident data. The IR automatically generates statistical reports, tables and charts to allow users to instantly search, utilize and analyse their data. These automatically generated reports include quantitative statistics on the number of incidents, survivors, alleged perpetrators, context of incidents, and referrals made at the point of intake. To promote safe and ethical data sharing, an Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) provides a framework to share information that is relevant for broader discussions of trends and analysis of the types of GBV being reported to service providers.

FIG. 2 – GBVIMS TOOLS

GBV Classification Tool: Provides definitions for a set of six core types of GBV that enables uniform terminology for GBV data collection, analysis and data sharing. The tool uses a standardized process to reliably classify reported incidents of GBV by the core type of GBV that occurred. According to this system, the 6 incident classification types are: Rape; Sexual Assault; Physical Assault; Forced Marriage; Denial of Resources, Opportunities or Services; and Psychological/Emotional Abuse.

Intake and Initial Assessment and Consent Forms: Ensures that all GBV actors using this standard intake form are collecting a common set of data points in a consistent format. The form allows for local and institutional customization. The combination of the data points on the form with the incident classification types allows for more concrete information to be collected.

Incident Recorder (IR): An Excel spreadsheet designed to simplify and improve data collection, compilation and analysis. Customized to work hand in hand with the intake form, the IR automatically generates analysis on information entered on reported GBV incidents.

Information Sharing Protocol Template: Provides a framework to guide the creation of a customized Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) based on guiding principles for the safe and ethical sharing of GBV data and known best practice.

The implementation of the GBVIMS in humanitarian settings may entail an inter-agency roll-out amongst several actors collaborating in a refugee or IDP camp or other humanitarian situation, or a roll-out within a single organization that is providing case management and/or psychosocial or health services to GBV survivors in a crisis-affected context.[19] Since 2008, the GBVIMS has been rolled out partially or in full in areas experiencing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Yemen.[20] The GBVIMS is also being used in other countries by individual organizations.

B. GBVIMS BEST PRACTICES IN GBV DATA MANAGEMENT AND SHARING

Some of the features of the GBVIMS that support best practices in GBV data management include:

- GBVIMS data is generated at the point of GBV **service delivery** according to the guiding principle that basic care and support to survivors must be available locally before commencing any activity that may involve the individuals disclosing information about their GBV incident.

- GBVIMS **data is collected at the point of service delivery, and is always based on the first hand report from the survivors or caregiver in the case of children.** This minimizes any additional access to the data, including sharing of intake forms or identifiable information being divulged outside of service provision referrals.

- **Anonymity and confidentiality** of data is ensured by eliminating the use of identifiable information about survivors, alleged perpetrators, and service providers and using coding system for registering incidents. Some data may indirectly link to an individual depending on the context and factors surrounding the incident.[21]

- A core component of the GBVIMS is **informed consent from survivors**. The informed consent process ensures survivors are given choices to control who has access to their informa-

[19] GBVIMS rollouts vary by context, with actors in some settings implementing all of the system's elements and others implementing a staggered or "partial rollout" approach.

[20] The GBVIMS is designed for usage by organizations and agencies providing direct services to GBV survivors, including case management, psychosocial/counseling, health, or legal services. Additional requirements for use of the system include supporting infrastructure, human resources, and organizational commitment to implement the system. In order to maintain anonymity of survivors and individual service providers, caseloads should be greater than 50.

[21] Identifiable information of survivors refers to information that could directly identify or link an individual and may include information such as the survivor's name, contact information (address, phone number, registration number in the case of refugees for example) but also age breakdown, place of residence or location (village, town). Persons with disabilities, separated or unaccompanied children as well as male survivors are also cases that are more at risk of being easily identified, due to their specific profile, and the small number of cases being reported. The GBVIMS does not collect identifiable information on perpetrators.

tion and why. During the data collection process, service providers clearly explain the different ways in which anonymized, aggregated incident information may be shared, with whom, for what purposes, and how. The consent form requires service providers to explain to each survivor the benefits as well as potential consequences of any decisions to share information. Survivors are given the option to consent to share none, some or all of the information about her/his GBV incident. The GBVIMS consent process also separates consent for information sharing for referrals, and service provision from consent for de-identified information to be shared for aggregate, data collection purposes. The survivor-informed decision is respected throughout the process of service provision and data collection.

- Due to the sensitive nature of GBV data, **information sharing** between agencies and organizations must be carefully managed. All GBVIMS participating organizations and agencies agree exactly on how their data will be shared, with whom, and in what format. The GBVIMS ISP provides some ground rules and guiding principles on procedures for sharing non-identifiable data on reported cases of GBV. All organizations and agencies that are part of an ISP agree to uphold these basic principles of confidentiality (no information is shared that could be used to identify the survivor, the alleged perpetrator, the family and community of the survivor), and informed consent (survivors' control over their data must be respected).

III CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAFE AND ETHICAL USE OF GBVIMS DATA FOR MARA PURPOSES

This section provides guidance and recommendations on when, for which purposes, how and according to which standards information sharing is possible between the GBVIMS and MARA.

A. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR INCLUDING GBVIMS DATA IN MARA?

The decision on whether and what to share from the GBVIMS should happen at the country or regional level by senior staff of organizations that are directly implementing the GBVIMS. While it would be ideal for all organizations using the GBVIMS to reach a decision together on sharing information for MARA, or for GBV coordination mechanisms to be in place prior to information sharing, this may not always be possible (e.g., when there are no coordination mechanisms in place), and should not limit information sharing. In both situations, best practices in GBV data management and sharing (ethical and safety criteria such as confidentiality, anonymity, informed consent, and protection for the data), along with considerations of any potential negative consequences including safety and security risks, must always be at the centre of the decision-making process.

Decision-trees (available in Annex 2) were developed to guide organizations and agencies providing services to GBV survivors in determining whether it is safe and appropriate to share GBVIMS data for MARA purposes. The questions are based on internationally recognized standards and best practices for ethical and safe data management and sharing. They are meant to help national coordinators and decision makers within organizations and agencies providing services to GBV survivors to assess: a) whether the context in which they operate is appropriate and secure for sharing GBV data (Decision Tree 1); and b) if their organization already adheres to international standards of GBV data management and can, therefore, begin to consider the possibilities for additional data sharing for the MARA (Decision Tree 2). As the decision on sharing GBVIMS information should be discussed and ideally taken as a whole, these decision trees should guide discussions among senior staff of organizations that are directly implementing the GBVIMS, after internal reflection by each organization or agency.

If a decision is taken that the circumstances allow for GBVIMS data to be shared for the MARA, the negotiation and development of an in-country **MARA-GBVIMS specific Information Sharing Protocol Addendum** is recommended. This will be an addendum to the existing GBVIMS

ISP that clearly outlines what information will be shared.[22] The MARA-GBVIMS ISP does not intend to restrict possibilities for information sharing but is meant to facilitate the sharing of information in conformity with ethical and safety standards, by regulating and coordinating data sharing. This ISP should include what information from the GBVIMS will be shared, in what format, with whom, and with what frequency. It is critically important that the MARA-GBVIMS ISP explains how information may or may not be used and what data protection mechanisms will be put in place. The process of developing a MARA-GBVIMS specific ISP needs to engage all relevant actors including senior staff of organizations and agencies that are directly implementing the GBVIMS and senior WPAs, or relevant MARA actors in charge of implementation of SCR 1960 (the process may possibly engage members of the Technical Working Group on CRSV).

B. WHAT, IF ANY, GBVIMS DATA POINTS CAN BE SHARED FOR "REPORTING PURPOSES" AND ACCORDING TO WHICH SAFEGUARDS?

The MARA promotes the collection of a wide range of information to provide an accurate picture of CRSV trends and patterns. The Working Group on CRSV responsible for this work shall be informed by human rights monitoring principles and methodology developed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights[23] and must meet the standards of corroboration adopted in the UN system.[24]

- It is important to note that the six classification types in the GBVIMS are not all relevant for the MARA. Of these six types, rape, sexual assault and forced marriage would be pertinent to share for MARA purposes[25]. However, isolated incidents of rape or sexual assault within the private sphere are not necessarily relevant for MARA or considered CRSV as these incidents might not amount to international crimes. Moreover, the full spectrum of sexual violence under MARA is not captured by the GBVIMS (e.g. sexual slavery, forced impregnation/sterilization, etc. or any other act of comparable gravity under International Humanitarian Law).

- Also, GBVIMS data reflects incidents reported by the survivors to service providers for care and follow-up, Incidents reported through the GBVIMS cannot be subjected to further verification, but aggregated GBVIMS data can, however, contribute to understanding patterns

[22] Annex 4 provides additional guidance on development of a MARA-GBVIMS ISP.

[23] See OHCHR Manual on Human Rights Monitoring, (2001, 2011).

[24] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 8.

[25] According to the Rome Statute, the specific legal elements of rape are: a) the Perpetrator invaded the body of a person by conduct resulting in penetration, however slight, of any part of the body of the victim or of the perpetrator with a sexual organ, or of the anal or genital opening of the victim with any object or any other part of the body, and b)the invasion was committed by force, or by threat of force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression or abuse of power, against such person or another person, or by taking advantage of a Coercive environment, or the invasion was committed against a person incapable of giving genuine consent (e.g. where the act is committed against a child). The specific legal elements of forced marriage are : a) the forcible imposition of marital status by the perpetrator on the victim, and b) the imposition of marital status was committed by force, or by threat of force or coercion, such as that caused by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression or abuse of power, against such person or another person, or by taking advantage of a coercive environment, or the imposition of marital status was committed against a person incapable of giving genuine consent.

and trends in CRSV incidents in a given country and can be used in Security Council reports if it meets the criteria outlined in Figure 4.

- In the context of information sharing for MARA reporting purposes, data from the GBVIMS that contributes to MARA are recommended to be in **aggregate form,** (i.e. compiled and laid out in a simple statistical format). This information will contribute to understand the broader contextual analysis but not to inform trends and patterns of sexual violence.

- This case data should have been entered into the GBVIMS Incident Recorder and combined or compiled by the "GBVIMS Data Compiling Agency"[26], generally a UN agency, into a MARA-specific worksheet generated in accordance with agreed mechanisms (see Annex 3). Based on the current *Provisional Guidance Note* on the MARA, GBVIMS data points that are relevant for data sharing include:

FIG. 3 – RELEVANT GBVIMS DATA POINTS FOR MARA

- **INCIDENT TYPE**
- **ALLEGED PERPETRATOR OCCUPATION (ARMED SERVICES/ARMED GROUP)**
- **SURVIVOR AGE**
- **LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT**
- **SURVIVOR SEX**
- **DISPLACEMENT STATUS OF THE SURVIVOR**
- **DATE OF INCIDENT**
- **REFERRAL INFORMATION**

- It is recommended that **compiled GBVIMS data** is shared rather than GBVIMS data from just one GBVIMS organization or agency to provide additional protection of neutrality, safety, and security. Data compilation acts as a buffer between actors and organizations with direct survivor contact and the information included on survivor incidents in reports that are made to the Security Council.

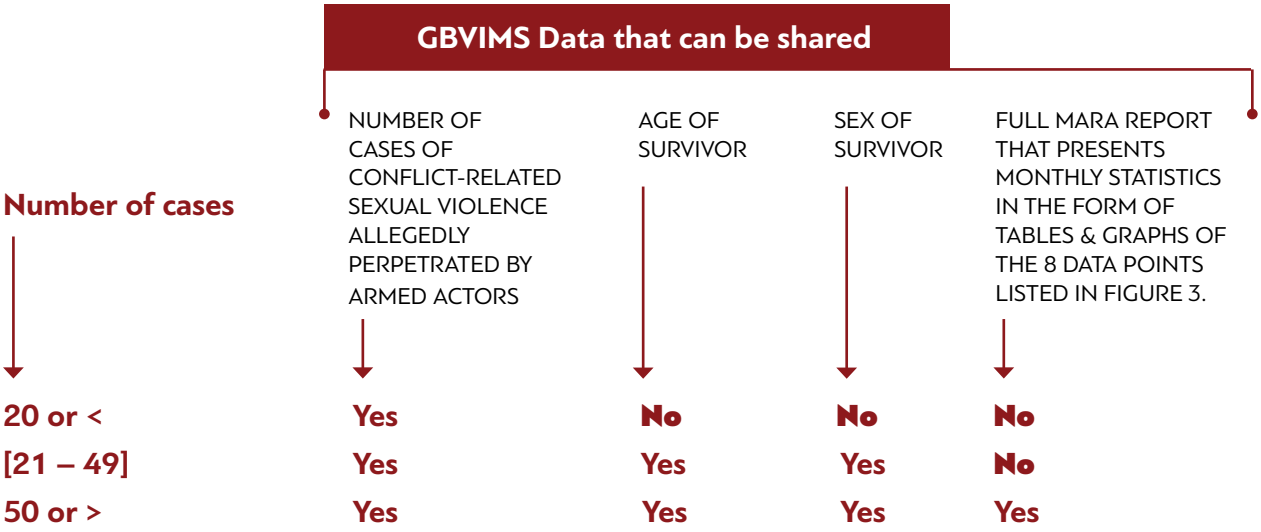
- For the generic statistics to be used in a meaningful manner, they will need to be accompanied by some analytical interpretation of the data[27]. Indeed the GBVIMS data does not capture information about the context of the incident, (i.e., in the context of armed clashes, attacks on a village, during farming, etc.), it does not differentiate between armed groups, and does not provide information on possible perpetrator motivations.

[26] In each setting where the GBVIMS is being rolled-out there is a data-compiling agency that has been mutually agreed upon by GBVIMS implementing agencies, to compile shared reports from various GBVIMS organizations, aggregate them, and send them back to the implementing agencies.

[27] When triangulated with other sources of information, GBVIMS aggregated statistics may contribute to provide background information to the Mediator on CRSV in ceasefire and peace agreements, See: GUIDANCE FOR MEDIATORS Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements.

- It is recommended that the GBVIMS data that contributes to MARA contain data from **a minimum of 50 cases**[28]. There may be flexibility in the threshold number of cases that is safe to share, depending on the assessment of GBVIMS actors on the ground. When the operational and organizational contexts assessed by the two decision trees are validated, data can be shared according to the following guidance:

FIG. 4 – THRESHOLD NUMBER OF CASES THAT IS SAFE TO SHARE



WHEN GBVIMS DATA IS SHARED FOR REPORTING PURPOSES, SAFEGUARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ETHICAL AND SAFE DATA SHARING ARE:

- The service providers and organizations that provide GBVIMS information should never be cited as sources. Considering that most entities using the GBVIMS are well known, highly visible, and often the only organization providing services in a particular area, the risk of retaliation by any named or listed armed actors is significant if GBVIMS data is not "hidden."

- Security risks to GBVIMS data gathering organizations (who are all service providers) may increase if GBVIMS data is presented as a stand-alone dataset. In order to protect GBVIMS data gathering organizations, GBVIMS data must be combined with several additional sources of CRSV data by those responsible for compiling data for the MARA so that GBVIMS data may not be traced to its point of origin.

[28] The GBVIMS is recommended for usage in countries with a minimum caseload of 50 survivors due to the need to maintain anonymity and safety of survivors, service providers, and others affiliated with an incident. Should the aggregate number of reported incidents be low, it may be possible to identify a survivor or service provider on the basis of where the incidents have occurred (e.g. if there is only one report from a particular area, it could be possible to identify who the service provider or survivor was). Additionally, with fewer than 50 cases, it is more difficult to identify trends and patterns.

- For safety considerations, GBVIMS data should only be broken down by the **smallest geographic region that is safe to share,** and where multiple GBV service providers are working.[29]

- Confidentiality and informed consent should be at the core of GBVIMS information sharing. Because survivors' informed decisions must be respected in all aspects of data collection and sharing for MARA purposes, analysed aggregated data will only be shared with the informed consent of survivors with whom it will be discussed at the point of data collection how their anonymized and aggregated information may be shared for MARA reporting purposes, including its reporting to the UN system/Security Council. In contexts where the GBVIMS and the MARA are implemented, a question should be added in the GBVIMS Informed Consent Form, and users trained on how to explain, in a non-intimidating manner, the aims of SCR 1960. Survivors will have the opportunity to authorize or refuse to share some non-identifiable data for MARA purposes.

- The information that reaches the Security Council will not expose the survivors. As noted in the Provisional Guidance Note, "specific information related to the victims and witnesses is never transmitted to the SC"[30]. In this context, MARA actors cannot request individual case information gathered by services providers and captured by the GBVIMS.

- Both the MARA and the GBVIMS give primary consideration to the security of all and to ending and addressing the violations: consequently the identities of survivors, witnesses, source of information and alleged perpetrators should never appear in a public report. Once established, protocols to secure GBVIMS information and data sharing, including compliance by all staff, must be enforced.

  The potential use of GBV data for prevention and early warning will need to be considered by GBV and MARA actors as practice matures and the MARA is established in more countries.

[29] For example, if there are only three service providers spread across a state, data should never provide a breakdown in more detail than from the state level to ensure that survivors and service providers' identity and safety are protected.

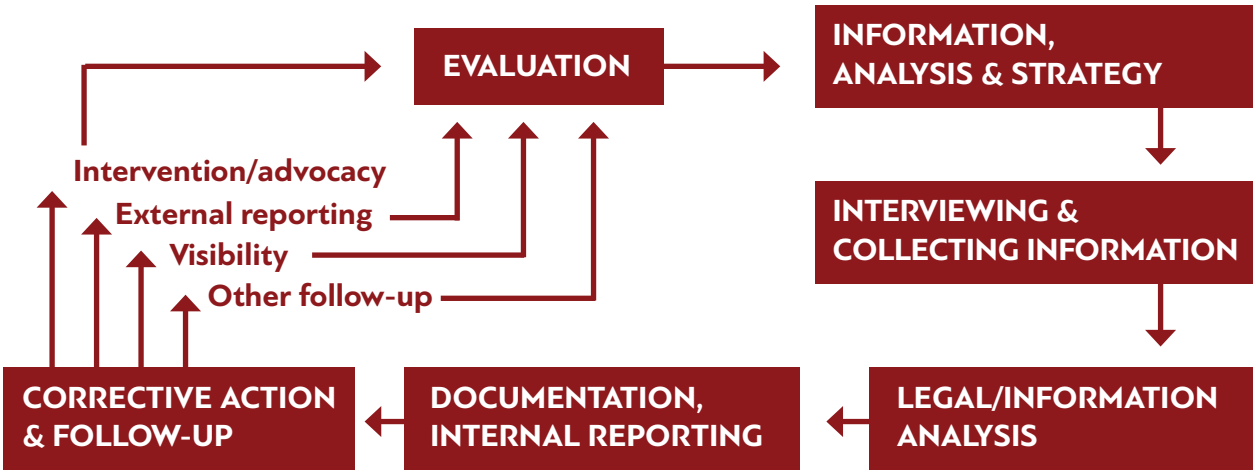
[30] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 12.

C. HOW INCIDENTS OF CRSV ARE MONITORED AND VERIFIED IN THE CONTEXT OF MARA

One of the functions of the aforementioned Working Group on CRSV is to monitor and verify CRSV information. The *Provisional Guidance Note* states that "OHCHR, Human Rights components of peacekeeping missions, and other UN entities that have monitoring mandates, requisite expertise and capacity should take a lead role in the functions of the Working Group related to monitoring and verification of incidents.[31]"

Human Rights Monitoring is "a broad term describing the active collection, verification and use of information to assess and address human rights concerns." Monitoring takes place over a protracted period of time. The whole process of monitoring is also referred to as the human rights monitoring cycle.[32]

THE MONITORING CYCLE



Human rights monitoring starts with an initial analysis of information available on possible human rights concerns in a given context. On the basis of this analysis, field teams develop a monitoring strategy consistent with the mandate and priorities of the field presence. Monitoring strategies can also be developed for specific cases. Information gathering can be about an incident, an event, or a situation. It is done through different methods including interviews, on-site visits (e.g. refugee and IDP camps, schools, and hospitals), observation and recording of specific events (e.g. trials), collection of documents, photographs[33] and video materials, written submissions, and engagement with relevant actors.

[31] Provisional Guidance Note, p. 7.

[32] Professional Training Series n.7 –OHCHR Manual on Human Rights Monitoring – UN Publications.

[33] Taking and keeping photos of GBV survivors is NEVER recommended.

The next step of the cycle is about analysis. It involves factual and legal analysis, i.e. establishing facts on the one hand and attributing a legal meaning to such facts in terms of human rights violations (if any) committed on the other hand. Analysis must also include the assessment of both the credibility and reliability of the sources of information and the relevance and validity of the information. Analysis is essential to understand the root-causes of the human rights violations to then consider which follow-up and corrective actions might be most appropriate and sustainable. This means, inter alia, undertaking gender and intersectional analysis. The results of the analysis are documented in different forms of internal reporting as the findings of monitoring. On this basis, follow up and corrective actions will be implemented. It is essential to evaluate the impact of follow up and corrective actions. The results of the evaluation inform and orient the following monitoring cycle on the same or a different concern.

For MARA purposes, **verification** entails the careful assessment of each piece of information gathered relating to reported incidents of CRSV independently, as well as alongside other information collected, and the development of at least prima facie analysis. This implies a separate assessment of: i) the credibility and reliability of each source of information (e.g., is it trustworthy? Biased? Are there any political or other motives that may affect its credibility?); ii) the relevance and validity of each piece of information (e.g., is it accurate, logical, consistent within itself and compared to others? Does it point to the involvement - or not - of a candidate in a human rights or IHL violation?); iii) the integrity of the methodology used to gather the information (e.g., was the information gathered without bias? Was information independently corroborated?).

As a general rule, for corroboration of a piece of information there has to be concurring information from two other independent, reliable sources. If there are less than two sources, including one single source, then the incident or event would be considered corroborated only if the source(s) is assessed as reliable and the information is consistent with other material, such as the investigator's own observations. In some incidents of sexual violence it may be very difficult to obtain corroboration of the survivor's account from another independent source, especially if the survivor has not received medical assistance or been able to report the incident to the authorities. In such instances, corroboration may be obtained by assessing the details of the victim's account, evaluating if they are consistent with what is generally known about the incident (for example, the area where it occurred, the alleged perpetrators or the methods used) and establishing whether the incident reveals a pattern that is consistent with other similar incidents. These standards for corroboration are not possible with the aggregate, anonymized information collected and shared through the GBVIMS.

D. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF VERIFICATION THAT ARE RECOMMENDED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GBVIMS? HOW GBVIMS DATA IS CONSIDERED "UNITED NATIONS-VERIFIED"?

Multiple sources of information are ideal according to human rights monitoring standards. The GBVIMS provides information collected by GBV services providers directly from GBV survivors' testimonies, i.e. from primary sources. Therefore when considering information sharing from the GBVIMS for MARA's verification purposes the three following minimum standards of verification based on the Field Manual on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations against children in situation of armed conflict should apply:

When information is available from only one primary source, the following criteria should be met, in the best interest of GBV survivors:

- **Information has been received from a primary source**. The GBVIMS collects data at the point of service delivery i.e. directly and only from survivors. GBVIMS users who share data for MARA reporting purposes should not be asked to provide further identifiable data on survivors, perpetrators, and service providers for corroboration purposes.

AND

- **The information collected is deemed credible by an UN-trained GBV service provider.** If all GBVIMS users have been trained by UN agencies, GBVIMS data is considered as "UN-verified" i.e. as a credible source of information on GBV collected by UN-trained organizations[34].

AND

- **The GBVIMS Coordination body ensures regular quality control on the data collected.**

[34] Refer to Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against children in situation of armed conflict, OSRSG-CAAC, UNICEF, DPKO, http://www.mrmtools.org/mrm/1095_1123.htm#Verification.

E. WHAT ARE THE CONSIDERATIONS FOR MAKING REFERRALS BETWEEN GBVIMS USERS AND OTHER ENTITIES IMPLEMENTING MARA?

Cross-referrals between GBVIMS users and actors implementing the MARA can facilitate a more robust, holistic and survivor-centred response to incidents of GBV and CRSV.

All actors involved in data gathering on CRSV must be aware of available services and able to make safe and appropriate referrals as requested by survivors. Both the MARA and the GBVIMS focus on the need for a holistic and comprehensive approach to GBV and CRSV; as such, mechanisms should be put in place to enable referrals of survivors to all available services and actors. Referral should be made with the informed consent of survivors to those who can provide a direct service to the survivor.

Referrals from GBVIMS users to the relevant MARA-related entities (e.g. actors representing peacekeeping or special political missions, human rights actors, etc.) should be made only with his/her informed consent, and in adherence with the guiding principles of confidentiality, safety, respect and non-discrimination. As relevant in each setting, if trained human rights monitors are available to support survivors in obtaining legal assistance, or if a survivor requests a referral to a human rights monitor, GBVIMS users should provide referrals for consenting survivors to relevant MARA-related entities in accordance with GBV case management protocols. MARA-related entities can use the information to inform a number of lifesaving prevention and protection activities, including deploying patrols to high-risk areas – including firewood, farming and market route patrols, physical protection, referral for medical care and/or legal aid, facilitating the movement of survivor(s) to post-rape care, advocacy with the relevant authorities on behalf of the victims to accelerate investigations and improve security, and (in extreme circumstances) the immediate provision of basic care in the absence of health facilities.

Similarly, entities responsible for implementing the MARA should ensure referrals are made, according to the wishes of the survivor, to service providers whenever GBV survivors are encountered in the course of their work. The services available, trainings provided etc. by MARA-related entities should be discussed with the JFC in order to facilitate any necessary referrals.

IV KEY CONSIDERATION: WHEN IT IS NOT RELEVANT TO SHARE GBVIMS DATA FOR MARA PURPOSES

If certain data is unavailable, is of poor quality, or is deemed not safe to share, it is recommended that GBVIMS users decline to contribute data to the MARA in that reporting period and *clearly explain their reasons for making this decision.*

GBVIMS DATA MAY NOT BE RELEVANT OR SHAREABLE FOR MARA PURPOSES WHEN:

- The data do not fall within the definition of "conflict-related sexual violence".
- There is little (less than 50 cases[35]) or no available incident data due to poor service coverage and/or lack of access due to insecurity.
- The number of agencies using the GBVIMS is very small and the risk for those agencies would increase.
- There is a lack of standardization in how incident data is documented.
- Informed consent procedures are not fully understood or followed.
- There is no endorsed inter-agency ISP.
- There are fears of reprisals (for survivors, their family members, or service providers) from the armed actors (groups) cited as alleged perpetrators where safety and security cannot be guaranteed[36].
- There are concerns that it is likely that the sharing of information will undermine agency specific or inter-agency efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence (e.g. community will distrust or not allow service provision when it is known that an agency is part of a global monitoring and reporting mechanism).
- There is a demand for more invasive verification procedures than those outlined above.

[35] For further details on the recommended numbers of cases that are safe to share, please refer to Figure 4, p. 15.

[36] While a survivor may give his/her informed consent at the time of reporting an incident for the information to be used for de-identified information sharing, circumstances may change by the time reports are being compiled or shared.

CONCLUSION

The intersection between the GBVIMS and the new Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence presents opportunities for the organizations addressing GBV and those working to prevent, deter and respond to CRSV to improve collaboration and mutual understanding in order to amplify the global response to gender-based violence. Enhanced cooperation can also help to bridge the traditional divides between peace and security stakeholders, humanitarian actors, and civil society for greater synergy of action. The GBVIMS can be used to systematically collect information on GBV in contexts that are affected by conflict, and therefore may contain relevant and important contextual information on CRSV, which demands an urgent and comprehensive response[37].

As the MARA is established in more countries, and practice on the MARA evolves, there will also be a need to provide inter-agency guidance on the intersection between the MARA and the MRM, specifically on monitoring and reporting conflict-related sexual violence committed against children. This Guidance Note may serve as the basis for such future inter-agency guidance, as it addresses the core issues of cooperation among stake holders working towards a common a goal: strengthening the prevention of and response to GBV.

[37] For questions or additional support the GBVIMS Steering Committee can be reach at gbvims@gmail.com

ANNEX 1: GBVIMS STRUCTURE AND TOOLS

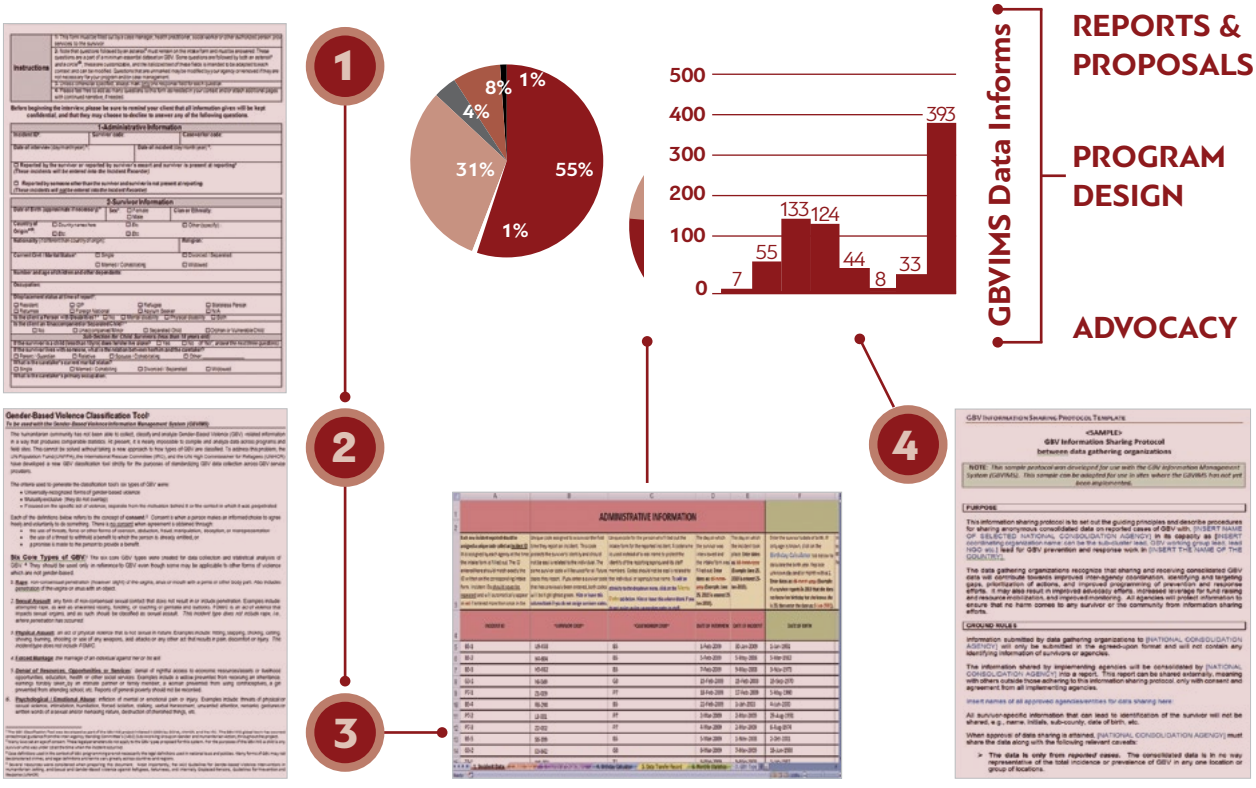
FIG. 1 GBVIMS STEERING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The GBVIMS Steering Committee is an inter-agency partnership consisting of members from UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, and IRC. The Steering Committee role is to:

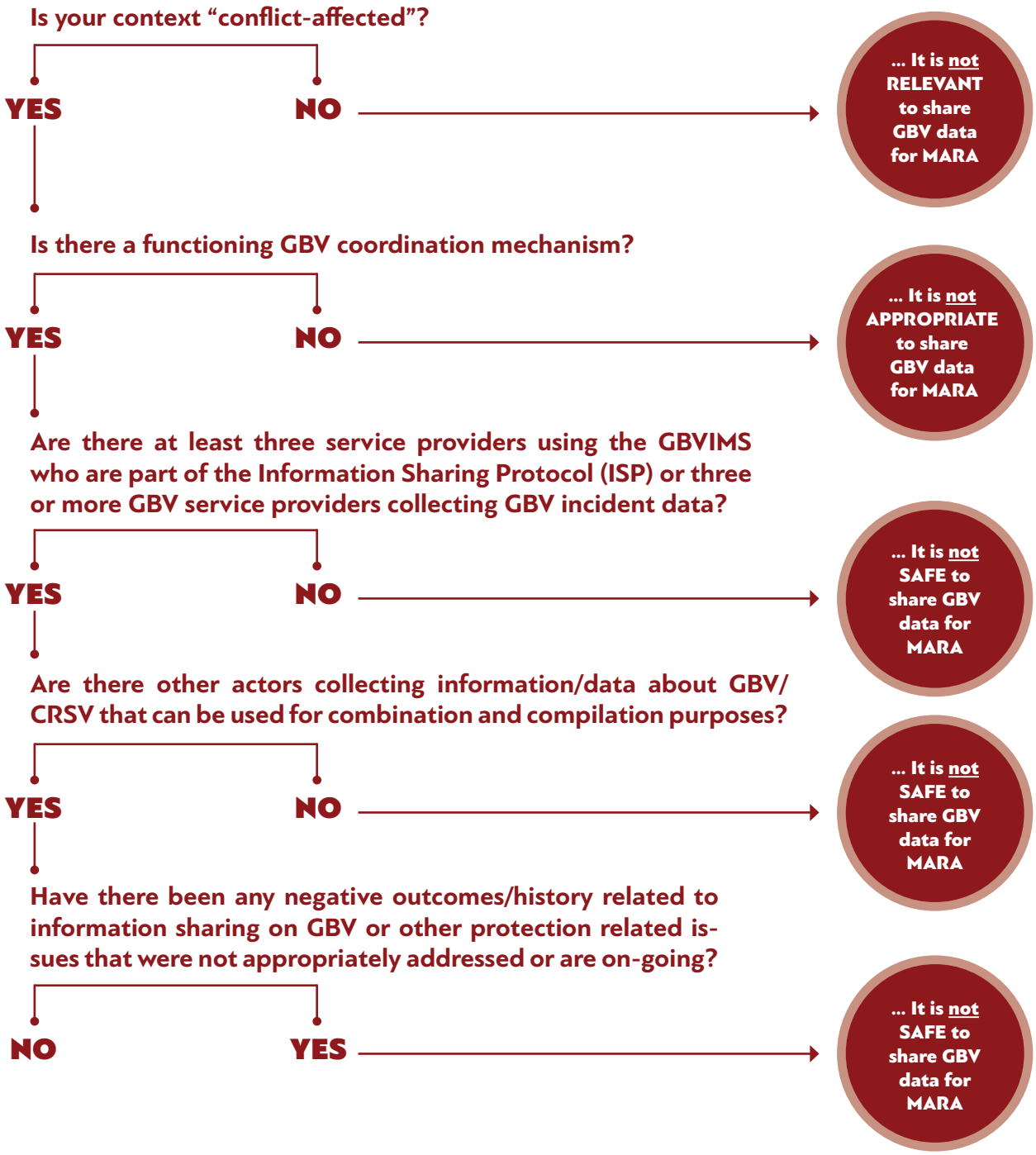
1. Develop and update the GBVIMS tools,
2. Facilitate rollouts of the GBVIMS in countries and locations wanting to implement it,
3. Provide technical support to agencies needing assistance,
4. Further the discussion on best-practice information sharing

The GBVIMS Steering Committee can be contacted for questions or support at gbvims@gmail.com

FIG. 2 GBVIMS TOOLS: 1-INTAKE FORM; 2-CONSENT FORM; 3-INCIDENT RECORDER; 4-INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL



ANNEX 2: DECISION TREE #1
THE OPERATIONAL CONTEXT



DECISION TREE #2: THE ORGANIZATIONAL OR SERVICE PROVIDER CONTEXT

Are you a GBVIMS service provider?

YES **NO**

Is there a practice of sharing non-identifiable GBV data within the context of your GBV coordination body?

YES **NO**

Are your staff comfortable explaining the issues of informed consent and sharing anonymized data of survivors?

YES **NO**

Are you comfortable with the safety of survivors and/or staff when sharing aggregated, de-identified data?

YES **NO**

Are there other data sources your information can be compiled/combined with by the MARA?

YES **NO**

5 "YES'S"

suggest that safe practices of data sharing are in place within your organization.

ONE OR MORE "NO'S"

indicate that there are critical issues your organization should address to comply with internationally-recognised standards of data management and sharing. For example, if you are not confident in your ability to seek informed consent, data should not be shared until there is further capacity built. If there are any safety concerns, data should not be shared until the circumstances change.

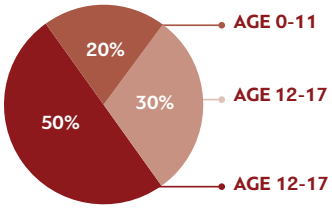
ANNEX 3: SAMPLE GBVIMS-MARA DATA WORKSHEET (FICTIONAL DATA)

MARA REPORTING:				
	REPORTING LOCATION	**Site A**	INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORTED	**11**
	INCIDENT REPORT YEAR	**2010**	INCIDENTS OF ABDUCTION REPORTED	**6**

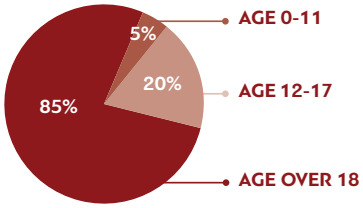
INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORTED:		
	ARMED PERPETRATOR (ARMED GROUP, POLICE, STATE MIL)	**3**

INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORTED

FEMALE

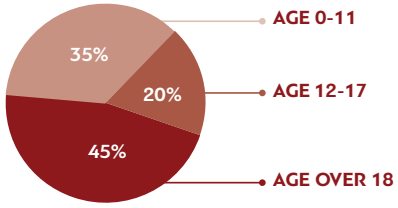


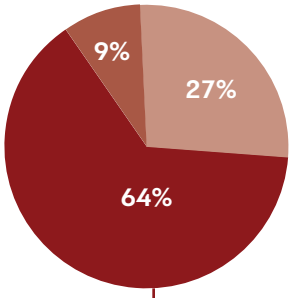
MALE



INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORTED

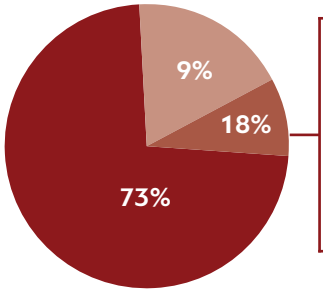
TOTAL





INCIDENT LOCATION

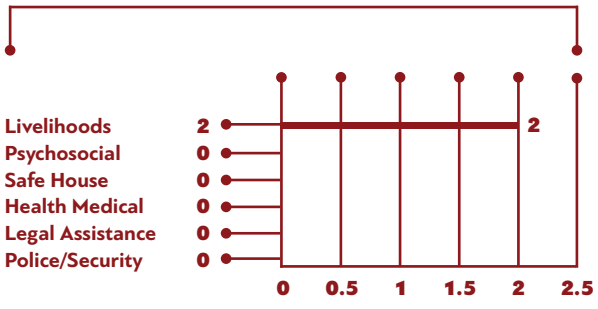
Bush - Forest	10
Fetching Water	4
Unfinished House	1
School	0
Road	0
Streamside	0
Beach	0
Farm - Garden	0
Market	0
Latrine	0
Survivor's Home	0
Perpetrator's Home	0
Perpetrator's Friend's Home	0
Entertainment Centre	0
Guest House - Hotel	0
Health Facility	0
Nightclub	0
Police Station	0
Other	0



STAGE OF DISPLACEMENT

During Refuge	12
Not Displaced/ Home Community	3
Pre-Displacement	0
During Flight	0
During Return/Transit	0
Post-Displacement	0
Other	0

UNAVAILABLE SERVICES



* On the location information above – the locations would need to be adapted to better inform the conflict aspect of the violence to be reported within MARA. For example: in official detention facility, in unofficial detention facility, at a checkpoint, near to DDR camp, in X village/town/region, close to Y mine, in vicinity of cantonment etc.

ANNEX 4: GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A GBVIMS-MARA INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL

ETHICAL STANDARDS OF THE GBVIMS

The GBVIMS was created to harmonize data collection by GBV service providers in humanitarian settings and provide a simple system for GBV service providers to collect, store and analyse their data, and to enable the safe and ethical sharing of reported GBV incident data. The intention of the GBVIMS is both to assist service providers to better understand the GBV cases being **reported** as well as to enable actors to share data internally across project sites and externally with diverse agencies to facilitate broader trends analysis and improved GBV coordination.

Providing a safe and ethical mechanism for primary service providers to share and access compiled GBV data is one cornerstone of good GBV coordination. At a minimum, actors should be clear on what data will be shared, for what purpose, who will compile the data, and how and when actors will be able to access the compiled statistics. The Information Sharing Protocol template helps service providers and coordinating agencies achieve transparency on the points above.

Complementing the Information Sharing Protocol, this addendum was developed to provide additional clarity on information sharing as it relates to the MARA.

Sharing GBV-related data in humanitarian contexts is challenging and raises concerns due to its inherent sensitivity and potential negative consequences if mishandled. It is essential that only the appropriate level of data is shared and that the purpose for sharing the data is explicitly stated.

Survivors' control over their data must be respected.

While service providers and coordinating agencies support local and global efforts to hold perpetrators of GBV accountable for their actions, this does not require sharing specific case information that could reveal the identity of the survivor unless she or he consents to having that information about her/his case being shared for a specific purpose.

MINIMUM STANDARDS AND PROTOCOLS FOR INFORMATION SHARING AS IT RELATES TO MARA

To uphold the safety and ethical standards in the WHO *Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies* and internationally-recognized best practices, there are minimum standards that must be met before sharing GBV-related for the purposes of MARA.

THESE STANDARDS INCLUDE:

- Service provision must be available to GBV survivors if data is to be gathered from them,
- Survivor/incident data must be non-identifiable,
- Survivor/incident data can only be shared with the informed consent of the client,
- Client case files (i.e. intake or incident report forms) are only shared within the context of a referral for service provision and with the consent of the survivor,
- Sensitive information is shared only after anonymized and after taking into account the necessary ethical and safety considerations,
- Requests for information are made with a clear explanation of why the data is needed and how it will be used.

As part of these minimum standards there are also thresholds that should be met to make sure any GBV-related data shared for MARA is safe to share at both the national and local level. Data from the GBVIMS that contributes to MARA must be in **aggregate form** (i.e. compiled data laid out in a very simple statistical format). That is, data from **a minimum of 50 cases** that has been processed through the Incident Recorder, and combined or compiled by the "GBVIMS Data Compiling Agency"[38] into a MARA-specific worksheet that could be generated on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, or upon request in accordance with agreed mechanisms[39]. Frequency of data sharing for reporting purposes should be agreed upon at country level.

[38] In each setting where the GBVIMS is being rolled-out there is a data compiling agency that has been mutually agreed upon to compile shared reports, aggregate them, and send them back to the implementing agencies.

[39] See Annex 3.

Based on defining documents related to SCR 1960, below are the data points that could be considered safe for sharing for inclusion in this worksheet. These are the data points gathered as part of the GBVIMS that are relevant to MARA's purposes. For safety considerations, data should only be broken down by the smallest geographic region that is safe to share and where multiple GBV service providers are working.[40]

- **INCIDENT TYPE**
- **SURVIVOR AGE**
- **SURVIVOR SEX**
- **DATE OF INCIDENT**
- **ALLEGED PERPETRATOR OCCUPATION (ARMED SERVICES/ARMED GROUP)**
- **LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT**
- **DISPLACEMENT STATUS OF THE SURVIVOR**
- **REFERRAL INFORMATION**

As with any GBVIMS data, no names or other identifying information for survivors, alleged perpetrators, or those providing survivors with care should be shared. GBV data should be safe to share in that context, anonymous and shared only with the informed consent of survivors.

PROTOCOL FOR INFORMATION SHARING FOR THESE ACTIVITIES

As with the general ISP, a protocol should be developed to include clear details on what information will be shared, in what format, with whom, and on what frequency. Signatories to this agreement/protocol should be those who will be contributing information through their implementation of the GBVIMS as well as those entities involved in data gathering for the MARA.

MARA-RELATED ACTIVITIES WHERE GBVIMS USERS WILL NOT BE INVOLVED (AND THEIR JUSTIFICATION)

If certain data is unavailable, is of poor quality or is deemed not safe to share, it is recommended that GBVIMS users not contribute to the MARA, while providing justifications.

GBVIMS data cannot and should not be shared for MARA purposes when:

- The data do not fall within the definition of "conflict-related sexual violence".
- There is little (less than 50 cases[41]) or no available incident data due to poor service coverage and/or lack of access due to insecurity.

[40] For example, if there are only a three service providers spread across a state, data should never provide a breakdown in more detail than from the state level to ensure that survivors and service providers identity and safety are protected..

[41] For further details on the recommended numbers of cases that are safe to share, please refer to Figure 4 page. 15.

- The number of agencies using the GBVIMS is very small and the risk for those agencies would increase.
- There is a lack of standardization in how incident data is documented.
- Informed consent procedures are not fully understood or followed.
- There is no endorsed inter-agency ISP.
- There are fears of reprisals (for survivors, their family members, or service providers) from the armed actors (groups) cited as alleged perpetrators where safety and security cannot be guaranteed.[42]
- There are concerns that it is likely that the sharing of information will undermine agency specific or inter-agency efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence (e.g. community will distrust or not allow service provision when it is known that an agency is part of a global reporting mechanism).
- There is a demand for more invasive verification procedures than those outlined above.

[42] While a survivor may give his/her informed consent at the time of reporting an incident for the information to be used for de-identified information sharing, circumstances may change by the time reports are being compiled or shared.

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