Overview of the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)

The GBVIMS is an inter-agency partnership between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action and the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility Working Group of the Protection Cluster. The GBVIMS Project Manager is supported by UNFPA.

Introduction:

The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) is a multi-faceted initiative that enables humanitarian actors who are responding to GBV to safely collect, store and analyze reported GBV incident data. The GBVIMS includes: a practical, inter-active workbook that outlines the critical steps agencies and inter-agency GBV coordination bodies must take in order to implement the System; an Excel database (the "Incident Recorder") for data compilation and trends analysis; and a global team of GBV and database experts from UNFPA, UNHCR and the IRC for ongoing on-site and remote technical support.

Background:

As of today, the humanitarian community does not have an endorsed system that allows for the effective and safe storage, analysis and sharing of GBV-related data. This affects humanitarian actors' ability to obtain a reliable picture of the GBV being reported. It also minimizes the utility of collected data to inform program decisions for effective GBV prevention and care for survivors. Due to the sensitive nature of GBV data and concerns by many frontline GBV actors in how GBV data is used, there is also very limited information-sharing between key stakeholders. This hampers GBV coordination and limits a multi-sectoral response.

Purpose:

The GBVIMS was created to harmonize data collection on GBV in humanitarian settings, to provide a simple system for GBV project managers to collect and analyze their data, and to enable the confidential, safe and ethical sharing of aggregate and anonymous incident data on reported cases of GBV. The intention of the System is both to assist service providers to better understand the GBV cases being reported and to enable actors to share data internally across project sites and externally with agencies for broader trends analysis and to improve GBV coordination.

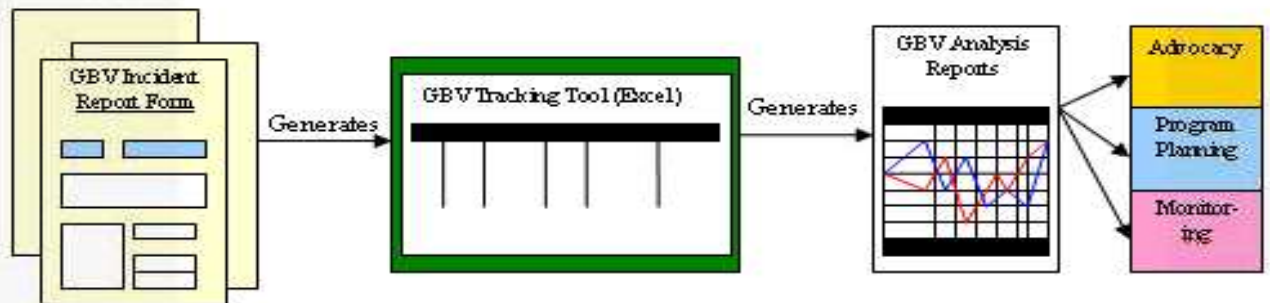1. **Data Compilation & Statistical Analysis**

    Using standardized incident report forms and a globally-standardized incident classification system, GBV primary service providers can enter general, unidentifiable data into the Incident Recorder and run instant analysis to identify correlations between data fields, revealing general trends in their reported data. These automatically generated, aggregate, and anonymous reports include general trend analyses on the incidents, survivors, and to a lesser extent on the alleged perpetrators. They also include a snapshot of referral actions taken. Examples of the types of information provided by the Incident Recorder include: the most-commonly reported types of GBV incidents; the most-affected age groups of survivors; and, the type of service that is most often the first point of entry for survivors (e.g. health, police, legal services, etc.).

2. **Data Sharing**

    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 GBVIMS Incident Recorder anonymizes and standardizes reported GBV data in order to facilitate sharing of sensitive information between humanitarian actors in a safe manner[1]. Comprehensive guidelines for developing data-sharing protocols, as well as information on all of the ethical and safety issues that must be considered before sharing data are an integral part of the GBVIMS project.

Limitations:

In its current format, the Incident Recorder is a trends-analysis tool that will let the user store and analyze good-quality statistical data on reported GBV incidents. The Incident Recorder cannot replace the existing case management systems used by service providers. The Incident Recorder is not an appropriate tool for Human Rights monitoring, nor is it appropriate for monitoring the quality of program interventions because it cannot capture this level of information. Furthermore, the data pertains only to <u>reported</u> incidents; thus it may not be a reflection of the actual prevalence of GBV in a given community. It is only one method of data collection in a situation that requires mixed-method analysis.

Expected Results:

The expected <u>outcomes</u> of the GBVIMS project are;

- A standard tool and methodology for data collection and analysis
- Instructions for classifying GBV incidents
- More reliable information about reported GBV incidents in humanitarian settings
- Concrete guidelines for sharing GBV data based on key ethical and safety considerations

The GBVIMS is expected to have the following <u>impact</u> on GBV prevention and response;

- More informed programmatic decision-making for individual service providers (organizations) and inter-agency working groups
- Improved data-sharing and collaboration between humanitarian actors
- Improved donor reporting
- Bolstered advocacy efforts (i.e. policy development and fundraising)

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[1] Please note that not all of the data gathered and entered into the Incident Recorder database will be shared. The information sharing protocol development includes agreement by all participating agencies on which data will be shared amongst all participating parties.