



# Revision of the Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

## Request for Input from the Humanitarian Community

### *What are the IASC GBV Guidelines?*

Gender-based violence is an all too common occurrence in humanitarian settings. It leads to psychological and physical injuries—even death—and reduces the impact of humanitarian actions.

The IASC *Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings* (“GBV Guidelines”) were developed as a resource to establish standards—across all areas of humanitarian response—related to prevention of and response to sexual and other forms of gender-based violence, particularly in the early stages of an emergency. Endorsed by UN agencies and international NGOs, these GBV Guidelines are an essential tool for enabling and empowering *all* humanitarian actors to promote the protection and well-being of affected populations.

### *Why are the IASC GBV Guidelines being revised?*

Published in 2005, the GBV Guidelines predate the Humanitarian Reform and Transformative Agenda processes. As such, they do not reflect the Cluster System and other important advances in humanitarian coordination, leadership, accountability and partnership. There have been many lessons learned and strategies and tools developed that humanitarian actors can use to meet their protection responsibilities and improve the quality and effectiveness of GBV-related interventions. The revised edition will draw from the most-up-to-date resources in order to provide user-friendly guidance and tools for all actors working in humanitarian settings.

### *Why is YOUR INPUT critical and how can you get involved?*

Your input is critical to ensuring that the standards and tools developed for the revised GBV Guidelines meet YOUR programmatic needs and, as a result, better serve the affected populations. Your engagement in a consultative and collaborative revision process is the key to making the revised GBV Guidelines a future success. Early in the new year you will be sent a survey on the GBV Guidelines. Please take a few moments to respond to the survey to share with us your experiences, best practices and tools, and/or communicate directly with the consultants who are leading this process (contact details below).

### *Who will lead the revisions of the IASC GBV Guidelines?*

The GBV Area of Responsibility Working Group (“GBV AoR”), the global coordinating body for GBV in humanitarian settings, has received funding from the US State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration for a two-year project. The first year of the project will be undertaken by two consultants (Jeanne Ward and Julie Lafreniere) and be overseen by an advisory group within the GBV AoR.

### *What is the process for revisions?*

Preliminary consultations have been held in New York and Geneva with INGOs, GBV-specialists, UN Cluster Coordination Leads, and cross-cutting focal points. The revisions to the GBV Guidelines will be further informed by the aforementioned survey as well as a desk review and continued bilateral and group consultations to be conducted in 2012-2013 with global, regional, national and local humanitarian actors, as well as country “field-testing” visits to be undertaken in 2013. We will be following up with partners in the coming months and look forward to engaging with you throughout this process.

**WATCH FOR OUR SURVEY IN THE NEW YEAR!**

For further information, to arrange a consultation and/or to provide feedback about the GBV Guidelines, please contact Jeanne Ward at [Jeanne@swiftkenya.com](mailto:Jeanne@swiftkenya.com) or Julie Lafreniere at [julielafreniere03@gmail.com](mailto:julielafreniere03@gmail.com). Copies of the existing GBV Guidelines are currently available at <http://gbvaor.net/>.

