

**EDUCATION
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$$\begin{array}{r} 205 \\ + 91 \\ \hline = 296 \end{array}$$

Guidance Note

On the integration of GBV risk mitigation measures in ECW-supported investments (FERs and MYRPs)

I. PURPOSE

This guidance note is primarily aimed at ECW Secretariat staff and FERs and MYRPs country teams to provide guidance to country teams on the operationalization of ECW's commitment to integrate GBV risk mitigation measures in all ECW supported investments (FERs and particularly MYRPs) so that the risks of GBV in accessing education services are identified and addressed in order to increase women and girls' safety and subsequently increase girls' access, retention, and completion of their education with better learning outcomes.

II. RATIONALE

Gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive human rights violations across the world. Globally, one in three women and girls will experience a form of GBV in their lifetime be it sexual violence, physical violence, or child marriage¹. During conflicts and humanitarian crises, GBV risks are exacerbated— increasing the challenges already faced affected communities.

Girls and women are disproportionately affected by the impact of emergencies on education. Families may prioritize boys' education, choosing not to pay for girls' school fees, uniforms and other supplies as a result of the economic impact of conflict, crisis, or forced displacement. This can heighten the risk of sexual exploitation when girls, particularly adolescent girls, are pressured to exchange sex for school fees. At the same time, emergencies can create new risks for girls due to distance to access learning spaces and the risks they can encounter on the road or lack of safe and gender segregated WASH facilities. This, in turn, encourages families to keep their girls out of school and even to marry them off as children to reduce the risk of gender-based violence in and around schools. As highlighted in the IASC GBV Guidelines (2015)², better-designed education programmes can help mitigate such risks—not only keeping girls and women safer and supporting them when they have been victimized by gender-based violence, but also providing them with the skills and knowledge to improve their own lives.

EiEPC actors can greatly reduce the incidence of gender-based violence by systematically integrating concrete GBV risk mitigation measures into their programming. By creating safer EiE programming, girls' access, retention, and learning outcomes can only increase to have a lasting positive impact on their communities. As such, the ECW Gender Policy and Accountability Framework clearly highlights the importance to address GBV risks in FERs and MYRPs in line with the IASC GBV Guidelines (2015). In 2021, ECW joined the Call to Action on Protection from GBViE³ and made the commitment that *“all ECW investments (FERs and MYRPs) include at least 1 GBV risk mitigation indicator and budget line for GBV risk mitigation measures”*.

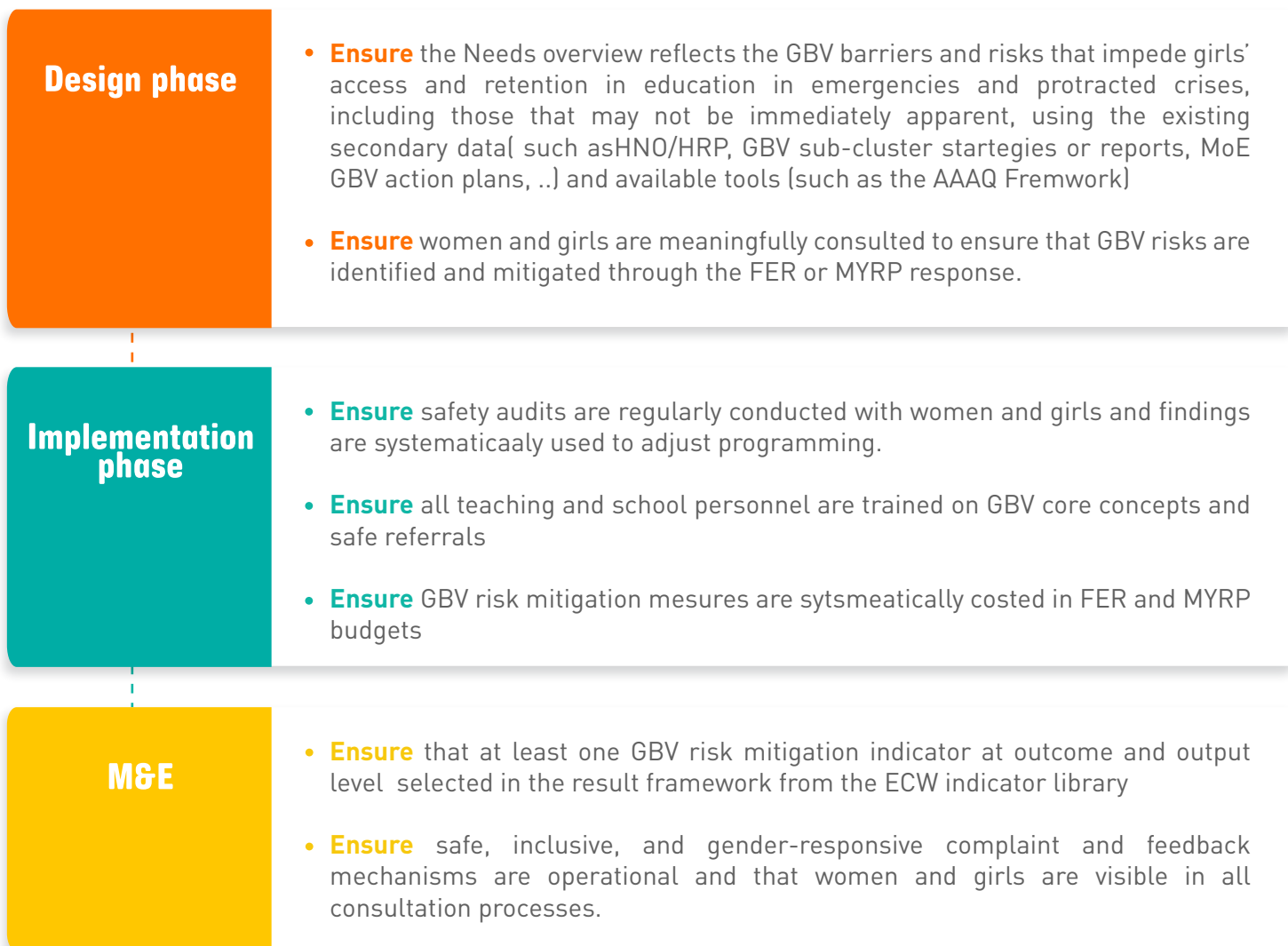
Note: Whilst this guidance note focuses on the IASC GBV Guidelines (2015) due to ECW's primary focus on emergencies and protracted crises, ECW also encourages partners to use the Global Guidance on SRGBV (2016)⁴.



A young student works on an assignment at school.
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1. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Costing_of_Transformative_Results_Chapter_5_-_Cost_of_Ending_Gender-Based_Violence.pdf
2. IASC GBV Guidelines, 2015
3. <https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/>
4. <https://www.unicef.org/media/66506/file/Global-Guidance-SRGBV.pdf>

III. STEPS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF GBV RISK MITIGATION MEASURES IN ECW-SUPPORTED FERS AND MYRPS



Examples of GBV risk mitigation measures⁵

Sample risks	Sample mitigation measures
No lights nor locks in the latrines	Ensure all latrines are gender segregated and have functioning lights and locks
A lack of female staff or volunteers in distribution.	Ensure at least 50% of the distribution staff and volunteers (and any other staff involved in programme implementation is female)
Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) are located in unsafe location such as next to armed groups/gangs	Set up TLS in locations that are safe, accessible and "public" (not isolated or hidden, not too far from other communal areas, well-lit etc.).

Please ensure context-specific risks are identified in the needs overview and through regular consultations with women and girls so that tailored mitigation measures are implemented through the investments (with an indicator and a budget line).

5. Further examples can be found in the IASC GBV Guidelines (2015).

IV. ECW MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In order to track progress towards achieving its commitment on GBV risk mitigation, ECW will monitor in all its FERs and MYRPs:

- The quality of the gender analysis, including the analysis of GBV risks in the needs overview section
- The number of ECW-supported investments with GBV risk mitigation measures in the Protection Outcome in the intervention Strategies section
- The number of ECW-supported investments with GBV risk mitigation indicators in the result framework
- The number of ECW-supported investments with costed GBV risk mitigation measures in the budget(s)
- The explicit reference to collaboration and coordination with GBV actors such as the GBV sub-cluster to build capacities of teachers and school personnel in GBV core concepts, and safe referrals.



A 13-year-old girl attends class in Diffa, Niger.
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V. RECOMMENDED TOOLS TO GO FURTHER

- 🔗 IASC GBV Guidelines: <https://bit.ly/3r3r6ur>
- 🔗 GBV Pocket Guide: <https://bit.ly/32tSQ0w>
- 🔗 Global Guidance on SRGBV: <https://uni.cf/3nMIGk0>



Education Cannot Wait [\[ECW\]](#) is the United Nations global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. We support and protect holistic learning outcomes for refugee, internally displaced and other crisis-affected girls and boys, so no one is left behind. ECW is administered under UNICEF's financial, human resources and administrative rules and regulations; operations are run by the Fund's own independent governance structure.

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