

Strengthening Commitments to End Gender-Based Violence and Advance Adolescent-Girls' Rights in Humanitarian Settings

The development of commitments on the [new Call to Action Roadmap](#) (2021-2025) by donors, UN agencies and NGO partners is occurring against the backdrop of the global impacts of COVID-19 that are disproportionately affecting girls and women of every age. It is critical that all stakeholders meet this moment with bold action and leadership on a global scale and take steps to close gaps in funding, action and accountability for gender-based violence risks and experiences of adolescent girls.

As humanitarian organizations with programmatic experience and expertise working with girls and women to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian settings, we offer the following recommendations to create and strengthen commitments that ensure we deliver for, and are accountable to adolescent girls living in humanitarian settings.

Recommendations for commitments (*organized according to the Roadmap outcomes*)

Outcome 1: Policy Frameworks and Capacity:

- Commit to prioritize, resource and actively support diverse local women, youth and girl leaders and the civil society organizations they represent, to play a leadership role in all aspects of humanitarian preparedness, planning and response efforts.
 - This must include committing technical and financial support for adolescent girls' systematic participation in all humanitarian decision-making processes, as well as specific support for their capacity and skills development in order to facilitate their safe and meaningful engagement.
- Commit not to organize any meetings or events on humanitarian action without participation from women and youth civil-society representatives and adolescent girl speakers.

Outcome 2: Coordination:

- Commit to work across clusters to ensure that all relevant humanitarian action mainstreams adolescent-friendly gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response services and information, particularly action focused on food security, health, shelter, and education.
- Commit to ensure adolescent girls do not fall through the gaps between child protection and gender-based violence action by supporting coordination across the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and GBV Area of Responsibility. In addition, ensure that child protection interventions are gender-responsive, and gender-based violence interventions respond to distinct age-related needs and experiences.

Outcome 3 - Data, Assessment, and Analysis:

- Commit to address the ongoing invisibility of adolescent girls' risks and experiences of gender-based violence in humanitarian needs assessments, response plans, and data

collection. Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) is one of the most pervasive forms of gender-based violence that girls face. Commitments should focus on systematically collecting, analyzing and using data on CEFM in humanitarian settings; how to prevent and mitigate the risks of CEFM; respond to the needs of already married girls living in humanitarian settings; and integrate CEFM prevention and response into humanitarian needs assessments and response plans. Nine of the 10 countries with the highest rates of CEFM are fragile or conflict-affected, yet, data on CEFM in humanitarian settings is not systematically collected, and response efforts rarely address this pervasive rights violation.

- Commit to mandate that all data collection be disaggregated by sex, age, and disability, with age breakdowns that include the ages of 10-14 and 15-19. This will help humanitarian actors and the girls that they are accountable to, know how much and which funding is going to girl-specific response efforts and to ensure that adolescent girls' priority needs and rights are being addressed in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Commit to hold UN system entities accountable to include detailed information, sex-, age-, and disability- disaggregated data and analysis on country- and region-specific situations, as well as thematic issues.

Outcome 4 – Funding: Sufficient funding is provided for GBV and gender equality staffing, interventions, initiatives, and programs during every phase of emergency response.

- Commit to prioritize and increase direct funding to local women, youth and girl-led organizations and networks, and to strengthen capacity for gender-based violence and gender equality work during every phase of humanitarian response.

Outcome 5 - Specialized GBV Programming: GBV prevention and response programming, including specialized services, that meet the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on GBV in emergencies are implemented in every phase of emergency response.

- Commit to prioritize and scale-up interventions tailored to the specific needs and priorities of adolescent girls. This must include holistic, multi-sectoral, and integrated response efforts, including targeted gender-based violence prevention and mitigation efforts, adolescent girl-friendly safe-spaces, gender responsive mental health and psychosocial support services, and sexual and reproductive health services and information for child survivors of violence.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you to achieve these commitments.