



## **Gender-based violence (GBV) key inter-sector messages for communities affected by the earthquake and hosted at collective shelters in Syria**

**February 2023**

*The below messages are intended for use, by all humanitarian workers responding to the earthquake emergency in Syria, to raise awareness on GBV among IDP communities that are affected by the earthquake and hosted at temporary/collective shelters. Messages focus on GBV prevention, access to services and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Dissemination of these messages should be adapted based on the specific location and context. Messages dissemination can be conducted through shelters' volunteers, discussion groups, community meetings, distribution of NFIs or at service points, or through stickers or leaflets within distributed kits/items.*

1. You can ask for help if you need it. If you need information or assistance, ask your family, friends or someone you trust to help you access it. If you do not understand the information provided, ask someone to explain it another way.
2. It is OK if you feel sad, worried or scared during this time - your feelings are a normal response to a difficult situation. Do not be ashamed to ask for help from someone you trust or a humanitarian worker. It's important that you take care of yourself, so you can help others.
3. Please know that services are available in your area. Should you know anyone who is or has been experiencing violence, threats or harm, or is scared of being subject to such violence, and is therefore in need of help, encourage them to reach out to humanitarian workers, who will assist with referrals to specialized services, including health and emotional support.
4. It is important to report incidents of sexual violence immediately, so that survivors will be able to access a set of medical treatments. Accessing these timely can save lives.
5. The information shared with the service providers will remain confidential, survivors' names will not be shared with anyone and they will be assisted in a private space by professional service providers who will make sure that your safety and security are prioritized.
6. Please support yourself and your family members, especially children, young girls, older women, people with disabilities to stay safe from the risk of violence. This might include accompanying them to toilets and shower facilities (especially at night), avoiding leaving the shelter when it's dark, unless extremely necessary, moving with a trusted family member or friend at all times.
7. Remember that humanitarian aid, including all types of services, is free of charge and it is accessible for all (women, girls, men and boys). No one has the right to hurt you, scare you, touch you in a way you don't like or demand sexual actions in exchange for helping you.
8. You have the right to report anyone who attempts to exploit or abuse you in exchange for Humanitarian aid. You do NOT have to fear that after reporting you will not be granted the same support.