



Terms of Reference

Shelter Cluster & Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility

Gender-Based Violence risk mitigation in Shelter

Technical Working Group

Somalia – February 2022

Context and purpose

The Shelter Cluster in Somalia seeks to engage a number of cluster members to provide cluster-level guidance and direction on gender and protection issues relating to shelter interventions. There are also concerns about high levels of gender-based violence (GBV) in IDP settlements, especially when people are living in makeshift shelters.

The COVID-19 epidemic is also exacerbating GBV. COVID-19-related restrictions have led to the termination of several GBV services. Women, adolescents, girls, and children account for 95 per cent of survivors who reported GBV occurrences in 2020, with 75 per cent coming from displaced populations.¹

Recent increases in rape, sexual exploitation, harassment, and abuse have increased GBV risks for women and girls, particularly for disabled women and girls. In IDP sites and host communities, insufficient physical infrastructure, distance to water stations, markets, health services, and schools, inadequate lighting and infrastructure, and lack of disaggregation of sanitary facilities all contribute to increased GBV exposure.²

While many agencies have their own policies and platforms to ensure gender sensitive and inclusive shelter interventions, relatively little currently exists at the cluster level. The GBV risk mitigation Technical Working Group (TWiG) will draw on the wider work of the Protection Cluster but will focus more specifically on what inclusive programming means specifically for shelter responders.

Roles and Tasks of the TWiG

The core tasks of the Gender & Protection working group within the SNFI Cluster will be:

Preventative activities

(1) Provide guidance and technical support to be adopted by cluster partners

- Conduct an initial and periodic desk reviews of cluster guidance, including both for specific GBV activities, as well as for mainstreaming of GBV into all activities.
- Draft policies and procedures where there are gaps, and enhance GBV considerations in the following at a minimum:
 - Beneficiary selection
 - Vulnerability
 - Gender & Shelter
 - GBV in shelter programs

¹ Overview of Gender-Based Violence in Somalia – Advocacy Brief, March 2021 https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/somalia_gbv_advocacy_brief_05march21.pdf

² Source: HNO 2022



- Provide guidance on shelter strategy revision to ensure the mainstreaming of and adequate consideration and integration of gender and protection in cluster strategic objectives.
- Ensure all guidance and activities are undertaken is in line with best practice and is harmonized with the approach taken by the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR).

(2) Provide situation analyses to guide programme design

- Act as a liaison with the GBV AoR to derive information about GBV issues related to shelters and share such information with partners.
- Review the results of existing safety audits assessments conducted by the CCCM Clusters
- Conduct process review on shelter and NFI programming in Somalia focusing on safe programming and GBV risk mitigation.

(3) Coordinate training for cluster partners

- Support training, mentoring, awareness, raising, resource development to strengthen quality shelter programming.
- Coordinate with the GBV AoR on such training.

Response activities

(4) Ensure referral mechanisms

- Equip and support partners to safely and ethically link survivors to available and specialized services
- Provide guidance on establishing complaints mechanisms.
- Provide guidance on PSEA sensitization.

Structure and selection process

- The structure of the TWiG consists of **4 or 5 active cluster members (Shelter and GBV AoR)**, chaired by one of the members. Some other members may be invited to the group based on needs and requirements.
- The TWiG membership is open to interests from UN agencies, INGOs, LNGOs and IOs. Seats could be decided based on the quantity of interests shown by cluster members.
- The cluster coordinator(s) will consult with the cluster coordination team and the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for the selection of the members based on the previous experience and contribution.
- The tenure for TWiG member is six months. This could be extended based on the decision of the SAG.
- Membership is renewable and there is no limit on the frequency that membership can be renewed.
- The SNFI cluster coordinator and other members of the Cluster Coordination Team will play a supporting role to the TWiG.
- The members must show full dedication and commitment and contribution through the dedicated staff. GBV AoR staff are highly encouraged to participate. All the contribution/support is on voluntary base.
- In case of no sufficient interest from the cluster members to be part of the TWiG, the cluster coordinator(s) can call for a second round of interest applications to fill the gap after advocating among the Shelter Cluster members and GBV AoR members.



Working methods and meetings

- The SNFI Cluster Coordinator(s) will ensure that outputs/products from TWiG meetings are brought to the attention and circulated separately or within the cluster products and reports.
- All TWiG members are expected to contribute actively in meetings and participate in the improvement of the Cluster's capacity with their expertise and dedication.
- The TWiG meets regularly and ad-hoc in case of calls by the cluster coordination team or at the request of the TWiG members as appropriate.