



## REGIONAL SAFE SPACES NETWORK STANDARDS



### TOOL: TERMS OF REFERENCE



## Regional Safe Spaces Network (RSSN) Americas In [name of geographical area, country name]

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### BACKGROUND

In a context of high human mobility, many people who are **survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), children at risk and other vulnerable individuals** do not have clear information about the consequences of violence and how to access urgent care or other services. This situation is intensified when it comes to women, girls, boys, LGBTI<sup>19</sup> persons, and people with disabilities (PWD), and individuals with other specific needs. For this reason, the Regional Safe Spaces Network (RSSN) works in partnership with civil society, humanitarian and government organizations, national and local institutions, both public and private, as well as UNHCR Offices with the goal of bringing together and improving the services available to SGBV survivors, children at risk, and other individuals affected by serious human rights violations.

UNHCR and other partner agencies are currently engaged in regional efforts to strengthen the **Safe Spaces<sup>20</sup> Networks**, which provide SGBV/Child protection, targeting refugees,

19. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex persons or persons with diverse sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI)

20. A Safe Space is a kind of physical or mobile space, where groups or individuals can feel “safe”, build social networks, express and entertain themselves, while accessing protection and assistance, and other services included in the Essential Package of SGBV/CP services in accordance with the age, gender, diversity and survivor-centered approaches, and the child’s best interests principle. The personnel of safe spaces are aware of SGBV/CP and humanitarian principles and treat survivors and individuals at risk of SGBV, children, and people with specific needs with respect and compassion to facilitate disclosure and identification of SGBV incidents and other violations of human rights without discrimination. Safe spaces work in a network to provide referrals to specialized services, or conduct community outreach or awareness-raising activities, in a harmonized and coordinated manner with asylum-seekers, refugees, IDPs, returnees, people on the move, stateless and other people who might be in need of international protection.

asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, persons on the move, and stateless persons, as well as other persons in need of international protection along the displacement cycle.

The Regional Safe Spaces Network (RSSN) facilitates the disclosure and identification of SGBV incidents, child protection risks, and other serious human rights violations. It aims to ensure that an Essential Package of services is provided to survivors of SGBV, children at risk, and other vulnerable population by increasing its accessibility at any particular location, or through activities such as awareness-raising. Such provisions of services must be guaranteed in a manner that underscores a survivor-centered approach, the child's best interests principle, and the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach in order to foster an environment free of discrimination and persecution, and one that promotes inclusion and access to specialized protection as outlined in this document.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE SAFE SPACES NETWORK

The Safe Spaces Network (RSSN) aspires to:

- A.** Identify organizations that exist in a geographic area that promote the Essential Package of services accessible to SGBV survivors, children at risk, and other persons of concern. This package includes:
  - 1) SGBV/CP case management for adults and children, including best interest procedures;
  - 2) Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS);
  - 3) Medical or health services, in particular sexual and reproductive health services;
  - 4) Legal assistance in order to access justice and other legal procedures;
  - 5) Safety, whether in shelters or through community-based solutions;
  - 6) Family tracing and reunification;
  - 7) Alternative care when needed;
  - 8) Education.
- B.** Implement services and activities that favor the disclosure and identification of SGBV incidents, child protection risks and other violations of human rights in a context of high human mobility, promoting an environment of safety and well-being.
- C.** Support the empowerment and resilience of survivors, children at risk, and other vulnerable population as a fundamental element of the recovery process through the reestablishment of community networks and access to psychosocial resources.
- D.** Establish and maintain referral pathways in accordance with the principles of confidentiality and the respect for the wishes and needs of the survivor, child or other vulnerable person. Through specialized SGBV/CP case management, referral and care within the Safe Spaces Network (RSSN), ensure access to predictable and better quality services at local, national and transnational level.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE SAFE SPACES NETWORK (RSSN)

1. Coordination of prevention and response to SGBV, CP and other serious protection risks within the Safe Spaces Network;
2. Analysis of SGBV ,CP and cross-border protection trends in the areas covered by the Network and also of the achievements and gaps in service provision;
3. Development of a joint work plan, including the development of tools, policies and strategies on prevention and response to SGBV, within the Safe Spaces Network, assessments of the needs and capacities of the affected population, training and awareness-raising plans, and exchange of information within the Safe Spaces Network;
4. Training sessions can be carried out using a variety of methodologies, including workshops, informative sessions, specialized training sessions, or lectures, among others. Such training sessions may be organized and facilitated by members of the local Network using their Safe Spaces or by an external person of the Network depending on the available resources;
5. Development of awareness-raising materials on the principles, risks and consequences of SGBV, CP and other violations of human rights, as well as on the services available through the Safe Spaces Network, aimed at both humanitarian agencies and service providers as well as communities affected by mobility;
6. Exchange of policy information and protection tools as well as transfer of data on individual cases is in accordance with UNHCR's data protection guidelines and other applicable international and national standards;
7. Promotion of the concept of Safe Spaces in the different service delivery areas, including donors, governments, coordination mechanisms and humanitarian and development agencies among others;
8. Coordination with other coordination mechanisms at local, national and regional levels;
9. Other joint activities organized by the coordination mechanism.

## NETWORK PARTNERS

The Network will consist of organizations providing services through both physical and mobile Safe Spaces, or Protection Spaces, that:

1. Work in a network with refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, in transit, stateless or other persons in need of international protection found throughout the displacement cycle.
2. Provide one or more of the services in the Essential Package of services for SGBV survivors, children at risk, or persons of concern or make referrals to those services in accordance with a survivor-centered and age, gender and diversity approach and in line with the best interests of the child principles.

The inclusion of other members of the group will be considered according to the criteria and principles established by the Safe Spaces Network.

## FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF COORDINATION MEETINGS

The Safe Spaces Network, or Protection Network, will meet each [month] in a space identified at the end of each meeting. At regional level meetings will be regularly held via Webinar.

## CO-COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

UNHCR [and name of co-coordinating organization] will be responsible for the coordination and communication between the organizations that comprise the Network. The designated focal point will communicate the agenda of the meeting and the place at least [one week] ahead of the meeting.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE REVISION

[Annually], the Network will include as an agenda item the opportunity to develop a revised Terms of Reference in order to reflect changes in the context or situation of the organizations.