



SGBV INCIDENT CLASSIFICATION TOOL¹

The humanitarian community has not been able to collect, classify and analyze Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) -related information in a way that produces comparable statistics. At present, it is nearly impossible to compile and analyze data across programs and field sites. This cannot be solved without taking a new approach to how types of GBV are classified. To address this problem, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have developed a new SGBV classification tool strictly for the purposes of standardizing SGBV data collection across SGBV service providers.

The criteria used to generate the classification tool's six types of SGBV were:

- Universally-recognized forms of sexual and gender-based violence
- Mutually exclusive (they do not overlap)
- Focused on the specific act of violence; separate from the motivation behind it or the context in which it was perpetrated

Each of the definitions below refers to the concept of **consent**.² Consent is when a person makes an informed choice to agree freely and voluntarily to do something. There is **no consent** when agreement is obtained through:

- the use of threats, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, manipulation, deception, or misrepresentation
- the use of a threat to withhold a benefit to which the person is already entitled, or a promise made to the person to provide a benefit.

Six Core Types of SGBV.³ The six core SGBV types were created for data collection and statistical analysis of SGBV.⁴ They should be used only in reference to SGBV even though some may be applicable to other forms of violence which are not gender-based.

1. The SGBV Classification Tool was developed as part of the GBVIMS project initiated in 2006 by OCHA, UNHCR, and the IRC. The GBVIMS global team has counted on technical guidance from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, throughout the project.

2. Many laws set an age of consent. These legal parameters do not apply to the SGBV types proposed for this system. For the purposes of the GBVIMS a child is any survivor who was under 18 at the time when the incident occurred.

3. Case definitions used in the context of SGBV programming are not necessarily the legal definitions used in national laws and policies. Many forms of SGBV may not be considered crimes, and legal definitions and terms vary greatly across countries and regions.

4. Several resources were considered when preparing this document. Most importantly, the IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Setting, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons, Guidelines for Prevention and Response (UNHCR)

1. RAPE

Non-consensual penetration (however slight) of the vagina, anus or mouth with a penis or other body part. Also includes penetration of the vagina or anus with an object.

2. SEXUAL ASSAULT

Any form of non-consensual sexual contact that does not result in or include penetration. Examples include: attempted rape, as well as unwanted kissing, fondling, or touching of genitalia and buttocks. FGM/C is an act of violence that impacts sexual organs, and as such should be classified as sexual assault. *This incident type does not include rape, i.e., where penetration has occurred.*

3. PHYSICAL ASSAULT

An act of physical violence that is not sexual in nature. Examples include: hitting, slapping, choking, cutting, shoving, burning, shooting or use of any weapons, acid attacks or any other act that results in pain, discomfort or injury. *This incident type does not include FGM/C.*

4. FORCED MARRIAGE

The marriage of an individual against her or his will.

5. DENIAL OF RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES OR SERVICES

Denial of rightful access to economic resources/assets or livelihood opportunities, education, health or other social services. Examples include a widow prevented from receiving an inheritance, earnings forcibly taken by an intimate partner or family member, a woman prevented from using contraceptives, a girl prevented from attending school, etc. Reports of general poverty should not be recorded.

6. PSYCHOLOGICAL/ EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Infliction of mental or emotional pain or injury. Examples include: threats of physical or sexual violence, intimidation, humiliation, forced isolation, stalking, harassment, unwanted attention, remarks, gestures or written words of a sexual and/or menacing nature, destruction of cherished things, etc.

EXPLANATION:

Any incident involving SGBV can often involve more than one form of violence (i.e. a woman who is raped, beaten and psychologically abused during the course of an incident). **This system can only capture one type of SGBV per incident.** To ensure valid and statistically comparable data, all those using the same system must use the same approach to determine how to classify a given incident based upon the type of SGBV it involved. **The types of SGBV are listed in a specific order to ensure statistically comparable data.**⁵ The instructions below allow us to use a process of elimination to determine the most specific incident type to use in classifying a reported incident.

5. The order is NOT intended to express an implied 'value' of the SGBV types (i.e. rape is worse than forced marriage).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE SGBV CLASSIFICATION TOOL

To determine the appropriate SGBV classification for the incident described to you by the survivor, ask yourself the following questions in their given order.

If the answer to the question is “No” based upon the description of the reported incident, continue down the list to the next question. Stop, at the first question that can be answered “Yes” based upon the description of the reported incident. When you reach a question that’s answer is “Yes” is for the description of the reported incident. The corresponding SGBV type listed next to this question is what should be used to classify the SGBV involved in this incident.⁶

The GBVIMS only records incidents reported directly by the survivor (or by the survivor’s guardian if the survivor is a child or unable to report due to a disability) in the context of receiving services. Thus any incidents in which the victim has died prior to the report, are excluded from data being recorded for the GBVIMS.⁷

1. Did the reported incident involve **penetration**?
If yes ► classify the SGBV as **“Rape”**.
If no ► proceed to the next SGBV type on the list.
2. Did the reported incident involve **unwanted sexual contact**?
If yes ► classify the SGBV as **“Sexual Assault”**.
If no ► proceed to the next SGBV type on the list.
3. Did the reported incident involve **physical assault**?
If yes ► classify the SGBV as **“Physical Assault”**.
If no ► proceed to the next SGBV type on the list.
4. Was the incident an act of **forced marriage**?
If yes ► classify the SGBV as **“Forced Marriage”**.
If no ► proceed to the next SGBV type on the list.
5. Did the reported incident involve the **denial of resources, opportunities or services**?
If yes ► classify the SGBV as **“Denial of Resources, Opportunities, or Services”**.
If no ► proceed to the next SGBV type on the list.
6. Did the reported incident involve **psychological/emotional abuse**?
If yes ► classify the SGBV as **“Psychological / Emotional Abuse”**.
If no ► proceed to the next SGBV type on the list.
7. Did the reported incident involve **SGBV**?
If yes ► Start over at number 1 and try again to reclassify the type of SGBV (*If you have tried to classify the SGBV multiple times ask your supervisor or GBVIMS focal point for support*)
If no ► classify the violence as **“Non-SGBV”**

Service providers are encouraged to continue to capture all the information of reported incidents needed for service provision as described by their clients in their case notes. The type of information appropriate to collect and record may differ between services.

6. For example, within this system, an incident where a woman reports having been beaten by her husband and also forced to have sex with him the SGBV would be classified as “rape”.

7. This rule was established to avoid 3rd party reports outside of the context of service delivery.