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CARE'S GBV GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

CARE has an ethical imperative to reduce risks of gender-based violence (GBV). All development programs across all sectors must intentionally work to advance gender equality by addressing GBV.

➔ WHY CARE prioritizes GBV

Eliminating GBV is critical to promoting gender equality and justice. It is one of three priorities we focus on to achieve our goal of gender equality for all.



GBV is a pervasive and systemic **human rights violation** which **disproportionately affects women and girls**. It has serious and often life-long impacts including physical and mental health consequences on survivors, families, communities and economies. It is also a known **barrier to achieving project goals**, further hindering efforts to achieve social justice.

In all our work, CARE aims to ensure that women, girls and others most at risk of GBV from diverse backgrounds are **safe, respected, valued and have their rights upheld** by building agency, changing relations and transforming structures. We take a proactive approach to preventing and **addressing GBV risks throughout all our programming**, not just projects specifically focused on GBV.

This document summarizes CARE's **[GBV Guidance for Development Programs.](#)**

The **GBV Guidance** covers CARE's approaches, key principles to ensure best practice, and 10 steps for designing, implementing and evaluating safe and ethical GBV programming.

Humanitarian actors across all sectors should refer to CARE's **[GBViE Guidance Note](#)** for details of CARE's approach to GBV in emergencies.

→ WHO we work with

CARE works through multiple entry points to prevent and respond to GBV at the **individual, household, community, national** and **global** levels.

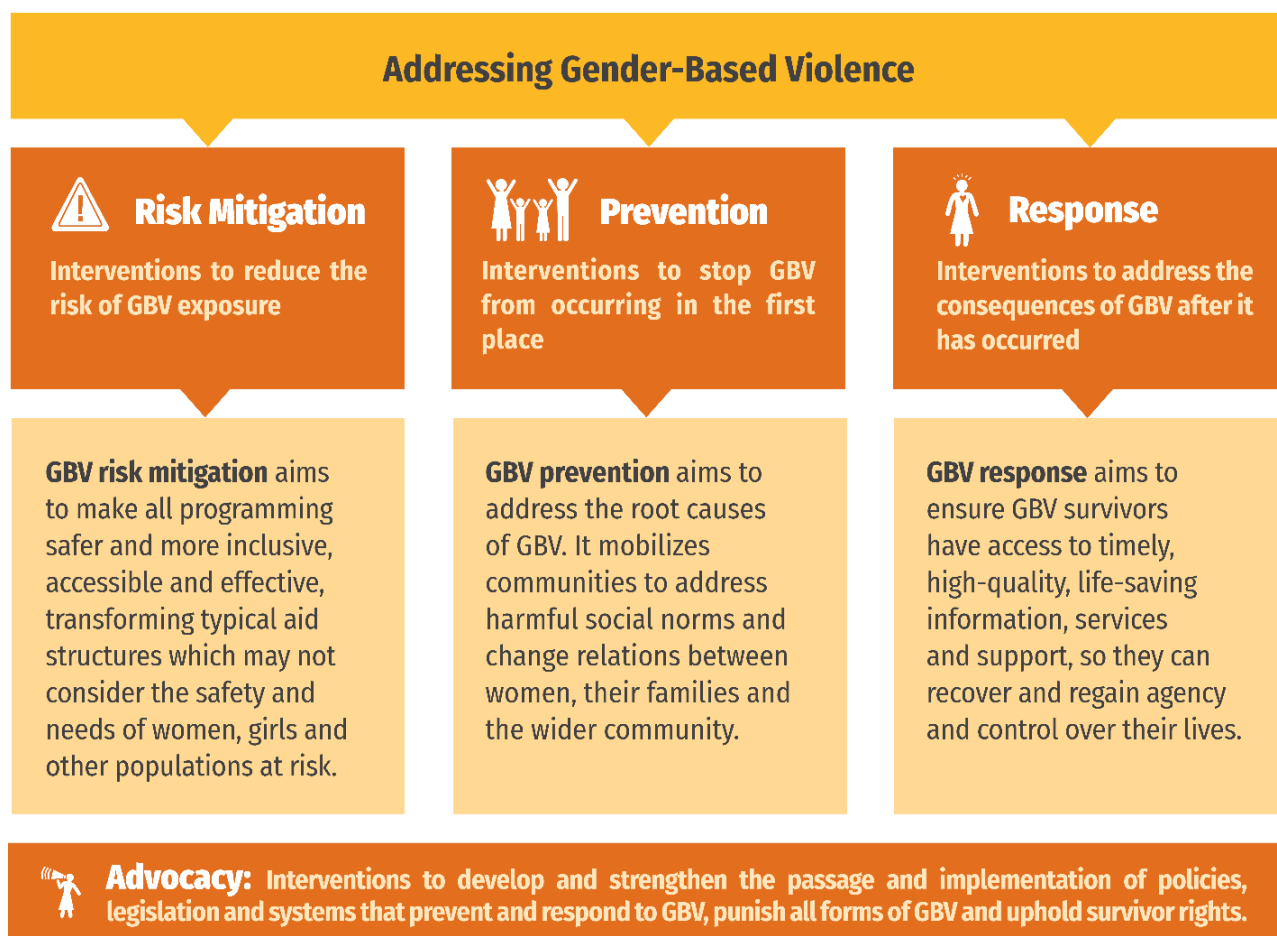
We take an **intersectional approach** to addressing GBV, working with women and girls in all their diversity who have suffered and are at risk of suffering sexual, physical, psychological and economic violence based on their identities.

CARE works together with **feminist, women-led** and **women's rights** organizations, **youth** and **LGBTQI+** organizations, associations and movements, and with **gender champions** in cultural and religious institutions, governments, businesses and donors.

CARE also **engages men and boys** to challenge discriminatory gender practices, transform harmful **social norms**, promote positive masculinities, spark dialogue, and teach non-violent conflict resolution strategies.

→ WHAT we focus on

CARE's programming to eliminate GBV consists of three main program pillars— **risk mitigation, prevention** and **response**. Alongside these we also engage in **advocacy** in support of our GBV goals.



CARE's programs around the globe **address multiple forms of GBV**, with a particular focus on:



Intimate partner violence (IPV)



Sexual violence, harassment, exploitation and abuse



Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and other harmful traditional practices



Gender norms equality, toxic masculinities, homophobia and transphobia

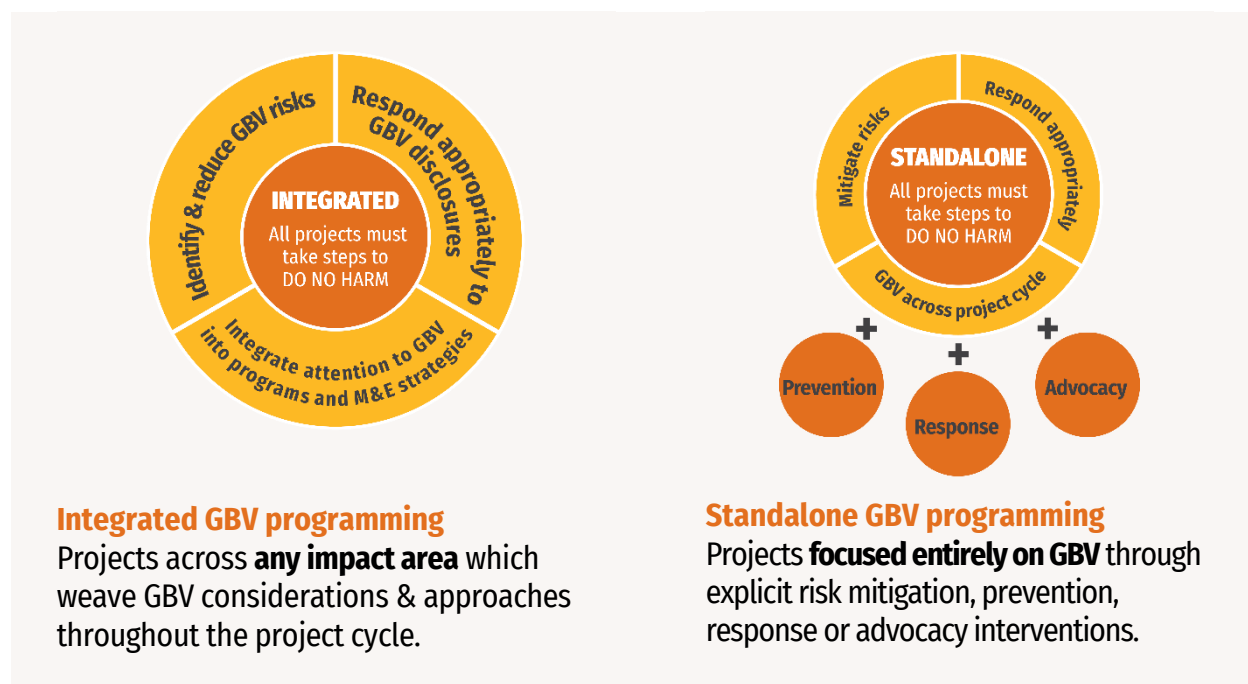


Economic exploitation and exclusion of women and girls

➔ **HOW we apply this in our programming**

All CARE projects start with GBV **risk mitigation**. However, we aim to go **beyond** risk mitigation to integrate GBV considerations across the **whole project cycle** for all development programs.

CARE focuses on two main ways of implementing GBV programming: **integrated & standalone**.



Minimum standards for integrating GBV across all programming

Both integrated and standalone GBV projects should follow CARE's **minimum standards for integrating GBV**. This means they ensure they **do no harm** by:

- **Identifying and reducing GBV risks**
- **Responding appropriately when someone discloses GBV**
- **Integrating attention to GBV across the project cycle**

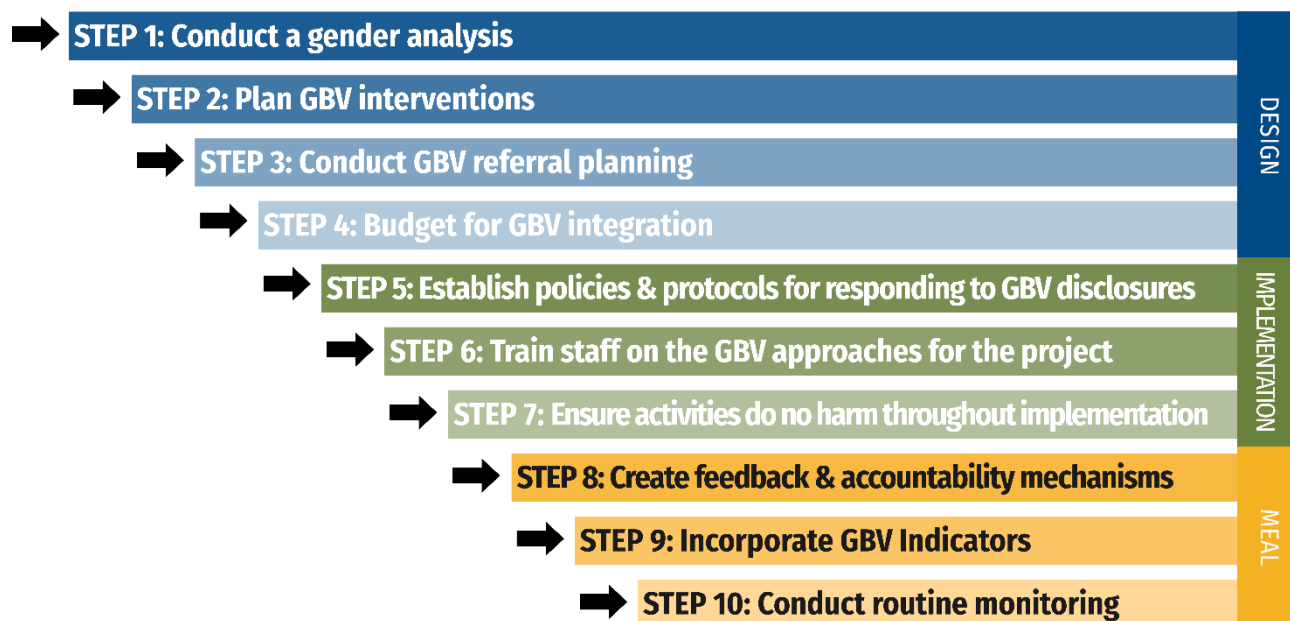
Projects across any impact area may also choose to integrate **additional prevention, response or advocacy activities** into their programming.

Standalone GBV projects will place **greater emphasis on in-depth prevention, response or advocacy** interventions in addition to these minimum standards.

CARE's 10 steps for GBV integration

All CARE projects have the responsibility to integrate attention to GBV in project design, implementation, and evaluation. The GBV integration process supports projects to act intentionally to mitigate the risks of GBV, ensure staff can respond compassionately and appropriately to disclosures of GBV, and identify where their programming may benefit from further prevention, response and advocacy activities.

CARE's **10 steps for GBV integration** provide practical, step-by-step detail of what teams should do at each stage of the project cycle.



Header image: Denise and Emmanuelle, participants in CARE's couples-focused GBV prevention program Indashyikirwa in Rwanda. Credit: Peter Caton/CARE

Further support and guidance

Supporting resources

Step-by-step, practical guidance is available in the full [GBV Guidance for Development Programs](#).

This includes many accompanying resources with further detail of **GBV principles & approaches** and **GBV integration tools & resources**.

All of CARE's GBV guidance is available from the [GBV Hub](#) on CARE Shares.

Specialists within CARE

CARE's global GBV efforts are led by [Chrysalis](#), CARE's Affiliate in Sri Lanka.

CARE's GBV programming is also supported by dedicated technical specialists from CARE USA's [Gender Justice team](#) and [Global Gender Cohort](#).

CARE's [GBV/GBViE Community of Practice](#) provides ongoing support to all staff for GBV programming

CARE's GBV Guidance was a collaborative effort led by Chrysalis and the CARE USA Gender Justice team.

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