



EU Leadership of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

In **June 2017**, the EU formally took over the leadership of the global initiative 'Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies' from Sweden. The initiative brings together **69 partners** including **14 EU Member States**.

In 2017, the EU allocated almost **€22 million** in humanitarian aid for the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence worldwide.

At the end of 2017, **€975 000** was allocated under **EU's Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC)** programme to UNFPA for the operationalisation of the Call to Action at field level.

In 2016, the EU provided **€1.8 million** for **global capacity-building projects** on gender and gender-based violence to support the implementation of the Call to Action Road Map.

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#CalltoActionGBV

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Key messages

- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a life-threatening, health, human rights and protection issue. It is deeply rooted in gender inequality and exacerbated in emergencies. Yet, prevention of and response to GBV are still not comprehensively addressed and prioritised from the earliest stages of humanitarian operations.
- Leadership/ownership of GBV as a cross-cutting issue is typically weak within organisations. There is a disconnection between gender equality and GBV, capacity issues, and a lack of accountability. The complexity of the issue, the limited means and the obstacles to addressing GBV (such as lack of adequate justice systems) should not prevent humanitarian actors from tackling this problem.
- The 'Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies' aims to ensure that every humanitarian effort, from the earliest phases of a crisis, includes the policies, systems and mechanisms to mitigate GBV risks, and to provide safe and comprehensive services for those affected by GBV.
- The EU considers GBV a priority humanitarian issue. The continued support to the Call to Action was an EU commitment at the 2016 [World Humanitarian Summit](#). The endorsement of the Call to Action and the implementation of its Road Map are reflected in the [EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2018](#).



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Humanitarian situation and needs

GBV remains a complex under-reported and under-addressed issue in humanitarian crises. Currently there is no widespread understanding of GBV or what a humanitarian response to GBV should look like. Leadership/ownership of GBV as a cross-cutting issue is typically weak across humanitarian response at all levels. Prevention of and response to GBV are still not treated as a priority from the earliest stages of emergencies and humanitarian responses lack sufficient mechanisms – funding, policy and systems – to ensure that the issue is comprehensively addressed.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Gender-based violence is a serious humanitarian issue and a priority for the EU. The [European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](#) stresses the need to integrate gender considerations, including protection strategies against sexual and GBV, in humanitarian response. In 2017, the EU allocated almost €22 million in humanitarian aid for the prevention of and response to sexual and GBV.

The EU also supports capacity-building. In 2016, €1.8 million was provided through the Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) programme: €600 000 to UN Women, for the revision of the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Handbook](#) and €1.2 million to the International Rescue Committee, to develop tools and approaches to conduct GBV case management in hard-to-reach areas.

In June 2017, the EU took over the leadership of the [Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#). The Call to Action is a global initiative which brings together 69 members, including States and donors, international organisations and NGOs aiming to drive change and foster accountability in the humanitarian system to address GBV. The [Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020](#) sets out an operational framework with common objectives for the humanitarian community to be translated into targeted actions on the ground.

The EU has been an active member of the Call to Action since its creation in 2013. It has made a number of individual pledges under the Call to Action Road Map, focussing on policy dissemination, and ensuring that available funding supports the implementation process.

The EU's leadership of the Call to Action will be guided by four main priorities:

1. Increase advocacy on the prevention and response to GBV and amplify the voices of GBV survivors through awareness-raising events, and continuous outreach to existing and potential new partners to strengthen the Call to Action partnership. Examples of upcoming activities include a panel on gender in emergencies at the European Development Days, on 5 June 2018, as well as the annual Call to Action partners meeting on 27-29 June 2018, in Brussels.
2. Increase focus on prevention of GBV in emergencies. Through its actions, the EU aims to continue preventing GBV in emergencies. It will also advocate – including through supporting the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Handbook – so that GBV prevention becomes a reflex for all humanitarian actors.
3. Raise awareness of the Call to Action at the field level where awareness is the lowest yet the potential impact is the biggest. At the end of 2017, the EU allocated €975 000 through the ERC programme to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement [the Call to Action at field level](#). In 2018, a number of field workshops will be organised by the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations field-network for awareness-raising purposes.
4. Lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map through further development of the existing Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for improved reporting of the impact and overall progress of the Call to Action (i.e. creation of an online reporting tool); design of a governance package to establish procedures for outreach and transition of leadership; management of partners' annual reporting on their commitments; and maintenance of a consolidated list of Call to Action commitments. A progress report on the Call to Action Road Map will be published in the second half of 2018.

