Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

EU Leadership
June 2017-December 2018

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European Commission 2019
Gender-based violence (GBV) is not just another form of violence. It is a life-threatening, health, human rights and protection issue. It is deeply rooted in gender inequality and exacerbated in emergencies. Ending gender-based violence in emergencies is a top priority for the European Union’s (EU) humanitarian action. It is our moral imperative.

The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid highlights the importance of integrating gender considerations, including protection strategies against sexual and gender-based violence, in humanitarian response. Through its humanitarian budget, the EU supports targeted projects that prevent and respond to gender-based violence. In 2017 - 2018, the EU allocated more than €62 million in humanitarian aid for the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence worldwide under its protection and health programming.

In June 2017, we gave further weight to our commitment to eradicate GBV in emergencies by assuming the leadership of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. As lead of the Call to Action, the EU set clear priorities: (1) advocacy on the need to prevent and respond to GBV; (2) increased focus on prevention of GBV in emergencies; (3) bringing the Call to Action to the field; and (4) leading the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020.

I am very pleased that during our leadership, we welcomed 18 new partners, including five EU Member States and prominent international non-governmental organisations. We organised several high-level advocacy events in Brussels, Geneva and New York. Many of our events focused on highlighting the responsibility of all humanitarian actors to address gender-based violence. We undertook awareness raising at field level reaching more than 500 humanitarian practitioners, and piloted the implementation of the Call to Action Road Map in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are also supporting the development of global minimum standards on gender-based violence in emergencies.

We are thankful to the continued support of the 82 partners of the Call to Action during our leadership. In particular, the support of the Steering Committee members (Canada, Switzerland, UNICEF, UN Women, International Rescue Committee, CARE International and Oxfam) was essential.

But our work is not done. We handed over the Call to Action leadership to Canada in January 2019. We look forward to working closely with the new lead during their tenure. We reiterate our commitment to ensuring 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 will remain engaged in collective efforts to eradicate gender-based violence in emergencies beyond its leadership of the Call to Action and for as long as it takes.

Christos Stylianides
EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management
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The EU thanks all Call to Action partners and other GBV champions for your partnership and collaboration during our EU leadership in 2017-2018!

We look forward to continue to work with you.
INTRODUCTION

What is the Call to Action?

The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies is a global initiative of governments and donors, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Its aim is to drive change and foster accountability within the humanitarian sphere, so that every humanitarian effort includes the policies, systems, and mechanisms necessary to mitigate gender-based violence (GBV) risks and to provide safe and comprehensive services for those affected by GBV, from the earliest phase of a crisis.

The initiative was launched in 2013 by the United Kingdom and Sweden. An active partner of the Call to Action since its inception, the EU was the fourth lead of the initiative, after the United Kingdom, the United States and Sweden.

The EU, through the European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), led the Call to Action from June 2017 to December 2018. In January 2019, Canada took over as global lead of the Call to Action.

What are objectives of the Call to Action?

The Call to Action has three main objectives:

- establish specialised GBV prevention and response services and programmes that are accessible to anyone affected by, or at risk of, GBV and that are available from the onset of an emergency;
- integrate and implement actions to prevent, reduce and mitigate GBV risks across all levels and sectors of humanitarian response from the earliest stages of emergencies and throughout the entire programme cycle;
- mainstream gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout humanitarian action.

What is the structure of the Call to Action?

The Call to Action Road Map (2016-2020) sets out common objectives, targets and a governance structure, to ensure that pledges are translated into concrete and targeted actions on the ground. It identifies priority actions for stakeholders in policies, systems and programmes. It also includes a monitoring and evaluation plan to measure achievements.

The governance structure of the Call to Action is composed of three Working Groups (States and Donors, International Organisations, and Non-Governmental Organisations), a Steering Committee (the two co-chairs of each Working Group) and a Lead (overseeing the whole process). The initiative currently brings together 82 partners, including 17 EU Member States (full list in annex).

Why was the partnership created?

GBV is a complex under-reported and under-addressed issue in humanitarian crises. 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. Call to Action partners are driven by a moral obligation to act— to take all possible measures to build resilience, to keep people safe, and to help GBV survivors rebuild their lives. This task is greater than any one donor or agency. It requires the collective action of numerous partners bringing their various strengths and capacities to the table.
ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

The EU’s leadership of the Call to Action was guided by four priorities:

1. Undertake advocacy on the need to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through awareness-raising events;
2. Increase focus on prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies;
3. Raise awareness and support implementation of the Call to Action at field level;
4. Lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020.

As lead of the Call to Action, the EU sought to increase advocacy on the prevention of and response to GBV in emergencies. It did so through awareness-raising events and continuous outreach to existing and potential partners to strengthen the Call to Action partnership.

From June 2017 to December 2018, the EU (co-)organised a number of high-level awareness-raising events on the Call to Action in Brussels, Geneva, and New York, through which the initiative and related activities were widely promoted. In addition, the EU also presented the Call to Action in high-level events and bilateral meetings with various stakeholders.

Awareness-raising events

- In June 2017, the EU formally took over the leadership of the Call to Action from Sweden, during a handover event in the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment in Geneva. DG ECHO Director General Monique Pariat recalled the EU’s work as a member of the Call to Action since 2013, and presented its priorities as incoming lead of the initiative. Sweden highlighted their achievements during its leadership. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) presented their impact report on the Call to Action.

- In November 2017, DG ECHO’s Annual Partners Conference included a plenary session on GBV and the Call to Action. The aim was to present the EU’s leadership priorities to humanitarian partners, and raise awareness on the need to further prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV in emergencies, while rallying support for the initiative from prospective partners. Panellists included representatives from UN Women, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, IRC and CARE International. The event was also an opportunity to launch the new Call to Action website: www.calltoactiongbv.com.
In January 2018, the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva hosted a debate on preventing GBV in emergencies. Ambassador Carl Hallergard, Deputy Head of Delegation, chaired the discussion. DG ECHO Director General Monique Pariat highlighted the need for all actors to do better on preventing GBV and stressed the importance of joining the Call to Action to drive change and foster accountability in the humanitarian system to address GBV. Panellists included representatives from UNHCR, Save the Children, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Cross Crescent Societies and Geneva Call.

On 8 March, International Women's Day, the EU and UNHCR hosted a roundtable on the Call to Action to discuss with partners challenges and opportunities in the operationalisation of their commitments, and to shed light on good practices and lessons learnt in the implementation of their activities. Panelists included representatives from CARE International, UNHCR, UN Women, and Efi Latsoudi, Representative of PIKPA Village and Winner of the Nansen Award 2016. On this occasion, the UNHCR, with EU support, launched the photography exhibition 'This is a Woman's World'.

The 2018 edition of the European Development Days, dedicated to gender equality and women’s empowerment, was another opportunity to highlight the Call to Action. As lead of the initiative, the EU hosted a high-level panel debate on preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV in humanitarian crises. Commissioner Stylianides underlined the EU's commitment to eradicating GBV in emergencies. Panellists included Dr Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize joint winner, and Founder and Director of the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bushra Dabbagh, a Young Leader from Syria, Valerie Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director at WFP, Sanjayan Srikanthan, Senior Vice President Europe at the International Rescue Committee and Linda McAvan, Chair of the Committee on Development of the European Parliament.

“We mustn’t just treat victims for physical damage, but the person as whole.”

Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize joint winner, President and Founder, Gynaecologist, Panzi Hospital and Foundation

“We hear a lot of speeches. But we need to bring people guilty of gender-based violence to justice”

Linda McAvan, Chair of the Committee on Development of the European Parliament
• A public **event** held the margins of the annual Call to Action Partners Meeting, on 27 June 2018, discussed challenges and opportunities in responding to GBV in emergencies, while raising awareness of the efforts deployed by the Call to Action partnership to address the issue in different settings. Commissioner Stylianides opened the event. Ms Lamiya Aji Bashar, Yazidi human rights activist and winner of the 2016 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, delivered a keynote address. The panel discussion, featured representatives from Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS), ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality, CARE Denmark, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Global Affairs Canada.

• Commissioner Stylianides and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore co-hosted the event **Children and women under attack: ending gender-based violence in emergencies** during the United Nations General Assembly, on 27 September 2018, in New York. Panellists included Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, Tahmina Yesmin, BRAC Bangladesh, Amber Clough, Johns Hopkins University, Ilwad Elman, Elman Peace Centre in Somalia, and Diane Jacovella, Deputy Minister of International Development of Canada. The **event** explored ways to effectively tackle and end GBV, from providing safe and comprehensive services from the outset of crises, to strengthening policies and systems to address GBV risks.

• On 10 December 2018, the EU handed over the leadership of the Call to Action to Canada. The **closing event** held at the premises of the Canadian Mission to the EU in Brussels showcased key EU leadership achievements, raising awareness on issues pertaining to GBV and the impact of the Call to Action at field-level. Panellists included representatives from the Women’s Refugee Commission, UN Women, UNFPA/GBV AOR, IRC and Global Affairs Canada. The event also provided the opportunity to look ahead at Canada’s priorities as next lead of the initiative.

*Keep up with relevant Call to Action events and reports at [https://www.caltoactiongbv.com/news](https://www.caltoactiongbv.com/news) #CalltoActionGBV*
**Outreach to existing and potential partners**

During its leadership of the Call to Action, the EU advocated untiringly for the key importance of collective action in prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies. From June 2017 to December 2018, the EU welcomed **18 new partners** to the Call to Action, including five EU Member States. This brings the total number of partners to the initiative to 82 (see full list of partners in annex).

**New Call to Action partners that have joined the initiative during EU’s leadership (June 2017-December 2018):**

**States and Donors**
1. Bulgaria
2. Latvia
3. Portugal
4. Slovenia
5. Spain

Other EU Member States partners to the Call to Action: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

**International Organisations**
1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**International (International) Non-Governmental Organisations**
1. Action Against Hunger
2. Danish Refugee Council
3. Geneva Call
4. ELHRA/Humanitarian Innovation Fund
5. Gender Force
6. Global Communities
7. Norwegian Church Aid
8. WAHA – Women and Health Alliance International
9. Women Deliver
10. Trocaire

**National and Local Civil Society organisations**
1. Coalition for Humanity South Sudan
2. Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)

“Protection from violence, discrimination and abuse requires joint efforts. I am openly calling all relevant organisations to act, and to implement the commitments under the Call to Action. We hope that others will join our efforts.” – Commissioner Christos Stylianides
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN EMERGENCIES

The EU’s leadership of the Call to Action was guided by four priorities:

1. Undertake advocacy on the need to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through awareness-raising events;
2. Increase focus on prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies;
3. Raise awareness and support implementation of the Call to Action at field level;
4. Lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020.

EU policy on prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies

As humanitarians, we need to do more to prevent gender-based violence in emergencies from happening in the first place. GBV risk mitigation should become a reflex for all humanitarian actors.

This commitment is strongly enshrined in EU’s gender policy. The ‘European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid’ stresses the need to integrate gender considerations, including protection strategies against sexual and GBV, in humanitarian response. The European Commission’s gender policy ‘Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance’, of July 2013, outlines a reinforced policy approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

To ensure efficient policy implementation, in January 2014, the European Commission introduced the Gender-Age Marker as a quality and accountability tool to assess, promote and track EU-funded humanitarian interventions’ sensitivity to gender and age. Criterion three (3) of the Gender-Age Marker (prevention and mitigation of negative effects), illustrates EU’s commitment to GBV prevention. Key elements include the identification of potential negative effects on different gender and age groups, including reinforcing traditional gender roles or sexual exploitation and abuse of recipients, as well as risks, such as sexual- and gender-based violence.

In 2016, the European Commission issued a new policy on protection ‘Humanitarian Protection: Improving protection outcomes to reduce risks for people in humanitarian crises’ that includes further guidance for programming of protection activities, including on gender-based violence.

Ensuring that gender is taken into consideration in EU’s humanitarian aid is also included in the ‘European Union Gender Action Plan 2016-2020’, setting out the framework for action for all activities on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the EU’s external relations, including for the 28 EU Member States.


In October 2018, DG ECHO published the first ever assessment report of its Gender-Age Marker for the first two years of implementation (2014-2015). The assessment concluded that in 2015, 81% of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations ‘strongly’ or ‘to a certain extent’. In 2019, DG ECHO will also launch an e-learning on the Gender-Age Marker. Preliminary data indicates that in 2016, 87.5% of all projects integrated gender and age to some extent. In 2017, the percentage raised to 89.1.
**EU funding for the prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies**

In line with its humanitarian policies, the EU addresses sexual and gender-based violence through a comprehensive multi-sectorial approach including access to health, psychosocial support, legal/justice support, and safety.

**In 2017-2018, the EU allocated approximately €62 million in humanitarian aid for the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence worldwide under its protection and health programming.**

Some examples of projects include:

- **In Bangladesh**, the EU is providing **€2 million** to the Danish Refugee Council for emergency protection and water and sanitation (WASH) support to Rohingya refugees outside of camps and host communities in Cox's Bazar. This GBV targeted action (within a multi-sectoral response) focuses on provision of **prevention and response to GBV through case management and outreach services** as well as broader community-based protection sensitization and information provision. Girls and women are among the most vulnerable Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh. EU funding supports their protection and provides gender-based violence survivors with life-saving assistance and psychosocial care.

- **In Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the EU funds Medecins-du-Monde Belgique with **€900,000**, which is providing medical and MHPSS support for GBV survivors in Panzi Hospital. Dr Mukwege, the founder of the Panzi Hospital and the Mukwege Foundation won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

- **In Cameroon's Far North Region**, the EU is supporting International Medical Corps UK with **€2.55 million** to roll out a multi-sectorial intervention focusing on health, nutrition, protection and WASH. The project aims to help **overcome gender barriers on access to services** for women and children through the active involvement of men in community-based awareness raising and behaviour changing initiatives such as ‘husband schools’.
• In Peru, the UNFPA, with EU support amounting to €800,000, reinforces the capacities of the local protection system to support the most vulnerable during emergencies, especially for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence. The project strengthens the health sector for the monitoring of diseases and the attention of sexual and reproductive health problems, and supports community resilience.

• In Mexico, the EU is supporting UNICEF with €550,000 to address the protection needs of at least 4,000 adolescent girls and boys who are out of school due to violence, including high levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Due to education disruptions by armed conflict, unsafe learning spaces and inaccessibility of formal education for SGBV affected groups, the action provides an alternative model of formal education. This is combined with support to child protection authorities to attend to and respond quickly and adequately to protection needs of adolescents affected by violence and organised crime.

• In the region of Diffa, Niger, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), with EU support amounting to €600,000, is setting up safe centres for displaced women and girls to help reduce violence, abuse and exploitation, and increase their safety and security.

• With the help of €4 million EU funding, CARE International is undertaking a comprehensive, multi-sector response to acute and urgent basic and protection needs of at least 99,000 women, men, girls and boys in Syria. Protection response services entail psychosocial support, specialised protection referral services, and material assistance to most-at-risk women, men, girls, and boys. The project contributes to GBV risk mitigation.

• In Sudan’s North and West Darfur, UNFPA has a unique mandate to provide life-saving support through coordination and implementation of multi-sectoral GBV interventions, with a focus on clinical management of rape and psychosocial support. With the help of €500,000, UNFPA aims to increase access for GBV survivors, women, men, girls and boys to quality GBV services, with focus on safety and confidentiality.
A project implemented by the Danish Refugee Council focuses on preventing and responding to GBV with a strong focus on livelihoods support to survivors and those at risk, including men and boys, in Kenya’s Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee camps. The intervention is jointly designed and implemented by livelihood and GBV staff to ensure quality of programme design and to maximise both the protection and the livelihood outcomes of the intervention.

38-year-old Bahati arrived in Kalobeyei refugee camp with her two children in 2016, fleeing not only the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), but also sexual violence. With the help of the EU, she benefited of the counselling and psychological support she needed to heal.

In Myanmar, the EU is supporting the IRC with €700,000 to conduct emergency health care and response to gender-based violence for internally displaced persons and affected communities. GBV response and prevention activities include safe spaces for women and girls, education sessions, material support, training and capacity building.

A project aimed at harmonising disaster risk management strategies and tools in the Caribbean, is contributing to GBV prevention and risk mitigation through the development of protection and dignified treatment guidelines, including how to better attend specific groups. The project receives EU funding of €850,000 and is implemented by Oxfam.

In Yemen, the EU funds INTERSOS with €1.4 million for the provision of emergency primary health services, including GBV medical services, through support to health facilities, as well as emergency health and nutrition services. The integration of GBV services with health and nutrition enables an entry point to communities which would otherwise be difficult to reach, and ensures a higher impact of the services provided.

Education is the first step to end gender-based violence in crises. That is why the EU supports educational actions like this one in Yemen, where women and girls learn how to stay healthy and safe.
- The IRC is rolling out a multi-sector emergency support programme for vulnerable populations in **Somalia**, with **€2.2 million** EU funding. One of the objectives is to increase and improve access to quality provision of **support services to survivors of gender-based violence**, including a GBV screening component to safely enhance the early identification of survivors and timely provision of life-saving assistance. As part of the action, IRC supports local responders to provide safe and quality services to GBV survivors.

- In **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico**, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) helps violence-affected people, including gender-based violence, meet some of their basic needs and build their resilience to the effects of the violence. The project, which benefits of **€750,000** EU support, aims to ensure unhindered access for members of violence-affected communities to specialised health care, such as psychological support for victims of sexual violence.

- In the **Philippines**, the EU supported Action Against Hunger-Spain with nearly **€320,000** for **integrated multi-sectoral emergency lifesaving interventions** for the population affected by the tropical storm Vinta. Interventions included increased protection and GBV awareness amongst the targeted communities, as well as referral pathways.

- Issues around **housing, land and property (HLP)** rights and lack of documentation are major contributing factors to GBV in **Uganda’s** refugee settlements and refugee-hosting areas in Kampala, including sexual exploitation by landlords demanding rent and threatening eviction. The Norwegian Refugee Council, through their Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) programme supports vulnerable individuals to obtain appropriate legal documentation and legal status to ultimately enhance their protection. The EU funds this project with **€700,000**.

- With the help of **€1.5 million** EU funding, the IRC provided integrated protection and education response to conflict-affected people in **Iraq**. As part of this project, gender-based violence survivors in western Anbar and Mosul benefited from **case management, psychosocial support, and community-based prevention activities**.

- In **Turkey** – a country that hosts about 3.3 million refugees of which 47% are women and girls – the EU is supporting UNFPA with **€14 million** to improve access of most vulnerable refugees, particularly women, girls, and key refugee groups (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people (LGBTI), sex workers and people living with HIV) to **sexual reproductive health and better protection services, including sexual- and gender-based violence**.

47% of refugees living in Turkey are women and girls – the most vulnerable group in any crisis. Thanks to EU humanitarian aid funding and UNFPA Turkey, they can access sexual reproductive healthcare. The funding also helps better protect them against gender-based violence.
Global capacity building projects

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action

The EU’s Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) Programme supported UN WOMEN and Oxfam UK with €600,000 for the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Handbook, a practical tool that provides guidance to frontline humanitarian workers on how to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout the humanitarian action cycle. The handbook was launched in April 2018.

The Handbook paves the way forward to ensure that collective commitments made by humanitarian actors to the Sendai Framework, the Grand Bargain, the World Humanitarian Summit, the New Way of Working, lead to tangible changes on the ground. With the finalisation of this review of the Handbook, humanitarian actors now have a comprehensive package of guidance on gender mainstreaming and on addressing and preventing GBV at their disposal: the IASC Gender Handbook, the IASC GBV Guidelines, and the IASC Gender with Age Marker. Their complementarity and interplay can make a significant contribution to ensuring that the needs of women, girls, men and boys are taken into consideration at all stages of humanitarian relief operations.

Integrating gender in humanitarian action is a shared responsibility. It is a responsibility for all humanitarian aid workers, no matter what sector they work on. It is my hope that this Handbook, which provides practical guidance on integrating gender into 11 sectors, will help fulfil this responsibility. – Monique Pariat, Director-General, DG ECHO (Foreword to the Gender Handbook)
Guidance for Mobile and Remote Gender-Based Violence Service Delivery

Under the ERC Programme, the EU also supported the implementation of the Call to Action Roadmap with €1.2 million allocated to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for the development of tools and approaches to conduct GBV case management in hard-to-reach areas through remote and mobile responses. This action responds to the changing nature of displacement, where persons cannot be reached by traditional services.

Mobile and Remote Gender-based Violence Service Delivery Guidelines (launched in August 2018) are designed to address these gaps and provide guidance to support the development of GBV mobile and remote service delivery.

With the support of the EU and the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration Services (BPRM), IRC developed tools, platforms and programme guidance for mobile and remote GBV service delivery. These were piloted in Myanmar, Iraq and Burundi. The lessons learned from the implementation and the results of the feasibility and acceptability study inform these guidelines.

2018 Call for Proposals: Study on Medical and Psychosocial Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence

In 2018, the EU launched a Call for Proposals for a pilot project (study) related to sexual- and gender-based violence in emergencies. The objectives of this pilot project are to:

- Assessing how sexual violence in humanitarian settings affect women, girls, boys and men;
- Assessing what medical and psychosocial assistance victims/survivors have access to in several humanitarian settings (conflict and natural disaster);
- Assessing the extent to which this assistance complies with relevant international standards and relevant international law;
- Assessing which best practices exist and should be reproduced.

The overall goal of the pilot project is to produce recommendations and contribute to increasing the capacity of humanitarian actors to adequately respond to sexual violence in humanitarian settings, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of EU aid.

At the end of 2018, the EU awarded nearly €445,000 to Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands and Save the Children Netherlands to study access and barriers for survivors of sexual violence to medical and psychosocial support, with case studies on Nigeria, Yemen and Haiti. This project will last approximately two years.
IMPLEMENTING THE CALL TO ACTION IN THE FIELD

The EU’s leadership of the Call to Action was guided by four priorities:
1. Undertake advocacy on the need to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through awareness-raising events;
2. Increase focus on prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies;
3. **Raise awareness and support implementation of the Call to Action at field level**;
4. Lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020.

**Piloting the Call to Action in Northeast Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The EU’s Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) Programme supports the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) and the Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) with €975,000 for implementing the Call to Action at field level, in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and developing global inter-agency minimum standards on GBV in emergencies. This two-year project started in early 2018 and will conclude towards the end of 2019.

To advance implementation of the Call to Action at country level, Call to Action members working in **Northeast Nigeria**, the Nigerian Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development which chairs the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group, and other stakeholders came together to develop and implement a two-year Road Map for the most conflict affected states of Northeast Nigeria: Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. This is a ground-breaking initiative to create a localised multi-year Road Map that is informed by the global framework, but tailored to address the GBV challenges in a particular area. On 17-18 July 2018, partners met in Maiduguri, Borno State, to release the Northeast Nigeria Road Map, collectively review progress, and map out next steps in the implementation. The meeting was co-hosted by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, DG ECHO, UNFPA, and the Office of the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator.

The Northeast Nigeria Call to Action Road Map was **globally launched in September 2018, during the High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region**, co-hosted by Germany, Nigeria, Norway and

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1 Please note that the pictures in this section have been provided by the implementing partners: UNFPA, GBV AoR.
the UN, where both GBV and the Call to Action were referenced in the outcome document of the conference.

To help close the most pressing gaps in humanitarian response in the Northeast, stakeholders contributing to this Call to Action Road Map chose to focus their collective efforts on five areas in 2018-2019:

1. strengthen coordination to ensure a timely, accountable, holistic, inter-sectoral approach to preventing and responding to GBV;
2. improve access to quality services for survivors by ensuring that sufficient and timely access to these services is an essential component of the humanitarian response;
3. strengthen the capacity and expand the engagement of local partners to improve GBV prevention and response efforts;
4. secure sufficient funding for GBV programming through improved coordination and advocacy;
5. engage security actors to improve GBV prevention and response.

The Northeast Nigeria Road Map is a living document and will be adjusted over time as circumstances evolve. The partnership hopes that additional government and civil society stakeholders will join the initiative, bringing their valuable perspectives and expertise to the work of protecting communities from GBV, especially women and girls.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a two-year road map (2018-2020) is currently being developed and was launched on 5 March 2019. The Road Map process was initiated in Kinshasa, and the government is part of the leadership, with the Humanitarian Country Team and the GBV sub-cluster providing dedicated support. The Call to Action actors aim to influence national processes, such as the revision of the National Strategy to Combat Sexual Violence. Protection actors in North Kivu and Tanganyika have agreed on specific priority output areas, and commit to deliver on these as part of the regional humanitarian operational response to GBV. The Road Map is informed by the global Call to Action Road Map, but tailored to address the GBV challenges, and leverage on available opportunities to strengthen GBV response, prevention and risks mitigations in the DRC. One of the unique feature of the DRC road map is strengthening engagements with humanitarian and development actors to scale up and sustain collective actions to strengthen GBV response, increase focus to prevention and tackling gender inequality.

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2 The DRC Road Map will be made available at: https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/call-to-action-in-the-field
Call to Action stakeholders in the DRC chose to focus their collective efforts on six areas:

1. develop and implement institutional policies and standards on GBV and gender equality; strengthen accountability for taking action;
2. promote effective and accountable interagency/inter-sectoral GBV leadership and coordination;
3. needs assessments, analyses and planning processes support effective action on GBV and gender equality;
4. funding is available for GBV prevention and response for each phase of an emergency;
5. specialised GBV prevention and response services are implemented in each phase of an emergency;
6. managers and leaders across sectors have and apply the knowledge and skills needed to reduce and mitigate GBV risk.

Consultation in Tanganyika province in July 2018. This included extensive group work to contextualise action areas. Photos: ©2018/UNFPA

Further project deliverables include toolkits (in different languages) on developing context-specific Road Maps, so that the Call to Action can be leveraged more effectively in various humanitarian settings. Lessons learned from the work in Northeast Nigeria and the DRC is also being shared on a regular basis through relevant humanitarian fora to inform and help shape collective efforts to address GBV.

**Developing global minimum standards on GBV in emergencies**

As part of this pilot project, the EU is also supporting UNFPA and the GBV AoR to manage development of the inter-agency Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to GBV in Emergencies. The goal of these standards is to enhance accountability among GBV specialists, improve quality, and provide clarity on what constitutes effective GBV prevention and response. Collecting feedback from subject matter experts and field level GBV practitioners is critical in the process to ensure the resource is truly an inclusive field informed tool that based on the evidence and established or emerging best practice.

Structured feedback on the Minimum Standards was collected through half-day consultations held in 13 countries from November 2018 to January 2019. A wide range of actors with specialised GBV programming experience (local partners including government partners where applicable, NGOs, UN agencies, and donors) attended the sessions. The Minimum Standards Task Team also consulted with over 30 subject matter experts to refine each Standard. A final resource is expected to be published in late 2019 fulfilling a major deliverable of the Call to Action Road Map (Outcome 5).
Raising awareness among humanitarians all over the world

Throughout 2018, the EU organised **ten field workshops** to raise awareness on GBV in emergencies and the Call to Action. These workshops took place in **Afghanistan, Colombia, Kenya, Cameroun, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey** and **Senegal**, welcoming **more than 500 participants** to raise awareness on the Call to Action initiative, EU priorities and to discuss context-specific challenges.

The invitation was extended beyond the Call to Action partnership in order to increase awareness on the initiative across a whole range of stakeholders who play a key role in GBV in emergencies (e.g. agencies in the Global South).

All workshops started with a presentation on the Call to Action initiative, and many workshops featured group work on translating (parts of) the Call to Action Road Map to a specific crisis. For numerous participants, this was their **first ever engagement with the Call to Action**. Many workshops therefore helped to clarify the purpose and relevance of the initiative at field level.

Follow-up actions were identified. Some workshops resulted in the developing of monitoring frameworks for actions at field level, while others developed advocacy plans for specific crises.

A number of local/national civil society actors joined the Call to Action as a direct result from the awareness raised through the workshops.

Many participants highlighted the usefulness of these workshops and expressed their interest in having a new round of workshops soon.

The EU would like to thank all GBV sub-cluster coordinators and other Call to Action members that contributed to the preparation for many of the workshops.

Kabul, Afghanistan – 8 May 2018

The workshop welcomed 34 participants. The agenda included panel discussions presenting agency or NGO-specific programming, as well as working groups on prevention and response in programming and GBV mainstreaming.

Bogota, Colombia – 16 May 2018

This workshop had a regional scope (Latin America and the Caribbean) and brought together 56 participants from the region. Panel discussions on context-specific challenges included GBV in the Colombian conflict, GBV in migration (including sexual exploitation and trafficking in Venezuela crisis), and GBV in natural disasters.

Nairobi, Kenya – 23 and 24 May 2018

This regional workshop gathered 65 participants from several countries impacted by the South Sudan crisis (South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Ethiopia). The event was an opportunity to discuss how the nutrition and food security/livelihoods sectors integrate GBV risk mitigation mechanisms and/or contribute to enhanced protection in the different contexts.
Yaounde, Cameroon – 26 June 2018
This regional workshop, attended by 49 participants covered the crises in Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic. The discussion focused on mechanisms for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, localisation, and social norms relevant to gender (including engagement with men and boys).

Erbil and Baghdad, Iraq – 17 and 18 July 2018
Two half-day workshops took place in Baghdad and Erbil bringing together 78 participants. In Baghdad, discussions focused on new ways of programming in contexts of protracted displacement and returns. In Erbil, participants addressed the role of local actors in the Call to Action, and the importance of GBV integration (including risk mitigation) in preparedness, as well as the need for better understanding of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and working with LGBTI and men and boys.

Amman, Jordan – 13 September 2018
This regional Call to Action workshop covered Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine. It welcomed 61 participants. The workshop served to introduce partners in the region to the Call to Action as well as other GBV-related context-specific issues, including the humanitarian community’s accountability to address GBV, mental health and psychosocial support services.

Khartoum, Sudan – 20 September 2018
The workshop was attended by 47 participants, including Government representatives, UN Agencies, international NGOs, local NGOs and donor representatives. Given the sensitivities around GBV in Sudan, the workshop was a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the Call to Action, and discuss GBV response in light of existing barriers for local and international actors operating in the country.

Bangkok, Thailand – 25 September 2018
This regional workshop, which focused on the Rohingya crisis, welcomed 44 participants. Presentations and discussions took place on, amongst other things; GBV in disaster and crisis contexts, GBV considerations in nutrition and WASH, remote case management tools, and GBV in the Rohingya crisis. Regarding the Call to Action, participants raised questions in terms of available mechanism for the field to provide feedback or raise issues from the ground.

Gaziantep and Ankara, Turkey – 16 and 19 November 2018
The EU and the GBV sub-working group in Turkey organised a technical workshop (35 participants in Gaziantep) and a states and donors briefing (15 participants in Ankara). Discussions looked at Turkey-specific coordination efforts, and context-specific challenges, recommendations and good practices around four topics, i.e. domestic violence; child, early and forced marriage; engagement with men and boys; and LGBTIQ.
Dakar, Senegal – 12 December 2018

This regional workshop brought together 35 participants, representing international NGOs, UN Agencies, and donor agencies. The Call to Action initiative was presented and discussed, as well as the pilot projects in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo. Further topics for the working groups included strengthening of the provision of basic services and coordination, including long term mental health consequences of GBV; reintegration of survivors (and their children); disclosure mechanisms; and how to bring child protection and GBV together.

Learn more about relevant field-initiatives and the full report on the EU’s workshops at https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/call-to-action-in-the-field
IMPLEMENTING COMMITMENTS TOGETHER

The EU’s leadership of the Call to Action was guided by four priorities:

1. Undertake advocacy on the need to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through awareness-raising events;
2. Increase focus on prevention of gender-based violence in emergencies;
3. Raise awareness and support implementation of the Call to Action at field level;
4. Lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020.

During its leadership of the Call to Action, the EU facilitated the finalisation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for improved reporting of the impact and overall progress of the Call to Action, piloted a new standardised reporting tool, and facilitated the drafting of the 2017 Call to Action Progress Report. It also organised the annual Call to Action partners meeting from 27-29 June 2018, in Brussels, and set up the Call to Action website, a joint platform owned by the partnership and managed by the rotating leadership of the initiative.

**Monitoring and Evaluation: Reporting**

To support the drafting of a comprehensive progress report, in 2018, the EU facilitated the finalisation of the high-level indicators of the Road Map and piloted an online reporting system. Based on the lessons learned from this exercise, at the end of 2018, the EU facilitated the development of a simplified and user-friendly standard reporting template that will be used by partners from 2019 onwards. To fully serve as an accountability tool, all partners’ progress reports will be made public on the website of the Call to Action (see below).

**2017 Call to Action Progress Report**

The [2017 Call to Action Progress Report](#) compiles partners’ achievements in 2017, as well as the challenges encountered and opportunities ahead. Achievements include improved coordination of GBV-related humanitarian work at global and field level; more responsibility from humanitarian leadership for addressing GBV and achieving gender equality; progress in the implementation or development of institutional and national policies on GBV and/or gender equality; and increased donor funding to GBV in emergencies.

Other accomplishments include the development of tools and approaches to measure, record and respond to GBV; the assessment of humanitarian system responses to GBV; and advocacy for more funding for GBV.

Yet, more still needs to be done. The progress report found that efforts to bring the global initiative closer to the field need to continue. The partnership must better engage and promote the leadership of local civil society and women’s organisations. Remaining challenges and barriers related to GBV funding need to be further analysed and overcome.
More Call to Action partners must commit to adopting and implementing institutional and national policies, while the linkage between gender equality and GBV in humanitarian work must be strengthened. It is essential to translate systemic achievements at the global level to meaningful action in the field.

Partners of the Call to Action should work together to overcome these challenges and meet targets set in the Road Map.

**Call to Action website**

The Call to Action website ([www.calltoactiongbv.com](http://www.calltoactiongbv.com)) was developed by the EU for the partnership and it is managed by the rotating leadership of the initiative. It serves to raise awareness and visibility of the initiative’s collective efforts to address and respond to GBV in emergencies, providing information on the objectives of the initiative, the Road Map, the partners, activities at field level, updates on events, and reports. The website also provides information for those interested in joining the initiative, and relevant contacts.
Call to Action Logo

During the EU leadership, the partnership also developed the first logo of the Call to Action. This logo (available in different formats) can be included in all documents developed by the partnership such as reports, event materials, social media content, as well as partners’ email signatures.

Call to Action Partners Meeting, 27-29 June 2018, Brussels

As lead of the Call to Action, the EU hosted the annual Call to Action Partners Meeting on 27-29 June 2018, in Brussels, welcoming nearly 100 delegates of the Call to Action partnership. These included 15 States and Donors, 27 NGOs and 12 International Organisations, as well as 4 local civil society organisations (CSOs).

For two-and-a-half days, delegates discussed various issues related to implementation of the Call to Action Road Map, including field implementation, involvement of local civil society organisations, GBV funding, Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. The partnership further discussed work plans as well as the draft 2017 progress report.

The meeting provided the opportunity for Call to Action partners to take stock of achievements to date, exchange on experiences and tools, discuss cross-working issues, look ahead at future priorities, and come up with concrete recommendations for the Call to Action leadership, Steering Committee, and the partnership as a whole.

During the Partners Meeting, a market place was set up where partners could share updates on relevant initiatives and new tools.
COMMUNICATION ACTIONS

The Communication Plan for the EU leadership of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (2017-2018) had two main objectives:

- To change the fabric of humanitarian aid actions so that prevention of and protection against gender-based violence in emergencies are considered right from the start of any humanitarian aid intervention.
- To create awareness among EU citizens of EU’s work on prevention of and protection against gender-based violence in emergencies to increase public support of EU’s work in this area.

With the support of the EU, on 8 March 2018, International Women’s Day, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), launched the photography exhibition ‘This is a Woman’s World’, in Brussels. The exhibition consisted of a series of 20 portraits capturing the daily struggle of displaced women, and their strength in overcoming hardship and rebuilding their lives in society. In this context, the EU and the UNHCR also co-hosted a roundtable discussion ‘Operationalising the Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies’.

Photos, from top-left to bottom-right: ©UNHCR/John Wessels, ©UNHCR/Roger Arnold, ©UNHCR/Oualid Khelifi, ©UNHCR/Santiago Arcos Veintimilla, ©UNHCR/Clementine Malpas, ©UNHCR/Sebastian Rich, ©UNHCR/Agron Dragaj, ©UNHCR/Shaban Masengesho, ©2018/UNHCR
The exhibition ‘This is a Woman’s World’ was also displayed at the Annual Call to Action Partners Meeting, in June 2018, in Brussels. The portraits are available in digital format here: http://unhcr.pixis.be/mobile/

In 2018, the European Commission, together with the pan-European TV channel Euronews, produced an Aid Zone video report on ‘Rape as a weapon of war in South Sudan’.

Seven years after the world’s youngest nation gained independence, fighting, sexual violence and human rights abuses continue unabated in South Sudan. Of the 1.76 million internally displaced people, almost 210 000 are hosted around UN peacekeeping bases, in so-called protection of civilians (PoC) camps. With approximately 120 000 inhabitants - the majority of them women and children - Bentiu is the largest PoC camp. Here, EU humanitarian funds go to the provision of basic services, shelter and protection, including from sexual violence.

In addition to creating and managing the Call to Action partnership website, the EU also provided regular updates on its leadership of the Call to Action via the European Commission website and social media accounts. A series of visibility items and communication products (e.g. Call to Action factsheet, infographs, rollup banners, branded notebooks and folders) were developed and displayed/distributed both online and during relevant events.
In 2018, in conjunction with its leadership of the Call to Action, the EU added its voice to global initiative #OrangeTheWorld – 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence through a campaign aimed at raising awareness on what the EU is doing to prevent and respond to GBV in emergencies. The campaign ran from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

Throughout the 16 Days of Activism, the campaign highlighted how EU humanitarian aid helps protect women and girls in emergencies around the world. The EU collaborated with internationally recognised director Ari Folman to produce a powerful animated short film to raise awareness of the EU’s commitment to fighting sexual violence in conflict zones. The video reached well beyond two million people on YouTube alone in 2018 and will continue to be promoted in 2019.

A series of social media posts illustrated how EU humanitarian aid supports the prevention of sexual violence, and provides services for survivors - including medical care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and access to sexual and reproductive health care.
CALL TO ACTION PARTNERS (82)

States and Donors (25)
- Australia
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- European Union
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Peru
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- USA

Non-Governmental Organisations (42)
- ABAAD
- ActionAid UK
- Action Against Hunger
- American Refugee Committee
- CARE International
- Christian Aid
- Coalition for Humanity
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Doctors of the World
- Genderforce
- Geneva Call
- Global Communities
- Handicap International
- Heartland Alliance International
- HelpAge
- InterAction
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- International Medical Corps (IMC)
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Islamic Relief
- Legal Action Worldwide
- Marie Stopes International (MSI)
- NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Oxfam
- Plan International UK
- PAI
- Refugees International (RI)
- Save the Children
- Tearfund
- Trócaire
- WAHA International
- War Child Canada
- War Child UK
- WaterAid
- Women Deliver
- Women Empowerment Organisation (WEO)
- Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC)
- World Vision International
- Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)

International Organisations (15)
- Elrha / Humanitarian Innovation Fund
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO)
- Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- UNESCO
- OCHA
- OECD
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- UN Women
- United Nations World Food Program (WFP)
- United Nations World Health Organisation (WHO)
Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

Web: www.calltoactiongbv.com

Twitter: #CalltoActionGBV

European Commission

Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Web: ec.europa.eu/echo

Facebook: ec.humanitarian.aid

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