



Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

➔ WHY we focus on GBV in Emergencies

Gender-based violence (GBV) takes many forms in times of crisis, both in private and public life. The prevalence and risks of GBV increase as existing gender inequalities are exacerbated by the chaos and tensions within households, communities, and society.

Crises often lead to increased levels of intimate partner violence; sexual violence as a tactic of war; sexual assault or exploitation during displacement; child, early and forced marriages; denial of resources; increase in harmful traditional practices; and sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian aid workers, peace-keepers and security forces.

During an emergency and its aftermath, access to lifesaving care and support is unpredictable, vulnerability to violence is higher, and systems that protect women and girls, including family, community and state structures, may weaken or break down.

Prevailing evidence and research dictate that GBV occurs in all emergencies worldwide, so we do not wait to prove GBV is occurring before taking action.

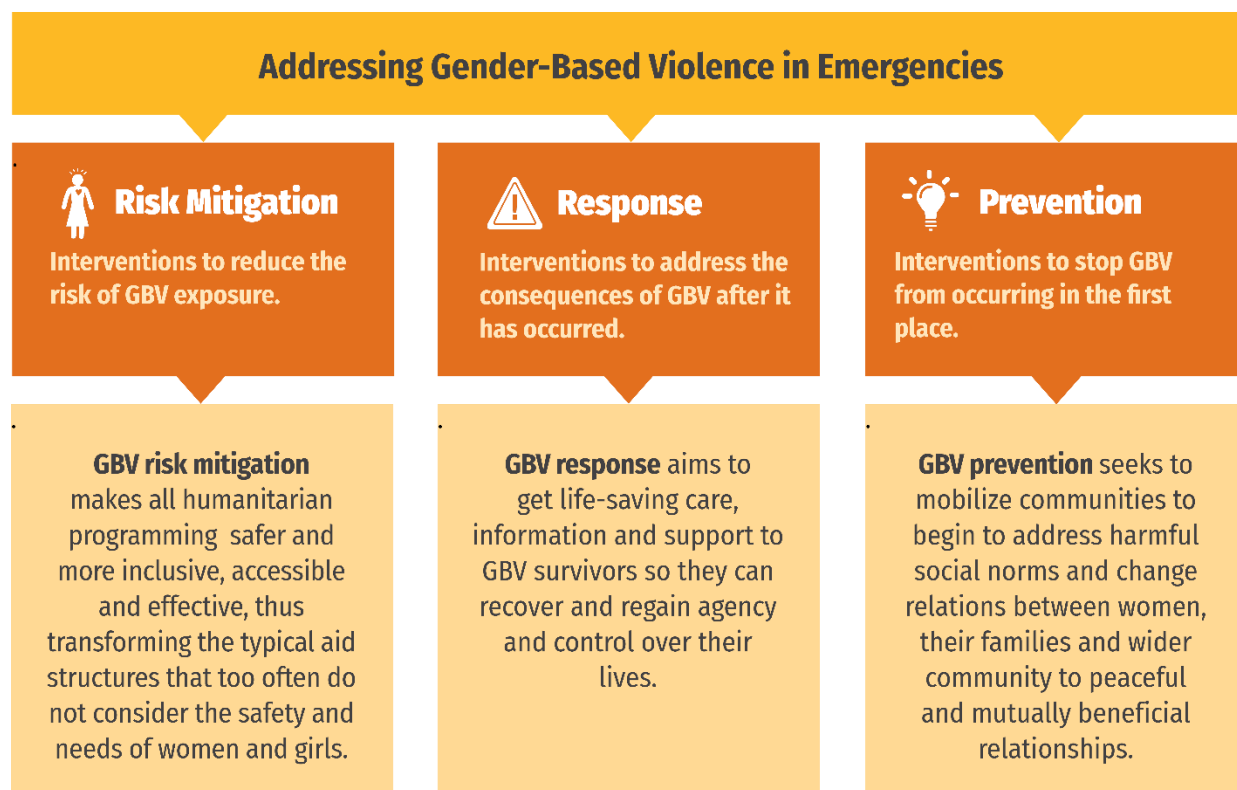
CARE believes gender inequality is at the root of all GBV. In humanitarian settings, where structures, systems and all support for women and girls are interrupted or have broken down, we believe it is vital to continue our focus on building agency, changing relations and transforming structures throughout our programs.



Ending GBV in Emergencies is a core pillar of CARE's approach to Gender in Emergencies.

➔ WHAT we focus on

In line with all GBV programming within CARE, our programmatic approach to addressing GBV in Emergencies focuses on GBV **risk mitigation**, **response** and **prevention**.



➔ HOW we implement GBViE programs

In an emergency setting, CARE aims to include all three pillars—**risk mitigation**, **response** and **prevention**—in our programming. These may be implemented in different ways through a range of projects and partnerships appropriate to the context and program focus. How GBV is incorporated will depend on the focus of each project. At minimum **ALL** projects should include GBV risk mitigation actions.



Method of implementation:

GBViE-focused

Projects that have a primary outcome of addressing GBViE with explicit prevention, response and/or risk mitigation objectives.



Method of implementation:

GBViE included

Projects that have a primary outcome in other impact areas **and** include GBViE prevention and/or response integrated into or additional objectives.



Method of implementation:

Other impact areas

All projects should include GBViE risk mitigation actions regardless of the project outcomes.

➔ WHO we work with

CARE takes an **intersectional approach** to addressing GBV in Emergencies to ensure we serve the most vulnerable in each context in which we work. We seek to see and understand diverse groups of women and girls based on their context and design programs based on understanding of the unique needs of these groups.

We work in close **partnership with crisis-affected women and girls** and their organizations, networks, women-led and women's rights organizations, and other organizations promoting gender equality to ensure CARE's efforts are guided by local women and girls' voices and priorities. We aim to strengthen their capacity to lead GBV response and prevention activities. We also **partner with those delivering services**, whether government institutions, CSOs, NGOs, UN agencies, private sector organizations, to ensure services meet the needs of women and girls.

CARE **coordinates with other humanitarian actors** through the UN Humanitarian Cluster systems. CARE participates in the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) within the Global Protection Cluster at global, regional & country levels. CARE sits in the global GBV Guidelines Reference Group, in the global GBV AoR and hosts the Global Inter-agency GBV Guidelines Coordinator.

➔ WHICH staff within CARE focus on GBViE

All humanitarian staff across all sectors have two key responsibilities in relation to GBV:

- Be prepared to respond appropriately to disclosures of GBV
- Identify GBV risks and take action to integrate GBV risk mitigation strategies into projects across all impact areas.

GBViE risk mitigation actions can be performed by non-GBV specialist staff. However, GBViE response and prevention interventions require GBV staff with specialist knowledge and skills.

Women Lead in Emergencies

Women Lead in Emergencies (WLiE) is one of the four focus areas of CARE's approach to [Gender in Emergencies](#). WLiE is a model and toolkit for humanitarians to use in multi-sector humanitarian programs to support crisis-affected women to participate in decision-making and to take collective action on issues that matter to them.

Integrating WLiE in CARE programs supports locally led humanitarian practice by women (across all sectors) and gender transformation in emergency settings.

Using this approach can lead to GBViE **risk mitigation, response and/or prevention** goals depending on the **priorities identified by the participants**.

Learn more about CARE's focus on [Women Lead in Emergencies](#).

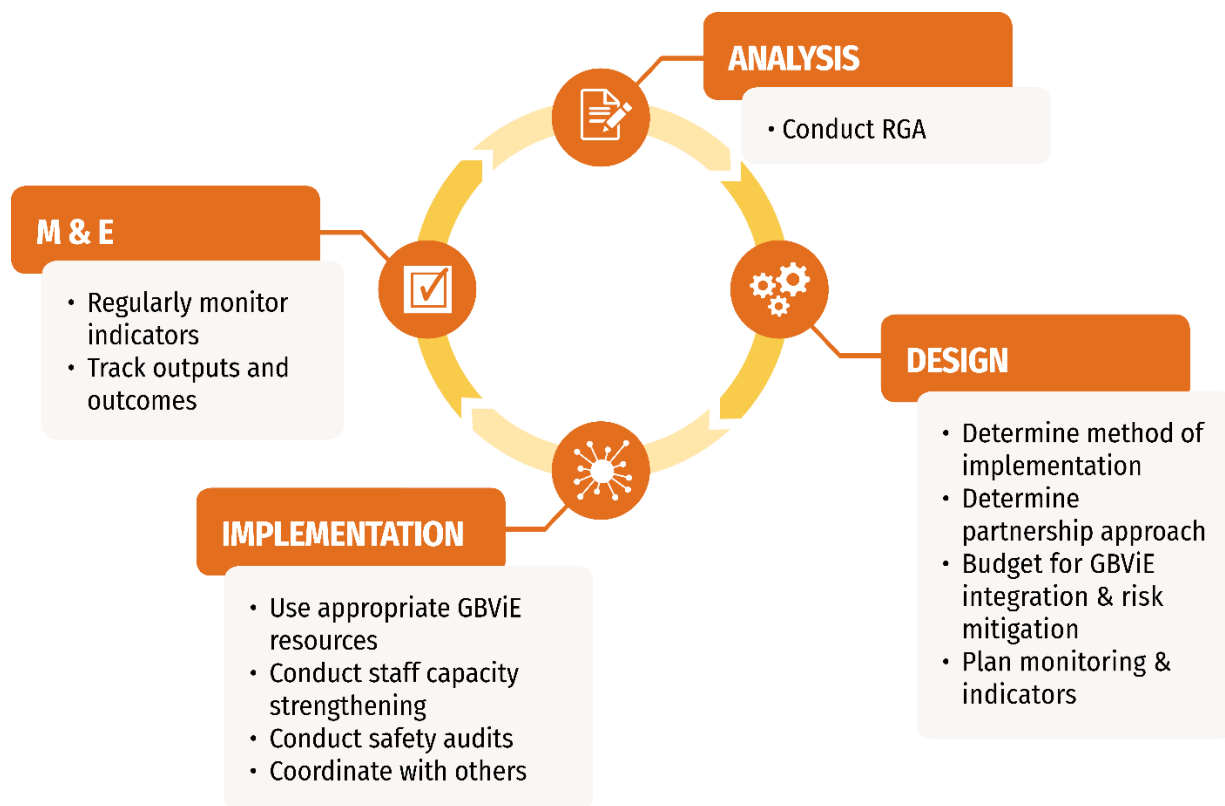
Key principles for GBViE programming

All programs should follow key principles for implementing GBV programming and humanitarian response actions. These include:

- Global Humanitarian Principles
- Survivor-centered approach
- Centrality of Protection
- Do No Harm

➔ WHEN we integrate GBViE in the project cycle

GBViE risk mitigation, response and prevention actions should be planned and implemented throughout the project cycle.



CARE's GBViE Guidance Note is supported by four implementation guides:

- GBViE Implementation Guide 1: **Risk Mitigation**
- GBViE Implementation Guide 2: **Response**
- GBViE Implementation Guide 3: **Prevention**
- GBViE Implementation Guide 4: **GBViE in the Project Cycle**

CARE's GBViE Guidance Note draws on three key resources to guide our focus on GBViE:

- Inter-Agency **Minimum Standards** for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming
- IASC **Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action** (GBV Guidelines)
- **GBV Pocket Guide**

Header image: As President of her savings group, Lami is leading action against gender-based violence in the refugee camp where she lives in Niger. Photo credit: CARE Niger.