

Chapter 3: The Gender-Based Violence Classification Tool

The Gender Based Violence Information Management System



USER GUIDE

Chapter 3: The Gender-Based Violence Classification Tool

MAIN IDEAS

- The GBV Classification Tool was created to help standardize the types and definitions of GBV as well as classification procedures across the humanitarian community thus improving the quality of data within an organization and facilitating information sharing between service providers.
- The six core types of GBV—Rape, Sexual Assault, Physical Assault, Forced Marriage, Denial of Resources Opportunities or Services, and Psychological / Emotional Abuse—were chosen because they are defined only by the specific act of violence that occurred.
- All reported incidents of GBV will be classified using one of the GBV Classification Tool’s six core types of GBV.
- The GBV Classification Tool is intended to standardize GBV classification for data collection purposes. This tool or any resulting classification should not impact how and what services are provided to a survivor. Case management should be based upon providing survivors all necessary services and referrals and should be determined by the service provider and the client, *not* by how an incident is classified.
- Each incident should only have *one* survivor; when multiple survivors report being victimized during the same event, these should be treated as separate incidents.

KEY TERMS

Incident: an incident of GBV is an event during which at least one act of gender-based violence or abuse is perpetrated against an individual.

Core type of GBV: one of six types of GBV used by the GBVIMS to classify reported GBV incidents. All core types of GBV meet a set of criteria one of which being that it must be defined only by the act of violence that occurred. Every reported incident will be classified using one of the six core types of GBV.

Case context: term used to describe GBV incidents that give information about the power relationships, or context in which the act of GBV occurred. Examples of case context include: Domestic violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Exploitation, Incest, Child Sexual Abuse, etc...) None of these are included as a core types of GBV.

The GBV community currently faces many challenges due to non-standardized data. One major source of this non-standardized GBV data is the wide variety of terminology and procedures used to classify **incidents** of GBV across service providers, humanitarian actors, legal agencies and government organizations. Consider the following examples:

EXAMPLE

1. A woman reports being raped and beaten to Delphine, a case manager for an NGO providing services to GBV survivors. While filling in an intake form, Delphine decides to classify the incident as 'rape.' One week later, a different woman reports also being raped and beaten to Rebecca, a case manager for the same NGO as Delphine. Rebecca, however, decides to classify the incident as 'physical assault.' Due to the subjective interpretations of the case managers, two incidents that should have been classified identically have been classified differently. This error causes the NGO's data to be unreliable.
2. When women report being raped *by their husbands* to NGO #1 all case managers have been trained to classify those reported incident as 'rape.' NGO #2, however, has trained their case managers to classify this as 'Intimate Partner Violence.' When the two NGOs try to share information to get a better idea of how many women have reported being raped in their area, they realize that they cannot get an accurate picture because they are defining and classifying incidents differently.

Introduction to the GBV Classification Tool

The first step towards improving the overall quality of data produced by the GBV community is to standardize GBV terminology and classification procedures by creating a standard set of GBV types, definitions and process to systematically classify incidents. The GBVIMS includes the GBV Classification Tool¹ to do exactly this. The classification tool has been created to help GBV service providers improve the accuracy and reliability of their data and provide the GBV community with a common GBV typology that can be used to improve communication, understanding, and compatibility around GBV incident data. The classification tool seeks to do this by:

1. Standardizing the types of GBV and their definitions
2. Standardizing the procedures for classifying an incident of GBV

When all service providers collect data using the same types of GBV and standardized classification methods, data aggregation becomes possible and an accurate and reliable portrait of GBV trends in a given context may then be produced. The classification tool consists of six **core types of GBV**, their definitions and a standardized approach for classifying incidents using these six types of GBV.

The sections below outline the challenges to classifying GBV incidents, how the classification addresses these challenges and how to use the classification tool to overcome them.

¹ The GBV Classification Tool can be found by referring to **Annex B**, clicking on the 'GBV Classification Tool' button on the Tools & Resources section of the GBVIMS User Guide CD-ROM or by downloading it from the GBVIMS website at: <http://gbvims.org/learn-more/gbvims-tools/>

Standardizing GBV types and definitions

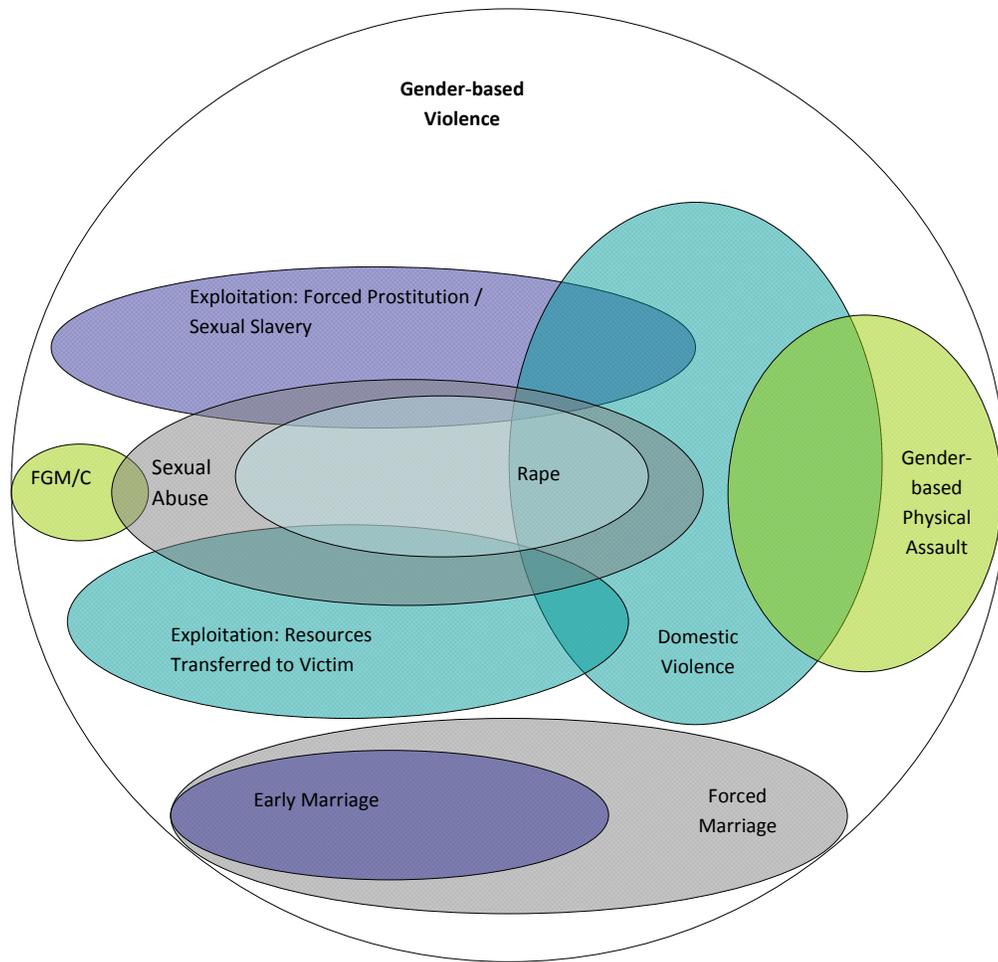
Due to the wide variety of terminology offered by legal, universal, national, and institutional definitions, several possibilities for choosing how to describe a particular incident of GBV are available to service providers. As a result, the terminology used to describe, define and classify incidents of gender-based violence can vary greatly from one service provider to another. This variation makes it extremely difficult to meaningfully discuss, share and analyze GBV data and data trends across organizations in any given humanitarian context.

Part of the development of the GBV Classification Tool included an in depth consultation with GBV actors globally, including interviews with 43 GBV specialists from 19 different organizations working in 16 countries and two consultative meetings where 20 professionals created an initial framework for the GBVIMS and its tools. From this consultation, the initial classification tool was proposed. As mentioned above, the tool consists of six types of GBV, their definitions and a standardized approach for classifying incidents using them. *Adopting standard terminology will minimize classification subjectivity and enable effective communication about GBV regardless of where the incident took place and who documents the incident*². The core types of GBV were chosen based upon a set of criteria determined necessary to correct previous issues faced with other proposed sets of GBV terms and definitions.

The criteria used to generate the classification tool's GBV types were:

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

² In order to prevent variation between countries in which an incident takes place, these terms and definitions are not necessarily the legal definitions used in national laws and policies. In some countries many forms of GBV may not be considered crimes, and legal definitions and terms vary greatly across countries and regions.



KEY POINT

Each of the definitions below refers to the concept of consent. Consent is when a person makes an informed choice to agree freely and voluntarily to do something. A few important points about consent to keep in mind:

- A minor is unable to give their consent.

Many countries have laws which set an age of consent. These legal parameters do not apply to the GBV 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.

- 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 is made to the person to provide a benefit.

The six core types of GBV and their definitions are:

1. **Rape**³—non-consensual penetration (however slight) of the vagina, anus or mouth with a penis or other body part. Also includes non-consensual penetration of the vagina or anus with an object. Examples can include but are not limited to: gang rape, marital rape, sodomy, forced oral sex. *This type of GBV does not include attempted rape since no penetration has occurred.*
2. **Sexual Assault**—any form of non-consensual sexual contact that does not result in or include penetration. Examples can include but are not limited to: attempted rape, unwanted kissing, unwanted stroking, unwanted touching of breasts, genitalia and buttocks, and female genital cutting / mutilation. *This type of GBV does not include rape since rape involves penetration.*
3. **Physical Assault**—physical violence that is not sexual in nature. Examples can include but are not limited to: hitting, slapping, choking, cutting, shoving, burning, shooting or use of any weapons, acid attacks or any other act that results in physical pain, discomfort or injury. *This type of GBV does not include female genital cutting / mutilation, or honor killing.*
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 can include but are not limited to: a widow prevented from receiving an inheritance, earnings taken by an intimate partner or family member, a woman prevented from using contraceptives, a girl prevented from attending school, etc. *This type of GBV does not include reports of general poverty.*
6. **Psychological/Emotional Abuse**—infliction of mental or emotional pain or injury. Examples can include but are not limited to: threats of physical or sexual violence, intimidation, humiliation, forced isolation, stalking, verbal harassment, unwanted attention, remarks, gestures or written words of a sexual and/or menacing nature, destruction of cherished things, etc.

At first glance some common types of GBV may seem to be ‘missing’ from this list. Do not panic! Since most organizations already have their own terminology, which is often based in varying language offered by legal, national and institutional definitions, it is likely that your agency uses a different terminology than the one used here. Often, a service provider may use a different term to describe the *same* type of corresponding incident listed here. For example, an organization may use the term “child

³ Since health care providers are not responsible for determining whether or not a person has been raped, medical providers may substitute the term “Penetration” in place of “Rape” as the first core type of GBV. The definition will remain exactly the same.

sexual abuse” rather than “rape” to describe an incident of non-consensual penetration involving a minor.

For GBVIMS data collection purposes you should change your current terminology to match that of the six core types of GBV. This will enable a standard language to be used throughout the GBV community when referring to data on *reported* incidents of GBV.

Remember: conforming to the terminology of the classification tool is only for data related purposes; this does *not* mean you must change or limit your vocabulary related to GBV when working on *non-data* related GBV issues, and it should not impact the services or referrals you provide.

1. & 2. YOU TRY!

Stop and take a moment to do the following activities:

1. Refer to activity 3.1 on page 7 of the workbook and match the various types of GBV with the six core types of GBV from the classification tool.
2. Refer to activity 3.2 on page 8 of the workbook. List the types of GBV your organization is currently using to classify reported incidents and then match these with the six core types of GBV from the classification tool.

You may be initially surprised that some terms that have been traditionally considered types of GBV are not included here (e.g. intimate partner/domestic violence, child sexual abuse, etc.). While they are not included as core GBV types (as they typically do not meet the necessary criteria) these terms and concepts are very important for the purposes of service provision, programming and advocacy. The GBVIMS does ensure that many of these nuances describing the individuals or contexts involved in the incident are captured through ‘case contexts’, which will be discussed later in this chapter.

Standardizing incident classification procedures

Having service providers agree to and adopt the same set of GBV types and definitions, however, is still not enough to ensure the standardization of GBV data collection. Once the *terminology* has been standardized, the challenge of standardizing the *procedures* used to classify incidents still exists. There can often be disagreement between service providers—and even individuals within the same organization—on how to classify an incident. This is especially true when multiple types of GBV occur during an incident. To limit the potential for variation, only *one* type of GBV will be used to classify each reported incident; therefore, when incidents involve multiple types of GBV it must be determined which of the applicable types that occurred will be used to classify the incident. If a rape victim experiencing severe psychological and emotional trauma reports her case, it is possible that one service provider would classify her incident as ‘Rape’ while another provider may choose ‘Psychological/Emotional Abuse.’ Even though the terminology has been standardized, how the incident is classified is still dependent on the subjective interpretation of the individual receiving the survivor’s report.

Such variation in incident classification must be avoided to ensure that valid and statistically comparable data is collected. The GBV classification tool provides a standardized method for classifying any given incident. Please refer to the second page of the classification tool where you will find a set of instructions followed by seven questions used for classifying GBV incidents.

Instructions for using the GBV Classification Tool

-  To determine the appropriate GBV 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 GBV type, listed next to this question, is what should be used to classify the GBV involved in this incident.¹
-  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.²

1. Did the reported incident involve penetration?

If yes → classify the GBV as "**Rape**".
If no → proceed to the next GBV type on the list.

2. Did the reported incident involve unwanted sexual contact?

If yes → classify the GBV as "**Sexual Assault**".
If no → proceed to the next GBV type on the list.

3. Did the reported incident involve physical assault?

If yes → classify the GBV as "**Physical Assault**".
If no → proceed to the next GBV type on the list.

4. Was the incident an act of forced marriage?

If yes → classify the GBV as "**Forced Marriage**".
If no → proceed to the next GBV type on the list.

5. Did the reported incident involve the denial of resources, opportunities or services?

If yes → classify the GBV as "**Denial of Resources, Opportunities, or Services**".
If no → proceed to the next GBV type on the list.

6. Did the reported incident involve psychological/emotional abuse?

If yes → classify the GBV as "**Psychological / Emotional Abuse**".
If no → proceed to the next GBV type on the list.

7. Did the reported incident involve GBV?

If yes → Start over at number 1 and try again to reclassify the type of GBV (*If you have tried to classify the GBV multiple times, ask your supervisor or GBVIMS focal point for support*)
If no → classify the violence as "**Non-GBV**"

¹ 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 GBV would be classified as "rape".

² This rule was established to avoid 3rd party reports outside of the context of service delivery.

KEY POINT

Instructions for using the GBV Classification Tool

1. To determine the appropriate GBV classification for the incident described to you by the survivor, ask yourself the following questions in their given order.
2. 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. The GBV type corresponding to this question is what should be used to classify the incident. 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 GBV would be classified as “rape”.
3. The GBVIMS only records incidents reported directly by the survivor (or by the survivor’s guardian if the survivor is unable to report due to age or a disability) in the context of service provision. Thus any incident in which the victim has died prior to the report, should not be recorded for the GBVIMS (this rule was established to avoid 3rd party reports outside of the context of service delivery).

Questions for classifying GBV incidents:

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

EXAMPLE

The following examples demonstrate how to use the classification tool.

A young girl reports that her neighbor inappropriately touched her breasts:

1. Ask yourself the first question on the classification tool: 'Did the reported incident involve penetration?' Since this incident involves only touching and *no* penetration, the answer is 'No' and you should move on to the next question.
2. Ask yourself the second question on the tool: 'Did the reported incident involve unwanted sexual contact?' Since the answer to this question is 'Yes' you should stop there and classify the incident as 'Sexual Assault.' Note: You should *not* proceed with the rest of the questions on the tool as you should only classify the incident as the *first* type of GBV that applies.

A woman comes home from work and her boyfriend threatens to beat her unless she gives him the money she has earned:

1. Ask yourself the first question on the classification tool: 'Did the reported incident involve penetration?' Since this incident involves threats, not penetration, the answer is 'No' and you should move on to the next question.
2. Ask yourself the second question on the tool: 'Did the reported incident involve unwanted sexual contact?' Since this incident did *not* involve unwanted sexual contact, the answer is 'No' and you should move on to the next question.
3. Ask yourself the third question on the tool: 'Did the reported incident involve physical assault?' Since this incident did *not* involve physical assault (although it did involve the *threat* of violence), the answer is 'No' and you should move on to the next question.
4. Ask yourself the fourth question on the tool: 'Was the incident an act of forced marriage?' Since this incident is not an act of forced marriage, the answer is 'No' and you should move on to the next question.
5. Ask yourself the fifth question on the tool: 'Did the reported incident involve the denial of resources, opportunities or services?' Since the answer to this question is 'Yes' you should stop there and classify the incident as 'Denial of Resources, Opportunities or Services.' Note: You should *not* proceed with the rest of the questions on the tool as you should only classify the incident as the *first* type of GBV that applies.

Note: The order of the types of GBV does *not* express an implied 'value' of the violence (i.e. rape is worse than forced marriage); rather, the types of GBV are ordered by *specificity*, meaning the categories with the narrowest definitions are at the top and the broadest categories at the bottom. The order allows service providers to classify an incident by the most specific type of violence that occurred during the reported incident. Additionally, it allows the service provider to determine the incident classification by a standardized process of elimination. Picking the first incident on the list that fits the description of the reported incident, means that everyone who encounters multiple forms of GBV in one incident, will classify the incident in the same way, if they follow the instructions. This eliminates the variation from person to person that comes with personal interpretation of incidents.

Remember, these classification procedures will not impact the services or referrals you provide to a survivor. It only impacts *how the incident will be classified in your data*.

3. YOU TRY!

Use the classification tool to classify the following incidents as one of the six core types of GBV (this exercise is also activity 3.3 on page 9 of the workbook).

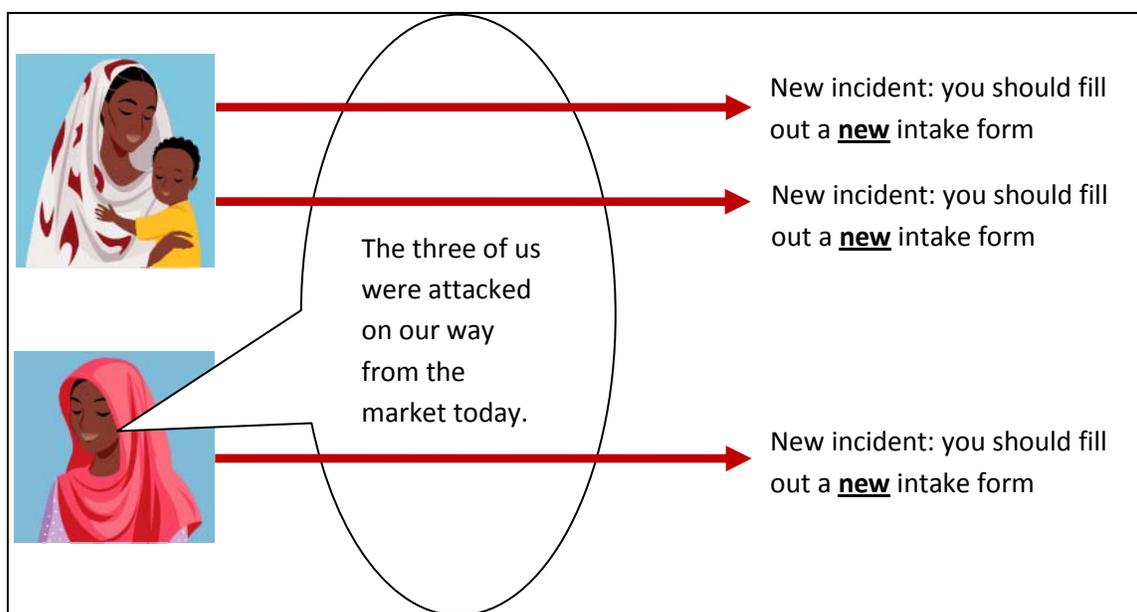
1. A woman reports being beaten by her husband for not cleaning the house properly.
2. A girl reports not being allowed to attend school unless she has sex with her teacher.
3. A boy reports that his uncle has been touching his genitals.
4. A woman reports that her boss is threatening to fire her if she does not have sex with him.
5. A woman reports being raped by a group of men when she was walking home from her sister's house.

For more exercises like these, refer to activity 3.5 on page 12 of the workbook.

Common issues to watch out for when classifying incidents

Although the classification tool and the rest of the GBVIMS is intended to be simple and easy-to-use, GBV incidents can be quite complex and nuanced. This can make correctly classifying some GBV incidents challenging. In these more complex situations, you may have to use your best judgment to know exactly what to do, but remember first and foremost to always follow the instructions as they are given and questions in their given order. Here are some common situations to watch out for and how to handle them.

Multiple survivors—While it is possible that multiple survivors come to report the same incident of GBV, each survivor should be treated as a separate incident and reported separately. For example, if three women were sexually assaulted together, when they come to report the event, their reports should be treated as three separate incidents. A different intake form should be filled out for each of them:



Multiple incidents over a period of time—At times, a survivor may come to report multiple incidents of GBV which have occurred in the past *over a period of time*. 'Multiple incidents,' however could be anywhere from two and above and a 'period of time' could be anywhere from a couple of hours to several months or years.

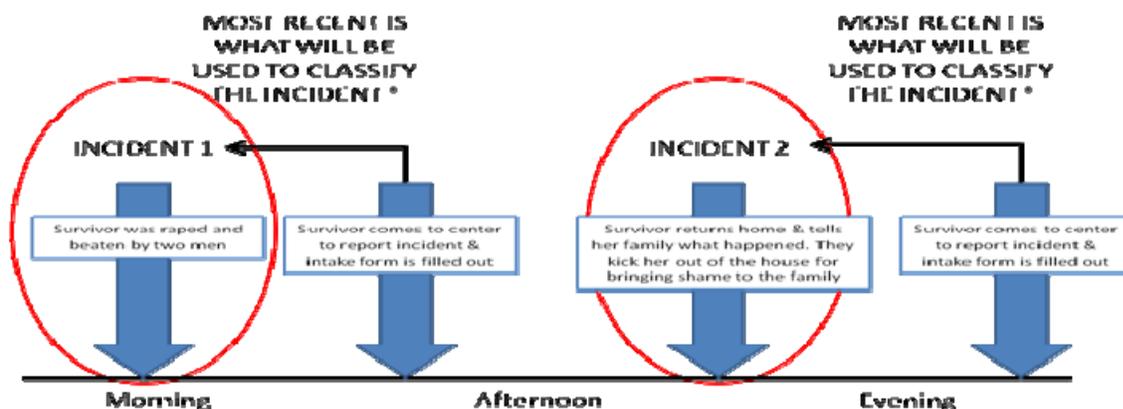
In situations where a survivor reports a few distinct past incidents, you can fill in multiple intake forms, one for each of the incidents reported.

Example: A woman is raped and beaten by two men one morning. That afternoon when she returns home to tell her family what happened, they kick her out of the house for bringing shame to the family. She then comes to a GBV service provider seeking help and reports what has happened. The case manager should treat this situation as *two* incidents and fill in two different intake forms. The first incident should be classified as 'Rape' and the second incident should be classified as 'Denial of Resources.'

In situations where a survivor reports a high number of past incidents that are difficult to distinguish as individual incidents (because of repeated abuse or length of time that the violence ensued), you should only fill in one intake form. In this case, you should only use *the most recent event* as the incident being reported.

Example: A woman reports that she was raped on a daily basis while being held by rebels for several months. Because the actual number of incidents is so high and the period of time so long in this instance, it would be extremely difficult to treat every incident separately and fill in multiple intake forms. The case manager in this situation should use *the most recent event* (in this case, the most recent rape) as the incident being reported.

If, however, a survivor reports one incident and then returns at a later time to report a new incident which took place after the initial one, both reports should *always* be documented as two, separate incidents. *The second report should not be treated as a follow-up from the first.*



Deciding when and when NOT to recorder multiple incidents is something that will depend on your context, caseload and a variety of other factors. You will have to use your best judgment when confronted with these situations, and come to a general set of rules to guide your staff on how to proceed. You are encouraged, however, to record each incident separately whenever possible. The following box provides examples of two situations and how they should be handled.

Note: Case management will not be changed based upon these classification procedures. You should still have the case note or a written explanation of the incident which enables you to capture all the details and nuances of each incident. For example, while there may only be one intake form and one incident classified for the woman who reported being raped on a daily basis for several months, *this type of information should be recorded in writing on the form.*

Under-Age Sexual Activity — In some countries, sexual activity under the age of 18 is automatically rendered illegal under 'defilement' laws. In these contexts, service providers will have the tendency to automatically classify any under-age or teen-age sexual activity as GBV. For the purposes of the GBVIMS, however, consensual under-age sexual activity is *not* considered GBV unless otherwise noted.

EXAMPLE

A mother brings her 16 year old daughter to your organization to report that she and her 17 year old boyfriend are having sex. As you talk to the girl, she clearly indicates that she did not feel coerced or forced to have sex. Your national law defines this incident as 'defilement.' How do you classify this incident for the GBVIMS?

Remember: the GBV incident types are not based on any country-specific legal definitions. Since consensual under-age sexual activity is *not* considered GBV for the purposes of the GBVIMS, this would not be considered an incident of GBV. You should still fill out an intake form and you may provide services depending on the needs expressed. However, when classifying this incident you should indicate 'Non-GBV' instead of one of the core types of GBV.

3-Details of the Incident Cont.

Type of Incident Violence*:
(Please refer to the GBVIMS Incident Classification System and select only ONE)

Rape
(includes gang rape, marital rape)

Sexual Assault
(includes attempted rape and all sexual violence/abuse without penetration, and female genital mutilation/cutting)

Physical Assault
(includes hitting, slapping, kicking, shoving, etc. that are not sexual in nature)

Forced Marriage
(includes early marriage)

Denial of Resources, Opportunities or Services

Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Non-GBV (specify) Note: these incidents will not be entered into the incident recorder. Consensual sex between minors

1. Did the reported incident involve penetration?
If yes → classify the incident as "Rape".
If no → proceed to the next incident type on the list.

2. Did the reported incident involve unwanted sexual contact?
If yes → classify the incident as "Sexual Assault".
If no → proceed to the next incident type on the list.

3. Did the reported incident involve physical assault?
If yes → classify the incident as "Physical Assault".
If no → proceed to the next incident type on the list.

4. Was the incident an act of forced marriage?
If yes → classify the incident as "Forced Marriage".
If no → proceed to the next incident type on the list.

5. Did the reported incident involve the denial of resources, opportunities or services?
If yes → classify the incident as "Denial of Resources, Opportunities or Services".
If no → proceed to the next incident type on the list.

6. Did the reported incident involve psychological/emotional abuse?
If yes → classify the incident as "Psychological / Emotional Abuse".
If no → proceed to the next incident type on the list.

7. Is the reported incident a case of GBV?
If yes → Start over at number 1 and try again to reclassify the incident (If you have tried to classify the incident multiple times, ask your supervisor to help you classify this incident).
If no → classify the incident as "Non-GBV".

Was this incident a harm of traditional practice? Yes No

Were money, gifts, beer, food and/or services exchanged? Yes No

As seen from the example above, not all reported cases should be considered incidents of GBV. While these should not be considered GBV, you may still want to complete an intake form and provide or refer to needed services. Examples of non-gender based violence include:

- Child abuse (physical or psychological abuse that is not gender-based).
- Domestic arguments and problems that are not reflective of gender inequities; e.g., children with behavior problems.
- General health problems.

Abandonment and/or Denial of Paternity— A 23 year old woman reports that she was impregnated by her 25 year old boyfriend who now denies the unborn child is his. Is this GBV? How you should classify this depends on the preexisting circumstances of the situation.

If the woman was living with her boyfriend and economically dependent on him before she was pregnant, and once she becomes pregnant he kicks her out of the house and stops providing for her financially, this

should be classified as ‘Denial of Resources, Opportunities or Services.’ If, however, the woman was living on her own or with her parents and she had no economic dependence on her boyfriend, then the incident should be classified as ‘Psychological/Emotional Abuse.’

If the woman reports to you *after* having delivered the baby to report that her boyfriend is now refusing that the child is his and has stopped financially supporting them, this should be classified as ‘Denial of Resources, Opportunities or Services.’

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)--Some confusion may arise regarding how to classify instances of FGM/C. Because this is an act of violence that *impacts sexual organs*, this should be classified as sexual assault and *not* physical assault.

Case contexts

As discussed above, the classification tool purposely does *not* include some common GBV terms and definitions as core GBV types, such intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation or child sexual abuse, that have traditionally been considered types of GBV.⁴

The GBVIMS refers to these categories as **case contexts**. The case context categories include terms such as:

- Intimate Partner Violence
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Sexual Exploitation/Transactional Sex
- Early Marriage
- Sexual Slavery
- Harmful Traditional Practice

While case contexts may not be included as core types of GBV, this information is not lost. *The Incident Recorder has built in formulas that will automatically determine the case context categories by combining the type of GBV with other information recorded about the incident.* While Chapter 5 will explain how this works in more detail, the following are case contexts that will be captured by the Incident Recorder. These categories and their definitions and formulas are included on the GBV classification tool (see **Annex B**).

⁴ They do not serve as useful incident classification categories for two main reasons: 1) Rather than being defined by the specific act of violence, they are defined by the context in which the violence took place (e.g. who is perpetrating the violence, the age of the survivor, etc.); 2) The case context definitions overlap with one another and are not mutually exclusive

1. **Intimate Partner Violence** is defined by the relationship between the perpetrator and survivor and may include multiple forms of violence (rape, sexual assault, physical assault, psychological / emotional abuse), which can lead to inconsistencies in the recording of incidents. By analyzing both the type of GBV and the survivor's relationship to the perpetrator, one is able to identify and analyze which incidents took place in the context of intimate partner violence.

TYPE OF GBV		ALLEGED PERPETRATOR		CASE CONTEXT
Rape	+	Intimate Partner / Former Partner	=	Intimate Partner Violence
Sexual Assault				
Physical Assault				
Denial of Resources				
Psychological / Emotional Abuse				

2. **Child Sexual Abuse** is defined by the age of the survivor. It can include different forms of sexual violence, which can lead to inconsistencies in the recording of incidents. By analysis of two incident types (sexual assault and rape) and the age of the survivor, one is able to analyze which reported incidents took place in the context of child sexual abuse.

TYPE OF GBV		ALLEGED PERPETRATOR		AGE OF SURVIVOR AT TIME OF INCIDENT		CASE CONTEXT
Rape	+	Any	+	Child	=	Child Sexual Abuse
Sexual Assault						

3. **Early marriage** is defined by the age of the survivor at the time of a forced marriage. Analysis of the incident type and the age of the survivor, identifies those incidents that took place in the context of an early marriage.

TYPE OF GBV		ALLEGED PERPETRATOR		AGE OF SURVIVOR AT TIME OF INCIDENT		CASE CONTEXT
Forced Marriage	+	Any	+	Child	=	Early Marriage

4. **Possible Sexual Exploitation and Transactional Sex** are defined by the power relationship between survivor and perpetrator, as well as the circumstances surrounding the incident – not the actual act of violence (i.e. rape or sexual assault), which can lead to inconsistencies in the recording of incidents. The intake form includes the question ‘were money, goods, benefits and/or services exchanged in relation to the reported incident?’. The incident recorder will flag any incident of sexual violence marked ‘yes’ to identify those potentially exploitative in nature.
5. **Possible Sexual Slavery** is defined by the circumstances during which multiple acts and various forms of sexual violence are perpetrated over a period of time. The incident recorder is only able to capture one unique incident at a time. The intake form includes the question for indicating whether the incident was perpetrated while the survivor was: a) being forcibly transported (trafficked); b) being forced to join an armed group (forced conscription); c) held against her/his will, abducted or kidnapped. The incident recorder will flag any incident of sexual violence marked as abduction to identify incidents potentially involving sexual slavery.
6. **Harmful Traditional Practices** are defined by the local social, cultural and religious values where an incident takes place. To distinguish those acts of GBV that are harmful traditional practices specific to the context in which they took place, the intake form includes a question to indicate whether the GBV was a type of harmful traditional practice. The responses must be customized locally to define the incident as 1 of up to 5 relevant types of harmful traditional practice found in that context. The incident recorder will be able to quantify how many instances were marked ‘yes’/ ‘no’ for harmful traditional practice and the frequency of the individual types.

TYPE OF GBV	ALLEGED PERPETRATOR		HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICE?			CASE CONTEXT
Any	+	Any	+	Yes - Bride Capture	=	Harmful Traditional Practice
Sexual Assault	+	Any	+	Yes - FGM/C	=	Harmful Traditional Practice

While classification is important for data collection and analysis, even the best classification systems do not capture all of the details of each individual case. Many of those details are not necessary for data analysis purposes. However, these details are often essential to service provision and should be captured in the clients’ case file.

Conclusion

The GBV Classification Tool has been created as part of the GBVIMS to harmonize and standardize the GBV data terminology and collection processes which will help to produce comparable and communicable data and enable improved analyses of that data.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The GBV Classification Tool standardizes the types and definitions of GBV as well as incident classification procedures so that organizations can more easily discuss, share and compile reliable data.
- The classification tool contains six core types of GBV which will be used to classify all reported incidents.
- The GBV Classification Tool is intended to standardize GBV classification for data collection purposes. This tool or resulting incident classification should not impact how and what services are provided to a survivor. Case management should be based upon providing survivors all necessary services and referrals and should not be determined by the service provider and the client, not how an incident is classified.
- When multiple survivors report being victims during the same event, these should be treated as *separate* incidents.
- Some common GBV categories are not included among the six core types of GBV because they are defined by the context of the incident and not the specific act of violence; these are called 'case contexts' and are automatically calculated by the Incident Recorder.

STOP!

Before moving on to Chapter 4, take a moment to do the remaining Chapter 3 activities (3.4 – 3.6) in the workbook. Remember to check your answers in the workbook answer key.