

Using the PIM Framework to Develop a Guidance Note on Safe and Ethical Gender-based Violence Indicators

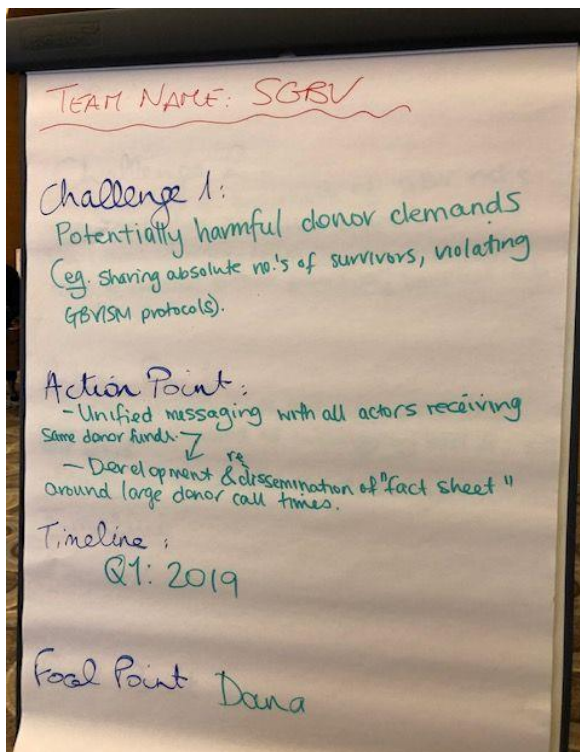
Senior Inter-Agency GBVIMS Coordinator for Lebanon, Dana Dib, explains how the GBVIMS Steering Committee used discussions around the PIM Training and the PIM Framework to develop a Guidance Note on Drafting Safe and Ethical GBV Indicators.

Dana Dib is the Senior Inter-Agency GBVIMS Coordinator for Lebanon. She leads the inter-agency GBVIMS national steering committee and used discussions around the PIM training and the PIM Framework to draft guidelines and advocate for the use of safe and ethical GBV indicators.

Why the guidelines were needed

Dana and a number of other protection colleagues from Lebanon attended a PIM training in 2018. At this training, they discussed the challenges associated with the sometimes limited understanding about what constitutes safe and ethical indicators for GBV programs held by donors, humanitarian agency senior management staff, and other important stakeholders.

This meant that when organisations were applying for funding, they would often be asked to share data on inappropriate indicators such as 'numbers of GBV survivors provided services'.



Action points from the PIM training

One of the action points protection colleagues from Lebanon agreed at the PIM training, then, was to draft a guidance note to share knowledge on this topic to stakeholders beyond just their GBV program colleagues. Dana explains:

We wanted to share a document that would provide some insight around these practices, [and] alternatives when you are put in this situation. We wanted to make sure this document... would be used by organisations gathering GBV data or providing case management services [and that they] would be able to use this document to advocate for good practices.

Also, potentially, when they are drafting these indicators in program proposals and when having initial discussions [with donors and others] from the beginning they could annex this guidance document.

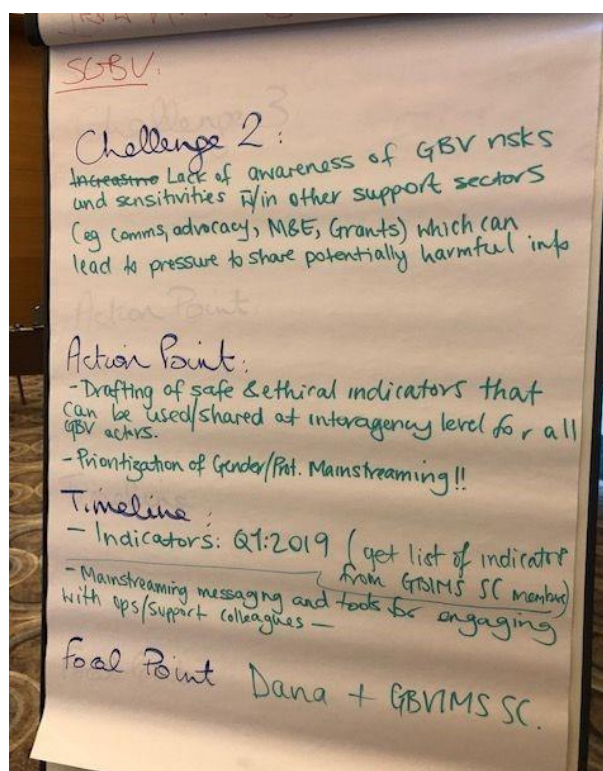
Guidance note offers good practice alternatives

Dana explains that this guidance note aims to not only identify problematic indicators but to offer examples of good practice alternatives:

This guidance note included some of the common challenges that hinder the use of safe and ethical indicators, and the possible implications GBV actors would encounter when asked, for example, to give raw numbers rather than percentages.

We also provided examples of good practices. We wanted to provide something [to assist] in initial discussion with donors.

[We] wanted to be able to say that even if we are not able to provide 'x' information because it does not adhere to ethical practices, we can offer 'y'. The guidance note does give guidance on alternatives that can be given in such situations, and some tips and recommendations.



Action points from the PIM training

PIM training and discussions catalysed collaborative action

The development of this guidance note was enabled by the bringing together of protection and information management practitioners during the PIM trainings. Dana explains:

Ultimately [the development of the guidance note] was a production based on the PIM training. This is why we drafted this document. It was a challenge we always talked about. We knew there were challenges when it came to safe and ethical indicators and alternatives, but we never came together to [develop] a document. Once the PIM training took place we realised it was very important to have such a document in place. After we drafted this document and disseminated it, the members of the GBVIMS steering committee at that time informed us that, when [drafting proposals], they annexed this document.

As a GBVIMS steering committee, each time there was a call for proposals we would remind organisations that this document exists, to use it as a reference and to annex it; so [we] have a collective voice and [can] push back [where we need to, to ensure we can use safe and ethical indicators].

Influence of Guidance Note

Dana outlines the ways in which the guidance note has been received by and influenced donors and other important stakeholders:

Some donors were very impressed with the ... way of drafting indicators [in the guidance note] and so accepted the [recommendations on the framing of indicators]. [Another major donor asked to] have a meeting with me in my capacity as Senior GBVIMS Coordinator to understand why this document was drafted. They had some reservations ...and it took some time back and forth to explain these ethical practices... Eventually I feel like this donor agency was able to comprehend...why things were drafted in the way they are... They also explained their perspective about how budgeting and financing for programs [for them] relies on a certain way of indicators being drafted. We tried to ensure a way where they got what they need but also aiming to ensure a safe and ethical way of drafting indicators [and] data collection.

The outcomes of the PIM training supported and advanced the development of this guidance note. It changed the way donors approached partners or organisations and changed the fact that more knowledge and awareness was being built, not just by donors but also internally by senior management and it did not just fall back on [GBV] program colleagues.

The PIM training changed the way we look at things

Dana also described how the PIM training and aspects of the PIM process changed her own and colleagues' thinking and approach:

PIM [also] changed the way we looked at things. [For example], I would have informal discussions with colleagues... where they were thinking of doing a report on child marriage. The thing I and other [PIM-trained] colleagues would say is 'do we actually need this because there are lot of documents on this particular topic. So honestly, the PIM initiative raised a lot of awareness of 'do we need to do this?', 'do we have this?', 'do we want to duplicate this?', 'what is going to change if we come up with this new report?', so PIM changed the way we see things and in my capacity of GBVIMS Coordinator PIM has really complemented what we do as GBV actors.

PIM Highlights

- Avoiding Doing Harm through mitigating risks associated with inappropriate data collection and information sharing ([PIM Principle](#) - Do No Harm)
- Supporting the 'defined purpose' through clarifying what case management data cannot or should not do (PIM Principle - Defined Purpose)
- Ensuring practice is survivor-centred, and that the interests and well-being of GBV survivors is protected (PIM Principles - People-centred and inclusive, Do No Harm)
- Prioritising the use of secondary data, where available ([PIM Process](#))
- Promoting safe and ethical protection response monitoring and evaluation as well as increasingly systematising the approach through the use of common indicators ([PIM Matrix](#))

More information

The Guidance Note on Safe and Ethical Gender-based Violence Indicators can be found [here](#).

As Senior Inter-Agency GBVIMS Coordinator, Dana Dib is hosted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).