**MPTF FOR UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

**NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2012**

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| Part A. Meeting Information(To be completed by the UN Action Secretariat) | | |
| **RMC Meeting No:** | **Project[[1]](#footnote-1) No:** UNA022 | |
| **Date of Meeting:** | **RMC members in attendance at meeting:** | |
| Part B. Project Summary(To be completed by the Participating UN Organization) | | |
| **Date of Submission:** 08/03/2013 | **Participating UN Organization(s):** UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO | |
| **Participating UN Organization receiving funds:**  UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR | |
| **Focal Point of the Participating UN Organization(s):**  Name: Erin Kenny, UNFPA New York  Telephone: (+1) 212 297 4981  Email: [ekenny@unfpa.org](mailto:ekenny@unfpa.org)  Name: Mendy Marsh, UNICEF New York  Telephone: (+1) 212 824 6313  Email: [mmarsh@unicef.org](mailto:mmarsh@unicef.org)  Name: Magriet Veenma, UNHCR Geneva  Telephone: (+41) 79 124 73 20  E-mail: [veenma@unhcr.org](mailto:veenma@unhcr.org) | **Project Title:** Expanding the reach, utility and sustainability of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) - Phase 1 | |
| **Project Location(s):**  Seventeen (17) countries benefited from technical support missions during Phase 1 of the project (2012) in addition to off-site remote support. During Phase 2 (from April 2013 to September 2014), these countries will continue to receive support for GBVIMS rollout[[2]](#footnote-2). | |
| **UN Action pillar of activity**:  Advocacy  Knowledge building  Support to UN system at country level | **Projected Project Duration:**  Phase 1 of the project is 14 months (12 January 2012- 31 March 2012)  Phase 2 of the project is 18 months (1 April 2013 - 30 September 2014) | |
| **Proposed project, if approved, would result in:**  New Project  Continuation of previous funding until 30 September 2014  Other (explain): Request for additional funds  No-cost extension: (from – to) | **Total Project Budget:**  US $ 1,273,999.2 (including 7% of indirect support costs)  **Amount of MPTF funds requested:**  Project Extension (Remaining Funds) US $365,612  New Funds US $908,387.2  **Percentage of indirect support costs from MPTF contribution:** 7% | |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Projected Annual Disbursements:** | 2012  642,000$\* | 2013  $828,099.48 | 2014  $445,899.72 | | **Projected Annual Commitments:** | 2012  642,000$\* | 2013  $828,099.48 | 2014  $445,899.72 | | |  |

**\***Total funds allocated for Phase 1.

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| Narrative Summary |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2012, UN Action awarded UNFPA and UNICEF US $642,000 from its Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to support on-going implementation of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in selected conflict-affected contexts for a 12-month period.

During this reporting period the GBVIMS team, comprised of UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), reinforced its global structure with the recruitment of two consultants (the “Surge Team”) and an Inter-agency Coordinator (IAC) for the GBVIMS. The GBVIMS team continued to implement the system tools in humanitarian contexts and conflict-affected countries, and fifteen (15) in-country technical support missions took place since the appointment of the two consultants. In line with commitments made under this grant, the GBVIMS Steering Committee has initiated the development of nine (9) guidance notes that will support GBVIMS data gathering organizations on various key issues. One of particular relevance to UN Action is a guidance note that is being developed on the intersections between the GBVIMS and the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA). In addition, new easily-accessible GBVIMS resources have been prioritized to support users (e.g. how-to videos and webinars). These resources will be made available on the newly re-designed GBVIMS website that was launched in October 2012.

New funds (US $908,387.2) were granted by the MPTF for the Phase 2 of the project for duration of 18 months. The second phase of the project will allow more time to complete the project activities and for achieving the expected outputs outlined in the original project proposal.

**a) Outcome: Increase the reach, utility and sustainability of the GBVIMS particularly in conflict-affected countries.**

The main expected outcome is to increase the reach, utility and sustainability of the GBVIMS with an emphasis on conflict-affected countries. This is the higher level of change that this project is aiming at contribute towards. Key progresses were made during the reporting period with the continued support to inter-agency rollout efforts in conflict-affected countries. This included on-going support to existing GBVIMS and new GBVIMS rollouts provided by the GBVIMS Surge Team composed of two (2) consultants, Anne Kluyskens and Sunita Palekar, hired by UNICEF in April 2012 on the behalf of the GBVIMS Steering Committee, as well as a consultant (Kendra Pasztor) recruited by UNHCR from their own internal resources[[3]](#footnote-3).

The Surge Team increased the reach and utility of the system by providing in-country assistance through hands-on support to organizations currently using the GBVIMS and to new rollout sites. New rollout contexts were selected based on a predetermined set of eligibility criteria already in use by the inter-agency GBVIMS team, while also taking into consideration UN Action’s list of priority countries and current major crises (e.g. Syria and the Sahel[[4]](#footnote-4)). The project partially achieved its target of providing support to existing and new GBVIMS users working in a minimum of five (5) conflict-affected contexts, which includes a minimum of one (1) field visit by a GBVIMS-certified consultant to each implementation organization. Under the reporting period, seventeen (17) in-country technical support missions took place, including two (2) missions in Syria’s neighbouring countries hosting refugee population (Lebanon and Jordan), and two (2) in Central African Republic (CAR) where the current crisis that began on December 2012 with the Seleka rebellion[[5]](#footnote-5) directly affected 800,000 civilians.

The Surge Team also delivered remote support by acting as focal point for troubleshooting implementation issues. The GBVIMS Steering Committee members provided backstopping on a regular basis to requests that were made by GBVIMS users and/or service providers operating in conflict-affected contexts, including the dissemination of best practices to enable the safe and ethical sharing of reported GBV incident data. These activities that contributed to the expected outcome of the project were coordinated by the GBVIMS Inter-Agency Coordinator (Celine Calve) who was hired by UNFPA in August 2012, and whose responsibilities include the implementation and monitoring of the project outputs as well as the overall coordination of the GBVIMS Steering Committee and implementation sites.

The direct beneficiaries were the service providers operating in conflict-affected contexts who are responding to the health, psychosocial and legal needs of GBV survivors, as well as other practitioners involved in GBV coordination, policy and advocacy on GBV.

**b) Key outputs achieved during the reporting period**

It is worthwhile mentioning that UNFPA and UNICEF, on the behalf of the GBVIMS Steering Committee, requested and were granted by UN Action an extension of the remaining funds under this grant (US$ 365,612) and new funds (US$908,387.2) through 30 September 2014. The rationale behind this request (submitted in December 2012) was the necessity to have more time to complete the activities and achieve the expected results outlined in the original project proposal. These activities were delayed due to the significant lag time in hiring both the Surge Team and, especially, the IAC.

Additionally, UNFPA and UNICEF on behalf of the GBVIMS Steering Committee requested to expand the project original project to include UNHCR as a core partner, and support funding for the aforementioned consultant for an additional 16 months. UNHCR consultant act similarly to the Surge Team (and is considered as a part of this core technical team with the IAC and IRC staff) but focuses on refugee contexts, in line with UNHCR’s mandate.

*Output 1: Technical specialists are trained as trainers to support on-site rollout efforts in relevant conflict-affected contexts*

One of the gaps that the project aimed to address was the limited number of staff qualified to conduct GBVIMS rollouts and/or to provide the necessary technical support to rollout countries. The expected output of the project was thus to expand in terms of size, geographic location, and language skills – the network of professionals qualified to provide training and technical support. Training activities planned in the project included the expansion of existing training-of-trainer initiatives targeted at capacity development of actors in specific geographic areas that are or have been impacted by armed conflict, in addition to on-going support to those actors who have completed the GBVIMS ToT. Although tentative requests were made by actors in both the Middle East and West and Central Africa regions for a training-of-trainers on the GBVIMS, this activity could not take place in 2012 as originally planned due to the acute need for in-country support, especially in crisis affected countries responding to Syria refugee influx, and in the Sahel region, and lack of dedicated GBVIMS human resources during the first six to eight months of the grant period. This activity will be prioritized for 2013. Also, the GBVIMS team provided support to actors who participated in GBVIMS ToT particularly in Cote d’Ivoire, Lebanon, CAR, and Colombia (remotely, and on-site) in view of tasking them with providing in-country technical support, and reinforcing their skills and expertise with the system as GBVIMS leading actor (“GBVIMS Liaison”).

*Output 2: A bundled GBVIMS Caring for Survivors training provided in a minimum of one (1) conflict-affected context*

Regarding other relevant project training activities, the need for conducing at least one Caring for Survivors training alongside the GBVIMS remains a priority to ensure that GBVIMS data gathering occurs in tandem with high-quality, survivor-centered care. This training activity will also be prioritized for 2013.

*Output 3: New GBVIMS technical assistance resources developed*

A number of project activities aimed at increasing the quantity, variety, availability, accessibility and utility of technical assistance resources for GBVIMS users.

In line with commitments made within the present UN Action-funded project, the GBVIMS Steering Committee initiated the development of nine (9) guidance notes that will support GBVIMS data gathering organizations on various key issues and provide insight for non-GBVIMS users into some of the most challenging issues confronted by the humanitarian community in relation to GBVIMS usage. During its Annual Retreat in October 2012 the GBVIMS team identified the technical assistance resources gaps and planned the production of the aforementioned guidance notes that should provide guidance on the issues of the nationalization of the GBVIMS; the intersections between the GBVIMS and the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA); Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) development; data analysis and linkages with programing; levels of services and levels of data collection; data security and storage; GBVIMS Don’ts, GBVIMS utilization in hospitals/health centres; and a guidance highlighting the lessons learned and good practices from the GBVIMS rollout in Colombia.

One of particular relevance to UN Action is the guidance note that is being developed on the intersections between the GBVIMS and the MARA that will include specific information on when, how and under which conditions the GBVIMS can be used to support MARA reporting. Though the GBVIMS was not developed for use in reporting to the Security Council on conflict-related sexual violence, elements of the system could help address some of the challenges experienced during MARA operationalization. A careful examination weighing the potential benefits and risks of affiliating the two systems is being undertaken. In addition to the in-country support missions, the extension of the present project will allow greater time for the development of the guidance notes.

In terms of new tools, the production and dissemination of the GBVIMS Facilitator’s Guide and Rollout Guidelines was a key achievement of the project in 2012.

Finally, new easily-accessible GBVIMS resources have been prioritized during the Annual Retreat to support users with new, easily accessible GBVIMS tools (e.g. how-to videos and webinars). These resources will be made available on the newly re-designed GBVIMS website – [www.gbvims.org](http://www.gbvims.org) – that was launched in October 2012.

**c) Challenges, lessons learned & best practices:**

As mentioned in the previous section, delays were experienced in the project implementation due to the lag time in hiring key staff.

Other lessons learned from the implementation of the first phase of the project suggest that the GBVIMS cannot truly take hold in a humanitarian context without consistent on- and off-site support over at least a 6-month period. Given the number of conflict-affected and other humanitarian contexts currently demanding support to use the GBVIMS, the GBVIMS Steering Committee requires time to successfully catalyse use of the GBVIMS within identified priority countries.

As referenced above, in mid-2012, outside of the context of the grant from UN Action, UNHCR hired a consultant to provide support to their efforts to introduce the GBVIMS within key refugee contexts. This consultant has become a critical member of the GBVIMS team and vital part of many inter-agency missions (including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda and, in the coming weeks, Chad). The inclusion of UNHCR as a project partner was identified as a good practice during the reporting period. This inclusion enables a more unified and UN-system wide approach to rollout efforts in refugee contexts, including most critically in the context of the Syria and Sahel responses.

1. The term “project” is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Countries for the GBVIMS implementation will be selected based on pre-determined set of eligibility criteria already in use by the inter-agency GBVIMS Steering Committee, in addition to consultation with UN country teams and GBV working group members, while also taking into consideration UN Action list of priority countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Although not covered by UN Action MPTF funding during this reporting period, Kendra is part of the GBVIMS Surge Team. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The deployment of the Surge team in Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso is under discussion and review within the GBVIMS Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The Seleka is an armed group that gradually occupied several localities in the North-East and the Centre of the country [↑](#footnote-ref-5)