The GBV Guidelines were revised from the 2005 version by an inter-agency Task Team led by UNICEF and UNHCR, and were endorsed by the IASC in 2015. The Guidelines are now being rolled out globally, in line with a detailed Implementation Strategy and under the guidance of an inter-agency Reference Group.

The purpose of the GBV Guidelines is to assist humanitarian actors and communities affected by armed conflict, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions for the prevention and mitigation of GBV across all sectors of humanitarian response. In supporting humanitarian stakeholders, the goals of the GBV Guidelines are to:

- Reduce risk of GBV by implementing GBV prevention and mitigation strategies from pre-emergency to recovery.
- Promote resilience by strengthening national and community-based systems, and by enabling survivors and those at risk of GBV to access specialized care and support.
- Aid recovery of communities and societies by supporting local and national capacity to create lasting solutions to the problems of GBV.

As of August 2017, the inter-agency Implementation Support Team has trained 2,363 humanitarian practitioners in 19 countries and one region across 11 sectors.