

ENDING

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

OSLO, NORWAY, 23-24 MAY 2019

Oslo commitments
on ending sexual
and gender-based
violence in
humanitarian crises

2022 COLLECTIVE PROGRESS REPORT

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Acronyms

COFEM	Coalition of Feminists for Social Change
GBV	Gender-based violence
GBViE	Gender-based violence in emergencies
GBV AoR	Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced person
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN FTS	United Nations Financial Tracking Service
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WATED	Women Action Towards Economic Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WRC	Women's Refugee Commission

Executive Summary

Three years have passed since 49 governments, UN agencies, international organisations, national organisations, and other entities met in Oslo to signal their commitment to work for the prevention and mitigation of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in humanitarian crises. This third and final collective progress report following the May 2019 Oslo conference presents the progress, as self-reported by conference participants, against their specific financial and policy commitments in 2021, and serves as the capstone of a three-year tracking project supported by the Government of Norway to measure annual progress.

Tracking of outputs (money and policy initiatives) is not equivalent to measuring change in outcomes on the ground; nevertheless, having conference participants specify, document, and report against their commitments over a multi-year timespan represents an important exercise in accountability and follow-up. Combined progress reports show that most of the stated commitments pledged at the conference were met within the three-year time frame, including roughly 91% of committed spending, additional financial support beyond pledged amounts, and at least 67% of policy actions reported to be currently 'on track'.

Some weaknesses identified include that reporting against policy actions fell off in the third year of tracking, that many of the policy and programmatic actions reported on had SGBV action as only one element, making measurement and comparison difficult, and that a markedly small portion of the disbursed funding (1%) went directly to local actors.

Financial commitments

Financial pledges made at the conference amounted to USD \$227.45 million for 2019 and 139.2 million for 2020 and beyond (totalling \$366.64 million for 2019 and beyond).¹ In 2021, the Republic of Korea increased its pledge by USD \$1 million, boosting the total pledged figure to \$367.64 million.

Following three years of tracking, \$438.66 million has been reported disbursed. This includes approximately 91% of individual pledges met, plus the difference in disbursements that exceeded the original pledge amount, which resulted in the total actual disbursement exceeding the original total pledged by \$105 million.

Pledged (US\$)	Disbursed (up to 100% of pledge) (US\$)	Disbursement rate	Actual disbursed total (US\$)
367.64 million	333.66 million	91%	438.66 million

The Republic of Korea's pledge includes a disbursement of \$1.5 million for 2022, which is not included in the disbursement figures above, and if disbursed, would additionally increase the total disbursement rate.

The tracking indicates a high level of pledge fulfilment and a commitment by reporting donors to regularly exceed the original pledge amount. The majority of funding was targeted at SGBV-related activities (62%), followed by cross-cutting programmes, of which SGBV was one component (35%). Across the three years, most of the funding was channelled to the country level, followed by headquarters. UN agencies received nearly half of the funding disbursed, followed by INGOs and other

¹ This total pledge amount is slightly higher than previously published pledge results as some pledges made at the conference were inadvertently omitted from [previously published results](#). All pledges and disbursements in this summary were converted to US\$ using the UN operational rates of exchange on 1 May 2019.

international actors such as the ICRC and IFRC. Local actors received less than 1% of funding directly, although a number of commitment-makers reported that their funding did eventually reach local responders through international intermediaries. The majority of funding was marked as ‘multi-country’ (over USD \$157 million), followed by the global level (over USD \$102 million). In terms of country-specific allocations, Yemen, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and the Central African Republic were the top 5 locations that received targeted funding across the three years of tracking.

The financial pledges made at the Oslo SGBV conference for 2021 were completely fulfilled, with UNFPA’s Humanitarian Thematic Fund receiving the bulk of funding disbursed. UNFPA, in turn, has reported that the Humanitarian Thematic Fund grew from USD \$5.9 million in 2019 to more than USD \$30 million at the end of 2020, allowing UNFPA to respond to around 70 crises globally.² In 2021, approximately 24% of the Humanitarian Thematic Fund’s resources were channelled to implementing partners, of which 70% were directed to local partners.³ Contributions by Oslo commitment-makers in 2021 were additionally made to the ICRC Special Appeal, as well as directly to local civil society organisations and the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

Policy commitments

Across the three years of tracking, the majority of activities were confirmed as ‘on track’ (67%). By 2021, 5% of commitments were confirmed as completed. Unfortunately, for around twenty per cent of commitments, the research team did not receive progress reports. Very few were identified as at risk, planned or behind schedule.

The following activities were those most commonly reported:

- Multiple activities (where one general theme could not be defined)
- The provision of funding for SGBV-related work
- Advocacy and awareness-raising activities, particularly at the global level
- Strengthening efforts to address SGBV in humanitarian responses
- Data collection and analysis
- Capacity building

Most activities took place at the global level or in multiple countries. No one country received particular attention. Asia and sub-Saharan Africa featured more than other regions where activities were concentrated in one region. Although most beneficiaries were undefined or more general in nature (such as staff members receiving training), when target beneficiaries were identified, women and girls and survivors of SGBV were cited most frequently. However, commitments also targeted men and boys (as survivors as well as allies), children, refugees, IDPs, and persons living with a disability.

In 2021, strengthening efforts to address SGBV in humanitarian responses was the most reported activity type, followed by funding for SGBV-relevant activities, engaging in data collection and analysis, and capacity building. Most beneficiary groups were undefined, but women and girls, as well as survivors of SGBV, were frequently cited.

Perceived progress

The third and final online global survey of actors working on SGBV prevention, response and risk mitigation in humanitarian crises, the majority of which were affiliated with national NGOs, reaffirmed that the biggest obstacle to their work continues to be a lack of access to funding. However, a sizeable

² UNFPA (2022). *Humanitarian Action: 2022 Overview*. UNFPA. Available from: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/HAO-2022-PDF%20Report_Dec9.pdf

³ UNFPA (2022). *UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund 2021 Annual Report*. UNFPA. Available from: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/unfpa-humanitarian-thematic-fund-2021-annual-report>

majority reported seeing positive changes in their work and/or collaboration with others, with many perceiving a positive trend with actors at different levels showing greater attention, commitment, and action on SGBV. More opportunities for local actors to join coordination fora were particularly highlighted, with the GBV AoR's important work in this area mentioned by several responders. Overall, there was a generally more positive tone across the survey as compared to previous years. However, many respondents felt that more needs to be done to build on the positive work that has been accomplished, especially funding and support to local actors, particularly women-led groups and organisations, who are at the forefront of community awareness-raising and sensitisation activities, as well as often being the first responders providing support to survivors.

Looking forward

The tracking of Oslo commitments has now concluded. In the interest of accountability and maintaining momentum for action on an important issue amid competing priorities, commitment-makers are encouraged to continue reporting on their efforts to address SGBV in humanitarian crises via relevant channels, particularly UN FTS and the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies reporting processes. To further advance the goals of the Oslo conference, commitment-makers should consider ways to increase their impact with local actors who directly affect outcomes on the ground, such as donors increasing their direct funding flows to these actors and organisations prioritising their support and engagement with local groups – particularly those that are women-led. Positively, many actors have already initiated efforts to address some of these challenges, including through the IASC and Call to Action network.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

In May 2019, the governments of Norway, Iraq, Somalia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), joined by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) held a conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises.⁴ At the event, governments and organisations were invited to make financial pledges and political, policy and good practice commitments to support efforts to end sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises. As a follow-up to the conference, the co-hosts commissioned Humanitarian Outcomes to design and implement a project to track the delivery of the Oslo SGBV commitments⁵ over three years from 2019 to 2021. This report provides a summary of the self-reported progress by commitment-makers against commitments made for 2021 as well as an analysis of the progress made across the full three years of tracking, which the researchers triangulated with the perceived changes experienced by implementing actors working on SGBV at the field level.

1.2. Summary of commitment-makers

At the conference, 46 actors made financial and non-financial commitments for the year 2021 (see list below). The commitment-makers included governments, UN agencies, international organisations, national organisations, and entities. Those actors marked with an asterisk in the following list had not submitted progress reports at the time of writing. Those who submitted reports on some but not all their commitments are noted with two asterisks.

1. ACT Alliance	24. The Netherlands*
2. Australia	25. Norway
3. Austria*	26. The Philippines**
4. Belgium	27. Save the Children
5. Burkina Faso	28. Slovenia
6. Canada*	29. Somalia
7. Coalition of Feminists for Social Change (COFEM)	30. Spain*
8. European Union	31. Sweden
9. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)*	32. Switzerland
10. Finland	33. Terram Pacis*
11. Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR)	34. The New Humanitarian
12. Germany	35. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
13. Iceland*	36. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
14. ICRC	37. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
15. International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	38. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*
16. Ireland	39. United Kingdom
17. Italy	40. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)
18. Japan	41. UN Women
19. Republic of Korea	42. VOICE
20. Liechtenstein*	43. WFP
21. Luxembourg	44. WHO
22. Myanmar	45. Women Action Towards Economic Development (WATED)
23. Namibia*	46. Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)

⁴ Learn more about the conference background through the conference concept paper, available here:

<https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairwesteuprod/production-possibility-public/d7a20c22be0145398e4bbb9ed661f2ef>

⁵ In this report 'pledges' refer to financial pledges, while 'commitments' is a general term that is used interchangeably to refer to both financial pledges and non-financial commitments.

1.3. Methodology

A three-person team from the independent research group Humanitarian Outcomes used a systematic approach to gather and analyse evidence from commitment-makers and external sources to track progress against the Oslo SGBV commitments. The research team was supported by a core reference group (CRG) that provided ad hoc support and advice on the technical aspects of the project. The CRG was composed of representatives from UN OCHA, UNFPA, GBV AoR, ICRC and the governments of Norway, Iraq, UAE and Somalia.

Ahead of the Oslo SGBV conference, participants were invited to make financial and non-financial commitments by completing a pledge form.⁶ For the year 2021, a total of 4 government participants made financial pledges, and 46 participants (both government and non-government) made non-financial commitments⁷ at the Oslo SGBV conference. As of December 2022, 36 out of the 46 participants (or 78%) have submitted progress reports on their commitments. Those participants who were also Call to Action members were invited to report on their progress through their annual Call to Action reports, and several reporters did so.⁸ Ten commitment-makers did not submit completed Oslo self-reporting progress forms or Call to Action reports.

The researchers compiled the written financial pledges and non-financial commitments and progress against each in a database. The database is housed on the AirTable platform. The dashboard visuals are presented in Microsoft Excel using data extracted from the database.

To understand what changes, if any, implementing actors perceived following the Oslo SGBV conference, the researchers conducted an online survey for each of the three years of tracking. The survey was targeted at participants of the Oslo SGBV conference and other individuals who work to address sexual and gender-based violence through their organisations. The survey was made available in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. The latest survey iteration received a total of 102 survey responses—at a 67% completion rate. Nearly half of the respondents represented local actors, including national NGOs, community-based organisations, local civil society organisations, and women-led groups.

1.4. Caveats

The information shared in this report is as it has been presented by commitment-makers. Reporters were encouraged to self-assess their progress as either 'on track', 'behind schedule', 'at risk', or 'planned'. At the time of writing, the researchers had not received confirmation of progress or disbursements from several reporters. Additionally, not all reporters shared detailed information on progress and, therefore, some of the figures below include 'no progress reported' – where no data was shared at all – or 'insufficient information' – which indicates that not enough information was shared by reporters to allow sufficient assessment by the researchers.

Finally, the USD exchange rates used in this report are UN operational rates on 1 May 2019.⁹ These exchange rates were used for the pledge results published in May 2019 and are therefore also used in this report to allow comparison between funding disbursements and the previously published pledge results.

⁶ See the pledge form here: <https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairwesteuprod/production-possibility-public/73e6048cb86e46759bfdfa1d63458ad9>

⁷ Henceforth, 'non-financial commitments' or 'policy commitments' refers to the category covering political, operational, institutional policy and good practice commitments.

⁸ Call to Action progress reports are available to view at <https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/general-documents>

⁹ Accessible here: <https://treasury.un.org/operationalrates/OperationalRates.php>

1.5. Structure of this report

Section 2 of this report summarises the progress reported by commitment-makers against their financial and non-financial Oslo SGBV commitments, both for 2021 and over the full three-year tracking period. Section 3 examines the findings of the 2021 survey. Section 4 concludes with a summary of key findings.

2. Summary of progress by commitment-makers

2.1. Financial Pledges

2.1.1. Overview of progress – 2021

The financial commitments for 2021 comprised 12 separate pledges by four donors to various recipients, contexts and funding categories, amounting to a total of USD \$40.59 million pledged for 2021 (leaving a further USD \$1.5 million in pledges to be disbursed in 2022).

One hundred per cent of the pledged amount was confirmed as disbursed in 2021, amounting to USD \$40.59 million (this number only reflects disbursement up to 100% of the pledged amount).

Pledged for 2021 (US\$)	Disbursed for 2021 (up to 100% of pledge) (US\$)	Disbursement rate (%)
40.59 million	40.59 million	100%

However, due to 17% of disbursements exceeding what was pledged, the total confirmed as disbursed in 2021 totalled USD \$41.04 million (amounting to an additional disbursement of USD \$449,443). The table below gives a breakdown of the financial pledges and the disbursements reported by each actor.

Table 2.

	Donor	2021 pledge	2021 disbursement ¹⁰
1	Ireland	\$1.67 million	\$2 million
2	Republic of Korea	\$1.5 million	\$1.5 million
3	Norway	\$37.37 million	\$37.49 million
4	Slovenia	\$44,593	\$44,593
	Total USD millions	\$40.59 million	\$41.04 million

Analysis of the funding targets showed that 75% of disbursements went to targeted SGBV-related activities, while the remainder went to activities and entities that included SGBV activities but within a broader remit ('cross-cutting').

The main recipients of funding were UN agencies (50%) followed by international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) (27%), while pledgers reported 3% as having gone to local entities. Funding was also provided to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund to support local action. Most of the funding was targeted at recipient organisations' country offices (79%). Geographically, most reporters did not provide sufficient information to ascertain the location of disbursement.

A significant proportion of the funding was directed to UNFPA's Humanitarian Thematic Fund (46%) , while other disbursements focused on funding multiple activities related to SGBV. According to UNFPA, approximately 24% of its Humanitarian Thematic Fund's resources in 2021 were channelled to implementing partners, of which 70% were directed to local partners, most notably national NGOs.¹¹

In addition to meeting its original pledge for 2021, the Republic of Korea also reported disbursing additional funding for SGBV-related activities in 2021. The Republic of Korea is also the only commitment-maker that has made pledges for 2022 in the amount of USD \$1.5 million.

¹⁰ These figures indicate the full disbursement amount.

¹¹ UNFPA (2022). *UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund 2021 Annual Report*. UNFPA. Available from: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/unfpa-humanitarian-thematic-fund-2021-annual-report>

Although Italy did not make pledges for 2020 and beyond via the Oslo SGBV conference, it confirmed disbursement amounting to USD \$37 million in 2021, exceeding the pledges Italy made at Oslo for 2019 that were not reported as disbursed by the donor during the 2020 Oslo commitments reporting process.

In summary, there were significantly fewer pledges for 2021 in comparison to previous years, however, 100% of these were confirmed as disbursed. Positively, the majority of funding in 2021 was targeted at SGBV-related activities. Funding for this year followed similar patterns as previous years, with the majority of funding channelled through UN agencies, with additional funds provided to international NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, particularly the ICRC, for their work on SGBV. With regards to direct funding to local actors, these actors continued to receive the lowest percentage of funding disbursed.

2.1.2. Overview of progress – 2019-2021

In May 2019, a total of USD \$366.64 million was pledged by donor governments to fund SGBV work globally. In 2020, this pledge increased to \$367.64 when the Republic of Korea increased its pledge unprompted. Following three years of tracking, up to 91% of what was pledged has been met totalling \$333.66 million (up to 100% of pledge amount). However, many disbursements exceeded the original pledge amount, which resulted in the total actual disbursement exceeding the original total pledged by \$105 million. The full details of pledges and total actual disbursements by commitment-maker can be seen below in Table 3.

	Donor	Pledged (USD millions)	Disbursed (USD millions) ¹²
1	Australia	\$16.52	\$22.44
2	Austria	\$5.57	\$2.23
3	Belgium	\$3.34	\$3.34
4	Canada	\$26.96	\$24.67
5	Denmark	\$5.91	\$5.91
6	Finland	\$2.12	\$4.35
7	Germany	\$93.28	\$149.53
8	Hungary	\$0.04	\$0.04
9	Iceland	\$0.1	\$0.1
10	Ireland	\$5.8	\$6.13
11	Italy	\$6.51	-
12	Republic of Korea	\$12.5	\$12.40
13	Liechtenstein	\$0.8	-
14	Luxembourg	\$1.93	\$1.93
15	Norway	\$115	\$117.16
16	Slovenia	\$0.28	\$0.47
17	Spain	\$6.93	-
18	Sweden	\$28.85	\$29.28
19	Switzerland	\$16.16	\$17.98
20	United Arab Emirates	\$10	\$31.65
21	United Kingdom	\$9.03	\$9.03
	Total (USD millions)	\$367.64	\$438.66

¹² These figures indicate the full disbursement amount.

The Republic of Korea's pledge includes a disbursement of USD \$1.5 million for 2022, which is not included in the disbursement figures above, and if disbursed, would additionally increase the total disbursement rate.

The tracking indicates a high level of pledge fulfilment and a commitment by reporting donors to regularly exceed the original pledge amount. Furthermore, the majority of funding was targeted at SGBV-related activities (62%), followed by cross-cutting programmes, of which SGBV was one component (35%).

The majority of funding was marked as 'multi-country' with a wide geographical spread (over USD \$157 million), followed by the global level (over USD \$102 million). Regionally, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa received the greatest amount of funding. In terms of country-specific allocations, the top 5 locations that received targeted funding across the three years of tracking were Yemen, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and the Central African Republic (see Table 4).

	Country	Disbursed (USD millions)
1	Yemen	\$63.09
2	Syria	\$15.90
3	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$14.67
4	Somalia	\$8.81
5	Central African Republic	\$7.11

Across the three years, most of the funding was channelled to the country level, followed by headquarters. UN agencies received nearly half of the funding disbursed, followed by INGOs and other international actors such as the ICRC and IFRC. Local actors received less than 1% of funding directly, although several commitment-makers reported that their funding did eventually reach local responders through international intermediaries.

2.2. Political, Policy and Good Practice Commitments

2.2.1. Overview of progress – 2021

A total of 46 actors made 242 political, policy and good practice commitments at the Oslo SGBV conference (see below list—an asterisk denotes those commitment-makers who have not submitted at the time of writing an Oslo self-reporting progress form or Call to Action report with Oslo commitments included. Two asterisks denote a participant who reported on some but not all of their Oslo commitments at the time of writing.)

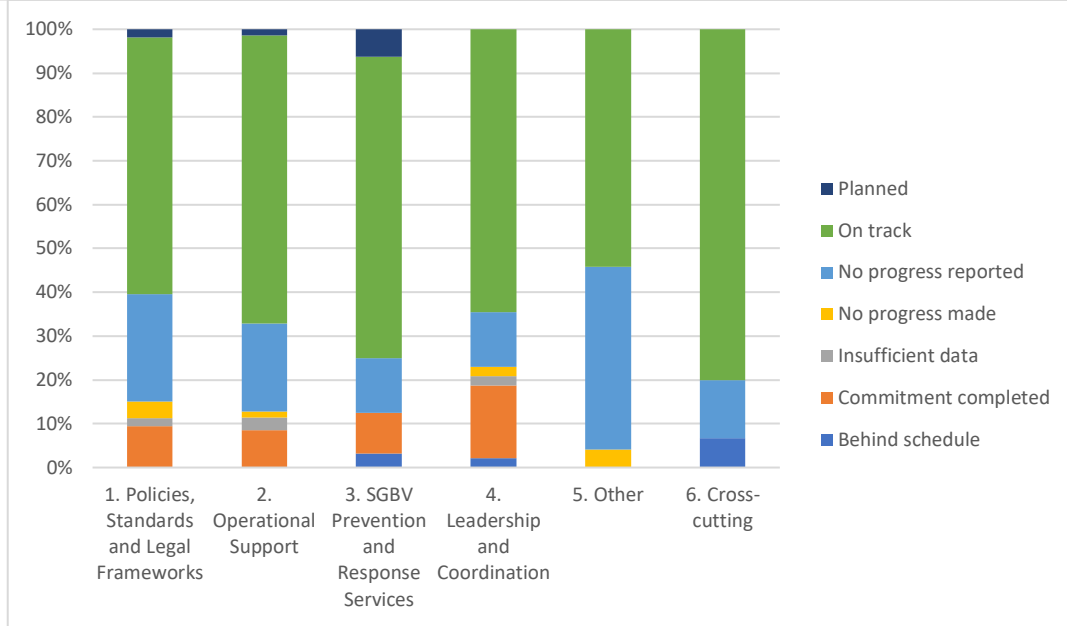
- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ACT Alliance | 17. Italy | 33. Terram Pacis* |
| 2. Australia | 18. Japan | 34. The New Humanitarian |
| 3. Austria* | 19. Republic of Korea | 35. UNDP** |
| 4. Belgium | 20. Liechtenstein* | 36. UNFPA |
| 5. Burkina Faso | 21. Luxembourg | 37. UNHCR |
| 6. Canada* | 22. Myanmar | 38. UNICEF* |
| 7. COFEM | 23. Namibia* | 39. United Kingdom |
| 8. European Union | 24. The Netherlands* | 40. UN OCHA |
| 9. FAO* | 25. Norway | 41. UN Women |
| 10. Finland | 26. The Philippines** | 42. VOICE |
| 11. GBV AoR | 27. Save the Children | 43. WFP |
| 12. Germany | 28. Slovenia | 44. WHO |
| 13. Iceland* | 29. Somalia | 45. WATED |
| 14. ICRC | 30. Spain* | 46. WRC |
| 15. IOM | 31. Sweden | |
| 16. Ireland | 32. Switzerland | |

Government actors made the majority of policy commitments, followed by UN agencies. Most of these policy commitments fell under the categories of 'Operational Support' (29%), followed by 'Policies, Standards and Legal Frameworks' (22%), and 'Leadership and Coordination' (20%).

At the time of writing, the researchers received progress updates for 191 of these commitments (79%), of which 12% were confirmed as completed, 3% had no progress made against them, and the others remained ongoing (163 or 85%).

Commitment-makers were encouraged to self-assess the status of their commitments. An analysis of progress against the different categories of commitments indicated that the bulk of commitments were on track (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Progress overview by category - 2021



Source: Oslo SGBV Commitment Tracking Database

Of the 163 commitments that received progress reports and were not confirmed as completed, most activities (63%) took place at the global level. Where locations were defined, a number of these were multi-country (12%) with a wide geographic spread. Where activities were concentrated in a particular region, 18% of reported activities took place in Asia and a further 7% in sub-Saharan Africa.

Activities that focused on strengthening efforts to address SGBV in humanitarian responses were the most reported (12%), followed by funding for SGBV-related activities (10%), engaging in data collection and analysis (including strengthening the institutional use of sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD)) (8%), and capacity building (8%).

The majority of activities reported lacked defined beneficiary targets or were categorised as 'other', e.g., internal institutional capacity-building efforts targeting staff members. However, where a particular target group could be defined, women and girls featured prominently, followed by survivors of SGBV. Other beneficiary groups mentioned included men and boys, refugees, and persons with disabilities. Men and boys were mentioned both as survivors of SGBV, as well as target groups for gender equality activities.

As in previous years, the majority of non-financial commitments made at the Oslo SGBV conference were reported as on track, with a growing number confirmed as completed.

When it came to non-financial commitments, government participants focused most of their activities on developing policies, standards, and legal frameworks. This was especially true for national governments based in the Global South. Donor governments focused on providing funding support for implementing actors working to address SGBV. Germany has taken additional steps to support the tracking of its funding for SGBV by reporting its funding to UN FTS. Several donor governments have introduced or aimed to strengthen SGBV-relevant requirements from their funded partners, e.g., PSEA standards and gender, age and disability markers. Governments have also reported engaging in advocacy and coordination efforts, particularly through the UN and the Call to Action.

Many UN agencies focused on policy implementation and institutional strengthening, particularly by integrating SGBV work, such as accountability and risk mitigation, within their respective areas of

intervention. For example, WHO provided GBV technical assistance in health emergencies. UN agencies also endeavoured to strengthen data collection and analysis (including SADD) to inform planning and response. UN OCHA has taken steps to improve the tracking of funding for SGBV, including developing a dedicated GBV page on the UN FTS website. In 2021, the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) successfully implemented the first-ever joint allocation for GBV programming to strengthen GBV prevention, mitigation and response in humanitarian action to UN Women and UNFPA, which focused on 11 countries globally amounting to USD \$25 million.

UNFPA, GBV AoR and UN Women played leading roles in providing technical expertise, coordination, capacity building and guidance on SGBV within the wider humanitarian sector, regularly engaging with local actors, including women-led organisations. UN Women made progress through its Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), providing funding to 17 women's rights and youth-focused organisations in 2021 amounting to USD \$701,984.

In 2021, GBV AoR expanded the geographic reach of its GBV advisors adding Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as engaging in a wide range of interventions, from capacity building to coordination. As a result of this increased investment in regional technical capacity to the field, and building on the new Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC) templates that were issued following the Oslo Conference, the GBV AoR reports that inter-agency analysis and planning have improved. The GBV AoR has seen an increase in SGBV prevention and response coverage from 2020 to 2021: in 2021, 53% of targeted persons at risk of SGBV were reached with SGBV prevention and response services, compared to 43% in 2020. The GBV AoR estimates that a total of 22 million women and girls (and other persons at risk of violence) were reached with SGBV prevention and response via GBV sub-clusters across 32 countries between 2020 and 2021. GBV AoR's work with local actors is also of particular note: it has a more than 2,000-member coordination network across 32 cluster countries. The majority of the coordination members are national and local actors, with governments often co-chairing at the national level.¹³

UNFPA has taken steps to better track the funding it provides to women-led organisations by joining the United Nations Partner Portal (UNPP) in 2021 and advocating for other UN agencies to join as well. The organisation reported that in 2021, 63% of resources went to local partners, including women-led organisations.¹⁴ UNHCR has also made efforts to strengthen its partnerships with women-led organisations and reported that local and national actors now comprise 82% of all UNHCR's partners.

INGOs reported engaging in capacity building efforts and making progress in building their institutional capacity to strengthen SGBV-relevant activities in humanitarian responses. A number of INGOs reported carrying out research to address SGBV. Save the Children, for example, has engaged in research on sexual violence, as well as advocacy to draw attention to SGBV in international fora. VOICE has continued its work in developing a Partnership Assessment Guide (PAG) in collaboration with UNICEF to give guidance to international organisations on how to assess local partners in a way that is reflective of their realities.

ICRC has continued its work on addressing sexual violence, funded particularly through its annual appeal, in coordination with other Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. In 2021, ICRC supported direct interventions across multiple country contexts, for example, by providing treatment for survivors, as well as taken steps to strengthen its data collection and analysis. Details of ICRC's work on sexual violence in 2021 can be found in the organisation's annual special report.¹⁵ ICRC has additionally recently developed and published new guidance and recommendations on men, boys and/including

¹³ Additional details can be found in the following GBV AoR reports: [GBV AoR Call to Action Progress Report](#), [GBV AoR Strategy \(2021-2025\)](#), [GBV AoR Analysis of HNOs and HRP \(2021\)](#), and [GBV AoR Regional Teams Support - Annual Report 2021](#).

¹⁴ UNFPA (2022). *Humanitarian Action: 2022 Overview*. UNFPA. Available from: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/HAO-2022-PDF%20Report_Dec9.pdf

¹⁵ Available here: https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/topic/file_plus_list/2021_specialreport_sv_forextranet_1.pdf

LGBTQI+ survivors' access to humanitarian services.¹⁶ The new report calls for better understanding within the humanitarian community and improved responses to the needs of men, boys and/including LGBTQI+ survivors.

Finally, as in previous years, The New Humanitarian has continued its reporting on women's perspectives of living through emergencies. Particularly noteworthy has been the organisation's investigation – extending into 2021 – into the sexual exploitation and abuse of women by aid workers during the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, leading to significant changes in WHO's approach to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

2.2.2. Overview of progress – 2019-2021

Across the three years of tracking, the majority of activities were confirmed as 'on track' (67%). By 2021, 5% of commitments were confirmed as completed. Unfortunately, for around twenty per cent of commitments, the research team did not receive progress reports. Very few were identified as at risk, planned or behind schedule.

The following activities were those most commonly reported:

- Multiple activities (where one general theme could not be defined)
- The provision of funding for SGBV-related work
- Advocacy and awareness-raising activities, particularly at the global level
- Strengthening efforts to address SGBV in humanitarian responses
- Data collection and analysis
- Capacity building

Most activities took place at the global level or in multiple countries. No one country received particular attention, although the Democratic Republic of the Congo did appear to feature prominently across the many commitments. Asia and sub-Saharan Africa featured more than other regions where activities were concentrated in one region. Although most beneficiaries were undefined or more general in nature (such as staff members receiving training), when target beneficiaries were identified, women and girls and survivors of SGBV were cited most frequently. However, commitments also targeted men and boys (as survivors as well as allies), children, refugees, IDPs, and persons living with a disability.

¹⁶ Details of which can be found here: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/sexual-gender-violence-against-men-boys-lgbtqi>

3. Beyond the Oslo SGBV Conference

To further support the analysis of changes that the Oslo conference and its outcomes have had on SGBV more broadly, a survey was shared with individuals whose work is focused on SGBV, particularly those based at the field level.

The survey received 102 responses, with nearly half of responses received from local actors, such as those working for national non-governmental organisations (33%), community-based organisations/local civil society organisations (12%), and local women-led groups (7%). Other respondents included representatives of international non-governmental organisations (27%), UN agencies (11%) and governments (4%). Several respondents represented the ICRC or other members of the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement. Most respondents' organisations focused on protection, prevention and risk mitigation activities, followed by awareness-raising efforts related to SGBV.

Respondents were asked questions ranging from the perceived impact of the Oslo conference and its outcomes to the challenges they experienced in carrying out SGBV work.

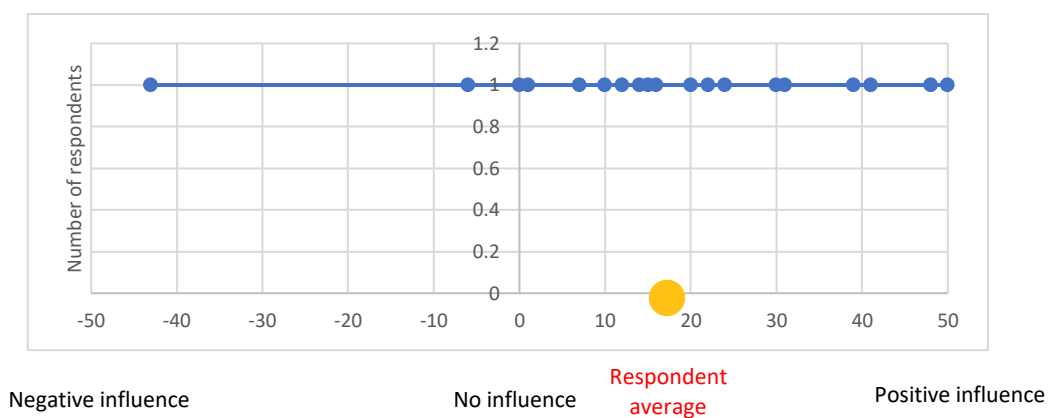
3.1. Perceived influence of the Oslo conference

Most respondents (70%) were aware of the Oslo conference commitments. However, only six respondents confirmed that their organisations had received funding as a result of the conference, and these included national NGOs as well as INGOs, ICRC and a UN agency.

With regards to non-financial support, most respondents stated that they had not received this support as a result of the Oslo conference. Nonetheless, nineteen respondents did confirm receiving support, and for them this took the form of capacity building and technical support, as well as participation in meetings at the national, regional, and international levels. The GBV AoR was referenced by several respondents as instrumental to their participation in these fora.

A total of 19 respondents (22%) confirmed that they had attended the Oslo SGBV conference in May 2019. Those who attended the conference were asked to share their opinion on the influence the conference had on the broader SGBV space (Figure 2).

Figure 2. In your opinion, how much change (positive or negative) have the Oslo conference and its outcomes had on the broader SGBV space? (On a scale of -50 to 50, where -50 was negative, 0 was neutral/no influence and 50 was positive)

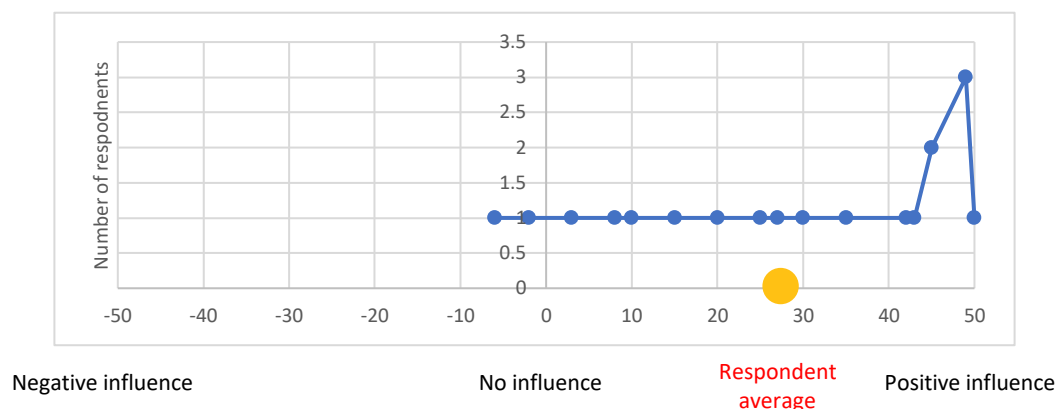


Source: Oslo SGBV Commitments Tracking Survey

Most attendees surveyed felt that the conference and its outcomes had a positive effect. The average rating was +17, which is higher than last year's average of +12, and slightly lower than the average of 2019, which was +18.

Most respondents who attended the conference also felt that the Oslo conference and its outcomes had a positive influence on their organisation's SGBV work (the average rating was +28, higher than the +19 average of both previous years of reporting) (Figure 3).

Figure 3. What kind of influence do you believe the Oslo conference and its outcomes had on your organisation's SGBV work? (On a scale of -50 to 50, where -50 was negative, 0 was neutral/no influence and 50 was positive)



Source: Oslo SGBV Commitments Tracking Survey

Several respondents shared examples of the changes they had seen within their own organisation, with several noting greater attention to SGBV within their leadership teams.

Other respondents found the networking aspect of the conference beneficial, while one shared an example of the proactive steps they took following the conference:

'Based on the Oslo conference, I organised a state level SGBV stakeholder conference in Ondo state, my state in Nigeria, tagged EndSGBVOndo which helped raise standards of care for victims, called the stakeholders to greater action and gave opportunity for victims [to] interphase [sic].'

Survey respondents who attended the Oslo SGBV conference were asked whether they had seen any influence in the SGBV work carried out by others outside of their organisation that they believe to be the result of the Oslo conference. Six respondents reported that they had, with one individual stating that:

'In general, an increased pressure within the humanitarian sector to address SGBV. Greater attention to SGBV response from the onset of the crisis and the amplification of...interest in the media.'

Other respondents had also noticed greater attention towards this issue within the humanitarian sector more broadly following the conference with more funding space for SGBV activities and greater sensitisation on gender-based practices:

'I believe the Oslo Conference spurred a very rich and energetic attempt to bring deeper commitments and innovative solutions. Almost every month new reports and guidance is being released. I believe another conference with a focus on tackling stock in a systematic manner could streamline the efforts of ending SGBV.'

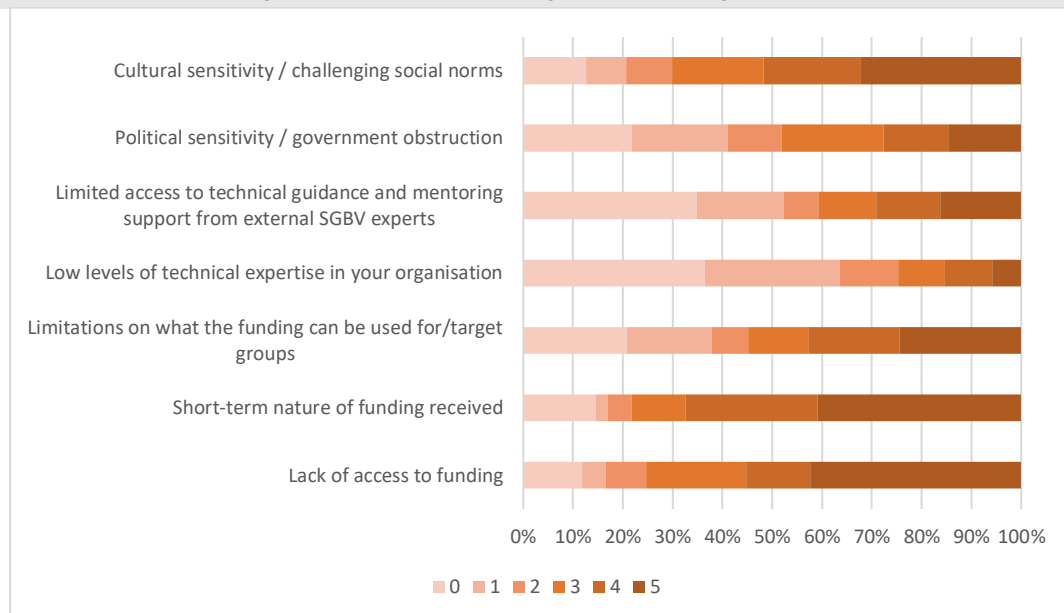
3.2. Changes in the last year

A question was included in the survey asking whether respondents had perceived any positive changes in their SGBV work or collaboration with others in the last year. Nearly 78% stated that they had. One respondent noted that they were pleased to ‘see donors proactively reaching out for advice on how they can more effectively help create accountability on GBV across the humanitarian system (including with other sectors/clusters).’ Other respondents shared the following examples:

- Greater interest and support from donors on SGBV, both financial and non-financial, e.g., more funding opportunities through consortium projects. US funding was mentioned by several respondents.
- Greater government commitment at national and global levels, with local authorities and local organisations stepping up their work on SGBV.
- More community awareness, including more space to talk about SGBV within communities with community members themselves acting as sensitisers.
- More openness to discuss SGBV against men and boys, as well as individuals identifying as LGBTQI+.
- Better coordination and collaboration at global and local levels, especially the role that GBV AoR has played in enabling the participation of local actors.
- Greater sensitisation and consideration of gender differences by humanitarian responders.

Despite these positive changes, one respondent noted that while awareness and political will are present, funding must follow to finance services and care for survivors especially. Although some survey respondents had seen positive shifts in funding, a lack of access to funding along with the short-term nature of funding received were identified as the most predominant challenges by respondents (see Figure 4 below).

Figure 4. Please rate the following challenges that your organisation faces on a scale of 0-5 (where 0 means it is not a challenge and 5 means this is a significant challenge).



Source: Oslo SGBV Commitments Tracking Survey

When respondents were asked to share further details, funding challenges featured prominently, particular that the amount available often does not match the need. One respondent noted that donors’ priorities fluctuate, which can abruptly affect funding in particular countries. One organisation stated that

they were too small to apply for funding directly and suggested that a platform or network of smaller organisations could apply together. Some respondents were critical of the progress on localisation by international organisations and donors, with one stating that grant applications remain difficult for local organisations.

Survey respondents also noted internal institutional challenges relating to a lack of visibility on these issues, homophobic and transphobic attitudes from staff, internal 'oppression', and a general lack of understanding and gender sensitivity. Access challenges to reach beneficiaries were also highlighted by several respondents, ranging from insecurity and transportation challenges to cultural restrictions affecting female staff members' freedom of movement and participation.

For those respondents who completed the survey last year, an additional question was asked on their general perception about progress toward the goal of ending SGBV in humanitarian crises. The majority responded positively (52%), followed by 'neutral' (45%). This contrasted with only 3% who felt negatively about progress.

'We are convinced that if we pool our strengths, we will overcome all forms of gender-based violence.'

The positive responses highlighted advancements in women's empowerment and decision-making, as well as increased awareness, commitment, and action on SGBV by different actors. Other respondents noted more needs to be done to support and fund grass-roots work, SGBV first responders, services for survivors, and risk mitigation and preparedness activities. Respondents stressed that international actors should ensure that they are funding and supporting women-led initiatives and strengthening the tracking of SGBV funding.

3.3. Funding for SGBV work

Most respondents indicated that they have access to international funding sources (72%). One national NGO stated receiving funding through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Global Fund for Women, while most other national actors who receive international funding noted that this funding was mostly either from the UN or INGO partners.

When asked whether the international funding received was short-term or long-term, there was an even mix of both across both international and national survey responders, a notable change from previous surveys, which indicated the short-term nature of funding to be a marked challenge. In comments shared by respondents, however, the short-term and intermittent nature of funding was highlighted, with some noting that they currently had no funding for SGBV work and that the funding available was insufficient to meet the need.

Finally, respondents were asked if their organisation provided funding to local actors, with many reporting that they do, particularly UN agencies, INGOs and government actors.

3.4. Access to support, events, and coordination forums

Many respondents (70%) felt that they had sufficient access to technical information, guidance, and standards on SGBV to carry out their work, though 24% stated that this access was only somewhat sufficient. This is a marked improvement over last year's survey responses to the same question. The comments shared highlighted UNICEF, UNFPA and GBV AoR's support in this area.

With regards to having access to SGBV events/coordination forums, most respondents stated that they had access at some level, though most indicated access at the national level. At the international and regional levels, a promising number of local respondents (nearly half) from national NGOs and

community-based organisations confirmed access. In comments throughout the survey, the support of the GBV AoR and other INGO partners in facilitating this access for local actors was noted as a positive trend to continue to build upon.

3.5. Priority areas for the future

Respondents were asked what activities to address SGBV by implementing organisations, in their experience, have resulted in the most positive outcomes at the field level for SGBV efforts. Survey respondents most often cited advocacy and awareness-raising activities (including sensitisation and capacity building activities), particularly at the field level with communities, authorities, and other key groups. Several respondents noted that they had seen how their organisations' awareness-raising work has empowered survivors to come forward and seek support.

Some respondents, however, highlighted that while awareness-raising is important to change behaviours and norms, this societal shift can be slow, and in parallel, immediate support for survivors is essential; from protection, life-saving and responsive services (including safe houses and case management) to longer-term socio-economic support and reintegration. One respondent noted positive changes in this area recently:

'The effectiveness and quality of case management processes for survivors of GBV is increasing in many contexts, following joint efforts carried out by all actors to put in place inter-agencies' referral mechanisms. The work on root causes leading to GBViE is, as well, increasingly gaining priority in order to link immediate lifesaving activities for survivors to longer term impact of programs.'

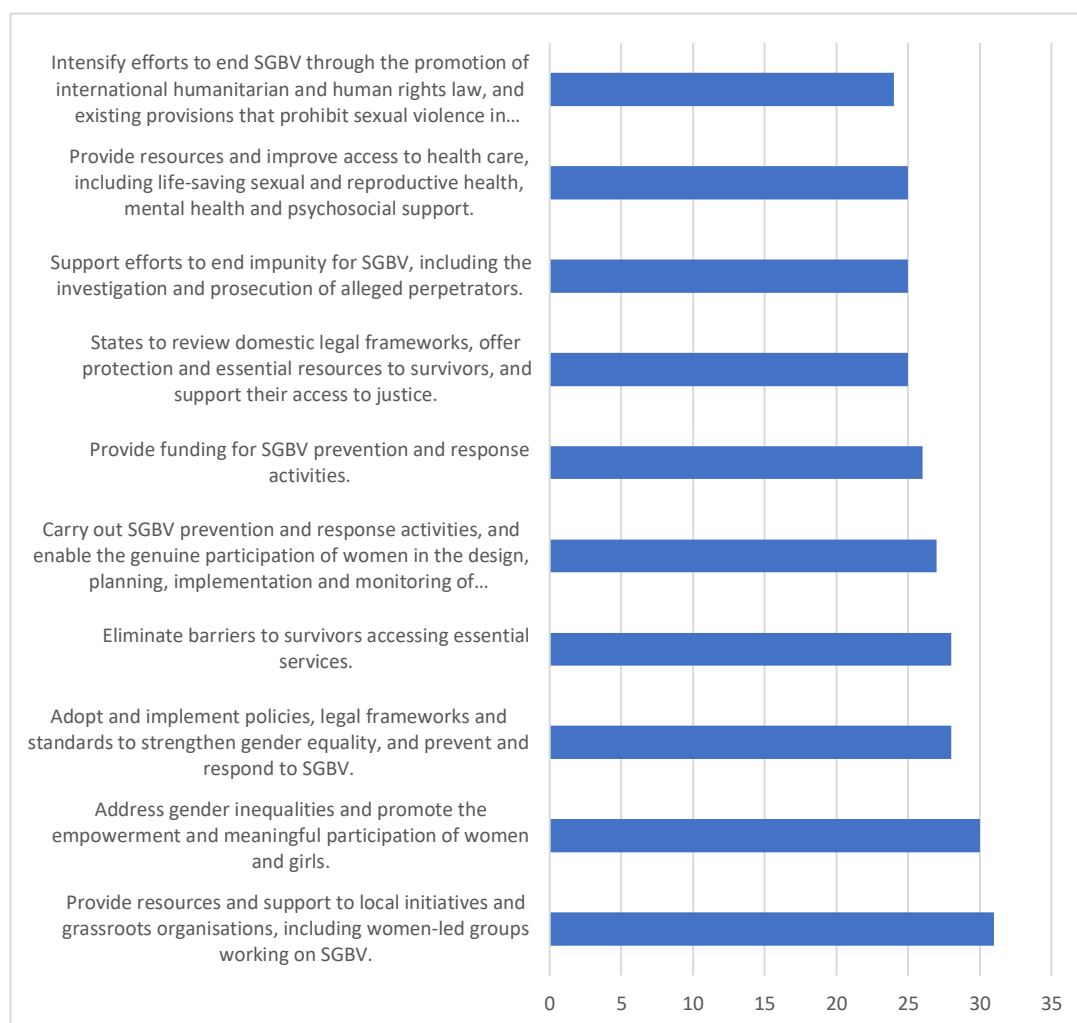
Several respondents noted the need to direct efforts towards prevention, which included socio-economic interventions to reduce the vulnerability of at-risk groups. One national NGO respondent shared their list of the most effective areas of work:

'1) The fight against impunity through the organization of mobile courts aimed at repressing the perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence 2) The fight against socio-cultural norms favorable to sexual violence through the promotion of positive masculinity and the popularization of legal texts in the fight against sexual violence 3) The socio-economic empowerment of survivors of sexual violence and people at risk contributes to reducing their vulnerability 4) The restoration of state authority and the fight against corruption and out-of-court settlement of sexual and gender-based violence.'

Several respondents also highlighted the importance that must be placed on mental health support services for survivors as well, and in particular the need to train first responders in this area. A couple of respondents also felt that the experiences and needs of the LGBTQI+ community as well as individuals living with a disability remain side-lined in this space and should receive additional attention.

Finally, respondents were asked to select the top 5 priority areas that international actors, particularly government donors, international NGOs, and UN agencies, should prioritise in the coming year. The results did not present a clear top 5, however, with respondents' selections spreading across the board. Figure 5 below presents the ten areas that were most often selected by respondents.

Figure 5. What areas of work should international actors, particularly government donors, international NGOs, and United Nations agencies, prioritise in the coming year to have the most positive impact on SGBV work at the field level? (Top 10 for 2021)



Source: Oslo SGBV Commitments Tracking Survey

The need to support local initiatives has featured prominently throughout the survey, followed closely by calls for more direct funding support for SGBV-related activities. Some felt disappointed that there had not been much progress in this area over the past three years, while others shared a more positive tone about recent trends and the potential for future progress. Many respondents agreed that SGBV-related needs are widespread and must be met by the humanitarian community:

‘Sexual and gender-based violence is a global emergency. We must act to protect women and girls.’

One national NGO respondent reflected that coordination and collaboration are key:

‘...the fight against gender-based violence is not the prerogative of a single organization, it is by pooling our forces that we will succeed.’

The progress made in strengthening collaboration and coordination across different actors – from local to international – is a particularly positive trend highlighted by respondents, as well as greater attention and commitment within the sector more broadly to discussing and addressing SGBV in humanitarian

settings. The positive work highlighted in this report must be built upon, with additional attention placed on providing longer-term funding to local organisations and initiatives – particularly women-led organisations – to especially support local-level awareness-raising and immediate life-saving services and support for survivors.

4. Conclusion

Previous reports during the tracking period have noted continued progress toward meeting commitments even despite the major challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020. Over the past three years, financial pledges have been met at a high rate, with some donors exceeding their pledges, while many commitments have been confirmed as on track. This progress on pledges and commitments, and the positive impacts deriving from the Oslo conference itself, continue to be perceived by those working to prevent and respond to SGBV on the ground, as reflected in the survey responses. These findings provide positive, albeit partial and subjective, evidence that concerted efforts to take action against sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian response settings can make a difference.

In the last three years, many participants in this tracking exercise have perceived greater attention, commitment and action towards addressing SGBV in humanitarian settings. In particular, local actors are increasingly gaining important access to technical resources and coordination fora, and there has been more advocacy, awareness-raising and targeted funding allocations at the global level. Though the needs are great in the SGBV space, this tracking exercise has shown that there are many local, national, and international actors who have successfully drawn attention to SGBV and are working hard to meet the needs of survivors and at-risk groups despite formidable challenges.

Unfortunately, the challenges noted in previous reports also persist. Policy activities and funding allocations continue to be largely concentrated at the international level, while funding, in particular, remains scarce at the level of local organisations, arguably where it is needed most. This last report of the tracking project, therefore, re-emphasises the need to increase direct, flexible, and long-term funding for local actors, particularly women-led organisations and groups, that was originally called for at the Oslo conference in 2019. Over the past three years, however, international commitment-makers have increasingly reported on their efforts to engage more with and provide support to local actors, particularly women-led organisations. This indicates that the call for more localised efforts to combat SGBV has been heard and hopefully will increasingly be felt by those on the ground working to address SGBV.

Future efforts to combat SGBV should continue to build on existing progress, particularly efforts to support local action both financially and non-financially, and to strengthen the tracking of commitments on and funding towards SGBV work by continuing to advocate for international actors to report their activities through appropriate forums, such as the Call to Action and UN FTS.

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