

Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Emergencies

Mapping of GBV Platforms across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus - Findings Report.¹

Final Report
February 20, 2025

Purpose and Background

In 2023, the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (CtA) International Organizations Working Group identified the need for a mapping of GBV platforms² across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus. Given that CtA members operate across HDP contexts and also that strengthening HDP collaboration has been identified as a priority, gaining greater insight of prominent GBV platforms across the nexus is paramount. Humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and peacebuilding are needed at the same time or in closer sequencing in order to reduce needs, risk and vulnerability³ of GBV.

The mapping provides an initial overview to inform a strategic approach towards strengthening CtA's nexus engagement. Understanding the existing platforms will support the nexus direction in the upcoming CtA Road Map and those integrated into [the CtA 2021-2025 Road Map](#)'s Action Plan, such as in relation to *Internal Institutional Policies pathway outcome 4*. "Availability of funding for GBV prevention and response for each phase of an emergency, from preparedness and crisis onset through transition to development," and the *Implementation pathway outcome 5* that "Specialized GBV prevention and response services are implemented in each phase of an emergency, from preparedness and crisis onset through transition to development." Improved understanding of GBV platforms across the nexus is a first step towards enhancing collective GBV outcomes in crisis settings and towards inclusion as well as sustainability. The present mapping is an initial step intended to generate wider dialogue and inform strategic directions including for the next CtA Road Map; however, a second phase of in-depth mapping is recommended to inform concrete guidance for engagement of new platforms and stakeholders as well as for optimizing existing platforms for addressing GBV across the nexus globally.

¹ The mapping and this report were made possible through support from UNHCR and IOM under overall leadership by Constanze Quosh and Louise O'Shea (Call to Action International Organizations Working Group - CtA IO WG - co-chairs), supported by Collin Roberts (UNHCR) and Xinyan Zhao (IOM). The mapping and report were initiated by the CtA IO WG. Findings were presented, discussed and refined across all CtA Working Groups between December 2023 and August 2024. The mapping and findings report informed the 10-year external Call to Action external review in 2024 and the 2024 CtA annual partners meeting. The final presentation and endorsement was obtained on Feb 20, 2025.

² Platform was defined as a group of actors working on GBV over a substantial period of time based on a collectively defined purpose.

³ [Policy, Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes, Developed by IASC Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration in consultation with the UN Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration](#), IASC, June 2020

Process

The mapping process was co-led by UNHCR and IOM and included existing GBV (and Gender Equality-GE) platforms and coordination mechanisms across the HDP nexus. A range of platforms were mapped, including those focusing on specific themes such as PSEA, women, peace and security, and others. Types of platforms included UN coordination, donor led platforms related to specific funds/programmes, NGO coordination, global initiatives, women led organization (WLO) coordination, research platforms, and government-led coordination. Global, regional, and country level platforms could be included, however, given the scope limitations of the mapping, mainly global and regional level platforms were included. Of particular interest were platforms which work across different areas of the nexus and the inclusion of WLO coordination platforms.

The mapping was conducted as a secondary data review of existing online resources, mainly in the form of platforms' webpages and online documentation. It would be beneficial for CtA member to review and further expand the input of the mapping's secondary data analysis, as CtA members lead or are members in the majority of platforms mapped, thus peer information sharing would strengthen the analysis. Platforms to include in the mapping were identified through suggestions from CtA members, from reports that included stakeholder analysis⁴, also through a snowballing effect of identifying related platforms through those already mapped. The mapping was anchored in platforms that were likely to be sustained over time, some were not dedicated to GBV but included addressing GBV as core to their wider gender informed mandates.

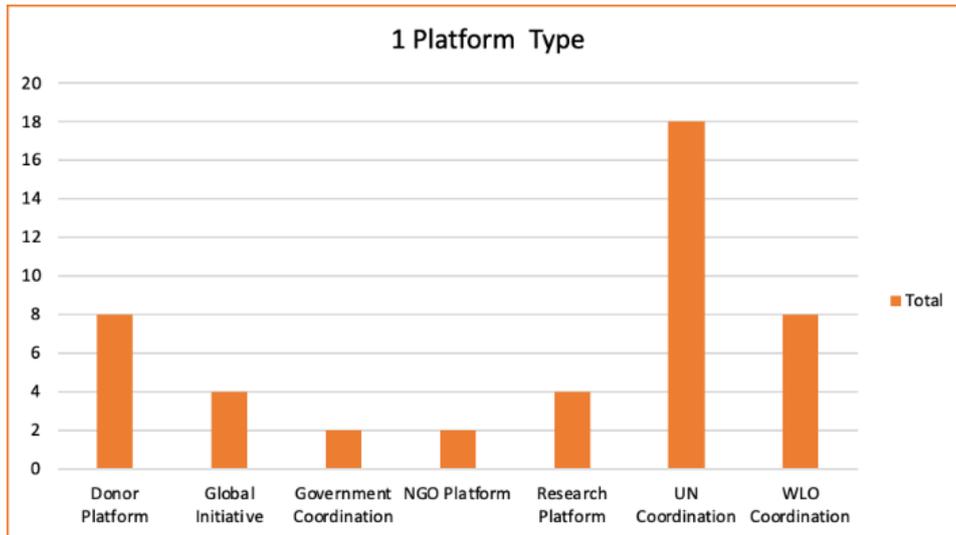
The process mapped data on each platform based on established criteria in relation to the profile, type, focus, geography/scope, leadership, membership, aims, strategy, funding, location in wider coordination systems and basis in policy/legal framework/programmes. However, not all of the information for each criterion was available for each platform, thus the analysis below is based on the criteria that were most complete for analysis.

Given the process and the scope, the mapping is not intended to be a complete reflection of the GBV coordination panorama but to provide a helpful snapshot of platforms and provide a foundation for further engagement. Throughout the process, the lack of a comprehensive mapping and hence understanding of GBV or gender equality platforms including coordination platforms became apparent. Hence, investing in a second phase of in-depth mapping could support wider GBV platform connectivity, collaboration, integration, and avoid overlap.

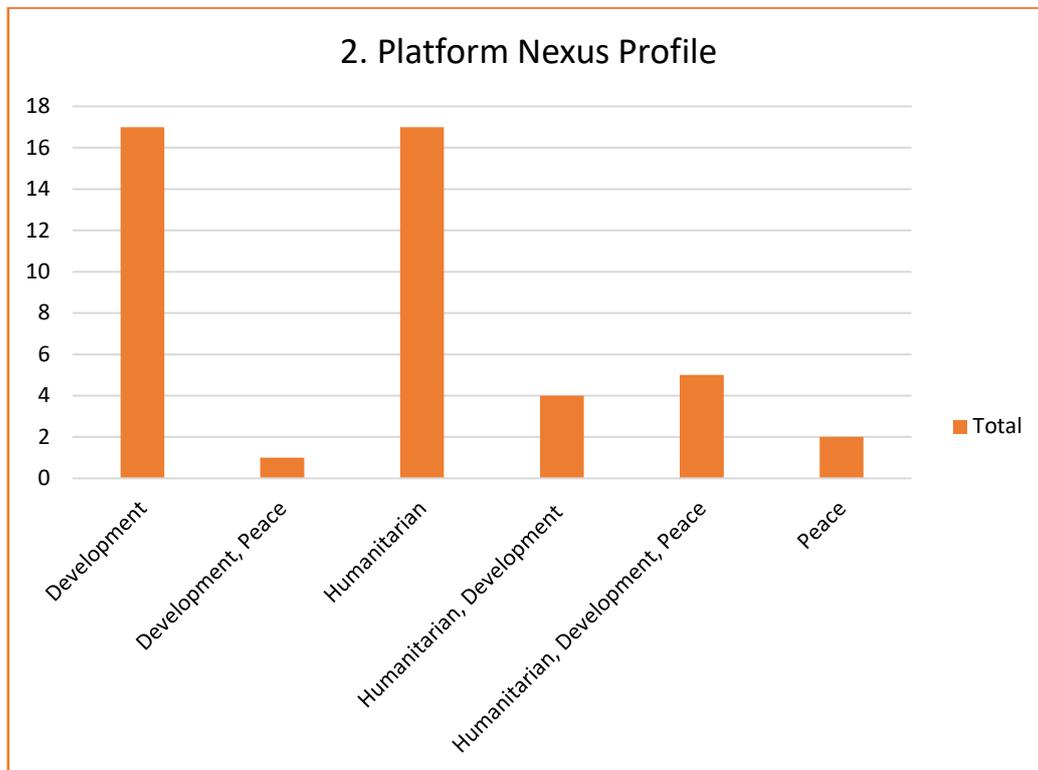
⁴ Such as [The Equality Institute & The Accelerator for GBV Prevention \(2023\) What Counts? The State of Funding for the Prevention of Gender-based Violence Against Women and Girls.](#)

Key Findings

Type



The following key findings are based on the mapping of 46 GBV and GE platforms which where: 8 Donor Platforms, 4 Global Initiatives, 2 Government Coordination Fora, 3 NGO Platforms, 3 Research Platforms, 18 UN Coordination Fora, and 8 WLO Coordination Fora. Most platforms mapped were UN Coordination, this could be because the mapping team was from UN agencies and had more familiarity with UN systems as well as access to information, but also as the information of UN platforms is broadly available online. The donor platforms are based on a range of types of donors and funds such as UN, government or private philanthropy, and are for development contexts. No focused humanitarian platforms led by donor states were identified. The WLO coordination platforms are working in different areas of the nexus but predominately in development. There were four Global Initiatives in the sense that their establishment was based on a global coalition format and not on a specific entity type (e.g. UN, NGO, donor).



Nexus⁵

Most platforms (78%) worked in only one area of the HDP nexus. 17 are development platforms with Donor Platforms being the most represented, 17 are humanitarian platforms with UN Coordination being the majority, and 2 worked in peacebuilding. Five platforms work across all nexus areas (UN Trust Fund to end VAW, UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Network, The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, and the South Sudan Women's Pool). It was a challenge to identify in which areas of the HDP nexus the platforms intervened, the analysis was based on information from websites, strategy, ToR and other key documents. Primary data analysis would be required to improve accuracy of data and findings.

The next phase of the mapping should take the [results from mapping nexus structures in 17 operations](#) of the IASC Task Force on the humanitarian-development nexus into consideration as well. The

⁵ The nexus definition adopted for this report is based on the definition used in IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes and the UN DAC. The IASC guidance describes the HDP nexus as a collective effort by humanitarian, development and, where relevant and appropriate, peace actors to reduce people's humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities by working towards 'collective outcomes' or HDP priority areas as follows: 1) Joint analysis or sharing of analyses to obtain a shared understanding of need, risk and vulnerability. 2) Articulation of 'collective outcomes' or HDP priority areas based on the areas of greatest need, risk and vulnerability. 3) Joined up planning and programming in support of these collective outcomes or priorities. 4) Financing that is aligned or harmonized around these collective outcomes or priorities. This is coordinated in most operations where humanitarian operations are in place under an HC/RC, with gender being identified as cross-cutting issue in most of them. See also footnote 1.

[synthesis report](#) highlights particularly good practices on gender mainstreaming (see spotlight on gender on pages 7 and 8).

Geography/Scope

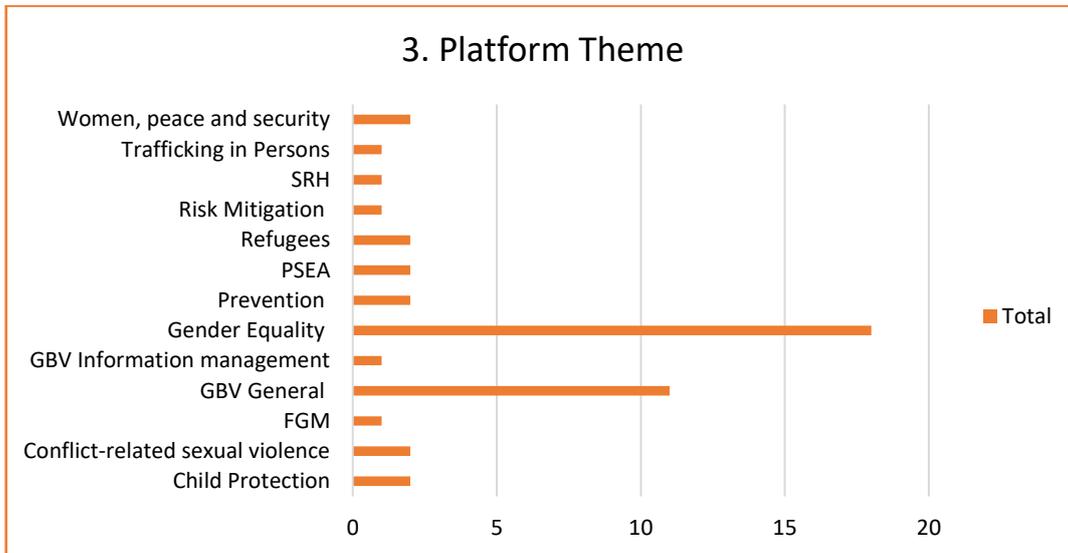
In terms of the geographic coverage of the different platforms, the majority (73%) are global level coordination, yet few of these provided coordination at other levels (regional or national). Only 28% of the platforms mapped had some form of mechanism operating at country level. The platforms with the deepest scope in the sense that they operate from global/regional levels through to sub-national levels are all humanitarian (the Cluster Approach, with the GBV AoR under the Global Protection Cluster, the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) with Refugee GBV Sub-Working Groups, and the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Groups (GiHA WG)). WLO platforms may also operate in a similar way yet limited details were available regarding the geographic scope of their members. The 59% of platforms which operated only at global level were equally dispersed between different types of platforms. Given the limited scope of the mapping with mainly global and regional mechanisms being mapped limits the depth of the results. Most platforms with a base/headquarters were in Europe followed by Northern America. Further mapping should seek to include more regional platforms including the Middle East and North Africa regions, which were underrepresented in the mapping.

Thematic Focus

The platforms were analysed according to their thematic focus, 26% of the platforms work on general GBV coordination and 39% on gender equality with GBV often coordinated as a pillar or sub-group. Furthermore, 35% of the platforms focus on a specific thematic area related to GBV such as anti-trafficking, PSEA, prevention, child protection, women, peace and security and refugees. The mission/objectives, ToRs and sometimes work plans between platforms coordinating in the same thematic area are very similar.

At national level, most nexus initiatives and platforms are coordinated under the RC office under overall UN coordination, as per the definition of Collective Outcomes.

Seven UN coordination platforms on GE were identified, operating mainly at global level, involving similar members but reporting to different systems, there was some overlap in terms of the strategic priorities and aims outlined. Globally, there is currently no mechanism that links these platforms to ensure interaction, coordination and avoiding overlap although many platforms engage with similar stakeholders.



Leadership and Membership

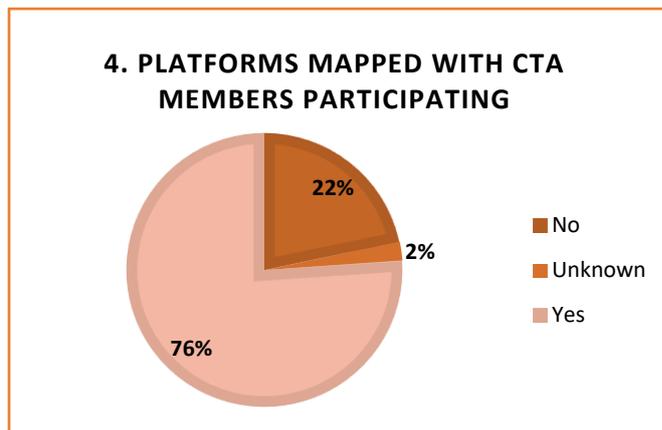
The nature of the leadership usually correlated to the profile of the platform, for example NGOs leading NGO platforms. Sometimes the leadership of platforms, mainly donor states and NGOs, were in the form of boards, advisory groups, or private individuals as experts. Government leadership mainly pertained to platforms that governments had established as donors or government initiatives. The CtA and the Global Refugee Forum were examples of other types of platforms with strong government leadership and representation. Generally, membership was varied with UN, NGOs, WLO, governments, etc. and the platforms with more specific thematic focus had relevant members included such as media in campaign groups, academics in research groups, etc. Among IFIs, the World Bank is involved in certain platforms such as the IASC Technical Advisory Group on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH), and The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. CtA members participate in 76% of the platforms mapped, it was mainly WLO and private donor platforms where they did not participate, also CtA members have lead and chair roles in many of the platforms mapped.

In terms of **WLO participation**, besides the WLO platforms, few platforms explicitly mentioned WLOs as part of their membership, it may be that they are included but this is not clearly communicated, or they do not have the same level of visibility as other types of members who participate at global level. Some of the platforms which outline that they include WLO and make the participation of WLO a core part of their strategy includes the GBV AoR, the Refugee Coordination Model with Refugee GBV Sub-Working Groups, the Friends of Gender Group (FoGG), the Empowered Aid Advisory Group, The Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Groups (GiHA WG) and CtA. However, WLO's leadership role in the platforms was less apparent. Apart from the WLO platforms there were few platforms which reported WLO leadership.

Aims and Strategy

Most of the platforms provide information regarding their main aims and objectives, however it is not always detailed, and an in-depth strategy/ToR analysis was beyond the scope of the mapping yet would be beneficial to identify specific synergies with CtA. A total of 35 of the 46 platforms mapped have an

accessible strategy or similar document/page online. Ensuring quality standards and capacity development, influencing funding approaches and priorities, and wider advocacy were some of the common elements in strategies. Action plans were less commonly identified among the platforms. Outlined below are some of GBV platforms identified with the common synergies with the CtA’s objectives according to their strategies, all of which included CtA members:



GBV Platform Name	CtA Roadmap 2021-2025 Outcomes linkages
Cluster Approach, Global Protection Cluster, GBV AoR	All outcomes
Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), Refugee GBV Sub-Working Groups	All outcomes
What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls	Outcome 1. Policy Frameworks and Capacity, Outcome 4. Funding, Outcome 5. Specialized GBV Programming
UN Trust Fund to end VAW	Outcome 4. Funding
Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)	Outcome 3. Data, Assessment, and Analysis
Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)-Task Force 1 – Centrality of Protection	Outcome 1. Policy Frameworks and Capacity
GBV Guidelines Reference Group	Outcome 6. GBV Risk Mitigation
CASI (Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative)	Outcome 5. Specialized GBV Programming
UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict	Outcome 1. Policy Frameworks and Capacity, Outcome 2. Coordination, Outcome 4. Funding
GBVIMS Steering Committee	Outcome 3. Data, Assessment, and Analysis

Few platforms expressed aims related to strengthening HDP collaboration and collective outcomes that address GBV across the nexus, according to available information. While IASC guidance on operationalizing the nexus⁶ exists, concrete understanding and practical planning for GBV HDP

⁶ [IASC guidance on how to operationalize the nexus](#) includes a check list for Clusters, references to gender throughout the Guidance and a checklist on how to do joint analysis integrating gender. The latter will be applied in refugee settings under the Refugee Coordination model as well. This is complemented by the GPC Nexus Guidance endorsed by the AoRs: [Nexus](#)

collaboration and collective outcomes, in particular at global level, appears to be lacking. Nevertheless, certain directions to pursue nexus efforts were shared yet limited, such as the RCM Refugee GBV Sub-Working Groups' humanitarian-development collaboration for the inclusion of forcibly displaced GBV survivors in national systems, the GBV AoR strategic priority to foster partnerships with actors across the nexus, prevention efforts, and crisis preparedness and recovery, among other areas, and the CtA nexus considerations in the Roadmap, in relation data collection and analysis, and funding outcomes.

Accountability to Wider Coordination Systems

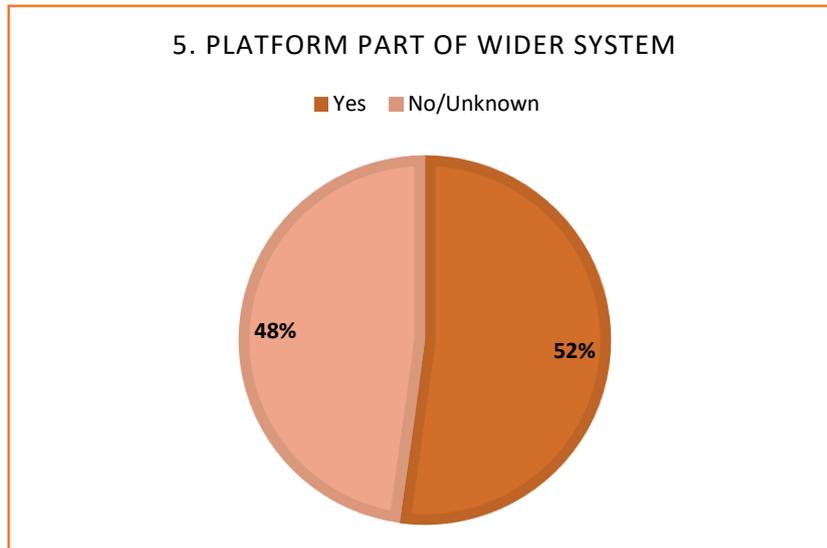
Understanding whether the platforms are embedded into wider coordination systems can better pinpoint potential for collaboration, as well as identifying opportunities for leveraging engagement at higher levels, strengthen accountability of platforms, and create wider webs of influence. Of the 46 platforms mapped 24 (52%) were part of a wider coordination system or established under a larger structure. It is mainly UN coordination platforms that are part of wider structures such as the IASC, Cluster system, Refugee Coordination Model. This is in addition to global agreements such as the Grand Bargain. Donor platforms were also sometimes part of a larger program/funder, whereas NGO and WLO platforms were less likely to be part of wider system. Global initiatives such as CtA and The Alliance for Child Protection are not part of overarching structures or had higher reporting lines and accountability mechanisms.

Women-led organizations more often outline the interaction between their networks and with other platforms; this was also helpful to identify new platforms to map. There were less examples of interaction with the WLO/NGO platforms, however the Friends of Gender Group (FoGG) interacts with the Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN); the WLO chairs of FoGG are part of the FHN. These interactions were less demonstrated in government or UN-led platforms.

It was challenging to identify linkages between platforms to other coordination mechanisms as the information was not always available. The next phase of the mapping should collect information on linkages⁷ and further categorize platforms by purpose, function, and type such as coordination, policy, operational focus etc. While different platforms cannot be directly compared, more information and analysis on their complementarity is necessary.

[Approaches in Humanitarian Settings - A Guidance Note for the Protection Clusters | Global Protection Cluster](#) that includes references to joint planning, data collection and funding.

⁷ This should include UNSDCF thematic/results groups on GBV and gender (i.e. in Turkey) and DCO-led Regional Collaborative Platforms, with an Issue-Based Coalition on Gender. The latter exist in most regions and cover humanitarian-development collaborations.



Basis in Policy/Legal Framework/Programmes

Being based in or established due to a specific policy, legal framework, convention, plan, programme or fund can help to clarify the aims and parameters of the platform. It was found that 28 (61%) of the platforms were based upon a specific policy, legal framework or fund. As with the findings above of being part of a larger system, UN and donor platforms were most likely to be based on a specific policy or framework. Development platforms referenced the Beijing Declaration and Platform and SDG 5 most commonly, peacebuilding referenced Security Council Resolutions 1645, 2005, and 1325, and the humanitarian platforms mainly referenced various IASC instruments. Examples of platforms foundational frameworks bringing together the GBV/gender equality instruments across the nexus were lacking. The foundations of GBV coordination in different areas of the HDP nexus, for different stakeholders and populations take different systemic roots. Thus, for enhanced global collaboration and outcomes common roots need to be planted for coordination that is truly nexus-oriented. This should build on national collaboration that is done through collective outcomes, where stakeholder mappings, including local actors, clarify contributions of each actors which are cleared through the respective platforms in country such as Clusters, RCM, Nexus Platform, Results Groups.

Recommendations and Way Forward

Outlined below is a summary of the of the main recommendations to facilitate further discussion.

1. There is a need to **engage and connect other GBV platforms as key stakeholders in CtA and/or to reflect how interaction, better coordination between platforms and balanced representation** can be ensured at the global level. To achieve the CtA Roadmap cross-nexus commitments requires a balanced engagement with diverse actors, in particular donors, development and peace actors, all relevant coordination mechanisms, experts and WLO with prominent roles and influence in addressing GBV across the nexus. Engagement should target global platforms with substantial networks to leverage the reach of CtA but cannot lead to an unmanageable expansion of CtA. Engagement should target those with influence across different platforms, overarching accountability structures and those whose strategies reflect the outcomes of the CtA Roadmap. The new Road Map should incorporate recommendations from this mapping. Overlapping structures as well as overlapping activities should be avoided. Global, regional and national level mechanisms to engage on GBV (and gender) have to be differentiated. CtA as most cross-cutting and encompassing platform should reflect on its position within the system. CtA should invest or contribute to designing a mechanism that enables interaction across the nexus between GBV platforms at global level and increase accountability. CtA should define its global to field role to assess engagement with systems and platforms that have country-level representation for impact on the ground and complementarity.
2. Develop a **strategy and plan for engaging new key stakeholders and across global GBV platforms**. This should be based on information provided through the mapping, and potentially a second phase. Considerations for how to engage should include frequency such as with those that meet annually, approaches to inform their priorities/strategy, where regular engagement is appropriate such as engaging platforms in specific CtA workstreams, if representation through existing CtA members is possible, especially when the CtA members chair/lead other platforms, and two-way information sharing processes.
3. Ensure that discussions, strategy, and planning have specific focus on **engaging with more WLO platforms and with platforms that are representative of relevant populations as well as WLO funders and grant making platforms**. The focus on localization and engaging with WLO was common to most platforms, thus it is critical to have a clear approach and avoid overlap. Engagement should focus on networks of WLO for stronger representation, and with expertise in advocacy and providing support to members working on the ground in addressing GBV in humanitarian and development contexts. Potential barriers and facilitators to WLOs engagement should be identified by CtA in consultation with WLOs and networks. It is vital to adapt approaches and language (such as in relation to nexus divisions) to their preferences and not expect WLO to change their approaches to fit into CtA or other coordination mechanism. In addition, the priorities of resourcing and WLO engagement should converge and efforts should be made to engage with key funding mechanisms that are effective in supporting WLOs (i.e. the UN Trust Fund EAW and WPHF).
4. Develop a **clearer global nexus approach**. Assess if the national collective outcomes approach can be adopted at global level including a global nexus objective, measurable contributing actions by CtA and indicators for collective outcomes in the next CtA Road Map. This should

be practical, based on existing guidance, grounded in existing and advanced CtA commitments, and specific to addressing GBV with considerations from the onset of an emergency. Nexus global collaboration on GBV is currently limited as are overarching frameworks for linking GBV stakeholders across the nexus. The CtA is a strong player for bridging this given the diversity of membership working across the nexus and connections with wider networks.

5. Leverage existing networks **to enhance global linkages between GBV coordination structures and a higher level structure**. The CtA already provides a space to link different platforms, however more robust linkages, spaces for collaboration, balanced representation and at the same time avoiding overlap will also require the involvement of overarching coordination mechanisms and leadership for a systems approach. Given that GBV coordination mechanisms are founded in different policies and systems, the wider systems and leadership should be engaged when looking towards the potential of CtA in bridging the nexus divide for GBV. The Joint Steering Committee is the highest global level to address the nexus divide. To ensure a GBV lens at the Joint Steering Committee, a linkage between the Committee and CtA is recommended.
6. A **second in-depth phase of the CtA platform mapping is critical** to move forward. More information and systematic updating as well as making information available is needed as global mapping of GBV initiatives and platforms is a gap. Global mapping is a foundational tool that provides information to others and mitigates against overlap and complexity. A second phase should include information gathering through direct engagement with the platforms. The second phase would also be a moment for self-reflection of CtA, to look at its own structure, gaps, membership inclusivity, overlap and representation, foundations, accountability, and HDP approach.

Annex: List of platforms (*see separate document*)

Reference: Quosh, C., O'Shea, L., Roberts, C., Zhao, X. (2025). Mapping of GBV Platforms across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.