

# **Strengthening Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict with Parties to Armed Conflict: Working with State and Non-state Actors**

UNICEF and OCHA are collaborating to develop a set of tools and approaches for engaging with parties to conflict, and calling on them to respect international law and to stop using rape and other forms of sexual violence against civilians affected by conflict. This project has the broad objective of broadening the understanding of how to influence state and non-state actors who perpetrate sexual violence or allow it to take place in areas under their control. The project will focus on the members of state and non-state armed groups as perpetrators (or potential perpetrators) of sexual violence and potential interventions that could influence them to stop raping civilians during conflict and displacement. The research process will identify both protective factors that keep state and non-state actors from committing sexual violence and motivations for use of sexual violence in conflict.

The overall study will aim to describe where, when and how international, national and community actors can effectively leverage their resources in preventing sexual violence by state and non-state armed groups.

To provide oversight and guidance to the study, an inter-agency steering group made up of Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD), Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Geneva Call, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), International Rescue Committee, Yale, Sonke Gender Justice, the World Bank, WHO, OCHA and UNICEF has been formed. It will be co-chaired by OCHA and UNICEF.

This is the first phase of the project to run from April to October 2010.

To find out more about the project contact:

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