

Community Mapping Tool

Community mapping can help to identify GBV risks, as well as barriers to services, that may be mitigated. The exercise can also serve a purpose of raising awareness of GBV risks, particularly when women and girls identify risks that community leaders, or men and boys, had not considered. If mapping exercises include mixed-sex groups, these should be well-facilitated to be sure women and girls are able to lead. Maps developed by women and girl-only groups may be shared with male community leaders after exercises are concluded.

Generally, participatory exercises should be limited to 20 participants and completed within 1.5 hours. When mapping includes physically visiting different areas of the community, the exercise will take more time, and refreshments or other provisions may be required.

Information to Record During Mapping Exercise

Date: _____

Location: _____

Interpretation Used? Yes No

Gender Composition of Participants	Approximate Age Groups of Participants
<input type="checkbox"/> All female	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 years
<input type="checkbox"/> All male	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-19 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed-sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-24 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-40 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 40 years

Notes on Diversity of Participants:

Are any community leaders included in the group? Yes No

Notes:

Information to Share Before Mapping Exercise

Introduce all GBV team members.

Present the purpose of the discussion.

- General information about your organization and program
- Interest in understanding concerns and needs for women and girls
- Participation is voluntary with no direct benefit for volunteering
- No one is required to respond to any questions
- Participants are free to leave the discussion at any time
- With whom will information be shared and how?

Agree on confidentiality.

- Keep discussion confidential
- Do not share stories that identify individuals

Ask permission to take notes.

- No one's identity will be mentioned
- The purpose of the notes is to ensure that the information collected is accurate

Methods of Community Mapping

Participants develop some representation, or map, of the community and then mark areas of increased risk (e.g. the bush when collecting firewood, the road to and from school) as well as protective assets (e.g. women and girls' safe spaces).

The map of the community can be developed through different exercises, including:

- 1. Group drawing:** Present a map of the community, or begin with a blank paper and facilitate a discussion where volunteers help to draw a rough map of the community by memory. Indicate major landmarks, such as rivers, markets, and places of worship, as well as service points, such as schools and health facilities.
- 2. Representing space:** Using an open space, participants can model the community, using handy objects, or even volunteers within the group, to mark landmarks.
- 3. Visiting space:** Invite participants to move together through the community, for example using transect walks to move from one end of the community to the other, to identify specific areas.

After mapping space, as well as risks and assets, engage participants to discuss how identified risks might be addressed. Note recommendations for advocacy with different actors, and support proposed community initiatives. Plan to follow up with participants, as relevant. Community mapping exercises can be repeated over time to track changes in the overall protective environment of a community.

Sample Community Map

