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# Discussion Guide: GBV Risks

Group discussions with community leaders about GBV risks can help to identify, raise awareness, and explore ideas for risk mitigation. This discussion guide includes suggestions for arranging and leading any group discussion, followed by sample questions and important ideas for discussing GBV risks.

## Arranging Discussion Groups (ahead of discussion)

- Identify a comfortable and quiet locations for discussions.
- Limit groups to 15 participants
- Complete discussions within 1.5 hours.
- Ensure lead facilitator has experience and/or training in facilitation. The facilitator must be able to ask probing and clarifying questions, demonstrate comfort and patience when talking about sensitive issues, positively manage negative or harmful comments, and respond appropriately to disclosures of GBV.
- Have a referral list of available services in case of GBV disclosure.
- Where possible, arrange same-sex facilitators for all male or all female discussion groups.

## Introduction (5-10 minutes)

- Greet everyone, share introductions, pleasantries, and gratitude for any recent positive actions.
- Share general information about your organization and program (with any new participants).
- Present the purpose of the discussion.
- Agree to not share stories that identify individuals.

## Discussion (30-45 minutes)

- Introduce topic of discussion and begin with a question or other prompts.
- Be sure to review questions/prompts and adapt them for context.
- Avoid “teaching”, talking too much, or arguing. Use prompts to keep conversation going and remember the discussion is also a learning opportunity for you.
- Do not feel pressure to use all questions/prompts.

## Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Summarize key takeaways or ideas from discussion.
- Agree on any points for further discussion and make plans as appropriate.
- Thank all participants.

## Prompts/Questions

- Is there a place in the community that women or girls should avoid? (Day? Night?)
- What places/services/shelters present the most danger for women/girls? Could anything be done to make these safer?
- Without mentioning any individuals, which group or groups of women and girls feel the most insecure or the most exposed to risks of violence? Why?
- Since the emergency/displacement, are parents taking any new actions to protect their daughters?
- What actions are being taken to protect women and girls from violence? What more could be done to create a safer environment?

## Important Ideas for Discussion

- In highly sensitive environments, GBV teams can ask generally about any safety risks to the population and then probe for specific risks to women and girls if leaders appear open to discussion.
- Community leaders may have different ideas about risks than women and girls who are separately consulted. GBV teams can help to highlight risks from women and girls' perspectives and ask for leaders' help to address these risks.
- Community leaders may have ideas for protecting women and girls that would limit their rights (such as restricting women's access to certain services) or present new risks (such as encouraging girls to marry). Allow space for all ideas and facilitate a discussion around what is truly protective (considering multiple risks and interests).
- Share information on available GBV response services, as well as reporting options for SEA. Where community leaders are in new environments, GBV teams can also help to make them aware of general security service and reporting options.