

Sample: Root Cause Analysis

A root cause analysis is essentially an exercise that involves asking why a problem exists, and then asking why again to the answer or answers generated. Each answer is questioned until no more “whys” can be asked, and the final answer is considered the root cause of the problem. GBV teams can organize these exercises with women and adolescent girls, community leaders, and other members of the community. Involving mixed groups of participants can help to build consensus, where this is possible. Below is an example of the outcome of a root cause analysis conducted by a GBV program in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The program team organized a workshop with representatives of the community, including male and female community leaders, and opened the discussion with the question: “Why does GBV happen in our community?” From there, the GBV team and participants continued to ask “Why” until the diagram was completed. Once community members agreed to the root cause of GBV, they were further engaged to identify important messages and interventions that could help to address the problem.

