Activity: Guiding Principles and GBV Prevention

Expected duration: 20 mins

Objective: strengthen participants’ understanding on how to apply GBV guiding principles in GBV prevention activities

* Put four signs on the wall, each with one of the four guiding principles written on it (“Community-led”; “Accountable to women and girls”; Survivor-centred”; “Do no harm”).
* Ask participants to write a GBV primary prevention activity (preferably an example from ongoing programming if available), on a post-it note.
* Invite each participant to come to the front of the room and stick their note to one of the signs with one principle, randomly chosen.
* Invite participants to provide an example of a way to make that action or intervention sensitive to the principle chosen, in other words invite them to explain how the action/initiative is survivor-centred, or accountable to women and girls, or does not produce harm, or is community-led.
* This exercise should stimulate the revision of the principles and help participants translate them in practice, as well as trigger critical reflections on how to adapt interventions to respect the GBV guiding principles.
* Throughout the exercise, highlight the importance of long-term initiatives as well as immediate steps that can be taken to promote gender equality. There will be overlaps between the different principles for each of the examples.

Examples of steps to take to adhere to the principles of community-led processesand accountability to women and girls:

* Promoting and ensuring women’s and girls’ leadershipin work on GBV;
* **Listening** to the demands and advice of diverse women and girlswhen undertaking male engagement efforts;
* Recognizing the existing gender hierarchy and striving to transform a system of inequality from which men benefit;
* Working at both individual and structural levels to change personal behaviour while transforming patriarchal systems;
* Ensuring that male involvement efforts demonstrably empower women and girls and honour women’s leadership; and
* Examining fundingdecisions to ensure that gender hierarchies are not inadvertently reproduced.

Remind participants that even at the onset of an emergency, concrete steps can be taken to promote the empowerment of women and girls. One example is making sure that women have a truly representational and meaningful voice on site governance committees or other community structures, such as child protection groups, livelihood committees etc. Module 2 of the GBV Prevention Facilitation Package will delve deeper in the topics of participation and empowerment of women and girls.

A survivor-centred approachcreates a supportive environment in which survivors’ rights and wishes are respected, their safety is ensured, and they are treated with dignity and respect. A survivor-centred approach is based on the four GBV guiding principles of safety, confidentiality, non-discrimination and respect.

Examples of steps to take to adhere to the principles of do no harmand survivor centered approach:

* Transformative programming must be undertaken carefully and requires gauging community openness before engaging in conversations on deep-rooted issues.
* Ensure essential servicesfor health and psychosocial support, at minimum, are functional before beginning more transformative social norms and systems change activities.
* A GBV prevention strategy is incomplete and unsafe unless it includes specific measures and resourcesto support women, girls and other at risk groups, including survivors, to recover and build support and solidarity.
* Programming that does NOT promote positive gender and social norms (e.g. shared control of resources and decision-making) reinforces harmful stereotypes or compounds risks to women and girls.

*Content derived and adjusted from the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming,* 2019 (<https://gbvaor.net/gbviems>).