

Gender Based Violence

Sub Sector Working Group



**Understanding Gender Based Violence
in Emergencies**

Outline

What is GBV?

Who are the victims?

Who are the perpetrators?

What are the reasons behind GBV?



Checking your knowledge



A displaced woman fleeing with three children from BH approaches an armed soldier at a checkpoint. The woman has been separated from the rest of her family and community; she is seeking refuge at an LGA on the other side of the checkpoint. The soldier asks the woman to give him some money to go through the checkpoint (there is no fee - he is asking for a bribe). The woman explains she has no money and nothing of value to offer. The soldier tells the woman that he will let her through if she has sex with him. The woman agrees. The man is very rough and the woman feels pain while he is inside of her. She tries not to cry in front of her children.

Checking your knowledge.....



Did the woman consent to sex?

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No

Is this an incident of sexual exploitation and abuse?

- ❖ Yes
- ❖ No

Why? Check all that apply:

- ❖ It was based on an unequal balance of power between the soldier and the woman
- ❖ It was harmful to the woman
- ❖ It violated the woman's human rights
- ❖ She gave her consent to have sex
- ❖ It involved the use of force



Sex or Gender:

- Women give birth to babies ‘men don’t
- Little girls are gentle ‘boys are tough
- Women can breastfeed babies ‘men can bottle-feed babies
- Most building-site workers in Jordan are men
- Men’s voices break at puberty ‘women’s do not
- According to United Nations statistics ‘women do 67 percent of the world’s work ‘yet their earnings for it amount to only 10 percent of the world’s income (G).

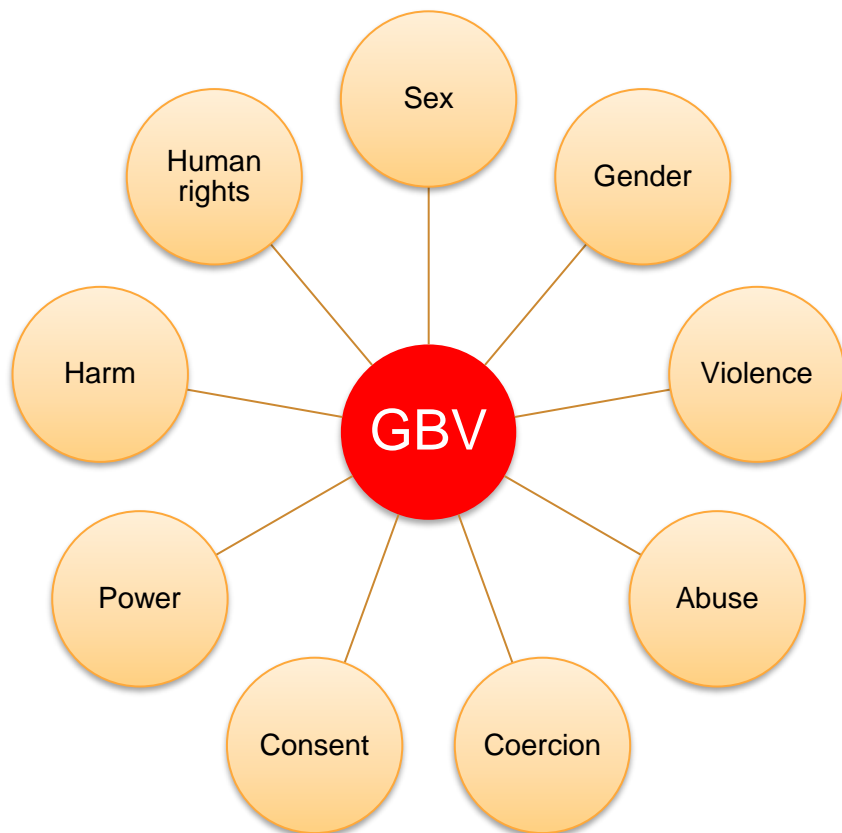


Checking your knowledge TRUE or FALSE??



- ❖ Men are better than women at making important decisions during times of crisis.
- ❖ Men should be the primary income earners of the family especially during displacement.
- ❖ A man should always know what to do and should never show his weakness, even if he has experienced traumatic events during the crisis.

Core Concepts in understanding GBV



- Sex and gender
- Human Rights
- Power (imbalance)
- Violence
- Harm
- Consent (Informed)

Checking your knowledge: Which Is It?



1. Women give birth to babies, men don't.
1. Little girls are gentle and boys are tough.
1. In one case, when a child brought up as a girl learned that he was actually a boy, his school marks improved dramatically.
1. Among Indian agricultural workers, women are paid 40-60% of the male wage.
1. Women can breastfeed babies, men can bottle feed babies.

SEX:

Refers to biological and physiological attributes that identify a person as male or female:

Genital organs

Type of predominant hormones

Ability to produce sperm or ova

Ability to give birth and breastfeed

GENDER:

- Social differences between males and females that are learned
- Refers to widely shared ideas and expectations (norms) concerning men and women:
- Determines the roles, responsibilities, opportunities, privileges, expectations and limitations for males and for females in any culture.
- Includes ideas about “typically” feminine/female and masculine/male characteristics, abilities, and behaviours
- ...though deeply rooted in every culture, is changeable over time
- ...has wide variations both within and between cultures

Human Rights

- Universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups
- Human rights law obliges governments (principally)

Key HR instruments:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948)
- The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989)

GBV violates the rights to:

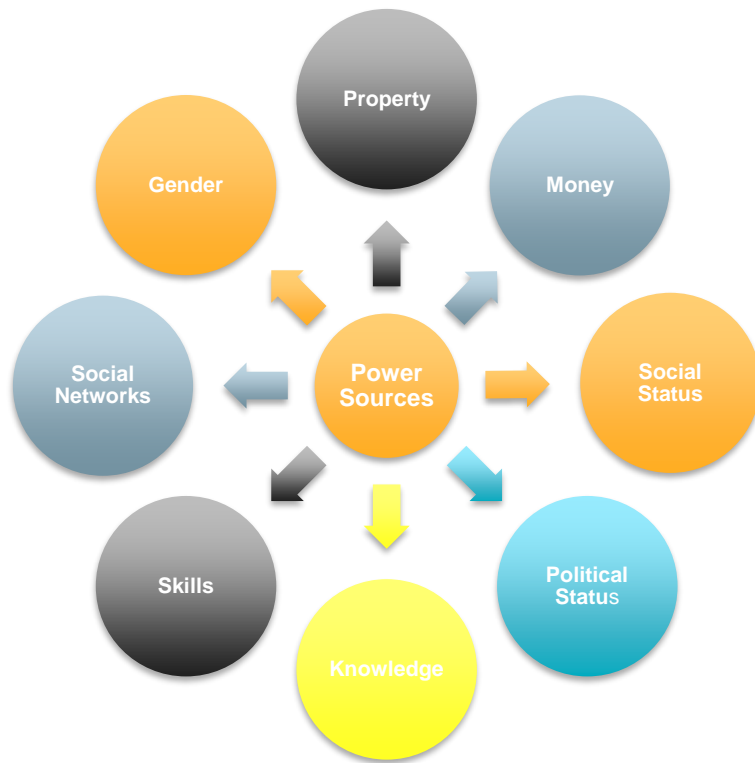
- Life, liberty and security of the person
- The highest standard of physical and mental health
- Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment
- Freedom of opinion and expression, to education, to social security and to personal development

Power



- Power is the ability to control and access resources, opportunities, privileges and decision-making processes.

Gender Discrimination is based on Power Relations



- Power can be both real or perceived.

Types of power

- Physical
- Economic
- Political
- Social
- Educational ...
- Gender-based
- Age-based
- Class-based
- Ethnicity
- Religion ...



VIOLENCE

- What are some forms of violence?
 - Physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, social, economic, denial of resources or opportunities
- Importance of the concept of *harm*
- How can different forms of violence be gendered?



CONSENT

- Consent means saying “yes,” agreeing to something.
- Informed consent means making an informed choice freely and voluntarily by persons in an equal power relationship.
- Acts of GBV occur without informed consent
- Saying yes is not true consent if said under duress
- Children under age 18 are unable to give informed consent for acts such as female genital cutting (FGC), marriage, sexual relations, etc.

“GBV = rape, right?”

Yes, but also:

- • Domestic violence/IPV
- • Harmful traditional practices
- • Forced/early/child marriage
- • Denial of resources or opportunities
- • Sexual harassment
- • Sexual exploitation
- • Sex-selective abortion
- • Trafficking
- • etc....

Definition of GBV

- GBV is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such actions, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.

Why does GBV exist?

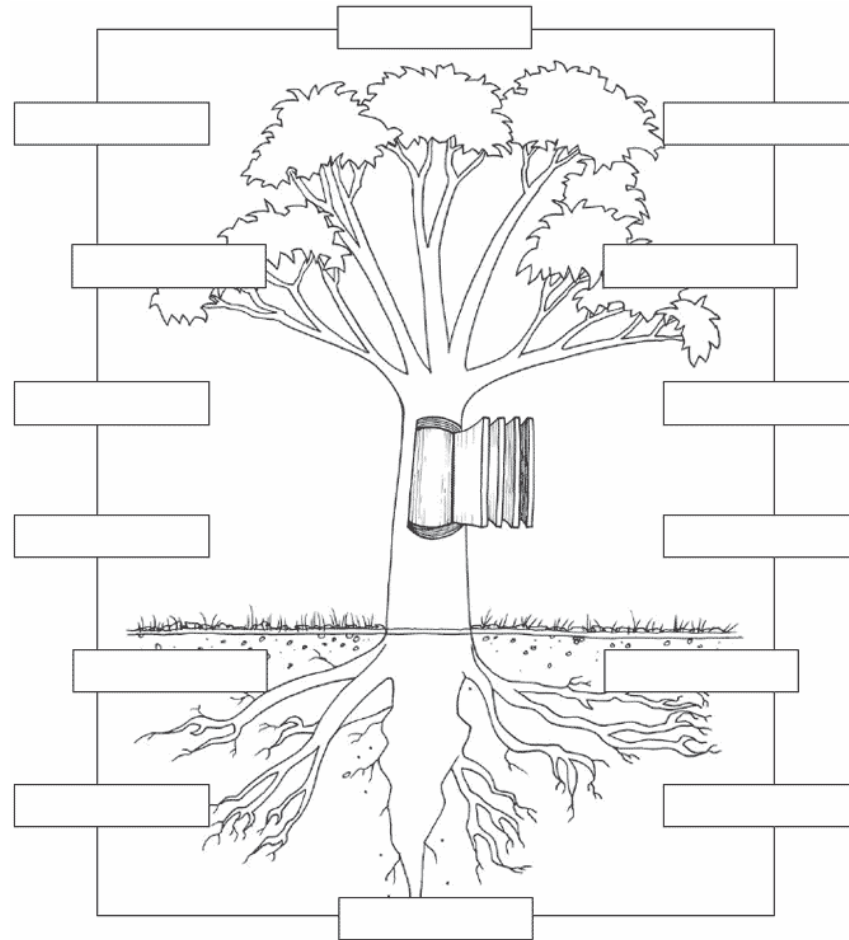
- In small groups, identify:
 - Root causes for GBV
 - Specific risk factors for GBV in your context?
 - What increases the likelihood of GBV occurring?
 - Consequences of different forms of GBV?
 - - Physical, social, economic, psychological?

●Consequences
of GBV

Forms of GBV

Contributing factors

Root causes of
GBV



Root causes and contributing factors of GBV:

Root Causes	Contributing Factors / Risk Factors
Power Imbalance	Behavioural: alcohol, drugs, boredom, retaliation
Gender Inequalities	Structural: camp layout, access to services
Disregard for human rights	Systems: impunity, representation, participation

Consequences of GBV:

Physical health consequences	Psychological health consequences	Social & Economic consequences
Physical injury	Depression	Victim-blaming
HIV/AIDS	Fear	Stigmatisation
STIs	Self-blame	Rejection
Unwanted pregnancy	Anxiety	Isolation
Unsafe abortion	Mental illness	Decreased earning capacity/contribution
Fistula	Suicidal thoughts/actions	Increased poverty
Death		Risk of re-victimization

Example of Democratic Republic of the Congo DRC

Survivors:

- Socio-economic problems
- Challenges in social reintegration
- Problems with attachment to or rejection of the child
- Unsafe abortion

Children of survivors:

- Delays in physical and emotional development
- Seen as “time-bomb”: children who will turn against their families
- Stigmatization, neglect/abuse or rejection
- Lack of access to food, health care or education

GBV and VAWG

- UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993):
 - “Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women.”

Can GBV happen to men and boys?

- Gendered vulnerabilities can put ANYONE - men, women, boys and girls - at heightened risk for violence. Humanitarians must ensure care and support for *all* survivors.
- The contexts, causes, and consequences of violence against women and girls/men and boys are different. **Risk analyses that take gender into account are critical to inform programming.**
- The Guidelines recognize the heightened vulnerability of women and girls and other specific populations to GBV and provide targeted guidance to address these vulnerabilities - including through strategies that promote gender equality.



GBV, VAWG, VAMB

- What are some examples from your work of working specifically to address GBV against women and girls?
- What are some examples from your work of working specifically to address GBV against men and boys?



GBV and VAWG, cont'd

- GBV is a *cause* and *consequence* of women's inferior political, economic and social status
- Boys and men can be exposed to gendered violence, but **women's inferior status** virtually everywhere in the world means that they are its **primary** targets.
- Men typically hold more of the *power* in societies worldwide: physical, economic, legal – and:
 - have more access to and control of resources
 - have more opportunities
 - have more economic freedom – including freedom to leave violence



Children & GBV

- Being a boy or a girl makes a child vulnerable to particular forms of violence
- Violence is learned through socialization into social norms and expectations around masculinity and femininity, sex and sexuality, male entitlement





Boys & Violence

- More likely to experience harsh physical punishment within the family and schools; peer-based violence perpetrated by other boys
- At greater risk of perpetrating violence than girls



Girls & Violence

- At higher risk than boys for infanticide, sexual abuse, educational and nutritional neglect, forced prostitution and FGM
- At risk because they have the least power, status and control over their own bodies and over resources within the family and community
- Relative position of powerlessness in relation to adults, but also in relation to males, including male children

WHY DOES GENDER MATTER ???



WHY DOES GENDER MATTER?

Different impact, distinct needs

- *The impacts of crises are not neutral, but are shaped by the vulnerability and/or capacity to respond to the affected groups.*
- *They are also shaped by socially constructed gender-specific socio-economic patterns. This can differ across economic class, ethnicity, gender and other factors.*
- *Humanitarian response is not neutral, and can increase, reinforce or reduce existing inequalities.*

Summary of GBV:

- Violence that is **based on gender relations**, roles, norms, expectations, limitations etc.
- Involves the **abuse of power**
- Includes some type of **force**, including threats and coercion, and results in **harm**
- Characterized by the **lack of informed consent**
- Violates a number of **universal human rights** protected by international instruments and conventions



Thank you!