

Tips for Talking about Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings



Scenario 1: Talking to Survivor		Scenario 2: Collecting Data and Information		Scenario 3: Talking with Communities	
Dos	Don'ts	Dos	Don'ts	Dos	Don'ts
Do listen, without pressuring them to talk.	Don't seek out survivors.	Do collect Gender, Age, and Disability disaggregated data.	Don't collect data on GBV unless adequate services are available	Do consider cultural and religious sensitivities.	Don't conduct an assessment without finding out if previous assessments have already collected the information needed.
Do respect people's right to make their own decisions	Don't exploit your relationship as a helper, considering how power dynamics affect informed consent.	Do ensure presence of trained, male and female enumerators.	Don't collect data unless enumerators are professionally trained on GBV.	Do conduct consultations in a secure setting where all feel safe	Don't ask for information about specific incidents of GBV.
Do be aware of and set aside your own biases and prejudices	Don't tell the survivor what to do or judge their actions or feelings.	Do ensure data is collected in a safe environment.	Don't assume that reported data on GBV or trends in reports represent actual prevalence and trends.	Do identify community needs, opportunities, rights and responsibilities to address GBV.	Don't conduct assessments that may lead to disclosure if survivor support and care services are not available and in place first.
Do make it clear that even if she refuses help now, she can still access help in the future.	Don't share information without informed consent. Ensure information protects the survivor's identity and protects their safety.	Do ensure that the data is secure at all times, including separating data as needed for protection.	Don't ask for or share identifying information, such as names.	Do conduct separate women's groups and men's groups with gender-appropriate facilitators.	Don't make assumptions about which groups are affected by GBV.
Do provide information on how to access services.	Don't make promises you can't fulfill.	Do engage in multi-sectoral / agency data collection and sharing.	Don't collect data from children, unless special protections are in place.	Do consider protection risks to communities when reporting.	Don't confine consultations to community leaders. Seek out others' opinions.

All humanitarian personnel should assume and believe that GBV, and in particular sexual violence, is taking place and is a serious and life-threatening protection issue, regardless of the presence or absence of concrete and reliable evidence.

Adapted from:

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Response*, 2015; <https://gbvresponders.org/2015-iasc-gbv-guidelines/>

WHO, *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies*;

<http://www.who.int/gender-equity-rights/knowledge/9789241595681/en/>

WHO *Psychological First Aid: Guide for Field Workers*; UNFPA,

www.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/102380/1/9789241548618_eng.pdf?ua=1

Managing Gender-based Violence Programmes in Emergencies

https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/GBVIE.MinimumStandards.Publication.FINAL_ENG.pdf

www.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/102380/1/9789241548618_eng.pdf?ua=1