

PROTECTION

1. **Understand the critical protection and security issues that may exacerbate GBV.**
 - Identify high-risk areas where GBV incidents occur, where women and girls perceive safety risks, etc.
 - Identify factors in the setting that place women and children (especially girls) at higher risk of harm; e.g. lack of law and order, economic hardship, separation of families and social groups.
 - Identify individuals who may be targeted for abuse; e.g. unaccompanied children, adolescent girls, female-headed households, disabled females, ethnic minorities, etc.
 - Assess existing security response including police presence, presence of other security forces (including female police/security personnel), accessibility of security response, etc.
 - Identify assets and resources in the community, such as expertise, previous experience, innovation, courage, and effective leadership that may contribute to providing protection.

2. **Build alliances and establish a network of contacts in-country among individuals, organisations, institutions, and groups that can contribute to protection from GBV and HIV.** Include police, armed forces, judiciary, youth associations and groups, traditional leaders, women’s leaders, women’s groups, traditional healers, diplomats, donors, peacekeepers, etc. Ensure links to and sharing of information with cluster/sector coordination mechanisms.

3. **Establish strategies for improving security, combining a targeted, proactive presence around specific “hotspots” with a less routine, widespread, and mobile international presence that gives protected persons and potential violators a sense that someone is “always around.”** Consider strategies such as:
 - Community watch programmes and/or security groups, preferably with trusted female and male members of the community. Be aware of the need to provide training and to monitor to prevent abuse by members of the teams.
 - Community safe spaces/centres for adolescent girls, boys and women where possible.
 - Regular and frequent presence of international protection staff in communities (camps, villages).

4. **Disseminate information on the availability and value of services for GBV survivors.**
 - Inform the community about: GBV and social stigma; HIV and social stigma; potential consequences; survivors’ need for help, support, and security; and how and where survivors can go for help and that help is confidential.
 - Inform the community about HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services that are available in the community including for survivors of sexual violence and exploitation.

5. **Provide security when survivors report incidents to the police and/or security staff.**
 - Always respect the rights, choices, dignity, and confidentiality of the survivor, ensuring that she is involved in any decisions or action to be taken regarding her security or protection. In the case of a child, be guided by the best interest of the child.

- All interviews with the survivor must be conducted in private spaces and, preferably, by female staff (or male staff in the case of male survivors).
 - Some survivors may want and need a safe place to go either temporarily or for the longer term.
 - Work in conjunction with cultural leaders, authorities, and women's groups to counter the perception that survivors are culpable.
- 6. Establish mechanisms to maximise safety and security of all who provide help and assistance to survivors, including humanitarian staff and community members.**
- 7. Establish systems for compiling anonymous incident data so that any trends and protection issues can be identified and addressed.** Ensure that information is shared between clusters and sectors.
- Establish a reporting and referral system and guiding principles for all actors and orient partners.
 - Regularly review available sexual violence data.
 - If possible, review data regarding HIV (testing is **never** mandatory but trends in HIV should be noted when available).
 - Meet regularly with network of contacts to share information and coordinate for security improvements.
 - Consult members of the community, revalidating and updating information, ensuring that women and girls are fully included and provided a private and separate space for the consultations.
- 8. Provide guidance to the country-level GBV working group on how to prevent future incidents of sexual violence.** This requires monitoring and analysing security through the network of contacts, anecdotal information, and data compiled about reported incidents of sexual violence. It is extremely important to monitor to ensure a security presence/follow-up to ensure women and girls protection from GBV Evaluate incidents and response actions, identify patterns and nature of violations, for example, any common characteristics of survivors (age groups, ethnic groups) and alleged perpetrators, where incidents are occurring, at what time of day.
- Assess, in particular, how they are arising either from acts of commission (things people are doing) or acts of omission (things people should be doing but are not) or both.
 - Find out if there is a particular pattern, timing, schedule, logic, or symbolism connected with the abuses and hence if they might be predictable in any way, and gauge if there are any factors that may put people more at risk.
 - Clarify exactly who is responsible for these violations, what authority they have, and what resources they are using. Understand precisely how, when, where, and why they are committing such abuses.
 - Identify critical factors that facilitate violations, such as power differentials (e.g. student-teacher, armed person-civilian) and the availability of small arms and lights weapons.
 - Learn who is orchestrating, encouraging, permitting, and colluding in the perpetration of violations.