

Key Actions on Gender-Based Violence and Livelihoods

Note: This is an excerpt from the IASC GBV Handbook.

The following cross-cutting actions apply to actors engaged in the following areas: social and economic reintegration, early recovery, microfinance/income-generation activities, and protection (amongst others). Actors representing any or all of these fields and/or a relevant working group on this issue identify focal points who participate regularly in the gender-based violence (GBV) working group and report on achievements of the key actions.

- 1. Become familiar with protection issues related to women and girls' inability to meet their basic needs and/or in the context of survivor community reintegration.**
 - Identify risk factors for sexual exploitation of women and girls and for women and girls being forced into sexual practices in order to meet their basic needs and the needs of their families.
 - Identify risk factors to women and girls' experiencing other forms of GBV in the context of meeting their basic needs, e.g. during firewood collection or by providing domestic labour within the host community.
 - Identify contributing factors in the setting that place women and children, girls especially, 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 particularly vulnerable to abuse, such as unaccompanied children, female-headed households, disabled females, ethnic minorities, GBV survivors and out-of-school youth.
 - Identify viable economic/livelihood options for vulnerable women and girls (both GBV survivors and those at risk of future abuse); consider both traditional and non-traditional livelihoods and the potential for market saturation. A market survey/assessment is strongly recommended.
 - Identify assets and resources in the community such as technical expertise.
- 2. Develop programmes that consider immediate and long-term needs and focus on reducing survivor stigma.**
 - Include all vulnerable women and girls; do not distinguish between those who have experienced violence and those who have not.
 - Consider the reactions of men; consider the consequences to women.
- 3. Integrate community education, sensitization and awareness-raising as a critical component of all livelihoods interventions.**
- 4. Establish women's centres or other safe gathering spaces for women and girls.**
- 5. Monitor and analyze the changing nature of women's vulnerabilities to experiencing sexual exploitation or to engaging in survival sex.**
 - Evaluate incidents and response actions to identify patterns and nature of violations, for example, any common characteristics of survivors (e.g. age groups, ethnic groups, female-headed households, unaccompanied minors) and alleged perpetrators, where incidents are occurring, and any extenuating circumstances (e.g. family dynamics, role of caregivers/spouses/guardians, changing economic environment).
 - Identify critical factors that facilitate violations, such as household-level vulnerabilities, disruption in agricultural practices, economic instability, and insecurity.
 - Learn who is orchestrating, encouraging, permitting and colluding in the perpetration of violations, as ideologues, strategists and active supporters. Identify those who are turning a 'blind eye' to the violations or initiating strategies of denial.