

## OVERVIEW & GUIDANCE:

### HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS as a component of GBV risk assessment<sup>1</sup>

**What:** A household survey is a questionnaire that is obtained by interviewing the (usually) head of household, or a person who can respond on behalf of the whole household and its members.

**Type of data that can be collected:** Household surveys lend themselves for obtaining data, mostly on availability and accessibility of the [AAAQ framework](#). Other questions - for example *safety perceptions* - are possible, but they must be very carefully crafted. Keep in mind that respondents to HH surveys are usually male (heads of household), which influences the data and the extent to which women and girls' perspectives and voices are included. Avoid any questions that ask after experiences of GBV.

#### **Do's and don'ts**

- Do not include sensitive questions that are culturally inappropriate
- Do not include direct questions on GBV. For example, do not include questions on whether someone experienced GBV, or knows someone who experienced GBV, etc.
  - GBV often takes place *in* the household. A male head of household can refuse to answer this question or be upset. This could lead to dangerous situations.
  - A female in the household experiencing GBV may be very well in the vicinity of her abuser when answering questions. It is therefore extremely dangerous for her to answer such questions.
- Use recall periods (recognizable timeframes) when asking questions, particularly when collecting data at different points in time

#### **EXAMPLE OF QUESTION TO USE**

Do women and girls in this household have difficulty accessing sanitation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what are the reasons for difficult access?

- Latrines too far
- Do not feel comfortable/safe
- Latrines unavailable (too few)
- Etc.

#### **EXAMPLE OF QUESTION TO AVOID**

Have you heard of anyone in your community recently experiencing any of the following?

- Sexual violence
- Physical violence
- Emotional violence

<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from [UNICEF, 2021: GBV Risk Analysis Guidance](#)

### ***Integrating into multi-sectoral needs assessments<sup>1</sup> MSNA***

There is often a large-scale household survey in a humanitarian context, such as the MSNA. This data collection exercise can particularly be used to inform the HNO. As such, GBV risk mitigation questions can also be included into this survey. Pay careful attention not to include direct questions on GBV (see above), and keep in mind that those responding to the survey are often male. In some HH surveys there may be a 'female only' component, i.e. aspects of the survey that are only asked to women (with no one else present), yet this is not common.

When crafting questions for household surveys, keep in mind to not include questions that ask people about incidents or experiences of GBV. Rather, include questions to inquire about barriers to accessing services or safety perceptions if appropriate.

### ***Analysis***

When analyzing household surveys, particularly look at the answers from male-headed vs. female-headed households. Particularly when looking at GBV risks, keep in mind that female-headed households can have added vulnerability and may have less access to goods and services to cover basic needs, which can put the household at heightened risk. Although the sample size for female-headed households is usually not representative, results can be used as indicated. See also the [Analysis Brief](#) of this package.

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<sup>1</sup> The multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) is one example of a household survey. It is chosen here as it is multi-sectoral and non-cluster-specific. However, the same principles hold for integrating GBV risk mitigation into other household surveys whether they are cluster-specific or not, such as VAM, SMART, etc.