From Research to Action: Using Participatory Action Research to Mobilize Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence in Protracted Conflict Settings
Protracted refugee setting in Thailand (20+years)

150,000 refugees in 9 camps

Conflict ongoing

Population fatigued by NGO community, academics

Excessive number of actors/organizations

Hierarchical/militarized culture
Context: Violence Against Women and Girls
1. What are the main problems for women and girls in the community?

2. What are the causes of the main protection problems as identified by the community?

3. What are the community’s ideas about how to prevent protection issues women and girls face? What resources exist for prevention?

4. What services/gaps are there in the community for women and girls if they have experienced GBV? What are the barriers women and girls face in accessing services?

5. What are community member’s attitudes towards gender and gender roles?
Theoretical orientation: Participatory Action Research

Community knowledge and experience

Researcher knowledge and skill
Methodology: Emphasis on the Process

- Introductory meetings with camp governance, major women’s organization, and other CBOs
- Advisory Team
- Participatory decision-making tools—Silence is not Consent!
- Data collectors from the community
Methodology:
Data collection and Analysis

- Population-based Household survey
- Focus Group Discussions
- In-depth interviews

Emerging themes through triangulation
Iterative analysis with data collectors

Statistical software
Methodology:
Dissemination and Feedback
Major Findings and Program Strategies: Mae La and Tham Hin Camp

Sexual violence

Adolescent girls

Coordination

Family level interventions

Quality services and access
The assessment was also an intervention.

Mobilized attention and support for the issue of GBV and gender equality

Began to build capacity of staff and community for participatory approaches.

Gained access, acceptance and respect in a contentious environment

Laid the foundation for strong relationships with camp leadership and groups

Conclusions:
Process just as important as outcomes
Community drives research questions, process & action

Thoughts . . .

Community members are passive subjects that are researched?
Thank you, Tablu, Kyaye Zu Tin Par Del

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