Feasibility and Acceptability of Screening for Gender-Based Violence in Health Facilities in Humanitarian setting

Findings from implementation among refugees in Kenya and South Sudan

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South Sudan and Kenya

Yida settlement
February – ongoing 2015

Dadaab camp
January – July 2015
WHAT IS SCREENING FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?
Results from Kenya: Acceptability?

Exit Interview Responses

- Rate GBV screening experience was good/very good: 97%
- Think GBV screen can help to link survivor to services: 90%
- Feel safe to answer GBV screening questions: 95%
- Felt interview space was private and not overheard: 97%
- Felt Acceptable for Providers to ask about GBV: 77%

% Participants Completing Exit Interview (N=101)
Results: Feasibility?

GBV referrals from health facilities to IRC support centers (Jan-June)

- South Sudan: 21 (2014) vs 76 (2015)
Successes from implementation

- Increased number of GBV cases identified and referred
- Increased willingness of women to openly discuss gender-based violence with the health providers, family and neighbors
- Reduction in individual screening time to 2-3 minutes
Successes from implementation

• Task shifting; refugee staff engaged in screening for GBV

• Change in provider attitudes for improved collaboration and responsibility
Challenges from implementation

- Lack of privacy
- Increased workload in overworked environment
Challenges from implementation

- Unavailability of referral services in health posts
- Difficulty meeting expectations of survivors
Recommendations

- **Conduct community sensitization** prior to implementing screening for GBV.
- **Carefully adapt the screening tool** to take into account local cultural and religious considerations.
- **Establish plans** for addressing staff increase and workload.
- **Select locations** according to predefined eligibility criteria
Recommendations

• **GBV officers and counselors** should be placed in the health posts or in immediate vicinity.

• **Allocate resources** specifically to the screening intervention.

• **Provide technical support** in the initial phase for training and evaluation.
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