MEETING THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH NEEDS OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

SVRI Conference
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PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Adolescent girls are uniquely disadvantaged during humanitarian crises, and their SRH needs are largely left unmet

- Aims of the project:
  1. Build knowledge and generate evidence
  2. Expand upon existing SRH programming for adolescent girls in GBV safe spaces in 3 target countries (Lebanon, Iraq, Bangladesh)
  3. Explore innovative tools to better reach adolescent girls with SRH information in non-physical spaces
WHY GBV SAFE SPACES?

- Often one of the few places adolescent girls are allowed to go outside the home
- Established at the onset of an emergency with capacity to refer clients to a range of services
- Potential to provide a more acceptable entry point to the provision of sensitive information
- Involvement of mothers and female caregivers helps to ensure acceptability of programming
- Allows for capacity building of implementing partners to provide integrated services
FIELD ASSESSMENTS

▪ What are the SRH-related needs and priorities of adolescent girls?

▪ To what extent are safe spaces meeting these needs and priorities? How else might girls’ SRH-related information and service needs be met?

▪ How can we involve adolescent girls in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of ASRH programming?

▪ What is the capacity of safe spaces to implement targeted SRH programming for adolescent girls?
CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESEARCH

- How do we help adolescent girls feel comfortable to discuss sensitive issues?
- How do we ensure adolescent girls can express their needs and priorities about topics they may have limited knowledge of?
- How can assessments meaningfully inform programming and service delivery?
RESEARCH METHODS

- Participatory methods to make girls feel more at ease to discuss sensitive topics:
  - *Body mapping*: To get girls talking about puberty and the changes they go through as an adolescent
  - *Participatory ranking*: To get girls to identify topics they wish they could learn more about
  - *Community mapping*: To understand where girls can access SRH information and services
  - *Story-telling*: To discuss issues that may happen to girls like them in their community

- Follow-on activities to body mapping allow girls to make concrete suggestions for programming
## Participants

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Lebanon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adolescent girls ages 10-19</strong></td>
<td>14 (n=126)</td>
<td>10 (n=119)</td>
<td>11 (n=124)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AGs ages 10-14</strong></td>
<td>6 (n=51)</td>
<td>2 (n=14)</td>
<td>3 (n=43)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AGs ages 15-19</strong></td>
<td>8 (n=75)</td>
<td>8 (n=105)</td>
<td>8 (n=81)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mothers/female caregivers</td>
<td>4 (n=45)</td>
<td>4 (n=39)</td>
<td>3 (n=24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fathers/female caregivers</td>
<td>1 (n=10)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 (n=10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key informant interviews</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
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FINDINGS
INFORMING SERVICE DELIVERY

- Revisions to modules and curricula being used in safe spaces
- Involving adolescent girls in the design, monitoring and evaluation of interventions
- Identifying capacity gaps and training needs
- Reaching adolescent girls outside of physical safe spaces
- Ensuring cross-sectoral collaboration and information sharing
STRENGTHENING SAFE SPACE CAPACITY FOR PROGRAMMING AND M&E

- Piloting targeted intervention in Safe Spaces in Kutapalong refugee camp, Cox’s Bazar
- Creation and piloting of M&E Toolkit that encourages adolescent girls to participate in intervention design, monitoring, and evaluation
- Ensuring that safe space staff feel comfortable discussing issues related to sexual and reproductive health
- Understanding what resources are needed for safe space staff to deliver accurate and age-appropriate information
VIRTUAL SAFE SPACE PLATFORM

- Website providing information related to health and safety, with service location, ‘ask a question’ feature, and video and audio content
- Key characteristics: Factual and scientific; private and confidential; introduced to users in UNICEF-supported Safe Spaces; adaptable and buildable
- Piloting in Lebanon and Iraq in selected Safe Spaces with the ultimate goal of reaching girls who are unable to reach physical safe spaces
CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

- Despite increasing attention to adolescent girl programming, girls are often left out of humanitarian programming and face critical gaps in SRH-related information and services.

- Safe Spaces are generally viewed as an acceptable venue for the provision of SRH information to adolescent girls.
  - However, Safe Spaces often reach only a small fraction of adolescent girls, and we therefore must utilize innovative ways to reach girls outside of physical spaces.

- Understanding the needs and priorities of adolescent girls requires well-thought out data collection and continued involvement in order for girls to meaningful inform programming.
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!

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<th>Project contacts:</th>
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<tbody>
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