

# Engaging Men and Boys to End GBV



# Where do we start?

## Usually start here:

- \*Men as problems; need to change them

## Should start here:

- \*Gender as a social construct; how do we understand masculinities in this society? How are those constructs changing? What openings does this provide?

# The term “gender” refers to...

- *‘ social differences between females and males throughout the life cycle that are learned, and though deeply rooted in every culture, are changeable over time and have wide variations both within and between cultures.’*



# Four aspects of gender

1. Assignment: the gender we are given at birth prescribed by the society in which we are born.
2. Roles: the set of behaviors, mannerisms, responsibilities and other traits that society says we should express as part of our assigned gender.
3. Identity: what a person thinks their gender should be at any given time.
4. Attribution: the gender we assign people when we first meet them and is based on a set of cues that differentiate from culture to culture.

# Masculinities

- “Masculinities” recognized the multiple ways ‘masculine’ is constructed and operationalized in a society
- Expectations change over time and from place to place and prescribe ideal behavior
- The difficulty of being ‘privileged’ and need to address inequalities

# The way we define gender...

- ...is contextual and varies across cultures.
- ...determines the ***roles, power and resources*** for females and males in any culture.

# GBV in Female Life Cycle

Phase	Type of Violence
<b>Pre-birth</b>	Sex-selection abortion battering during pregnancy coerced pregnancy
<b>Infancy</b>	Female infanticide Emotional and physical abuse Differential access to food and medical care
<b>Girlhood</b>	Child marriage Genital mutilation Sexual abuse by family members and strangers Differential access to food, medical care and education

# GBV in Female Life Cycle

## **Reproductive age**

- \*Physical, psychological and sexual abuse of women by intimate male partners and relatives
- \*Forced pregnancies by partner
- \*Sexual abuse in the workplace
- \*Sexual harassment
- \*Rape

## **Elderly**

- \*Abuse of widows including property grabbing
- \*Physical, psychological violence by younger family members
- \*Differential access to food and medical care



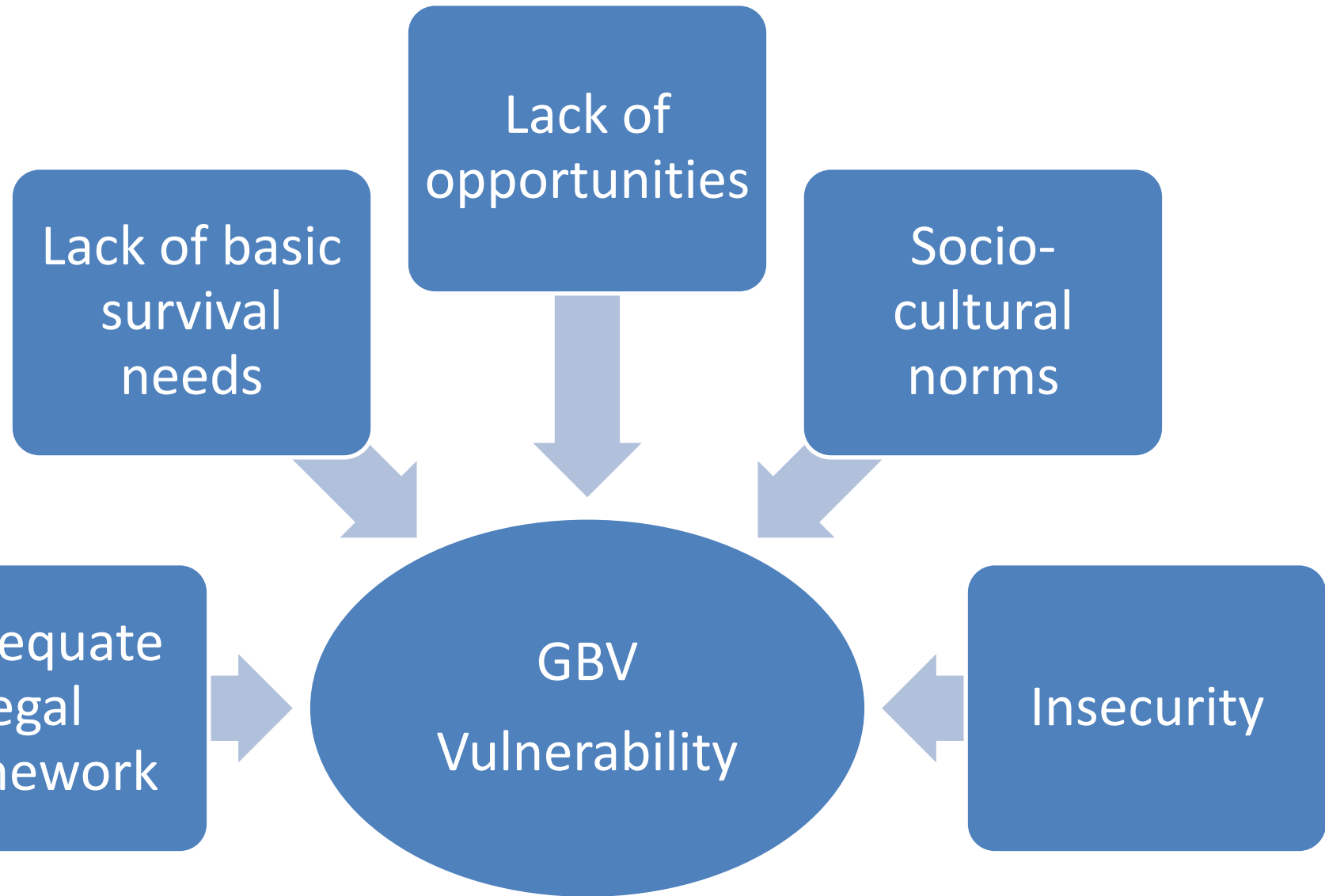
# Where are we today on GBV?

- Numerous guidelines
- Complaints mechanisms
- Referral pathways/SOPs/ Coordination structures
- Information Management System
- Lots of response programs – medical, legal, psycho-social
- GBV AoR under Protection Cluster
- Still haven't wrapped our heads around prevention
- GBV still spikes in emergencies and then plateaus often for years even during return

# GBV Activities

## ***PREVENTION & RESPONSE***





# Why do men need to engage in ending GBV?

- Somewhere in the world, a woman is subjected to violence every two seconds.
- 1 out of 3 women have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.
- Abuser is usually a family member or someone known to her.
- Boys who witness their fathers' violence – 10 x's more likely to engage in spouse abuse in later adulthood.

# BOYS

- Imitate their fathers/ male role models
- When they witness violence within the home, they see it as normal
- Violence is learned; it can be unlearned
- This is easiest when we start when males are younger
- Need to teach boys alternative constructs of masculinity

**Eat your  
vegetables.**

**Finish your  
homework.**

**Respect  
women.**

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**[opdv.state.ny.us](http://opdv.state.ny.us)**

NYS Hotline  
**1-800-942-6906**  
In NYC call 311



# Three main approaches of male engagement programs

## -Men as clients

- Men are treated as clients and encouraged to access resources

## -Men as supportive partners

- Programs focus on the positive influence that men have on women in decision making, planning, and resource allocation

## -Men as agents of change

- Programs ask boys and men to examine negative gender norms and develop healthier alternatives



# Strategies to Engage Boys and Men

Men As Clients	Men As Supportive Partners	Men As Agents of Change
A doctor visits a camp to provide diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) to men.	A midwife helps a man and a woman in a refugee camp develop a labor and delivery plan.	A program that recruits male volunteers in the camps to advocate for joint decision making around reproductive health.
Satisfied VCT clients promote the method to other men in the community.	A community outreach worker encourages men to go with their wives for antenatal care counseling.	A group of men form a community action team in their camp to speak out against violence.
A radio spot encourages men to get tested for HIV at free VCT sites in the camps.	A couple talks with a nurse about what family planning method would be best for them.	A theater group gives a performance about societal norms, particularly those related to violent behavior, and discusses them and advocates for change in the community.
A man discusses condom use with his peers at places visited by men in refugee camps.	A billboard shows a photograph of a man and woman entering a family planning clinic together, with a sentence like, "We decide together."	An organization conducts educational sessions for leaders of refugee groups to encourage them to identify and address negative gender norms in their communities.



# Engaging men

- \*Intentionality
- \*Opportunities created by conflict/displacement
- \*Emphasize positive
- \*Start where they are
- \*Work with role models



# Engaging men in primary prevention

- \*Livelihoods
- \*Access to firewood
- \*Security
- \*Justice





# Men can and do change all the time

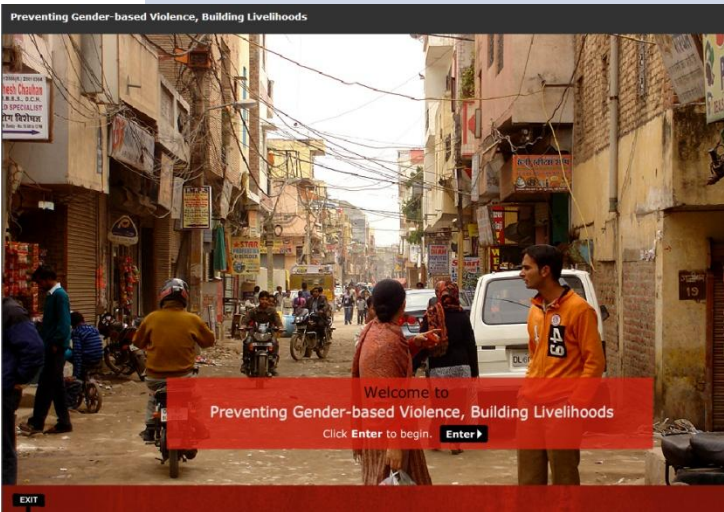
The question is not can men change, but rather can policies and programs accelerate and influence positive change.



# Next steps: Tools

Preventing Gender-based Violence,  
Building Livelihoods  
e-learning:

[www.womensrefugeecommission.org/elearning](http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/elearning)



# Next steps: Tools



## **Preventing Gender-based Violence, Building Livelihoods**

Guidance and Tools for Improved Programming

December 2011

Preventing Gender-  
based Violence,  
Building Livelihoods:  
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[www.womensrefugee  
commission.org/resources](http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/resources)