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Improving Evidence and Addressing Gaps: *Sexual violence against boys and male adolescents in the Syria crisis*

Briefing and Roundtable Discussion

“WE KEEP IT IN OUR HEART”

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SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST
MEN AND BOYS
IN THE SYRIA CRISIS

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- Scope: Sexual violence against Syrian boys, male adolescents and men inside Syria and in 3RP countries (Jordan, Lebanon, KRI).
- Online survey completed by refugee key informants.
- Key informant interviews with 73 humanitarian personnel from 34 agencies.
- 21 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 196 refugees.
- Examining the dynamics and scale of sexual violence against males (SVM), the impact on male survivors and their families, and the availability & utilisation of services for male survivors in countries of asylum.

SGBV against boys and male adolescents: Four main contexts of violence were identified...



1. **Conflict-related Sexual Violence (CRSV)** by parties to the conflict, often in **detention**. Most male survivors are older adolescent boys and men.
2. **Sexual exploitation** in situations of child labour. Increasing exploitation through use of technology, explicit photos and video.
3. **GBTI persons targeted** by armed groups inside Syria. Ongoing vulnerability to sexual violence in all countries under study.
4. **Syrian boys victimised in the country of asylum by older boys and men** from various sectors of the community.

SGBV against boys and male adolescents

Key findings...



- **Detention** is a major risk factor
- **Child labour** increases the risks of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse
- Sexual violence is contributing to **school dropouts**
- **LBGTI** persons are at particular risk of sexual violence
- Male survivors face significant **barriers** (including laws and community norms insisting that “males cannot be raped”)

SGBV against boys and male adolescents

Key priorities...



- For boys who are survivors, ensure existing child protection programming is fully inclusive of their specific needs and vulnerabilities.
- Older male adolescents & youth, men and LGBTI persons may require separate and targeted assistance.
- Preserve women-only and women-centered SGBV programming.
- Improve data
- Sensitize communities, service providers and other partners.
- Establish and improve referral pathways for male survivors.