



## **PART 3**

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

SECTION 2

# **CAPACITY BUILDING**

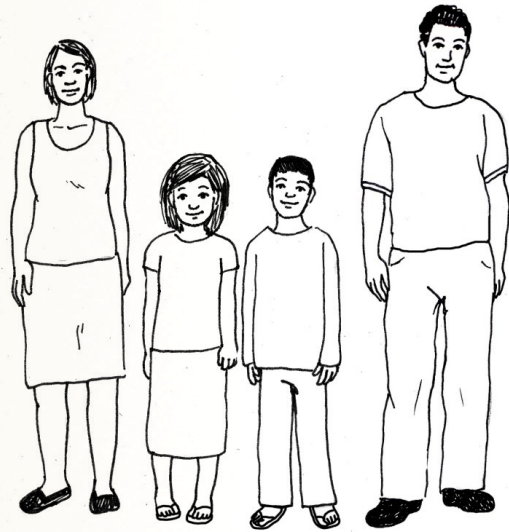
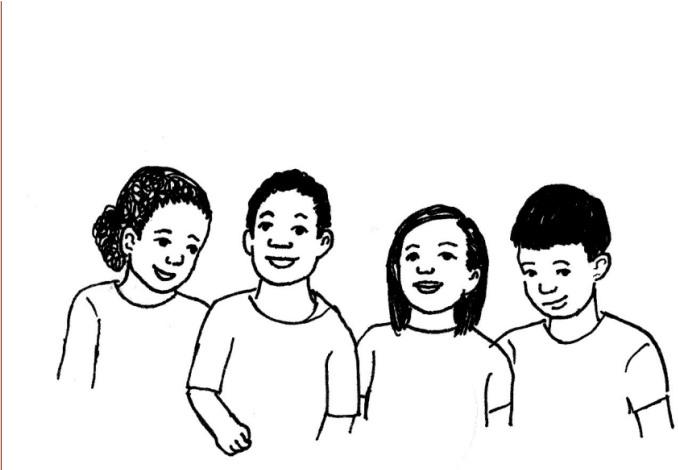
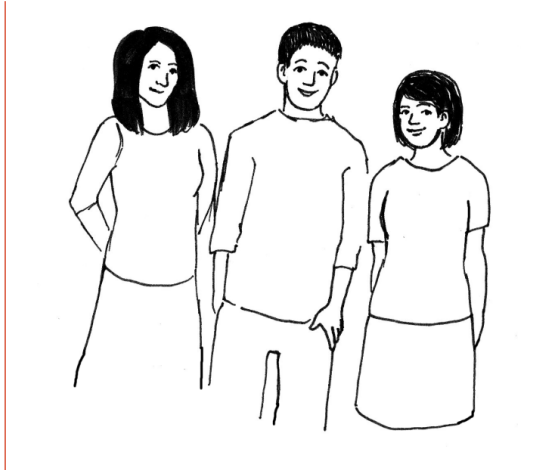
CHW Training | **MODULE 2**

**LEARNING ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT**

A FLIP BOOK FOR COMMUNITIES



# Who can experience sexual violence?



## Who can experience sexual violence?<sup>1</sup>

Anyone can experience sexual violence, including women, men, adolescent girls and boys, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people). Sexual violence is when someone forces you to have sexual activities when you do not want to.

Sexual violence can happen to a person at any age.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on IAWG on RH in Crises, Inter-agency field manual on reproductive health in humanitarian settings, 2018; WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, Clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence survivors: developing protocols for use in humanitarian settings, 2019. Images developed by Stacey Patino and Meghan Fitzgerald.

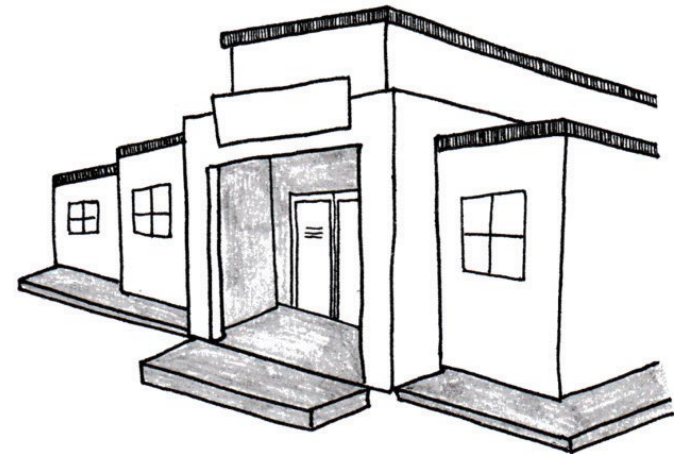
# Why does sexual violence happen?



## Why does sexual violence happen?

- Sexual violence is about violence and not about sexual attraction or seduction. It can get worse in conflict situations and after natural disasters due to the breakdown of law and order and the community's rules. Women and girls are more vulnerable (at risk) since they have access to fewer resources such as money.
- Nobody deserves to be sexually assaulted no matter how they dress or act. The way someone dresses or behaves is never a justification for sexual violence.
- Nothing a woman or girl does gives a man the right to hurt her, even if he thinks she deserves it—even if she herself thinks she deserves it. This is true even of husbands and boyfriends.
- Many incidents of sexual violence are committed by someone a person knows.
- Anyone can be a target of sexual violence, and it is never the person's fault. Persons with disabilities and persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are at risk of sexual violence since there can be high levels of discrimination against these communities.

# What should you do if you experience sexual violence?

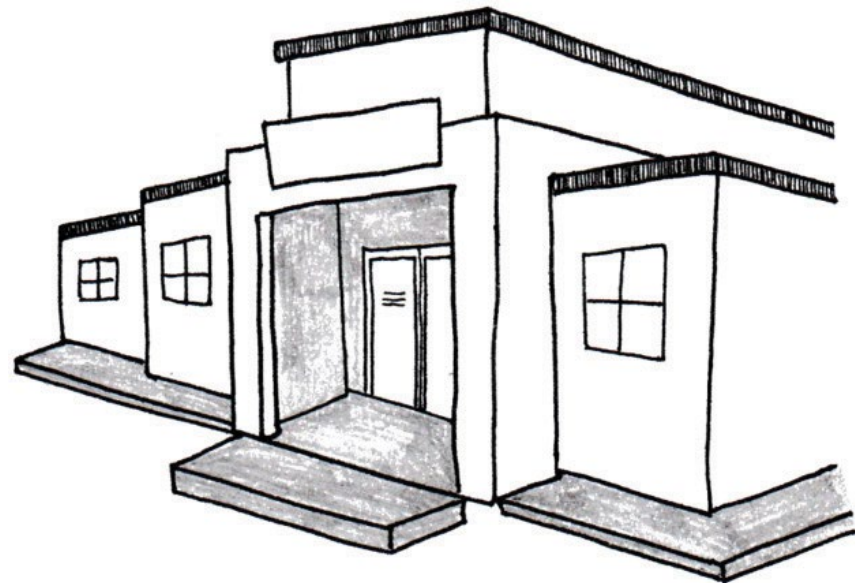


## What should you do if you experience sexual violence?

- See a community health worker or go to the health center **immediately** for care, preferably within 3 days of the assault.
- Even if more than 5 days have passed since the assault, the health worker can still help you and link you to other support services if you would like.



# What should you do if you know someone who has experienced sexual violence?



## What should you do if you know someone who has experienced sexual violence?

- Encourage the person to go to a community health worker or the health center for care immediately, preferably within 3 days of the assault. You can offer to wait with the person until the community health worker arrives, or to go to the health center with them.
- Do not go telling people about the sexual violence without the survivor's approval. Respect the survivor's privacy.

# What are the benefits of seeking health care for someone who has experienced sexual violence?



## What are the benefits to seeking care for someone who has experienced sexual violence?

Seeking health care as soon as possible can help you prevent pregnancy and infections, and receive counseling. Depending on when you come, the health care worker can help you get:

- Medicine to prevent pregnancy.
- Medicines to prevent or treat infections.
- Medicines to prevent HIV.
- Care to treat wounds.
- Vaccinations to prevent illnesses such as tetanus (“lockjaw” ) and Hepatitis B.
- Basic emotional support.
- Link you to additional emotional and social support, if you would like.
- Follow-up with you periodically, to see that you are alright. If you discover you are pregnant and you do not wish to be, they can help you explore options.

The earlier you come for care, the more likely you can prevent HIV (within 3 days of the assault) and pregnancy (within 5 days of the assault). Services are private, free and safe. The health care worker will treat you with dignity and respect.

# What should you expect when you seek health care?



## What should you expect when you seek health care?

- The health worker will bring you to a private place to talk and comfort you.
- The health worker will ask for your permission to treat you.
- The health worker will treat your wounds and talk to you about how to take care of yourself.
- Depending on when you seek care, the health worker will give you medicines to prevent pregnancy, infections and HIV, and tell you how to take the medicines.
- If there is anything the health worker cannot treat, or care that they cannot provide, they will ask whether you would like a referral to a higher-level health facility.
- Before you leave, the health worker can help you plan to get emotional support, make sure you have a safe place to stay, and other medical care or social support that you may like.
- Remember, services from the health worker are private, voluntary, free and safe.