

Refugee Reproductive Health Needs Assessment Field Tools Group Discussion Questions

Date:
Facilitator:
Translator:
Notetaker:

INTRODUCTION: I am interested in learning about some of the health needs of people in this camp/village. I would like your permission to ask you questions about health care and other issues that may be related to health care. I hope the answers to these questions will help my organization to work with UNHCR to improve health services. I expect our discussion to last about one and a half to two hours and individual confidentiality will be respected.

First, I'd like to ask you some general questions about health services.

What kind of health services do you use in this camp? What kind of workers provide these services? Can you go there any time during the day or night? Are they free? Do they help you and your children?

Now, I'd like to ask some background questions about families in your community, starting with marriage customs.

Have there been changes in marriage customs since the people in your community left their country? What were the customs in your country? What are they now? Was/is there a bride price/dowry that affected marriage practices? How do emigration policies affect marriage practices?

At what age do/did women generally marry? Do women usually wait until after marriage to have sex? What about men? Has this changed since flight? Do men have more than one wife? Is this due to the refugee situation? Are the wives all treated equally?

Now, I'd like to ask questions about women having babies in this camp.

How do women in this camp take care of themselves when they are pregnant? Are there clinics where they can see health workers? What do the health workers do for them? Do health workers ever visit pregnant women in their homes? What kind of health workers do they see? (doctor, nurse, midwife, traditional healer)

Where do women generally have their babies in this camp? Who stays with them while they are in labor? Do you know women who have died while having a baby? or their babies died? Do you know why they died?

Are women treated differently -- either better or worse -- by their partners or others -- during pregnancy? If yes, how?

Do most women here breastfeed their babies? Do they start right after the baby is born? How many months/years do they usually breastfeed? When does the child receive something in addition to breast milk?

If a woman has a problem when she is delivering the baby, who decides how to take care of her? Who is called? Where is she taken? What do they do for her?

What do people in the community think about an unmarried women/girl who has a baby? Who helps her?

Next, I'd like to ask some questions about family planning/child spacing.

How many children do most couples want? How many children do most couples have?

Has this number changed since refugees arrived here?

What do women and men do to prevent or postpone having babies? What are the traditional ways? What are the modern ways? In this setting, where do they go to get help for this? What did they do before they left their home country?

What, if anything, do women do immediately after having unprotected sex to prevent a pregnancy? Where do they get help for this?

Sometimes women are pregnant but they don't want to be because they do not have enough food to feed their children, or they are not married, or they got pregnant when they were raped. What do women do when they think or know they are pregnant but do not want to be?

Would you mind if we talked about AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) for a few minutes?

Have you heard of AIDS?

Are people in this camp worried about getting AIDS? What do they do to prevent it? What about other diseases you can get from having sex (STDs)?

What do people do when they think they have STDs or AIDS? Can they get tests or get treated here at the camp?

Are there men and women in the camp who have sex who are not married? Do people think this is wrong for men or for women? Do many teenagers have sex outside of marriage? Does this only happen at the camp or did it happen in your home country as well?

Are there men who have sex with men in the camp?

Is there a place to get condoms in this camp? Who uses them? Married couples? Single adults? Adolescents? People who are sick? Commercial sex workers? Men having sex with men?

Is there a drug problem in your community? Which drugs (IV?)? Alcohol abuse?

I'd also like to ask some questions about violence against women (sexual and domestic violence).

Do you know of women in this camp who are forced to have sex when they don't want to? Do you know of women who have sex for money, protection or food? With whom do these women have sex? What do you know and think about this kind of situation?

What do you know about husbands who are violent with their wives (e.g., beat or cut them)? Has this increased or decreased in this camp (compared to your traditional culture)? What is your feeling about husbands who hit their wives?

In your home country, where would women get help if they had been raped or beaten? What would the community have done? What services were available? What happens here now? Do women look for help here when this happens to them? If not, why not?

What happens to the rapist if he is caught?

Are there many women here without their partners? Who protects them?

Have you heard of men being raped here? Are there any services for a raped man?

Now let's discuss initiation rites of passage from childhood to adulthood.

How do children become adults in your community?

What can you tell me about female circumcision in this camp? Male circumcision?

Are there many children and adolescents here without their parents? Who takes care of them? Who is responsible for their initiation rites?

One last question...

Are there other health services that you would like to have in this camp? What are they? Which are the most important?

Thank you for your time. I have learned quite a bit about your health concerns. This information will be helpful when my organization reviews health program needs and priorities. Your contribution is appreciated.