**Group Exercise Module 5: Web of Referrals**

**Overview**

This exercise is designed to support country teams in understanding the wide range of formal and informal actors who play a role in VAC prevention and response, and experiencing the benefits of collective action through multisectoral approaches. The session can be conducted as part of a face-to-face workshop.

**Objectives**

* To deepen participants’ understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by girls and/or boys when experiencing violence.
* To identify entry points for multisectoral / collective action at service delivery level to deliver coordinated VAC prevention activities.

**Time**

90-120 minutes

**Materials**

**Face-to-face workshop**

* Ball of string or wool, 10 character cards on paper (see samples in Annex 1, to be adapted to local context)

**Process**

***Preparation for facilitator***

**Face-to-face workshop**

* Review the character cards and decide whether to have a female or male main character, or both
* Adapt the names in the sample cards to local names based on the training context
* Map out a ‘typical’ set of formal and informal actors that the survivor would go to in the case of sexual violence, noting any nationally relevant actors (for example, if you have representatives from the humanitarian community, consider whether there are specific actors working with refugees or displaced people)
* Write out the adapted character cards and cut them out ready for the exercise

**Exercise Guide**

***Set the agenda***

Explain the purpose, objectives, and duration of the exercise to the participants (5 minutes)

**Face-to-face workshop**

***Role play (45 minutes)***

1. Ask for ten volunteers to come to the front and form a circle. Ask one of them to volunteer to be in the centre to play the role of a violence survivor. Ask the other group members to observe the role play from outside the circle.

*Note to facilitator: If the group is larger than 20 people, you can divide the group into two smaller groups who both carry out the activity separately.*

1. *The instructions are written for Rose. This could be adapted to be both a boy and a girl with a local name* Give each volunteer in the circle a character card with instructions at the bottom as to what they are supposed to do. Explain that the basic instructions are included but each person must play ‘in role’ and decide how they are going to respond, as realistically as they can.
2. Explain to the group that we are going to role play a situation where a child survivor is seeking support. Read out Rose’s story to the group.
3. Ask ‘Rose’ and/or ‘Richard’ to stand in the centre of the room and the other nine characters form a wide circle around ‘Rose’. Make sure that the circle is large enough that everyone including observers can see and hear what is happening.
4. Give ‘Rose’ a ball of string or wool.
5. Ask ‘Rose’ to walk over to her ‘sister’ and explain to her sister what is happening to her. The volunteer playing Rose must think how ‘Rose’ might do this and play the role in character. When ‘Rose’ talks to her ‘sister’, she hands her ‘sister’ the end of the ball of string or wool and wraps it around the ‘sister’s’ finger. The sister must hold this until the end of the role play.
6. Ask the ‘sister’ to respond to Rose, following the instructions on her character card.
7. When the ‘sister’ advises ‘Rose’ to talk to the community/religious leader, Rose takes the ball of wool or string (with the ‘sister’ still holding the end) and walks over to the ‘community/religious leader’. The ball of wool is handed to this person who, in turn, holds onto the thread, with ‘Rose’ still holding the ball. ‘Rose’ again explains her situation to the community / religious leader, who responds in character as instructed on the card.
8. The role play continues, with each character in turn holding the thread. Rose should keep the ball of wool/thread with her, but each time she goes to a new character, that person takes the end of the thread that is, by now, stretched from the sister to the religious leader, and so on.
9. By the end of the story, Rose has re-told her story to multiple people and should be standing in the middle of a tangled web of red thread.

*This exercise should take about 30 minutes.*

***Plenary***

Facilitate a group discussion using the following questions (adapted to reflect participant representation) (45 minutes):

* To Rose: How did you feel repeating your story multiple times?
* To other characters (select several in turn): How did it feel when Rose told you her story? Why did you decide to refer her to someone else?
* To the observers: How many times did Rose have to repeat her story?
* To everyone: The thread shows Rose’s journey. What do you think about this?

Then ask the whole group:

* Is this situation realistic?
* What could be done to avoid the tangled web? What could be done so that Rose doesn’t have to tell her story so many times?

*Possible areas to consider might include: clear and accountable referral pathways, social behavior change communication relating to awareness of sexual violence / VAC, focusing on social and gender norms, coordination mechanisms at service delivery level*

*Do we have further discussion about multisectoral coordination*

**Virtual workshop**

1. xxxxx

***Closing***

Recap the purpose of the activity, and some of the key takeaways that emerged in the discussion. Ask if anyone has any questions or comments to add. If there is time you could ask participants whether there was anything they found surprising from their own contexts and when comparing their contexts with the others. Thank everyone for their participation (10 minutes). I

**Annex A: Referral role play character cards**

These characters can be adapted to reflect local service providers that a child is likely to encounter.

Note that there is an option to have a girl (Rose) or a boy (Richard). Adapt according to local context, or you can have both characters acting the role play at the same time.

The following cards should be copied out with the name on the front, clearly visible, and the description on the back, where only the individual playing that character can read it.

One of each card should be given to the ten volunteers in Activity 1. Explain that the basic instructions are included but each person must play ‘in role’ and decide how they are going to respond, as realistically as they can

Other participants should observe the role play.

*Note to trainers: You can change any of the referral cards to reflect the local context.*

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| --- | --- |
| Rose | You are a 17-year-old girl who has been experiencing physical and sexual abuse from her boyfriend for the last 6 months. You don’t know what to do |
| *Richard* | *You are a 17-year-old boy who has been experiencing physical and sexual abuse from your stepfather for the last 6 months. You don’t know what to do* |
| Sister | Your sister Rose (or brother Richard) comes to talk to you.  Listen to her/him, talk to her/him and then send her to the community/religious leader |
| Community/religious Leader | When Rose comes to talk to you, listen to her, talk to her and send her to the youth group for support. |
| Youth Group leader | When Rose comes to see you, listen to her, talk to her and send her to the doctor/clinic for health care |
| Doctor/Clinic #1 | When Rose comes to see you, listen to her, talk to her and send her to Police #1 for the official medical reporting form |
| Police #1 | Rose comes to talk to you.  Listen to her, talk to her and explain that Doctor #1 is not available today, so send her to doctor/clinic #2.  Explain to her that no charges can be filed without medical proof. |
| Doctor/Clinic #2 | When Rose comes to talk to you, listen to her, talk to her, take her history, perform a medical examination and send her back to police #2 at a new police station next to the hospital |
| Police #2 | When Rose comes to see you, listen to her, talk to her and send her to legal aid services |
| Legal aid lawyer | Ask Rose to tell her story, request all the documents for the case, prepare her case and make her practice telling her story in court again |
| Court | Welcome Rose and instruct her to re-tell her story at court |